

LUXURY BY THE SEA IN KILLINEY – WITH FAMOUS NEIGHBOURS

Residential Property Supplement



Complain about Ireland all you want but at the very least this beleaguered electorate keeps returning stable governments. The view of Merrion Square looks nice from Westminster

Finn McRedmond
Opinion&Analysis



IS YOUR SMART SPEAKER LISTENING TO YOU?

Ciara O'Brien
Business

Surgery review to look at hundreds more cases

Initial report ordered after concerns over orthopaedic surgeries by consultant
Families of children disappointed by lack of 'meaningful action'

SHAUNA BOWERS
Health Correspondent

Hundreds of children who underwent surgery by an orthopaedic surgeon during an eight-year period will be reviewed as part of a wider look-back at the consultant's practice.

Yesterday, the HSE provided an update on the ongoing report on paediatric orthopaedic services. It was carried out by retired orthopaedic consultant Prof Salvaduri Nayagam.

The initial review into 91 cases was commissioned in 2023 after concerns about high rates of post-operative complications, infections in orthopaedic surgeries and the use of unapproved springs in surgeries. The first phase of the review, which examined the work of consultant Connor Green, has been completed. Green, who has been on extended leave since 2023, was contacted for comment through his solicitors.

The second phase, which will examine the wider systems of governance and capacity in orthopaedic services at Children's Health Ireland (CHI), is expected to be completed at the end of this year, at which point the full report is likely to be published.

Following the completion of the first phase, the HSE said it has decided to carry out a "wider look-back at the individual consultant's practice".

"The look-back will involve a review of the patients on whom the individual consultant performed surgeries between 2016 and 2023," the HSE said in a statement.

"It will include all spinal, limb reconstruction and surgical dislocation of the hip, but not surgeries in the area of trauma and general orthopaedics."

It is understood that hundreds of patients will be reviewed as part of this process, which will be separate to the ongoing Nayagam review. Details of how it will be implemented are "under consideration", the HSE said.

Dr Colm Henry, chief clinical officer at the HSE, said there were "protracted" legal

issues in relation to the first phase of the report due to it focusing on one individual.

However, the HSE announced 62 of the 91 patients examined as part of this process will be followed up for clinical review, adding that this was as a precaution.

"These follow-up appointments do not arise from any identified urgent risk or concern about individual patients but are intended to check on the patients' clinical progress. The purpose is to determine if the intended benefits of these children's surgery have been achieved," Henry said.

Affected families have criticised the lack of answers provided at yesterday's briefing, stating it was "deeply disappointing" that 2½ years after the report was commissioned, they had only received a "holding position rather than meaningful action".

In a joint statement, the Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Paediatric Advocacy Group and the Scoliosis Advocacy Network said the latest update "did nothing to reassure families about changed culture within CHI".

"In fact, it reinforced our concerns and the concerns of other advocates in the room," they said, adding that their patience had been "stretched to its limit".

Lucy Nugent, chief executive of CHI, said the organisation would fully co-operate with the look-back review and would be "open and transparent with families throughout".

"I want to reassure parents and caregivers that safe orthopaedic care is delivered in CHI every day," she said.

Following a number of reports highlighting issues within the service, the Government has pledged to hold an inquiry into spinal care for children. Minister for Health Jennifer Carroll MacNeill said yesterday they had identified a mediator, agreed terms with this person to carry out the inquiry and a business case was with the department.

Families await answers as HSE extends review: page 3



Bondi grilled over Epstein files on Capitol Hill

Victims of sex offender Jeffrey Epstein react as US attorney general Pam Bondi (right) testifies before a House Judiciary Committee hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington yesterday.

'This screams cover-up': Bondi faces fury over Epstein files – Keith Duggan, page 6

Photograph: Getty Images

Scappaticci named in Dáil as informant Stakeknife

SARAH BURNS

Taoiseach Micheál Martin has named the former British agent Stakeknife as Freddie Scappaticci in the Dáil.

Martin said the identity of Stakeknife was "clear to everybody here" and that he should be officially named by the British government, particularly because of his close relationship "with those who like to refer to themselves as the republican movement".

"It is widely known that Stakeknife was Freddie Scap-

paticci," he told the chamber yesterday.

"We should have an apology from Sinn Féin in respect of the activities of the Provisional IRA as documented in this report. It is long past time for that apology and renunciation of what happened to occur."

Scappaticci was 77 when he died in 2023.

