



Emma Flanagan was overall winner of the NewsBrands Ireland Press Pass Awards with category winners, from left: Zachary Gillespie (news) Eoin Hartnett (opinion), Lorraine Hanrahan (photojournalism) and Ciaran Sheehan (sports) Photo: Chris Bellew

Transition Year students impress with journalistic skills

A Transition Year student who captured the mood of the Irish public even before it was expressed at the ballot box in the recent General Election, has carried off top honours at the annual Press Pass Awards at Dublin's Convention Centre.

Emma Flanagan, from Our Lady's College, Drogheda, Co Louth was judged the overall winner for her entry 'The Politics of Apathy'.

Press Pass is a newspapers-in-education initiative for Transition Year classes, run by NewsBrands Ireland and sponsored by the Irish

League of Credit Unions. This year about 200 schools and 7,500 students participated.

The programme seeks to improve literacy skills and awareness of news media, and encourages students to analyse and interpret a range of newspaper content and then enter their own

journalistic work. The winners are selected by a panel of newspaper editors and journalists, chaired by Professor John Horgan, the former Press Ombudsman. Trophies are awarded in five categories: features, opinion, news, sport and photojournalism.

€35k for garda left scarred after being knifed in the face

Saurya Cherfi

A DETECTIVE Garda, who was stabbed under his right eye after he was called to sort out trouble on Halloween night, has been awarded more than €35,000 damages in the High Court.

Det Garda Liam Dolan (53) told a Garda Compensation hearing that he had just got out of his car in the Otomy Drive area of Clane, Co Kildare, on Halloween night in 2010 when a group of youths ran at him, one teenager striking him in the face.

Mr Justice Bernard Barton heard that Det Garda Dolan, who is stationed at Naas Garda Station, had been "knifed on his cheekbone" and had fallen, bleeding heavily.

Barrister for Det Garda Dolan, Frank Crean said his client was rushed to Naas General Hospital, before being transferred to St James's Hospital in Dublin where his laceration was sutured. The court heard he did not suffer any nerve damage.

Mr Crean said Det Garda Dolan, who sued the Minister for Finance, had suffered post-traumatic stress type symptoms following the assault and had been out of work for several weeks.



Det Garda Liam Dolan

The court heard that Det Garda Dolan, a married father-of-three, suffered anxiety, flashbacks and sleep disturbance after the incident.

His symptoms had now significantly reduced, although there "had not been a day when he had not thought about the incident". The court heard the wound had left a visible and permanent scar.

The State argued that Det Garda Dolan's quality of life had not been adversely impaired after the attack.

Judge Barton said he was satisfied the laceration had left a cosmetic deformity on Det Garda Dolan's face. Awarding him €35,780 damages, the judge said he accepted Det Garda Dolan suffered minor psychological injuries.

One in five works extra three months each year for free

Anne-Marie Walsh
Industry Correspondent

MANY Irish employees are working an extra three months a year for free as they spend more hours in their workplace most days.

A new survey of working hours reveals that nearly three-quarters of staff are doing more than their contracted hours.

And one in five work an extra three months a year, according to a Morgan McKinley survey.

Just two extra hours a day adds up to 10 hours a week, 520 hours a year - or 13 weeks over a year, the study points out. Despite advances in technology allowing people to work from home, many are staying in the office for longer. And more than four out of every five workers said they did not get any compensation for the extra time at their desks.

Morgan McKinley's Director of Inward

Investment, Tracy Keevans, said the findings suggested a culture of longer working hours has become established among professional staff over the past two years.

"Over 40pc of professionals are now working at least six hours extra a week, and nearly one in every five employees is putting in 10 hours extra or more per week - that is a full extra quarter for these employees per year," she said.

Motivated

"It's clear that the Irish economy and the professional workforce has a cohort of highly motivated and committed employees who are prepared to go the extra mile for their companies and their careers."

She said employers who are conscious of the need to limit "salary inflation", should consider the benefits of offering flexible work arrangements to attract and retain talent.

Ms Keevans said most of those surveyed felt obliged to work longer than they were paid for, although most of them did not get any extra compensation in terms of time in lieu or overtime for their efforts.

However, 43pc felt they are more productive during the extra hours, because there was less disruption in the form of phonecalls and email.

She said flexible work arrangements are a key aspiration for workers, with almost half saying this would improve their working lives.

The majority of those surveyed indicated flexible and remote working arrangements are offered on a discretionary and occasional basis rather than as part of an overall defined package.

Over a third of workers said they have the option of working from home but only 4pc said working outside the office was formally offered as part of company policy.



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