

Cancer survival rates improve

Ireland moving up rankings but has yet to match best performing countries
Better diagnosis, modern treatments and greater co-ordination boost success rate

KEVIN O'SULLIVAN
Environment and Science Editor

Ireland's survival rates for cancer patients are now in line with the European average, though the number of cases here is expected to rise sharply up to 2040 because of an ageing population, according to a major international report.

The latest figures published by *The Lancet* confirm Ireland is moving up the global rankings but has yet to achieve the consistently high success rates of best-performing countries.

The "Concord-3 study", published yesterday, analyses individual patient records from 322 cancer registries in 71 countries (home to more than two-thirds of the world's

66 We want to ensure people are given the best opportunity for full recovery

population) to compare five-year survival from diagnosis for more than 37.5 million adults and children with one of 18 common cancers. These cancers represent 75 per cent of all cancers diagnosed worldwide between 2000 and 2014 and 100 per cent of Irish cancer cases occurring within Irish health services—and recorded by the National Cancer Registry Ireland.

Irish Cancer Society head of research Dr Robert O'Connor said the report shows Irish survival rates "across a lot of cancers continues to increase". This was due, he said, to improved research, better diagnosis, more modern treatments in chemotherapy and radiotherapy and enhanced co-ordination of services.

Concentrating services in eight academic centres for adults and one for children; the use of multidisciplinary teams and better-trained clinicians also ensured more successful outcomes, he added.

Step-up Data going back to 2000 confirmed Ireland "had a long way to catch up" to achieve a mid-ranking but in the latest period had achieved a relatively significant "step-up".

Progress, he warned, would be tempered by the inevitable consequences of an ageing

population and overall population growth.

The double pressure will pose particular challenges for Irish health services struggling with budgets, staff shortages and the need for more capital investment, Dr O'Connor told *The Irish Times*.

More than 40,000 new Irish cancer cases were diagnosed in the past year, and that is set to continue to rise by 2,000-3,000 cases a year over coming decades. While Irish people with cancer were living significantly longer, this was placing additional demands on Irish healthcare services, Dr O'Connor added.

He said eight out of 10 Irish women with breast cancer could now expect to live for at least five years and up to 10 years, while nine out of 10 of those with prostate cancer do so.

Less progress has been made with more aggressive cancers, such as pancreatic and ovarian cancers, where treatment options were more limited—though this is seen, too, in many countries, he said.

Investment Separately, substantial investment is needed to ensure that the 170,000 people currently living with cancer in Ireland—and those who come after them—"come back from treatment and thrive".

"Treatment doesn't stop when you walk out of the oncologist's office. We want to ensure people are given the best opportunity for full recovery," Dr O'Connor said.

After taking into account international differences in the age profile of cancer patients and the risk of death from other causes, survival for most cancers has been found to be consistently high over the past 15 years in the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Finland, Norway, Iceland and Sweden.

With colon cancer, the best-performing countries achieved more than 70 per cent survival five years after diagnosis, while in Ireland survival rates were between 60 and 69 per cent.

Twenty-five countries recorded an 85 per cent survival rate for breast cancer. Ireland achieved an 80-84 per cent rate. On prostate cancer, five-year survival was approaching 100 per cent in the US, Martinique and Puerto Rico; Ireland was in the "at least 90 per cent" category.

Targeted interventions are needed, says the institute, aimed at the most vulnerable families to properly tackle child poverty.

Industrial wage An estimated 130,000 children are in consistent poverty here, meaning they are in households reliant on less than 60 per cent of the average industrial wage, and they consistently do with two or more items, including an adequately heated home or a break away from home once a year.

Researcher measured material deprivation across three

Legislation The AAIU said yesterday it would not have the final report within a year of the crash as it is stipulated in legislation, due to the "depth and breadth" of the investigation. It said international convention, and associated national and European legislation, required that, if a final report cannot be made publicly available within 12 months, an interim statement detailing progress should be made public.

