

FREE
MAGAZINE

FOOD&WINE

- **THE RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR**
Shortlists revealed, recipes for classic dishes, and wines to rediscover



CHAIN REACTIONS

How vulnerable is Ireland to the supply chain issues facing Britain?

Post Plus
Page 1



Business Post

FAST AND FURIOUS

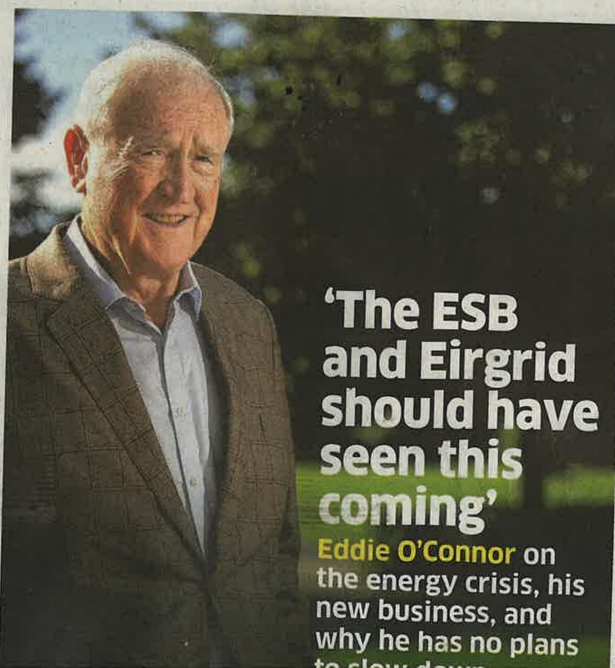
Formula 1 star Max Verstappen profiled Page 21



October 3-4, 2021 • Vol 34 No 39 • businesspost.ie • Price €3.70

Tensions mount as government parties split over road projects in €165bn NDP

- FF and FG claim victory over the Greens on the National Development Plan
- Greens claim that certain road projects may not be funded despite being included



'The ESB and Eirgrid should have seen this coming'

Eddie O'Connor on the energy crisis, his new business, and why he has no plans to slow down

State to class data centres as 'strategic infrastructure'

BY DANIEL MURRAY
AND ROISIN BURKE

The government is set to press ahead with new regulations to designate data centres as "strategic infrastructure", despite the unfolding energy crisis facing the country, the Business Post has learned.

The move, which will grant data centre developers access to the fast-track planning process, comes after Eirgrid warned last week that the electricity system is stretched beyond capacity due to the "unprecedented" growth in demand from the facilities, as well as the wider electrification of the economy.

The Planning and Development Act allows for strategic infrastructure to access

local planning authorities. In 2018, an amendment to the legislation was introduced by the government to include data centres as strategic infrastructure for the first time. However, the relevant sections of the Act have not been commenced yet.

A spokesman for the Department of Housing said that Section 49 of the Planning Act would be activated, but that a date had not been set.

"Due to other legislative priorities within the department of this provision will be considered at an appropriate time," he said.

As previously reported by the Business Post, Taoiseach Micheál Martin told Amazon, the US tech giant,