

DAD, SPORT
AND ME

GORDON D'ARCY
COLUMN IS BACK

SportsWednesday



Occasionally, when I've considered my mortality, my friend has urged me to start a Bucket List. I came up with a Things I'd Like to Do Some Time But Sure, No Rush List

Róisín Ingle
Life



HOW TO SPEND
CHRISTMAS
BUDGET NOW
FOR A HAPPY
HOLIDAY

Joanne Hunt
Money Matters

Occupied
Territories
Bill unlikely
to include
services

Including services in ban on Israeli firms 'just not implementable', says Taoiseach

Confidence motion in Tánaiste set for today following move by Aontú

PAT LEAHY
Political Editor

The Government is said to be increasingly unlikely to include trade in services in the scope of the Occupied Territories Bill, which is intended to ban trade in goods with companies operating from the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel.

Speaking in the Dáil yesterday, Taoiseach Micheál Martin said, "the feedback I'm getting, it's not just implementable".

Speaking afterwards, senior sources confirmed this is the Taoiseach's view – that including services would not be practically possible – though the official Dáil record contains a slightly different version of what Mr Martin told the House.

The official record of the Dáil, published last night on the Oireachtas website, quotes Mr Martin as follows: "The Attorney General is coming back to us on a number of fronts, including how it could be implemented. The feedback I am getting is not just on whether it could be implemented but also on whether we would be putting companies based here in a very difficult position through no fault of their own in respect of how it would be treated in the United States."

In fact, as confirmed by recordings of the Dáil exchanges, what the Taoiseach said was this: "The Attorney General is coming back to us, on a number of fronts. One, its implementability, by the way. And the feedback I'm getting it's not just implementable. But secondly, are you putting companies based here in a very difficult position through no fault of their own in respect of how that would be treated in the United States."

The version in the official record suggests the Taoiseach is awaiting "feedback" on whether it would be possible to include services. What the Taoiseach actually said is the feedback he has already received suggests it would not be possible to include services in the legislation.

The proposed Bill already includes a ban on trade in goods, but including services in the Bill is a key demand of pro-Palestinian campaigners and Opposition parties.

Tánaiste Simon Harris has said he wants to include a ban on services if it is legally possible. In the Dáil, Mr Martin said that he needed to discuss the matter with the Tánaiste.

Non-committal

Yesterday, the Fine Gael presidential candidate Heather Humphreys said she was in favour of including services, which has also been recommended by the Oireachtas Foreign Affairs Committee.

The other presidential candidate, Catherine Connolly, is strongly in favour of including services.

Mr Harris has repeatedly said he agrees with people who want to include services under the provisions of the Bill – but has also said that the Government needs to get the advice of Attorney General Rosalinda Fanning on whether this is legally possible.

It is understood while the issue has been discussed at the highest level in Government, no formal advice has been issued and no firm decision has been made.

But there is no expectation among some senior figures that the Bill will be amended to include services.

A spokesman for Mr Harris was non-committal.

"The Tánaiste has said that he has no policy difference with the Opposition in relation to the inclusion of services, however, any legislation must be legally robust and withstand challenge."

Meanwhile, the Government is to move a confidence motion in Tánaiste Simon Harris today. The Coalition had been facing the prospect of a no confidence motion put down by Aontú next week, in the days preceding the presidential vote on Friday.

➔ Government to force through confidence vote in Harris to avoid presidential election disruption: page 2



Ireland live
to fight
another day

Republic of Ireland striker Evan Ferguson celebrates scoring what turned out to be the winner against Armenia, alongside Ryan Manning, at the Aviva Stadium last night, although Hungary's 2-2 draw with Portugal makes qualification all the more difficult.

Reports, analysis and player ratings: Sports Wednesday
Photograph: James Crombie/Inpho

New-builds must not harm nature, says climate body

Climate Change Advisory Council calls on developers to abide by 'no net loss' rules

CAROLINE O'DOHERTY
Climate and Science
Correspondent

Planning regulations must stipulate that new developments cannot leave nature worse off, the Climate Change Advisory Council (CCAC) has said.

