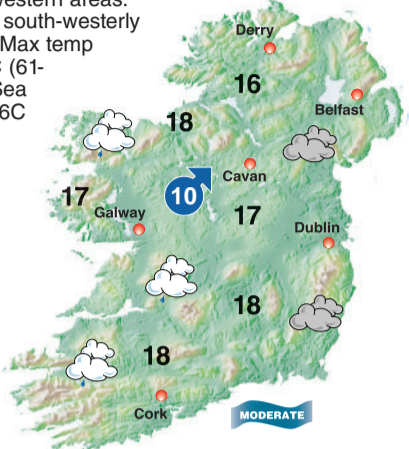


Weather 

Today in Ireland

It will be rather cloudy across Ireland with the chance of a few pockets of drizzle, especially in more western areas. Gentle south-westerly winds. Max temp 16-19C (61-66F). Sea temp 16C (61F).



Sun & Moon

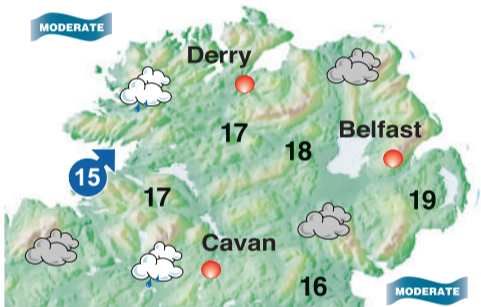
| | | | | |
|----------|--------|---------|--------|------------------|
| Sunrise | 7.15am | Sunset | 7.16pm | Lighting up: |
| Moonrise | 8.32am | Moonset | 7.37pm | 7.16pm to 7.17am |

Air Pollution

| | Rural | Cities | Roadside |
|---------|---------|---------|----------|
| Belfast | 2 (Low) | 2 (Low) | 3 (Low) |
| Dublin | 2 (Low) | 2 (Low) | 3 (Low) |
| Galway | 1 (Low) | 1 (Low) | 2 (Low) |





Low (1-3) Moderate (4-6) High (7-9) V.High (10)

Today in Ulster



A mainly dry day, but overcast with the small chance of a few spots of rain or drizzle. Moderate south-westerly winds. Max temp 16-19C (61-66F). Sea temp 15C (59F).

Four-day Outlook

| Friday | Saturday | Sunday | Monday |
|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |
| 18C (64F) 5C (41F) | 17C (63F) 11C (52F) | 18C (64F) 10C (50F) | 18C (64F) 11C (52F) |

Ireland yesterday

| | °C | °F | | °C | °F |
|-----------|----|----|------------|----|----|
| Athlone s | 15 | 59 | Kilkenny f | 15 | 59 |
| Belfast s | 14 | 57 | Newry c | 16 | 61 |
| Birr f | 15 | 59 | Rosslare f | 15 | 59 |
| Cavan c | 15 | 59 | Shannon s | 17 | 63 |
| Cork s | 16 | 61 | Tralee s | 16 | 61 |
| Derry f | 15 | 59 | Valentia s | 16 | 61 |
| Dublin s | 14 | 57 | Westport f | 16 | 61 |
| Dundalk f | 16 | 61 | Wicklow s | 14 | 57 |

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Arrests after £62.5m cocaine seizure

THREE men, believed to be British, were detained last night after the Irish Navy stormed a yacht carrying around €80 million (£62.5m) worth of cocaine. The 60ft vessel was intercepted some 200 nautical miles off Mizzen Head – Ireland’s most southerly point – early on Tuesday morning but details have just emerged. It is understood the men on board put up no resistance to the armed Irish Naval team who had launched on smaller rib boats from the offshore patrol vessel, the LE Niamh. Another major vessel, the LE Roisin, provided back-up. Early indications put the suspected one tonne haul of cocaine at a street value of €80m. Some estimates say it could be higher. It is one of biggest drugs seizures at sea this year. The vessel was towed to Haulbowline naval base at around 9pm last night and the three men were arrested as they arrived on shore. The vessel has been identified as the Makayabella.

A joint task force, involving the Irish Navy, Revenue and the Garda, said the night-time covert surveillance operation was carried out in challenging conditions. The interception followed intelligence from the National Crime Agency in the UK and the French custom service, through the Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre based in Lisbon. Ireland’s Defence Minister Simon Coveney congratulated all the agencies involved in what he described as a highly successful drug interdiction operation. “As minister for defence, I wish to congratulate the Naval Service for its pivotal role in the success of this operation and, in particular, to commend the officers commanding LE Niamh and LE Roisin and their respective crews,” he said. “I also wish to acknowledge the role of the Air Corps in providing top-cover support during the operation.”

