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1. This week in the Oireachtas (30 September -04 October 2013)

<http://www.oireachtas.ie/viewdoc.asp?DocID=24373&&CatID=60>

2. Oireachtas Questions and Debate (18-27 September 2013)

Children's Rights General

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child Care Services Provision (19 Sep 2013)

Seán Fleming (Laois-Offaly, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs her response to a survey carried out by the Ombudsman for Children which indicated that 72% of Irish people believe that the State could do more to support children's rights; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-09-19a.84>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Children's Rights Referendum (18 Sep 2013)

Billy Timmins (Wicklow, Independent) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the position regarding the outcome of the children's referendum; if the challenge thereto has been heard in the Supreme Court yet; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-09-18a.3454>

Education: including special needs, ECCE, minorities, disadvantage, literacy and numeracy, school staffing, school buildings, school patronage, curriculum

Other Questions: Early Years Strategy Implementation (19 Sep 2013)

Michael McGrath (Cork South Central, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the priorities for the new early years strategy; the additional funding she has secured for its implementation; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-09-19a.402>

Seanad: Tackling Bullying in Schools: Statements (Resumed) (26 Sep 2013)

Averil Power (Fianna Fail) I welcome the Minister to the House. He has been here on several occasions in the past year and a half to discuss the issue of bullying and mental health among young people, which reflects both the priority he has brought to this issue since he became Minister for Education and Skills and the interest that Senators have taken in it. During statements, in Private Members' time and when discussing legislation, Senators from all parties have expressed the view that this should be a priority and that we want to see the Government work on it.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/sendebates/?id=2013-09-26a.136>

Priority Questions: Early Child Care Education Standards (19 Sep 2013)

Robert Troy (Longford-Westmeath, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the position regarding the measures for quality of care in early years services she announced in the wake of the Prime Time programme on creches; the legislative plans she has to underpin this agenda; if any new legislation will be introduced in Dáil Éireann before Christmas; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-09-19a.361>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Early Child Care Education Issues (19 Sep 2013)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-09-19a.15>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Child Protection Issues (18 Sep 2013)

Finian McGrath (Dublin North Central, Independent) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if he will supply the details of the contact person in his Department that deals with children at risk (details supplied). <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-09-18a.1134>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Schools Complaints Procedures (19 Sep 2013)

Clare Daly (Dublin North, Socialist Party) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the basis on which a school's complaints procedure does not apply in the case of a student who has left the school. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-09-19a.176>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Minimum School Entry Age (18 Sep 2013)

Jonathan O'Brien (Cork North Central, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if he has discussed with Minister for Education in Northern Ireland the possibility of standardising the minimum age for when primary school students in both jurisdictions are eligible to transfer to post-primary school. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-09-18a.810>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Special Educational Needs Services Provision (25 Sep 2013)

Tom Fleming (Kerry South, Independent) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if he will honour the commitment to adequately support children with Down's syndrome and other disabilities, in the mainstream education system, as a large number of children in primary schools were being denied resource hours; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-09-25a.217>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Special Educational Needs Services Provision (19 Sep 2013)

Charlie McConalogue (Donegal North East, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if his Department and the National Council for Special Education have any plans to investigate the needs and outcomes of children with Down syndrome in mainstream primary schools who do not receive resource hours; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-09-19a.190>

Asylum/Immigration

Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Asylum Support Services (24 Sep 2013)

Eoghan Murphy (Dublin South East, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality his views regarding the treatment of asylum seekers here in view of allegations made against Serco employees at the Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre in the UK; if any similar incidents have occurred here; the reporting guidelines and/or safeguards that are in place to protect asylum seekers and ensure that private contractors operate in an appropriate manner.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-09-24a.1050>

Child Services/ Children in Care: including foster care and social work services, HSE staffing, youth services

Ceisteanna - Questions - Priority Questions: Social Workers Recruitment (19 Sep 2013) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the action she will take to address the situation whereby social work teams are considerably understaffed resulting in lengthy delays for children in need of their services; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-09-19a.369>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child Care Reports (19 Sep 2013)

Seán Kyne (Galway West, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if the fact that childcare facility inspection reports are compiled in long hand and then stored for scanning and online publication by another staff member is contributing to a delay in publicising reports; and if consideration will be given to providing inspectors with tablet computers to enable a speedier and more efficient process. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-09-19a.44>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Proposed Legislation (19 Sep 2013)

Micheál Martin (Leader of the Opposition; Cork South Central, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the new legislation she will introduce over the remaining months of 2013; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-09-19a.47>

Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Departmental Agencies Issues (19 Sep 2013)

Sandra McLellan (Cork East, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs when she expects the chairperson designate of the child and family agency, Ms Norah Gibbons, will take up her post; when the number and make-up of the new board will be confirmed; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-09-19a.63>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Social Workers Recruitment (19 Sep 2013)

Terence Flanagan (Dublin North East, Independent) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the steps being taken to address the shortfall of social workers within the Child and Family Support Agency; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-09-19a.103>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child and Family Support Agency Establishment (19 Sep 2013)