"The investigation is endeavouring to issue this interim statement before the anniversary; however, it is not possible to say at this time when the interim statement will be published," it said. It extended its condolences to the bereaved families.

The AAIU does not apportion blame or liability in its investigations.



Reel thing Celebration of traditional song and dance

■ Musicians gather to celebrate uilleann piping and Irish traditional song and dance at the Abbey Theatre with dancers Jackie O'Riley and Joey Abarta from Boston PHOTOGRAPH: CYRIL BYRNE

Head of firm owing €3.8m to charities 'missing'

AODHAN O'FAOLAIN

Some €3.8 million in donations made to some of the world's best-known charitable organisations through a Dublin based IT service provider has been dissipated, it has been claimed before the High Court.

The money was given by donors to charities including the Red Cross and Save the Children via an online platform service provided by Pembroke Dynamic Internet Services, of Upper Pembroke Street, Dublin.

The firm's managing director is businessman Peter Conlon, of St Mary's Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin, Rossa Fanning SC told the court, adding that Mr Conlon (63) has "gone missing" and the liquidator was following up reports suggesting

he had been detained in Switzerland.

The firm was wound up last week over a failure to satisfy a Revenue debt of some €400,000 and Myles Kirby was appointed as liquidator.

'Misconduct' The liquidator's belief was that Mr Conlon, a shareholder in various corporate vehicles that own Pembroke Dynamic, was "guilty of very serious misconduct" as it appeared charities had not received money they were due.

Mr Kirby has "very serious concerns" following his investigations that Mr Conlon has been attempting to dissipate and move assets beyond the reach of creditors, counsel said. While it may appear his cli-

ent had rushed to court, the seriousness of the situation merited an application for freezing orders at this stage, he said. Many details remained unknown at present, including where all the money has gone.

66 He had gone on a skiing holiday to Zurich but failed to attend meetings with associates there

In the short time since his appointment, Mr Kirby believes the dissipated funds were used to run the company and by Mr Conlon for personal expenditure, Mr Fanning said. Some

€40,000 was paid by Mr Conlon to a woman he is believed to be "romantically involved with" as well as €5,000 to Mr Conlon's daughter in the UK and some €20,000 to a firm of solicitors, he said.

Assets Ms Justice Caroline Costello granted temporary orders freezing Mr Conlon's assets below a value of €3.8 million.

The judge said she had "no hesitation" in granting the orders given the nature of evidence put before her.

Seeking the orders Mr Fanning said the company was set up over a decade ago by Mr Conlon and provided a donation collection platform for charities including Oxfam and other affiliates to the United Nations, and

Amnesty International. The money was to be held in trust for those organisations, before being distributed to the various charities, less a 5 per cent commission.

However, that did not happen, counsel said. The company had collected €5.8 million between March 2016 and last September and a further €390,000 from December 2017 to the time it was wound up. The company retains just €357,000, counsel said.

Mr Conlon had been involved in moving intellectual property, including domain names of the company, to a related Swiss based corporate entity, Amodo Technologies, which was also believed to be under Mr Conlon's control, counsel said.

Irish poverty gap worse than other EU states, study finds

KITTY HOLLAND and COLIN GLEESON

The gap between the poorest families and the wider population is larger in Ireland than in other comparable EU countries, and grew faster during the recession, according to a major study published today.

The Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) finds one-third of lone-parent families and one-quarter of families headed by a person with a disability were "persistently deprived" during the years 2004 to 2015. These rates are about 10 per cent higher than in 10 similar EU states.

Targeted interventions are needed, says the institute, aimed at the most vulnerable families to properly tackle child poverty.

Industrial wage An estimated 130,000 children are in consistent poverty here, meaning they are in households reliant on less than 60 per cent of the average industrial wage, and they consistently do with two or more items, including an adequately heated home or a break away from home once a year.

Researcher measured material deprivation across three

two-year periods between 2004 and 2015 and in 11 EU countries: Ireland, Britain, Sweden, Finland, the Netherlands, Austria, Belgium, France, Italy, Spain and Greece. Looking at levels over two-year periods allowed them to distinguish between groups experiencing spells of deprivation and those experiencing it persistently.

