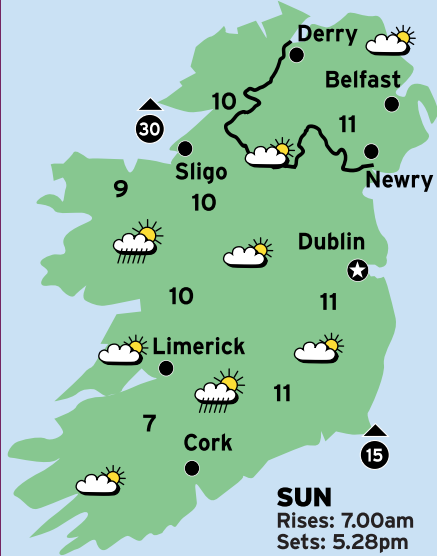


## TODAY'S WEATHER

Showers in the morning for the west coast of Ireland. These will continue throughout the afternoon, but will ease off by the evening. Sunny spells across Ireland at times. Monday will be dry with sunny spells until showers arrive in the west much later on. Tuesday and Wednesday will be cloudy with rain. This rain will be heavy for most on Tuesday.



**SUN**  
Rises: 7.00am  
Sets: 5.28pm  
**MOON**  
Rises: 11.04am  
Sets: 3.08am

### HOME YESTERDAY

	C	F		C	F
Athlone	c	12 54	Galway	r	12 54
Belfast	dr	10 50	Killarney	r	10 50
Cork	sh	10 50	Limerick	r	12 54
Derry	r	11 52	Rosslare	r	10 50
Dublin	dr	12 54	Sligo	dr	10 50

### ABROAD YESTERDAY

	C	F		C	F
Amsterdam	f	13 55	Madrid	f	15 59
Athens	f	16 61	Majorca	s	18 64
Barcelona	f	14 57	Malaga	f	16 61
Benidorm	f	14 57	Malta	s	17 63
Corfu	c	15 59	Marmaris	s	16 61
Crete	s	16 61	Miami	sh	31 88
Ibiza	s	16 61	Paris	s	15 59
Larnaca	f	14 57	Sydney	sh	28 82
Las Palmas	f	22 72	Tenerife	f	22 72

--: not available, m: misty, c: cloudy, s: sunny, r: rain, dr: drizzle, sn: snow, f: fair, fg: fog, sh: showers, th: thunder, hl: hail, sl: sleet

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### LAST NIGHT'S LOTTO RESULTS

€4.6M Lotto: 16, 27, 34, 35, 37, 45 Bonus: 28  
€1M Plus 1: 2, 23, 24, 29, 39, 41 Bonus: 36  
€250K Plus 2: 2, 11, 15, 27, 32, 46 Bonus: 29

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# LDA BILL FIASCO

**DEL Boy O'Brien has some dodgy second hand goods to sell.**

The Minister for Housing was last seen lifting them off the back of a Blue Shirt Laundry van being driven by some posh-looking young fella.

Of course O'Brien is desperate to make out that his Land Development Agency Bill is not the same as that of his predecessor, Fine Gael's Eoghan Murphy.

Unfortunately, the facts never lie. While O'Brien's final version of the LDA Bill is superficially different to the Murphy draft, it contains all the same problems.

The LDA was set up in 2018. The plan was for a publicly-owned commercial company to buy land and build 150,000 homes over 20 years.

The new super quango was to have strong compulsory purchase powers to force reluctant state agencies to give up underused land for much-needed homes.

The problem was that giving a commercial developer these kinds of powers would break EU State Aid rules.

So instead, the LDA's land management powers are non-existent.

Worse still, Del Boy O'Brien wants to force the LDA to buy public land at market value, even if its existing use value is lower.

But the real problem with the LDA is how it is being financed.

Always looking to do things on the cheap, Del Boy O'Brien doesn't want to shell out for much-needed homes. Instead, he has asked the private sector to foot the bill.

So the LDA's main delivery vehicle will be Joint Ventures with big investors and developers.

Sure, the State will inject a hefty €1.25billion to get the show on the road. But the full cost of 150,000 new homes is €40billion-plus.

What do the private sector want in return? Well, profit of course, and lots of it.

This means many of the houses built by the LDA on public land will be sold at full market value.

It also means the development costs of affordable homes will be higher.

The LDA Bill defines 'affordable' as anything below the median sales price of homes in a given area.

In Malahide, the Minister's own constituency, the median price of a home last year was €460,000. Is he seriously saying any discount on this is affordable?

The Dundrum Central Mental Hospital site will be one of the LDA's first major projects. Last year, the median cost of a home in that area was €557,000.

The LDA won't say how many of the 1,300 homes to be built on this site will be open market sale. Nor will it say what price the affordable homes will be.

What we do know is that LDA subsidiary

# Murphy's law is being passed off as his own by 'Del Boy' O'Brien homes plan just as bad

**New LDA Bill has all the same problems as Murphy draft**



**SAME OLD**

O'Brien, left, and Murphy



**BY EOIN O BROIN**  
Sinn Fein housing spokesman

firms that will build these homes won't be subject to Freedom of Information requests or the Lobby Register.

So, just like NAMA, when big land deals, large volumes of equity investment and major developers get together behind closed doors, something is bound to go wrong.

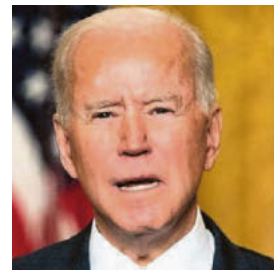
The LDA Bill will also strip Councillors of powers to block the transfer of public land to the LDA.

After all, you can't have these pesky local politicians demanding public

land is only used for genuinely affordable homes. This week, it was revealed the first LDA homes won't be ready until 2023 – five years after the super quango was set up.

Surely it would have been quicker and cheaper to fund our Councils to build large volumes of public homes on public land for working people?

But that would have meant putting working people before big investors and developers – and that is just not the Fianna Fail way.



**EMERGENCY** Joe Biden

## Biden set to declare major disaster amid water crisis

BY EMMA McMENAMY

US President Joe Biden is set to declare a major disaster for Texas.

His declaration will clear the way for more federal funds to be spent on relief efforts with 13 million people facing difficulties accessing clean water.

To date, there have been 60 deaths attributed to cold weather in the country.

White House spokeswoman Jen Psaki confirmed President Biden has asked his team to expedite Texas' request for a disaster declaration.

Meanwhile, several other southern states which have been hit by ice and snow storms this week have also reported water service outages.

Bad weather has also cut off water in the city of Jackson, Mississippi, as well as across Tennessee.

Houston, Texas, is under a "boil water notice", as the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said it may be contaminated.

Texas Governor Greg Abbott said the state is providing "any and all resources to assist and to accelerate the response at local level".

## Dad of tragic feud victim O'Neill dies

THE father of an innocent victim of the Kinahan Hutch feud has died.

Vincent O'Neill, dad of Trevor O'Neill, passed away suddenly at his home in Crumlin, South Dublin, on Tuesday.

His death notice said Vincent, who was also known as "Nailer" will be "sadly missed" by Trevor's wife Susanne, and his "three adored grandchildren", nephews, nieces and extended family.

His funeral is set to take place tomorrow.

Vincent's son Trevor, 41, was brutally murdered in front of his wife and children in a case of mistaken identity in August 2016.



**DEAL** Our Del Boy mock-up