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1. This week in the Oireachtas (24 June - 28 June 2013)

<http://www.oireachtas.ie/viewdoc.asp?DocID=23837&&CatID=60>

2. Oireachtas Questions and Debate (17 June – 21 June 2013)

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

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Departmental Bodies (18 Jun 2013)

Dara Calleary (Mayo, Fianna Fail)

To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if he will outline in tabular form the number of semi-State organisations currently in operation under the aegis of his Department; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-06-18a.406>

Leaders' Questions (20 Jun 2013)

Charlie McConalogue (Donegal North East, Fianna Fail)

Yesterday, the truth of the Government's cut to students with special needs became clear when the National Council for Special Education announced that the 42,500 special needs students will have their allocation of resulting hours cut by 12% at the start of the new school term. This means that children with autism, severe emotional disturbance, severe learning disabilities and assessed syndromes will have their special teaching hours cut by half an hour per week from four and a quarter hours to three and three-quarter hours, starting from next September. . .

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-06-20a.5>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Special Educational Needs Services Provision (18 Jun 2013)

Joe McHugh (Donegal North East, Fine Gael)

To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if he will update Dáil Éireann on his Departments consideration of requests that children with Down syndrome be allocated maximum resource hours; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-06-18a.273>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Special Educational Needs Services Provision (18 Jun 2013)

Derek Keating (Dublin Mid West, Fine Gael)

To ask the Minister for Education and Skills in view of the growing knowledge regarding the Autism condition and the demands on individual schools and on the education system, if he will consider setting up a special unit to address, advise and examine resources in relation to the needs of children in the primary school sector who are diagnosed with autistic conditions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-06-18a.314>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Preschool Services (18 Jun 2013)

Catherine Murphy (Kildare North, Independent) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the means by which children with disabilities and special needs may avail of the early childhood care and education scheme; if supports to enable such children to avail of the scheme are made available in every case; the way in which such supports are deployed; the funding that has been allocated to specifically cater for such children; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-06-18a.1309>

Topical Issue Debate: Special Educational Needs Expenditure (20 Jun 2013)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-06-20a.525>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Special Educational Needs Staffing (19 Jun 2013)

Sandra McLellan (Cork East, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the reason letters to schools with the following school year's allocation of resource hours cannot be issued by 15 May or 30 May when primary schools are required to submit applications for resource hours and or special needs assistants help to the National Council for Special Education by 15 March each year; if this delay is an attempt at dissuading principals from launching appeals by having the announcement as close as possible to the summer holidays; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-06-19a.254>

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

John Halligan (Waterford, Independent) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if his attention has been drawn to the fact that in certain incidents where a secondary school pupil has been

assessed by a National Educational Psychological Services psychologist and resource hours have been sanctioned by the Special Educational Needs Officer on that basis due to a reduction in funding/available services certain schools have been absorbing these hours into the main school timetable which results in the child in question not having access to their individual resource hours; if his attention has been drawn to this practice; if it is legitimate for the school to absorb these hours; if he will now make a commitment to investigate this practice and prohibit the absorption of these hours into the main school timetable; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-06-19a.276>

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

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Appointments to State Boards (18 Jun 2013)

Niall Collins (Limerick, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the number of appointments made to State boards under her Department's remit since March 2011; the number of positions that have been advertised; the number of applications to the boards; the number of appointments to the board that were drawn from the applications; the current number of vacancies on each board; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-06-18a.1321>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Departmental Agencies Issues (18 Jun 2013)

Denis Naughten (Roscommon-South Leitrim, Independent) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she will list the regulators which are accountable to her Department; the administrative cost of operating each regulator in 2012; the accommodation costs and the number of staff employed; the total income and expenditure in 2012 for each regulator; her plans to amalgamate some regulatory offices and to amalgamate some regulatory processes; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-06-18a.1353>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Departmental Strategies (18 Jun 2013)

Seán Kyne (Galway West, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she will report on the progress of the preparation of the national early years strategy; and if she could provide an indicative time frame for publication of same.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-06-18a.1343>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child Care Services Regulation (18 Jun 2013)

