Regional newspapers call for zero per cent VAT rate

by JOHN MULLIGAN

LAST Thursday morning industry representative body, Local Ireland and local newsaper editors from around the country, made a presentation to TDs and Seantors in Leinster House ahead of Budget 2023 seeking the introduction of a 0% VAT rate on newspapers.

"Newspapers staffed by professional journalists play a vital role in making sure that, as a society, we are informed by reliable, fact-checked news and information", said Drogheda Independent, Managing Editor, John Mulligan.

"Local newspapers play a vital role in community life and without those titles, many important local stories would never be told, council meetings would not be reported on, courts would not be reported on, local campaigns and celebrations would never be championed".

Drogheda Independent Managing Editor, John Mulligan with Senator Regina Doherty.

Social media outlets have challenged traditional local newspapers and costs such as the raw material of newsprint have spiralled more than doubling and continuing to rise.,

Denmark, Austria, the UK and other European countries have applied 0% or low VAT rates to protect and support their indigenous newspapers in the digital age.

The industry is calling on the Government to protect the future of independent journalism in Ireland by supporting its campaign to remove VAT for print and online newspapers in the Budget next week.

Local Ireland points out:

- The growing power of the big tech platforms is disrupting journalism worldwide
- New digital advertising models have put enormous pressure on local and national media
- The growth of disinformation online means trusted, professional sources of news are more vital than ever and key to democracy itself
- The new EU VAT Directive means the Irish government now has the power to remove VAT on print and online newspapers.
- Introducing a 0% VAT rate in Budget 2023 will provide crucial support to journalism and news publishers
- Other European countries support journalism with Zero or lower rate VAT. Ireland's VAT rate for news publishers is 9%. The UK is Zero.
- Local newspapers are vital to their communities and provide factual sources to inform views and policy decisions
- Quality, professional journalism is essential for a healthy democracy and supports the wider news eco-system for broadcasters and digital publishers
- Without newspapers and their digital content, many important stories would not be told.
- Irish people love news. 82% of the population read a print or digital news title every week (Source: Kantar TGI 2022)
- Journalism faces challenges from the cost of living crisis, the growing commercial power of tech platforms, the legacy of the pandemic which hit advertising and circulation and the soaring costs of newsprint, which has increased 140% over the last 18 months
- Zero VAT would allow Irish news publishers to help secure their future by investing in the business of journalism, giving greater value to readers and preserving jobs
- News publishers need to invest in digital transition. Ending VAT would help support their transformation to competitive online models

A detailed submission was made to the Department of Finance before the summer recess.

The measure to help national and local newspapers would realise €18.5 million for the sector.

An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

The Minister of State, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage with special responsibility for Planning and Local Government ("the Minister") hereby gives notice that he has determined an application dated 1st of April 2021 for a Licence under Section 3 of the Foreshore Act, 1933 (as amended) made by North Irish Sea Array (NISA) Limited, Building 4200, Cork Airport Business Park, Co. Cork, T12 D23C ("the Applicant") in respect of site investigations necessary to establish the optimum location for, and design of, the export cable(s) to shore and to establish the most appropriate landfall location(s) from the proposed North Irish Sea Array (NISA) offshore windfarm, located off the coasts of Dublin, Meath and Louth. (Application Reference Number FS007358)

The full Notice of Determination was published on the Iris Oifigiúil website on 20 September 2022 and can be viewed at: **http://www.irisoifigiuil.ie/**

All documentation in regard to the application including the Notice of Determination can be viewed on the website of the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government at:

https://www.gov.ie/en/foreshore-notice/c7c0a-fs007358-statkraft-north-irish-sea-array-nisa-site-investigations-for-export-cable-route/

This material may also be inspected free of charge by appointment at the following office of the Department:

Foreshore ORE Section
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
Newtown Road, Wexford, Y35 AP90

Tel: 1890 20 20 21
Email: **foreshoreORE@housing.gov.ie**

REVIEW PROCEDURE

An application for leave to apply for judicial review shall be made within three months from the date when grounds for the application first arose under Section 21(1) of the Order 84 of the Rules of the Superior Courts as amended by S.I No 691 of 2011. The time-limit for such a review commences from the Date of Publication of the full Notice of Determination. Further information on the review mechanism can be obtained on the Citizens Information Board website: **www.citizensinformation.ie**

Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Dated this 21st of September 2022

Man accused of having drugs

A man accused of having more than €500 worth of drugs has had his case put back at Swords District Court.

Jason McDonagh is charged with possession of drugs and having drugs for sale or supply at Oak Hill, The Hill, Malahide on January 12, 2021.

The court heard the DPP had directed summary disposal and the value of the drugs allegedly involved was €530.

Judge John Brennan said he would accept jurisdiction in the case and adjourned the matter to September 28th for a plea or a date after disclosure was furnished.

Defence barrister Deirdre Flannery made an application for legal aid as the defendant, of Northern Close, Belcamp Lane, is a father of six and is in receipt of social welfare.

However, Sergeant Patricia McGarrity said a full vouched statement of means would be required.

Reserving legal aid, Judge John Brennan said documentation would need to be furnished.

Man accused of handling €2,000 plus in stolen goods

A man accused of handling more than €2,000 worth of stolen property has had the case against him adjourned to next month.

Lalislav Kuzma appeared before Swords District Court where Judge John Brennan adjourned the case to October 24 to allow time for the service of the book of evidence.

Kuzma, of Kilbarron Road, Coolock, is accused of handling €2,400 worth of Playstation Network cards on December 19th, 2018 at Kilbarron Road, Coolock.

Sergeant Patricia McGarrity said the Director of Public Prosecutions has recommended trial on indictment.

Defence solicitor Fiona D'Arcy applied for legal aid and said the defendant is not working.

Judge John Brennan reserved legal aid to allow time for gardaí to check this.