Andrew Doyle (Wicklow, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the reason for the decision to rename the Child and Family Support Agency to the Child and Family Agency; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-09-19a.463>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Youth Services Funding (19 Sep 2013)

Bernard Durkan (Kildare North, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she is satisfied regarding the availability of adequate resources to provide the full-scale of services required in respect of child and youth services, all categories; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-09-19a.482>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child Protection Issues (18 Sep 2013)

Brendan Griffin (Kerry South, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs her views on a matter (Irish Association of Social Workers submission) regarding child welfare and protection services; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-09-18a.3463>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Ministerial Appointments (18 Sep 2013)

Kevin Humphreys (Dublin South East, Labour) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she will provide a list of all bodies, boards or committees under the remit of her Department to which ministerial appointments are made; the statutory provision providing for the making of such appointments in each case; the annual allowances or other payments made to the chairperson; the annual allowance or other payment made to an ordinary member; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-09-18a.3476>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Strategy for Young Carers (18 Sep 2013)

Michael McCarthy (Cork South West, Labour) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she will provide an update with regard to the implementation and advancement of the recommendations outlined in the Study of Young Carers in the Irish Population; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-09-18a.3497>

Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Carer's Benefit Eligibility (19 Sep 2013)

Tom Fleming (Kerry South, Independent) To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will address the serious deficiency in the carer's allowance means test, whereby the amount of money being paid out by families on mortgage repayments are not given any consideration when the means are being assessed; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-09-19a.250>

Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Carer's Allowance Payments (18 Sep 2013)

Michael McCarthy (Cork South West, Labour) To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will provide an assurance that carers will not be subject to further cuts in Budget 2014; that income supports will be protected for those in receipt of carer's allowance, carer's benefit and half rate carer's allowance in Budget 2014; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-09-18a.1732>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child Care Services Provision (19 Sep 2013)

Robert Troy (Longford-Westmeath, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the proposals she is bringing forward to improve the quality of child care services; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-09-19a.23>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Childhood Obesity (19 Sep 2013)

Michael Colreavy (Sligo-North Leitrim, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs her Departments intentions towards a national cross-sectoral strategy for the establishment of a childhood obesity prevention and intervention service; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-09-19a.20>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child Care Services Provision (25 Sep 2013)

Seán Kyne (Galway West, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs her plans to extend the age to which the State provides care to children in State care from 17 to 18. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-09-25a.502>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child Care Services Inspections (24 Sep 2013)

Jerry Buttimer (Cork South Central, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the number of crèche inspections that have been carried out in the Health Service Executive South region in 2011 and 2012; the reasons for any changes in the number of inspections; if there are plans to increase the number of inspections; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-09-24a.1203>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child Care Services Provision (24 Sep 2013)

Patrick Nulty (Dublin West, Independent) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the measures she has put in place to improve regulation of childcare here since the RTÉ Prime Time programme revelations; her views on whether adequate resources are being dedicated to the national vetting strategy and to the national early years strategy; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-09-24a.1228>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child Care Reports (19 Sep 2013)

To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if all inspection reports on childcare facilities are now and will henceforth be published; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-09-19a.36>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child Care Services Inspections (19 Sep 2013)

Séamus Kirk (Louth, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if her Department or agencies under her remit have had any contact with the Ombudsman for Children following the "Prime Time" investigation into crèches; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-09-19a.74>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Children in Care (19 Sep 2013)

Bernard Durkan (Kildare North, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the number of reports received in respect of the wellbeing of children in care deemed to be at risk for whatever reason; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-09-19a.470>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Children in Care (18 Sep 2013)

Finian McGrath (Dublin North Central, Independent) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she will include a provision to have grandparents made a party to proceedings for children in care and to support the work done by grandparents who are caring for their grandchildren on a consistent and regular basis. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-09-18a.3450>

Child Abuse/Child Protection: including vetting, child abduction

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child Protection Services (26 Sep 2013)

Stephen Donnelly (Wicklow, Independent) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the further progress that has been made in implementing the recommendations of the report of the Independent Child Death Review Group since her replies of 28/03/2013 and 18/07/2013; the total number of social workers employed in Children and Family Support Services at present, and this number for each of the past five years; if and when the independent reviews into child deaths referred to by her will be published and if not, the reason for same; when the final progress report of the Ryan Report Implementation Plan will be brought before the Oireachtas; the number of young persons currently in receipt of aftercare services; her plan for developing legislation to strengthen the provision of aftercare; if she will provide details of all cuts to child care and aftercare services that have been implemented in recent years, or any restrictions of services forced by economic necessity; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-09-26a.634>

Seanad: Directive of European Parliament on Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children: Statements (19 Sep 2013)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/sendebates/?id=2013-09-19a.69>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Corporal Punishment (19 Sep 2013)

Barry Cowen (Laois-Offaly, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs her plans to ban corporal punishment within the home and alternative care settings; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-09-19a.8>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Domestic Violence Refuges (19 Sep 2013)