Derek Keating (Dublin Mid West, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs her plans to introduce regulation for childminders; if they will be included in the Children First legislation; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-06-18a.1312>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Departmental Strategies (18 Jun 2013)

Seán Kyne (Galway West, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she will report on the progress of the preparation of the national early years strategy; and if she could provide an indicative time frame for publication of same.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-06-18a.1343>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Public Relations Contracts Expenditure (18 Jun 2013)

Billy Kelleher (Cork North Central, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she will detail in tabular form, the names of all external public relations, communications consultants and organisations used by her Department since 9 March 2011; the details of the services supplied by each; the expenditure on each; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-06-18a.1306>

Child Abuse/Child Protection: including vetting, child abduction

Order of Business (19 Jun 2013)

Robert Troy (Longford-Westmeath, Fianna Fail) In his judgment yesterday Mr. Justice John McMenamin referred to the issue of forced marriages, particularly of under-age girls. He cited a legal lacuna in this area. Can the Government commit to introducing legislation in this regard? I understand the Government has had the 2012 report by the independent Government rapporteur on child protection since January of this year. Can the Minister give an indication of when this report will be published? <http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-06-19a.73#g117>

Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Garda Vetting of Personnel (18 Jun 2013)

Robert Troy (Longford-Westmeath, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality if he will prioritise the enactment of the National Vetting Bill; and if he will outline the time frame for same. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-06-18a.998>

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

Seanad: Adjournment Matters: Suicide Prevention (20 Jun 2013)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/sendebates/?id=2013-06-20a.214>

Protection of Life During Pregnancy Bill 2013: Second Stage (20 Jun 2013)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-06-20a.231>

Seanad: Adjournment Matters: Mental Health Services Provision (18 Jun 2013)

John Perry (Sligo-North Leitrim, Fine Gael) I thank the Senator for raising this topic. North Dublin mental health services provide a range of adult mental health services within the specialties of general psychiatry and psychiatry of old age and a rehabilitation psychiatry service within the settings of service user homes, acute in-patient facilities, day hospitals, day centres and supported community residences. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/sendebates/?id=2013-06-18a.273#g276>

Seanad: Adjournment Matters: Primary Care Centres Provision (18 Jun 2013)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/sendebates/?id=2013-06-18a.260>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Health Services Staff Issues (18 Jun 2013)

Derek Keating (Dublin Mid West, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs following the Health Information and Quality Authority Report on Social Work staffing Levels, her plans to address this problem; her views on the fact that there are not enough professionally trained

and registered social workers to respond to the growing number of abuse and wilful neglect cases that are reported to the Health Service Executive; and if she will make a statement on the matter.
<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-06-18a.1315>

Child Benefit/Social Welfare/Poverty/Housing

Seanad: Social Welfare and Pensions (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2013: Committee Stage (Resumed) (19 Jun 2013)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/sendebates/?id=2013-06-19a.152>

Seanad: Social Welfare and Pensions (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2013: Committee Stage (Resumed) (19 Jun 2013)

Katherine Zappone (Independent) I seek clarification on a number of questions I raised on this section on Second Stage. It concerns the effect of the transition status on one-parent family payments as claimants transfer to jobseeker's allowance. Will one-parent families with a child dependant aged between 18 and 22 years in full-time education continue to receive income support on transition to jobseeker's allowance of €29.80 per week for him or her? Will they continue to receive the fuel allowance payment because normally one needs to be in receipt of the transitional jobseeker's allowance for 380 days to receive the allowance?