The council said regulations

need to be drawn up to ensure no net loss to biodiversity when construction projects are complete.

That would mean preserving green spaces and biodiversity corridors, and creating habitats where nature can survive, by using "nature-inclusive infrastructure".

It also said planners must insist developers incorporate "nature-based solutions" in their design and construction.

That would mean strengthening natural features to help with drainage, shade, flood protection, water management, temperature control and greenhouse gas capture and storage.

The CCAC said while the National Planning Framework published earlier this year stated that planning authorities "should seek to address no net loss of biodiversity", that goal

would not be achieved without regulations.

"The development of national guidance to support the integration of biodiversity into planning processes should be progressed without delay, given the projected growth in new housing supply and other infrastructure over the next decade," it said.

"Regulation is needed on how no net loss of biodiversity should be practically achieved in the planning and execution of individual projects.

"No net loss will require that

individual developments cause no measurable loss to biodiversity, compared with what was there before development."

'Nature credits'

Such regulations could require developers to compensate for interference with nature by investing in biodiversity in other locations or buying "nature credits", the CCAC suggests.

The recommendations come in the CCAC's annual review of biodiversity, which warns that ecosystems are under increasing risk from the impact of

climate change.

The review criticises the Government for failing to adequately recognise the threats.

"Ireland is falling far short of its international conservation commitments, with only 14.4 per cent of land and just under 10 per cent of marine areas under formal protection, far below the 30 per cent target set for 2030," the review said.

It said the Government has not allocated enough money to protect biodiversity, calculating that there is a shortfall of €700 million annually.

Instagram creates 'PG-13'
protections for teen users

IAN CURRAN

Instagram, the social media platform owned by Meta, has released new protections for young users that mean teenagers will only see content on the platform that is the equivalent of what they would see in a PG-13 film.

The update, which will be available in Ireland from early 2026, will see the setting automatically applied to teen users under the age of 18. Teenagers will be unable to opt out of the setting without a parent's permission, the social media giant said in a statement yesterday.

The announcement follows a tightening of Instagram's protections for children last year, when it moved to restrict who can contact teens and what content they can see, with the settings controlled by parental permission.

Yesterday, Meta said it has now decided to "more closely align" Instagram's policies with an "independent standard that parents are familiar with".

The company reviewed its age-appropriate guidelines against PG-13 movie ratings and "updated them accordingly", the Facebook owner said.

'Stricter setting'

The platform is also unveiling "a new, stricter setting for parents who prefer a more restrictive experience for their teen".

Teen users will also no longer be able to follow accounts that Instagram has found to regularly share age-inappropriate content, or if their name or bio is inappropriate for teens.

"In addition to our long-standing policies – which already hide or prohibit the re-

commendation of sexually suggestive content, graphic or disturbing images, and adult content like tobacco or alcohol sales from teens – our updated policies will now go even further," the group said.

"This includes hiding or not recommending posts with strong language, certain risky stunts, and additional content that could encourage potentially harmful behaviours, such as posts showing marijuana paraphernalia.

"We took parent feedback into account as we developed these changes."

The updates will begin rolling out in the United States, UK, Australia and Canada from today and will come to Ireland and the rest of the world next year, a spokeswoman said.

Weather

Mostly cloudy and dry with patches of mist and drizzle and limited sunny spells. Highs of 11-15 degrees.

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Undersea cables: British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly urges joint naval patrols to enhance security. Page 5

World
News



PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST
Gaza: The ceasefire in Gaza faced its first test yesterday as Israel threatened to halve the flow of aid into the Palestinian territory. Page 6

Business +
Commercial
Property

Aer Lingus: About 2,000 cabin crew have rejected the offer of a 4 per cent pay increase from the airline in a vote completed yesterday. Page 12

US tariffs: The IMF has warned that the adverse effects of protectionist measures are starting to show. Page 14

Sports
Wednesday

Rugby: Leinster will return to the Aviva Stadium to play their two Champions Cup home games against Harlequins and La Rochelle

Soccer: Republic of Ireland defender Megan Campbell announced her retirement from football after 57 caps

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