Mick Wallace (Wexford, Independent) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the facilities available to ensure the safety of children fleeing domestic violence; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-09-19a.80>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Proposed Legislation (19 Sep 2013)

Thomas Pringle (Donegal South West, Independent) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs her plans to introduce legislation to ban violence against children; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-09-19a.100>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child Protection Issues (19 Sep 2013)

Bernard Durkan (Kildare North, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the extent to which it has been possible to improve and streamline the alert system in respect of children reported to be at risk at whatever location; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-09-19a.475>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Proposed Legislation (19 Sep 2013)

Denis Naughten (Roscommon-South Leitrim, Independent) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she will confirm that all child care services provided by persons employed outside the child's own home will be subject to the provisions of the children first Bill; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-09-19a.54>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child Care Qualifications (19 Sep 2013)

Seán Ó Fearghail (Kildare South, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs her plans to upskill staff working in child care services; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-09-19a.57>

Family: including adoption

Other Questions: Foster Care Provision (19 Sep 2013)

Catherine Murphy (Kildare North, Independent) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she will indicate the foster care placement ratio, that is the number of instances where foster care applications have been made compared to the number of successful placements, broken down by Health Service Executive region for 2012 and to date in 2013; if variances across regions can be adequately accounted for; if her attention has been drawn to the fact that backlogs in successful placements often mean suitable foster homes can expire from consideration; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-09-19a.393>

Priority Questions: Adoption Legislation (19 Sep 2013)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-09-19a.377>

Health and Wellbeing: including disability, mental health, substance misuse, primary care, health services, hospital services, obesity, sports facilities

Seanad: Services for People with Disabilities: Motion (25 Sep 2013)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/sendebates/?id=2013-09-25a.141>

Child Benefit/Social Welfare/Poverty/Housing

Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Family Income Supplement Eligibility (18 Sep 2013)

Joe Carey (Clare, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Social Protection if, in the forthcoming budget she will review downwards the qualifying hourly threshold to enable applicants to qualify for family income supplement payments; if she will consider introducing a sliding scale as part of this reform of FIS eligibility as such a measure will facilitate persons to remain in the workforce for longer particularly as many posts are part-time; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-09-18a.1663>

Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Advisory Group on Tax and Social Welfare (18 Sep 2013)

Andrew Doyle (Wicklow, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will ensure that the report she commissioned (details supplied) will be used as part of the Departmental discussions in the allocation for her Department for Budget 2014; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-09-18a.1669>

Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Social Welfare Benefits Data (18 Sep 2013)

Willie O'Dea (Limerick City, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will provide details of each social protection scheme; the cost of each scheme for 2013 to date; and the numbers availing of the payment for each to date. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-09-18a.1796>

Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Advisory Group on Tax and Social Welfare (18 Sep 2013)

Joe Carey (Clare, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Social Protection when the advisory group on tax and social welfare will report back on their findings and recommendations with regard to in-work supports for one parent families; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-09-18a.1660>

Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Social Welfare Benefits Eligibility (18 Sep 2013)

Róisín Shortall (Dublin North West, Independent) To ask the Minister for Social Protection the action she will take to address the anomalous position of workers who work for low wages for less than 19 hours a week over more than three days but cannot currently qualify for income support; her views on whether the present arrangements create in some cases a disincentive to take up or retain paid employment; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-09-18a.1812>

Justice Issues/ Human Rights/Equality

Written Answers — Department of Health: Services for People with Disabilities (26 Sep 2013)

Seán Crowe (Dublin South West, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Health if funding for day services for young persons with severe disabilities who have completed school in 2013 will be fully restored; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-09-26a.110&m=982>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child Detention Centres (19 Sep 2013)

Tommy Broughan (Dublin North East, Labour) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the current arrangements for children whose detention has been ordered by the courts because they have committed a criminal offence; if she is satisfied an adequate number of places are available for children in child detention centres here; and if she will confirm that adequate security measures are now in place at child detention centres in order that no child can abscond from any of these centres. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-09-19a.69>

Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Issues (25 Sep 2013)

Seán Fleming (Laois-Offaly, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality if he will an update on the amalgamation of the Equality Authority and the Human Rights Commission; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-09-25a.18>

Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Gender Recognition Issues (18 Sep 2013)

Finian McGrath (Dublin North Central, Independent) To ask the Minister for Social Protection her views on correspondence (details supplied) regarding the recognition of transgendered persons. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-09-18a.1471>

Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Legal Aid Applications (25 Sep 2013)

Seán Kyne (Galway West, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality if support to address the cost of legal fees is available or will be made available in cases where grandparents seek to become party to proceedings regarding children and State care. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-09-25a.426>

The Oireachtas Monitor is produced by the Children's Rights Alliance and is a compilation of links to Oireachtas Debates and Questions relating to children and families. The source is derived from content on the kildarestreet.com website. We acknowledge their assistance in the provision of this service. As the information is sourced from an external party, we do not accept responsibility for its content. If you wish to be removed from the list of recipients please email communications@childrensrights.ie with unsubscribe in the subject Field.

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