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# THE IRISH TIMES

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## Civil servants say they will resist any political 'witch-hunt'

**FACCHINI**  
 Deputy Political Editor

The representative body for senior civil servants has said its members will not be subjected to a "witch-hunt" for the sake of political expediency.

The Association of Higher and Civil Public Servants also said its members will not be

"scapegoated" over failings in the Department of Justice.

In its latest statement, the association said it was "not prepared to be used as a political football" and that its members would not be "held to account" for the actions of senior officials in government departments.

The association's statement marks a significant escalation

of broad-based characterisation of the work of the Civil Service. In its statement, it said its members are "held to account" regularly, such as in the case of the O'Reilly committee, and will "co-operate fully" with the Disciplinary Tribunal which is investigating allegations of a smear campaign against Garda whistleblowers Maurice McCabe.

"We take issue with any use of broad-brush characterisation of the work of the Civil Service. It does a huge disservice to the thousands of people who work on a daily basis to support government, the public and the agencies of the State."

"Civil servants are entitled to due process and should not be subjected to a witch-hunt or a concerted campaign of disrepute ahead of the inquiry. Nor should they be scapegoated for the purposes of political expediency or in an attempt to overly simplify complex issues and inter-relationships."

**Ordered a trawl**  
 Earlier this week, Mr. Varadkar said he ordered a trawl of all documents in the Department

of Justice because he was "not confident or satisfied that the department had released all the information it had."

The trawl uncovered further emails within the department on the legal strategy pursued by former Garda commissioner Níricé O'Sullivan against Sgt McCabe at the O'Higgins Commission of Investigation.

## DUP warns May over any Border concessions

Party alarmed as EU talks with Britain enter critical stage in Brussels  
 Taoiseach to hold meeting in Dublin today with president of European Council

**PAT LEAHY**  
 GERRY HENRIARTY  
 DENIS STAUNTON

Talks between the British government and the European Union, with the heavy involvement of Irish officials, are entering a critical stage in Brussels, as the EU side seeks concrete assurances on the Border from the British.

Their was no signal from either side about the progress of the talks last night. But the DUP was sufficiently alarmed by the prospect of UK concessions on the Border to warn British prime minister Theresa May that any concession which affected Northern Ireland's relationship with the rest of the UK risked the party's support for the May's minority government.

In a further development, Westminster's Brexit committee said it could not see how Britain's commitment to keeping the Border open could be reconciled with its policy of leaving the customs union.

**Place barriers**  
 DUP leader Arlene Foster said she had made it clear to the British government there could be "no arrangements agreed that compromise the integrity of the UK single market and place barriers, real or perceived, to the free movement of goods, services and capital between Northern Ireland and the rest of the United Kingdom."

DUP MP Sammy Wilson said he was seeking clarification from the British government on reports that May was preparing to make concessions to the EU on the Border.



**Sucker punch** Ross takes one in line of duty as he announces sports grants

Michael Ross (10) sparring with Minister for Sport Shane Ross, as Olympic gold medalist Michael Carruth and Minister of State Brendan Griffin look on in Arbour Hill Boxing Club yesterday. Mr. Ross later announced allocations of €56 million for sporting organisations. Report: Sports Friday, PHOTOGRAPH: ROLAND KENNEDY

**British move**  
 The fears in the DUP were being interpreted in political circles as evidence that a British move was becoming more likely. Discussions between the British and the EU will continue today and over the weekend in advance of a crucial meeting between Ms. May and European Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker on Monday in which Ms. May is expected to table the British offer.

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## Dublin girl (11) killed herself over anxiety about her looks

**CARL O'BRIEN**  
 LOUISE ROSENBERG

An 11-year-old girl took her own life weeks after posting a message on Instagram that she was unhappy with her appearance.

Last night, Taoiseach and Minister for Foreign Affairs Simon Cowley said the Government "cannot accept the re-emergence of a Border on this island."

Other EU countries were fully supportive of Ireland's position, he said, and if the British were unable to supply satisfactory assurances, "then this process will have to be delayed."

Taoiseach Leo Varadkar is in a holiday meeting in Dublin today with Donald Tusk, president of the European Council.

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**Editorial comment: page 19**

health services. An appointment was made for January 26th, 2016, but this was brought forward after Mrs. Tuomey found a "suicide diary" under her daughter's bed.

She had also self-harmed and wanted to die, an inquest in Dublin has heard.

Her parents, Fiona and Tim Tuomey, said in a statement after the inquest their daughter Milly, from Templeogue, Dublin, was a "fit, healthy and engaged" young girl.

After being alerted to the message she posted on November 20th, 2015, they said they could not believe she had told friends on social media that she had chosen a day to die.

Milly was initially assigned to an art teacher who was not qualified to make clinical assessments, the inquest heard. She was later referred to the HSE's child and adolescent mental health services.

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## BOODLES 1798



**Weather**  
 Frost clearing in the morning for a dry, bright start. Highest temperatures 5-9 degrees.

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**Home News**  
**Garda allegations:** Allegations of serious misconduct against the Garda and Tusa by Garda whistleblower Keith Harrison have all been rejected. page 5

**Tinder case:** A jury has convicted a man of a sex

**World News**  
**Twitter row:** US president Donald Trump has lambasted British prime minister Theresa May

**Business This Week**  
**Ryanair case:** Ryanair is taking legal action in the US against Expedia, one of the largest online travel agents in the world, for allegedly "screen scraping" fares.

**Tax deals:** Ireland's controversial tax deals

**Sports Friday**  
**Soccer:** The Russian World Cup draw for all 32 teams in the tournament's eight first-round groups will be held today in the Kremlin.

**Golf:** Tiger Woods, looking fit and well

**Zuma and the Guptas**  
 How one far 'captured' South Africa  
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**London elites, like the Remainers, ignored the xenophobic**

**A simple ceremony marked Pat Kavanagh's anniversary**  
 Frank McNally