The Fianna Fáil leader was speaking during statements on the report of Operation Kenova, an investigation into potential criminal offences committed by the agent known as

Stakeknife. Martin outlined how Scappaticci was recruited by the British army and was a "prized informant" between the late 1970s and 1990s.

"During this period, the British army dedicated a 24-hour phone line within its intelligence section to his calls," he said.

Operation Kenova, an investigation that examined the activities of Stakeknife, who has been linked to at least 14 murders and 15 abductions, concluded that more lives were probably lost than saved through the operation of the agent.

However, it was unable to confirm Stakeknife's identity in its final report in December after the UK government refused its authorisation to do so.

The Taoiseach said many of the details of the Operation Kenova report were "uncomfortable" and relate to "a terrible period in the history of our island".

"But my position, the position of my party and the position of the Government as a whole is that the past must not be hidden," he said.

Sinn Féin leader Mary Lou McDonald told the Dáil: "I wish to say this clearly and directly: to all those that suffered such grievous loss, I am sorry for all the lives lost during the conflict and for the hurt and loss endured without exception."

McDonald said the findings of the Kenova report were "stark and deeply disturbing" and that "a senior British agent was involved in killings".

"The British state knew and it protected him, and it allowed violence to continue in order to preserve operational advan-

tage," she added.

In response to the Dáil remarks, a UK government spokesman described the behaviour outlined in Operation Kenova's final report as "deeply disturbing" and said it "should not have happened".

"The government is not yet in a position to formally respond to the request by Operation Kenova to name Stakeknife."

Naming Stakeknife puts pressure on UK: page 2

Laptops shortage could hit hospitals and public service

ELLEN COYNE
Political Correspondent

Hospitals, An Garda Síochána and Government departments are among hundreds of public service bodies that could be affected by a global shortage of computers and laptops caused by artificial intelligence (AI).

Agencies that help run the State have been warned they could face higher prices for laptops and may have to start using pre-owned devices, with industry experts warning the shortage is expected to last for two years.

Other agencies that could be affected include the HSE, local councils, universities and State agencies such as Bord Bia, the Arts Council and Tusla, the child and family agency.

Massive facilities filled with supercomputers to train AI models are causing a global

shortage of the technology used to create memory and storage on ordinary laptops and computers.

The demands of these so-called AI gigafactories are disrupting technology supply chains all over the world. The shortage has forced the Office of Government Procurement, which tries to save the State money when agencies buy goods and services, to issue a warning to public service bodies.

'Outlook'

"While the exact level of impact and any possible mitigation strategies are yet to be fully understood, the outlook from the industry and from industry analysts suggests that this disruption may be experienced for a period of up to two years with possible impacts to pricing and availability of manufactured

personal computers," it said.

It said it was trying to find out what impact the shortage will have on "supply outlooks, pricing implications and available mitigation options".

The office said the supply issue was affecting Windows desktop and laptop computers, and will impact manufacturers like HP, Dell and Lenovo. It will make the price of computers rise, while supply falls.

It said public service bodies were "strongly advised" to examine the terms and conditions of the contracts they have with IT suppliers to see how feasible it might be to terminate an agreement. It was suggested public bodies could try to use a "force majeure" clause to free themselves from the contracts.

Public bodies were also told they should take legal advice if a supplier suddenly ends its contract with them.

Weather

Today will be wet and breezy with showers. Highest temperatures 5-7 degrees.

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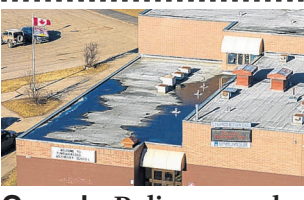
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Home News

College Green: The design of the €80m College Green civic plaza has been revealed by Dublin City Council. Page 3

Defence: The Naval Service is set to out-source most of ship maintenance to civilian contractors. Page 5

World News



Canada: Police named the suspect in a school and home shooting that left 10 dead as 18-year-old local Jesse van Rootselaar. Page 6

Business + Technology

Smurfit Westrock: Profits at Irish-American packaging giant Smurfit Westrock more than doubled to €590m in 2025. Page 12

Dalkey: Pat Kenny and his neighbours have won their battle against plans to construct a five-storey nursing home in Dalkey. Page 13

Sports Thursday

Rugby: Andy Farrell looks set to make five or six changes to his starting XV for Ireland's game against Italy on Saturday at the Aviva Stadium. Page 19

Soccer: Virgil van Dijk's second-half header gave Liverpool a 1-0 victory at Sunderland. Page 17

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