130,000 Number of children in Ireland estimated to be in consistent poverty

They found levels of persistent deprivation, when compared with the wider population, among lone parents and their children, and adults with a disability and their children, highest in Ireland.

"In all 11 countries, lone parents and adults with a disability were more likely to be deprived than other adults. On average, across the countries and the three periods, 23 per cent of lone parents and 14 per cent of adults with a disability were persistently deprived compared with 5 per cent of other working-age adults.

"The figures were much higher in Ireland where 33 per cent of lone parents and 23 per cent of adults with a disability were persistently deprived."

Vulnerable families fare "worse even in countries with low overall deprivation rates", including Sweden, Finland and the Netherlands.

Labour market "Lone parents and adults with a disability face barriers when trying to access the labour market. Measures to address this could include access to affordable childcare, flexible work arrangements, protection of secondary benefits – such as medical cards – and support in seeking work, training and work experience."

Lead researcher on the report Dorothy Watson said policies to reduce poverty for the population as a whole were not enough to support vulnerable groups. Proactive steps are required to address the deprivation experienced by lone parents and adults with disabilities, and also to tackle the higher rates of poverty among children in these households.

"Such interventions are particularly urgent in Ireland as the data shows the deprivation gap is more pronounced here."

Garda operation prepared as large crowd expected for Hutch funeral

CONOR LALLY
Security and Crime Editor

A major Garda operation has been prepared for the funeral of Kinahan-Hutch murder victim Derek Coakley-Hutch.

The 27-year-old father of two, shot dead in Dublin 10 days ago, is due to be buried today. He was waked at his family home on Buckingham Street Upper, in the north inner city, yesterday evening.

There was a heavier than normal Garda presence, including additional patrols by the Armed Response Unit, than that seen in the area for the last two years aimed at quelling the feud.

The funeral Mass is due to take place at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Seán MacDermott Street. His burial is set for Glasnevin Cemetery.

A significant Garda operation involving a frontline of uniformed unarmed members is expected to police the funeral, burial and the social gatherings later in the day.

The Garda Public Order Unit, Armed Support Unit and Garda Dog Unit have been drafted in to be on standby should trouble flare.

Vigil A large crowd is expected to attend the funeral after approximately 600 people attended a vigil for the dead man in the north inner city last Thursday night.

At previous feud funerals in Dublin city, the Garda helicopter has monitored proceedings and roads have been closed off to ensure easier Garda control. In recent days the Garda Dog

Unit has checked the grounds of the church to ensure no explosives or firearms have been secreted there.

Drugs Coakley-Hutch was shot dead as he sat in his car at about 3pm last Saturday week on the Bridgeway halting site beside Cloverhill Prison, west Dublin.

Two men he had driven there with had got out of the vehicle and walk towards the prison perimeter wall to throw drugs over to Hutch's brother Nathan, a prisoner in the jail.

But the drug delivery was interrupted when shots rang out as Coakley-Hutch was ambushed by a gunman.

He died at the scene; the fourth member of his family to be killed since the feud began.

Second man held over White murder

CONOR LALLY
Security and Crime Editor

Just 24 hours after a man was jailed for the stabbing murder of Irene White in Dundalk in 2005, another suspect has been arrested.

He is in his 40s and was being questioned at Dundalk Garda station yesterday evening after his arrest in the Co Louth town.

He was being detained under Section 4 of the Criminal Justice Act, which allows him to be questioned for 24 hours without charge.

Gardaí suspect he has information about the murder of Ms White and played a role in assisting a three-person conspiracy to murder her.

One of the three - Anthony Lambe (35) from Annadrumman, Castleblayney, Co Monaghan - carried out the murder. One of the other men was the prime mover in the conspiracy in that he wanted Ms White dead and paid for her killing.

And a third man in effect assisted the plan. Gardaí suspect the man in custody was that third man.

Jailed for life

Lambe was jailed for life on Monday. He agreed to murder the mother of three in exchange for a fee 13 years ago.