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■ **INTERCEPTION:** Irish Navy ship the LE Niamh escorts the yacht Makayabella last night **PICTURE:** Defence Forces Ireland/PA

Concerns over plans to scrap RTE service

Valerie Robinson
Southern Correspondent
newsdesk@irishnews.com

RTE has been warned it must not leave Northern Ireland’s Radio 1 listeners out in the cold after it unveiled controversial plans to scrap its longwave service within weeks. The broadcaster has given listeners just four weeks’ notice of its intention to cease its Longwave 252 service from Monday October 27 as it focuses FM, online and digital radio. Commissioner for Older People Claire Keatinge last night expressed concern that the move could be particularly hard for pensioners living in areas with already limited coverage. “Whilst many older people are adept at using new technologies, many living in more rural areas do not have the same access to internet and digital radio due to poor coverage,” she said. “It is essential that more is done to ensure that there is equality of access to services such as internet so that when services like analogue radio are being phased out, there are appropriate alternatives in place and assistance in how to use them.”

Radio chiefs, who also controversially dropped the station’s medium wave transmission in 2008, have attempted to reassure the public about the impact of the latest change, claiming that 98 per cent of Radio 1 listeners would be unaffected. However, they have been accused of ignoring large numbers

‘North’s listeners being ignored’

RTE bosses were last accused of ignoring listeners in the north when they stopped broadcasting Radio 1 on medium wave in March 2008 after 82 years. The north’s politicians as well as groups representing the elderly and Irish emigrants living in Britain criticised the move, saying it would deny innumerable people access to the popular station. RTE responded to the criticism by claiming that by simply switching to longwave the public would still be able to listen to Radio 1 or they could simply use the internet. Longwave 252kHz is transmitted from a 248-metre mast at Clarkstown in Co Meath which was originally used by the defunct Atlantic 252, a venture between RTE and Radio Luxembourg’s parent company RTL.

of Northern Ireland listeners who already can’t access Radio 1 on their radios, even in the centre of Belfast. Defending the decision, Radio 1 boss Tom McGuire said the availability of the radio service through new digital platforms “provides a much improved sound quality and broader access for all programmes”. Director of operations JP Coakley said the 252 service had reached further than FM it provided

The national broadcaster also changed one of its FM frequencies to 87.8 to improve reception in the greater Belfast area and parts of the border region, including counties Armagh and Down, using a signal from the Clermont Cairn transmitter near Dundalk. Despite the changes residents in many parts of Belfast and north east Antrim have continued to complain that they still have little or no Radio 1 FM coverage. Announcing new plans to scrap longwave coverage, head of RTE Radio Tom McGuire insisted that just as the audience had “migrated from medium wave to FM in the past” so would they now. There was no mention of listeners in the north who have never been able to listen to the station on their radios.

ed a poorer sound quality and was also no longer “financially and technologically viable”. They stressed that Radio 1 would still be available free-to-air on FM on 87.7 to 90.2 frequencies, DAB digital radio, Saorview which all provide patchy or non-existent coverage in the north. RTE has said that listeners can also use the RTE Radio Player on their laptops, tablets and phones and on the UK satellite TV service Freesat.

‘It’s not good enough’
– Barry McElduff

However, emigrants’ rights campaigner and former RTE employee Enda O’Kane last night warned that RTE’s claims should not be taken at face value. “There are already bad spots all around the north, places like the Glen of Antrim, and this will make it even worse,” he said. And Sinn Féin MLA Barry McElduff, who publicly criticised the loss of RTE’s medium wave service six years ago, expressed concern that many people could be left vulnerable by new change. “It’s not good enough that anyone in the north should lose access to Radio 1. Many older people are intimidated by any kind of new technology and to suggest that they can easily make the switch to something new is not being realistic. “I can’t overstate how important RTE Radio 1 is to many people in the north. We grew up listening to it,” said the West Tyrone politician, adding that RTE had “an obligation” to ensure all its services were available across the entire island of Ireland. Meanwhile, RTE has said it plans to conduct an on-air information campaign and to distribute information via a “range of support bodies”. More information is available on www.rte.ie/staytuned.

LOTTERY RESULTS

Irish Lotto:.....05,23,26,29,31,39 Bonus: 08
Lotto Plus 1:.....04,10,11,26,33,38 Bonus: 43
Lotto Plus 2:.....08,16,20,21,35,43 Bonus: 44

UK Lotto:.....04,08,29,33,38,48 Bonus: 15
Thunderball:.....18,20,21,22,27 Thunderball: 05