

WEEKEND IR RISH TINKS

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Ciara Mageean diagnosed with cancer

European gold medallist Ciara Mageean is receiving treatment for cancer, she said in a statement last night. "I'm ready to face this with the same fight I've always brought to the track," the 33-year-old said.

Report: Ian O'Riordan: Sports Weekend

Right: Mageean training at the National Sport Centre in Abbotstown, Dublin, in May. PHOTOGRAPH: DAN DENNISON





Race for the **Áras** Who's in, who's out?



Saturday/Sunday, July 5/6, 2025

NEWS



Estate agent offered 'split price' deal

Limerick agent suggested putting kitchen down as 'extra' to gualify for Help to Buy

NIAMH TOWEY

An estate agent in Limerick of

FitzGerald over a split pur- price as €500k". chase offer reported earlier this osal, a spokesman for The new-build unit in Limertion Homes said the discussions 'were ultimately not pursued ick was a four-bedroom semideor approved by the company". tached house in the Amharc Abhann estate on the Ennis Road The fully completed properof Limerick city and was built ty in question sold for the contracted amount of €500,000, by Formation Homes. In emails seen by The Irish and there were no extras," the Times, the sales negotiator at developer said. GVM Auctioneers said "the pur-Proposal overruled chaser . . . would like the con-GVM Auctioneers responded tract price to be €500k and pay the rest as 'extras' so that they to say the "proposal was overcan avail of the HTB". ruled by senior management "We have helped purchasers and did not proceed".

by doing this previously," the agent said in the email thread. The agent went on to explain ed, saying "if we put the kitchen statement. down as an 'additional extra' at

no such proposal arises in the fuhow the split could be construct- ture," the auctioneer said in a

This comes after The Irish a price of €7,500 and the base Times reported earlier this week that an estate agent work-When asked about the pro- ing for Sherry FitzGerald ofe purchaser a

"GVM are carrying out a full PRSA appoints an investigator review of the matter to ensure who seeks relevant documentation and evidence from the agent and drafts a report which then goes to the board of the PRSA for a final decision.

If improper conduct has from a minor sanction such as a

stitutes noncompliance," it said in a statement to The Irish Times this week. Failure to provide Revenue

with the correct purchase value of the property, or assisting someone in making a false been found, a number of sanc- claim for the HTB relief, can retions can be imposed, varying sult in large fines or possible imprisonment for th

fered to split the price of a new home and put the kitchen down as an "extra" so that it would qualify for the Help to Buy (HTB) scheme.

The scheme provides a refund on income tax of up to €30,000 to first-time buyers on new-build properties up to a value of €500,000.

The latest example comes as the regulatory body for estate agents confirmed it has initiated an investigation into Sherry

home, in order for it to qualify for the HTB scheme.

The proposed split was €500,000 for the house and €25,000 for the flooring.

The Property Services Regulatory Authority (PSRA) said it had "initiated an investigation of its own volition under section 65 of the Property Services Regulation Act 2011, against this estate agent"

Under this legislation the

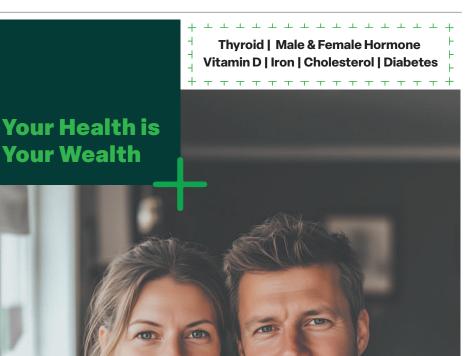
"split" sale for a new-build caution, or a major sanction such as the suspension of the agent's licence or a financial penalty of up to €250,000.

The Help to Buy scheme is administered by Revenue, which has said it takes "any attempt to bypass or understate the full value of a property extremely seri-

ously". "Splitting payments, omitting costs or structuring arrangements to artificially remain below the threshold con-

or estate agent. They may also face an investigation into their tax affairs, Revenue said

MARK PAUL WEEKEND



Airport chief failed to tell Ryan about airline shares

ARTHUR BEESLEY

Dublin Airport Authority chief executive Kenny Jacobs failed to declare his private airline investments to the Department of Transport when joining the board of the State company, despite then minister Eamon Ryan directly asking him to set out any potential conflicts.

Mr Jacobs, a former Ryanair executive, took command of DAA for a seven-year term in January 2023, joining its board as an ex officio director. He later told an Oireachtas committee of his shares in multiple airlines operating in Dublin Airport but said there was no conflict of interest.

Although Mr Ryan had asked Mr Jacobs to set out any potential conflicts when appointing him to the board, the department has now said he didn't disclose any. "Mr Jacobs advised then minister for transport Eamon Ryan when accepting the position that he had no conflict

of interest to declare." Mr Jacobs told an Oireachtas north Co Dublin campaigners committee in June 2024 that he owned shares in 12 airlines with Dublin Airport operations but believed there was no conflict. sociation sought the files under



The department was replying to questions from The Irish Times after releasing papers on Mr Jacobs's appointment to against airport night flights and the new north runway. St Margaret's the Ward Residents' As-

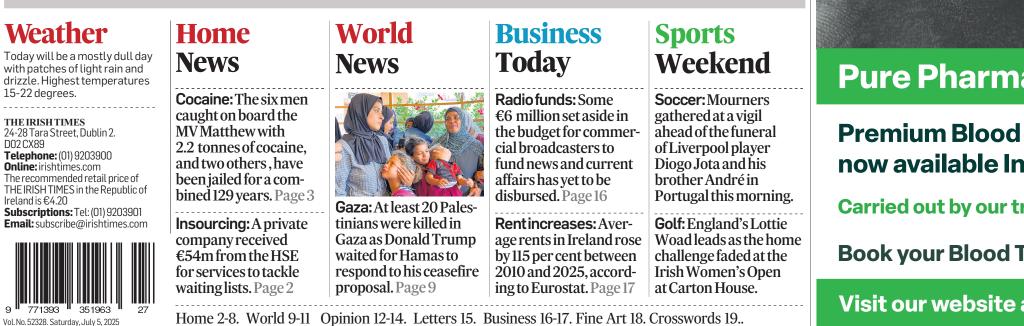
Act. They include Mr Jacobs's letter of appointment to the

DAA board from Mr Ryan. Mr Ryan asked Mr Jacobs to tell the department of "any matter(s) that could potentially cause a conflict of interest for you in the role"

The records suggest Mr Jacobs did not declare any conflict, prompting the residents' group to question the department. Liam O'Gradaigh, who made the Freedom of Information application, said: "It is quite clear that Mr Jacobs was obliged to bring to the attention

the Freedom of Information of the Minister and his department any potential conflicts of interest

DAA did not reply to questions about Mr Jacobs's failure to disclose his airline shares to the minister. The company reissued a statement it put out in June 2024: "Mr Jacobs holds legacy shareholdings in three airline groups that predate his joining DAA. These holdings, which remain unchanged, were fully disclosed by Mr Jacobs in all returns made to Sipo [Standards in Public Office Commission] since taking up the CEO role.



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