He was addicted to alcohol and other drugs at the time. He later left Ireland for Australia where he confided in a woman what he had done. When she saw appeals for information in the media in Ireland she contacted the Garda.

Members of the force travelled to Australia to interview her and Lambe was eventually arrested in Ireland.

By the time he was arrested and charged he had largely turned his life around.

He admitted he had stabbed Ms White to death. She died, of 34 stab wounds, in the kitchen of her home, the Ice House, Demesne Road, Dundalk, on April 6th, 2005.

Comhairle Contae
Atha Cliath Theas
South Dublin County Council

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF DUBLIN MOUNTAINS VISITOR CENTRE

NOTICE OF SUBMISSION OF FURTHER SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION TO AN BORD PLEANÁLA

AN BORD PLEANÁLA REFERENCE (06S.JAO040)

We have been requested by An Bord Pleanála to give notice to the public that on 30th November, 2017 South Dublin County Council submitted:

- Significant further information which is additional to the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (E.I.A.R.) submitted with the application but which will form part of the Board's assessment of the likely effects on the environment of the proposed development and the likely significant effects upon a European site, if carried out.
- Other significant information regarding the proposed development such as a response to observations received by the Board from Prescribed Bodies.

This further information which has been submitted to An Bord Pleanála, may be inspected free of charge or purchased at a cost not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy during public opening hours for a period of 30 days from the 31st January 2018 to the 1st March 2018 at the following locations:

- South Dublin County Council, County Hall, Tallaght, Dublin 24 (opening hours Monday to Thursday, 9.00am to 5.00pm, Friday 9.00am to 4.30pm);
- An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1 (opening hours Monday to Friday, 9.15am to 5.30pm).
- Ballyroan Library, Orchardstown Avenue, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14 (opening hours Monday to Thursday 9.45am to 8.00pm, Friday and Saturday 9.45am to 4.30pm)

They may also be viewed and downloaded at <http://www.sdcc.ie/services/parks-and-recreation/dublin-mountains-project>

Submissions or observations on these documents/information in relation to the proposed development may be made in writing to An Bord Pleanála at 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1 on or before 5:30 pm on the 1st March 2018.

The main elements of the proposed development at the Hellfire and Massy's Wood Forest Properties, South Dublin include:

- Construction of a Visitor Centre, signage and other works.
- the conversion of 26 Ha of Coillte's Hell Fire forest property from conifer forest to mixed deciduous woodland for use as amenity open space.
- Walking and equestrian trails.
- Conservation works to the Hell Fire Club building.
- Details of other works are available at the above website address.

Submissions or observations may be made free of charge by persons who have already made submissions or observations on this application to An Bord Pleanála. Submissions or observations on the further significant information made by persons who have not already made submissions or observations on this application to An Bord Pleanála must be accompanied by a fee of €50 (except for certain prescribed bodies).

This Notice is issued having regard to the timeframe prescribed in Article 6(7) of Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by EU Directive 2014/52/EU on the effect of certain public and private projects on the environment (EIA Directive). Any person who has already made a submission/observation on these documents need not repeat such submission/observations already made as their submission/observation will be taken into account.

The Board may, in respect of this application for approval—

- (i) approve the proposed development,
- (ii) make such modifications to the proposed development as it specifies in the approval and approve the proposed development as so modified,
- (iii) approve, in part only, the proposed development (with or without specified modifications), or
- (iv) refuse to approve the proposed development,

and may attach to an approval such conditions as it considers appropriate.

A person may question the validity of a decision of An Bord Pleanála by way of an application for judicial review under Order 84 of the Rules of the Superior Courts (S.I. No. 15 of 1986) in accordance with section 50 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. Practical information of the review mechanism can be found on the Citizen Information Board Website at www.citizensinformation.ie and on the An Bord Pleanála website at www.pleanala.ie.

An Bord Pleanála intends holding an oral hearing into the proposed development, the date of which will be notified in due course.

Web: www.sdcc.ie

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