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/sendebates/?id=2013-06-19a.152#g165>

Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Child Support (18 Jun 2013)

Martin Ferris (Kerry North-West Limerick, Sinn Fein)

To ask the Minister for Social Protection her views on the impact on families receiving family income supplement if the proposals contained in the report of the Advisory Group on Tax and Welfare on reforming child income supports were to be implemented.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-06-18a.504>

Seanad: Housing (Amendment) Bill 2013: Second Stage (Resumed) (18 Jun 2013)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/sendebates/?id=2013-06-18a.130>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child Poverty (18 Jun 2013)

Paschal Donohoe (Dublin Central, Fine Gael)

To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs when she will make a decision on the application to be included in the Government's Area Based Response to Child Poverty Initiative submitted by the Docklands and East Inner City Consortium; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-06-18a.1300>

Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Qualified Child Increase Payments (18 Jun 2013)

Mattie McGrath (Tipperary South, Independent) To ask the Minister for Social Protection further to Parliamentary Question No. 445 of 11 June 2013, what is the position where the child is normally resident with each parent for an equal amount of time, that is, where a child spends Sunday to Saturday, week on/week off with each parent; the way the child can be considered to be normally resident with one parent over the other in this case where the child is equally resident with each parent; if the payment can be split between both parents in this situation; if the payment cannot be split where the child is normally resident with each parent for an equal amount of time, is it not the case that one parent is being unfairly treated in view of the fact that they would be without a payment when the child is living with them and that this would not be in the best interests of the child; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-06-18a.639>

Written Answers — Department of Environment, Community and Local Government: Ministerial Meetings (19 Jun 2013)

Aengus Ó Snodaigh (Dublin South Central, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government if it is his intention to officially record the first ever meeting of EU homeless Ministers held in Leuven on 1 March 2013 during Ireland's EU Presidency.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-06-19a.437>

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

Pearse Doherty (Donegal South West, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Social Protection what the impact on child poverty would be if there was full take up of family income supplement, as it is estimated that this payment is only claimed by 40% of those currently eligible.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-06-18a.530>

Justice Issues/ Human Rights/Equality

An Bille um an Dara Leasú is Tríocha ar an mBunreacht (Deireadh a Chur le Seanad Éireann) 2013: Second Stage (Resumed) - Thirty-second Amendment of the Constitution (Abolition of Seanad Éireann) Bill 2013: Second Stage (Resumed) (20 Jun 2013)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-06-20a.261>

Trade Union Movement and Workers' Rights: Motion [Private Members]

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-06-18a.324>

Topical Issue Debate: United Nations Report on Refugees (19 Jun 2013)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-06-19a.389>

Seanad: Order of Business (19 Jun 2013)

Ivana Bacik (Independent)

I ask for a debate on legislation to tackle the issue of forced marriages in the light of the judgment yesterday in the High Court in which Mr. Justice McMenamin commented on an application in respect of a child in care. He said there was a potential need for specific legislation to deal with the dreadful human rights abuse and abuse of children represented by forced marriage. It has been a huge issue in Britain and elsewhere. Legislation has been introduced in other jurisdictions and, if it is a problem here, we should follow suit to ensure no girl is forced into marriage against her will.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/sendebates/?id=2013-06-19a.8#g11>

Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Juvenile Offenders (18 Jun 2013)

Derek Keating (Dublin Mid West, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality if he will outline in tabular form for the years 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012 the number of children who were referred to the Children's Courts from Clondalkin, Lucan, Palmerstown, Newcastle, Saggart and Rathcoole areas of County Dublin; the number of children who were referred to the Juvenile Liaison Officers' supervision programme in those areas; the top five youth offences categories during that four year period and the provision of services and funding for projects and crime diversion programmes for Clondalkin, Lucan, Palmerstown, Newcastle, Saggart and Rathcoole; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-06-18a.976>

Seanad: Adjournment Matters: Garda-PSNI Transfers (18 Jun 2013)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/sendebates/?id=2013-06-18a.282>

Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Dispute Resolution Mechanisms (18 Jun 2013)

Seán Kyne (Galway West, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality if he will outline the efforts he has made to increase the use of non-judicial alternatives, such as mediation, for resolving disputes and settling issues. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-06-18a.1074>

Topical Issue Debate: Anti-Social Behaviour (20 Jun 2013)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-06-20a.520>

Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Equality Issues (19 Jun 2013)

Marcella Corcoran Kennedy (Laois-Offaly, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality his plans to extend the protections of equality legislation enshrined in the Programme for Government to the Irish transgender and intersex community; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-06-19a.456>

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