

Mediahuis legt 145 miljoen euro op tafel voor overname van Ierse persgroep

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Property tax: why city dwellers will pay more

Average rate to be €300 a year under self-assessed system

Fionnan Sheahan
Political Editor

HOMEOWNERS in cities will be paying more property tax on their homes than their rural counterparts from next year, as the flat-rate tax will be based on the market value of the house.

Few exemptions will be available – but homeowners who are unable to pay will be able to apply for a deferral, under plans to be announced in next week's Budget.

The fine details of the property tax can be revealed for the first time today by the *Irish Independent*.

The value of the home will go up in bands of €50,000 and it will be calculated by self-assessment.

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**CHARLIE
WESTON
PAGES**



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Householders will pay the rate attached to the nearest €50,000 band, so a house worth €235,000 will pay the rate for all houses between €200,000 and €250,000 of €500.

The property tax is expected to range from €200 to €400 for most homeowners.

However, the format of the new property tax means that it will be a bigger burden for those in cities, where house prices are higher.

In the coming years, though, this urban-rural imbalance may be alleviated when councils set their own rates as services are cheaper to provide in cities.

Homeowners will pay just half the full amount next year, as the property tax will only apply for the second half of 2013.

Gang boss cut from wreckage of crashed van had €2m of drugs

Tom Brady
Security Editor

A SUSPECTED gang boss was arrested with €2.2m of speed after the van he was driving was involved in a crash.

The man, who has been investigated by gardai in connection with three murders here and is reputed to be a former associate of another gang leader, Freddie Thompson, had to be cut free from the vehicle after it crashed on

the M1 motorway in west Yorkshire.

UK police carried out a detailed search of the van at Wakefield police station and found a haul of amphetamines with an estimated street value of £1.8m (€2.2m) inside.

The man, who is suspected of being a significant player on the gangland scene here in the past, was not seriously injured.

The drugs had been concealed within the body of the vehicle.

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Louise Hogan, Dearbhail McDonald and Tom Brady

AN ELDERLY pensioner tricked into leaving half of his €1m estate to the two children of a judge has insisted he will still leave them some money in his will.

Former solicitor Heather Perrin became the first judge in the history of the State to be jailed for a serious crime for tricking her elderly friend Thomas Davis.

The deception happened more than two months after she was told she would be elevated to the bench.

Perrin last night began an unprecedented two-and-a-half-year jail term at Dochas, the women's prison in Mountjoy.

Perrin (61), now known as prisoner 83279, broke down in tears as she was sentenced.

Mr Davis (83) last night told the *Irish Independent* Perrin's two children would still receive a small sum from his will, despite the scam.

He said it was "well known" that he was going to leave them €2,000 and he would still do so.

He said he was "very much" relieved the trial was over, as it had "been going on for the last three years, near enough now".

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Perrin (above) and Thomas Davis (83)



Even a duchess can have a bad hair day. Kate Middleton's new hairstyle was a talking point with royal-watchers but it didn't go so well during a visit to windy Cambridge. FULL STORY: PAGE 27



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Het Vlaamse [Mediahuis](#) doet een bod van 145 miljoen euro op de beursgenoteerde Ierse groep Independent News & Media (INM). Het gaat meteen om de grootste Ierse mediagroep met titels zoals Irish Independent, Sunday Independent, The Herald, Belfast Telegraph, Sunday Life en de Sunday World. De groep bezit ook 50% van de Irish Daily Star. Ook opmerkelijk, Mediahuis voorzitter [Thomas Leysen](#) bezit zelf 1 % van INM. Andere aandeelhouders van Mediahuis zijn onder meer de Limburgse [familie Baert](#), de [familie Van Waeyenberge](#) en [Ackermans & van Haaren](#). Mediahuis is onder meer de uitgever van de kranten De Standaard en Het Nieuwsblad.

De eerste overnamegeruchten van INM staken begin april al de kop op. Maar toen werden nog geen namen genoemd. Vandaag vindt de algemene vergadering plaats van het beursgenoteerde Ierse bedrijf en dus werd de druk groter om met nieuws te komen. De twee grootste aandeelhouders van INM, de Ierse industriëlen Denis O'Brien en Dermot Desmond, controleren samen 45 % van het bedrijf en steunen het bod van de Vlaamse groep.

Over 2018 boekte INM een omzet van 191 miljoen euro. De winst voor belastingen viel met 15 % terug tot 24 miljoen euro. INM zit op een berg cash van 81 miljoen euro. De omzet van Mediahuis, actief in België en Nederland, bedroeg in 2018 819 miljoen euro.