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## 1. This week in the Oireachtas (01 - 05 July 2013)

<http://www.oireachtas.ie/viewdoc.asp?DocID=23899&&CatID=60>

## 2. Oireachtas Questions and Debate (24 June – 28 June 2013)

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

### **Written Answers - Special Educational Needs Services Provision (27 June 2013)**

Finian McGrath: To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if he will not cut resource hours services to children with special needs in September.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-06-27a.251&>

### **Written Answers - Special Educational Needs Staffing (27 June 2013)**

Niall Collins: To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the reason the National Council for Special Education took three months from the March closing date for applications in respect of special needs assistants to announce their decisions; if he appreciates the wide-spread concern being expressed; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-06-27a.281&>

#### **Written Answers - Special Educational Needs Services Provision (27 June 2013)**

Clare Daly: To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if he or any of his officials attended a recent cross party briefing on the subject of his Department's policy with regard to applied behaviour analysis and autism by internationally recognised experts; if he will respond to the criticisms outlined at that briefing; if he will state if and when he plans to accept the invitation provided by the Psychology Society of Ireland's Division of Behaviour Analysis to meet with him in order to provide him and his officials with a more accurate understanding of ABA.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-06-27a.312&>

#### **Written answers - Teaching Qualifications (27 June 2013)**

Jonathan O'Brien: To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if schools have the discretion to allocate resource hours to teachers who have no specialised training for teaching children with special educational needs; and if he will clarify the regulations that relate to the supports provided to children with special needs in a mainstream school setting; To ask the Minister for Education and Skills in a case where a school is over quota if the principal and board of management of that school have the discretion to decide the way resource hours are allocated; is it is view that teachers who have not received specialised training can provide the type of tuition and duty of care that is necessary for children with special needs in a mainstream school setting; and if he will make a statement on the matter; To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the reason schools are expected to go through the process of applying for an allocation of resource hours which can then be allocated to non-qualified resource teaching staff.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-06-27a.319&>

#### **Special Educational Needs: Motion (Resumed) [Private Members] (26 June 2013)**

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-06-26a.384>

#### **Written answers - National Council for Special Education (26 June 2013)**

Stephen Donnelly: To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the reason there is no Irish National Teachers Organisation member on the national Council for Special Education; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-06-26a.294&>

#### **Written answers - Special Educational Needs Services Provision (26 June 2013)**

Billy Timmins: To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the position in relation to cuts to resource hours for children, in view of the fact that the number of resource teachers and special needs assistants is capped at current levels even though the school going population is set to increase dramatically in the next five years; in view of the vital service provided and needed, if he will reverse this decision as a matter of urgency and put in place steps to ensure that all needs are provided for with extra resource teachers and SNAs sanctioned; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-06-26a.316&>

#### **Written answers - National Educational Welfare Board Administration (26 June 2013)**

Róisín Shortall: To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she will report on the Education and Welfare Service; the numbers of staff dealing with school attendance cases; the basis and

location of staff deployment; the child population served by each office/officer and the proposals to expand the service to meet unmet need.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-06-26a.597>

**Written answers - Special Education Review (25 June 2013)**

Simon Harris: To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the way he plans to respond to policy advice on the future of special needs education from the National Council Special Education; if an implementation group will be appointed to progress this report; if he expects parent and teachers to be involved in this group; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-06-25a.491&>

**Written answers - Special Educational Needs Services Provision (25 June 2013)**

To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the number of children at primary school level diagnosed with ADHD and the number of hours of support provided either through special needs assistants, resource teachers or other assistance to these children.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-06-25a.497&>

**Written answers - Special Educational Needs Services Provision (25 June 2013)**

Simon Harris: To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if he will consider allowing for dual enrolment to take place for children with special educational needs, in such circumstances where a child is being gradually transitioned to mainstream school or attending as much mainstream school as possible but also requires to remain in a special needs school for a period of time or for certain aspects; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-06-25a.556&>

**Written answers - Special Educational Needs Services Provision (25 June 2013)**

Mick Wallace: To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the number of special needs assistants from the reserve of 475 made available, that have been appointed to positions in schools; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-06-25a.625&>

**Written answers - Special Educational Needs Services Provision (25 June 2013)**

Jonathan O'Brien: To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if he will confirm that policy decisions regarding the science of applied behaviour analysis for the treatment of autism have been made without consultations with professional bodies representing this science; the circumstances under which it is considered appropriate not to engage with representatives of a professional discipline that has an extensive database of findings showing it to have substantial success in the treatment of autism; the steps he will take to correct the misinformation on applied behaviour analysis that has led to the closure of schools that functioned as ABA schools; To ask the Minister for Education and Skills his plans to consult with those States in the United States of America that have mandated insurance companies to pay for the treatment of autism that is based on applied behaviour analysis; To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if he has plans in place to ensure that professionals trained in applied behavioural analysis are consulted on policy decisions that impact on the implementation of applied behaviour analysis and its monitoring to ensure that international standards are maintained; To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if he will investigate the cost benefit analyses that exist in relation to the implementation of applied behaviour analysis; and if his Department has plans to involve parents in training programmes in applied behaviour analysis, either at the point of diagnosis or later.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-06-25a.662&>

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

### Dáil debates - Health Services Staff Numbers (25 June 2013)

Seán Crowe: To ask the Minister for Health the number of the 414 posts for community mental health services committed to in the Health Service Executive National Service Plan 2012 that have been filled; the number of these positions that have been filled by existing HSE staff members; the action being taken regarding the back-filling of the positions these staff members have vacated; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-06-25a.117&>

## Child Abuse/Child Protection: including vetting, child abduction

### Written answers - Children in Armed Conflict (26 June 2013)

Jonathan O'Brien: To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade if his attention has been drawn to the recently released annual report of the UN Secretary General on children and armed conflict, which provides information regarding grave violations committed against children in 22 country situations; his views regarding the high number of persistent perpetrators named in the report; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-06-26a.78&>

### Written answers - Residential Institutions Issues (25 June 2013)

Patrick O'Donovan: To ask the Minister for Education and Skills further to Parliamentary Question No. 267 of 26 February 2013, if he will provide an update regarding a fund which was to be administered by his Department to support survivors of institutional abuse; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-06-25a.586&>

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

### Dáil debates - Obesity Strategy (25 June 2013)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-06-25a.140&>

### Dáil debates - Childhood Obesity (25 June 2013)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-06-25a.52&>

### Written answers – Obesity Strategy (25 June 2013)

Jonathan O'Brien: To ask the Minister for Health his plans for the introduction of a national strategy for a childhood obesity prevention and intervention service; if he has engaged directly or, if not, will engage with the anchors/providers of the W82GO childhood obesity treatment programme at Temple Street Children's Hospital, Dublin; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-06-25a.144&>

### Written answers - Mental Health Services Provision (25 June 2013)

Brian Stanley: To ask the Minister for Health if he will detail the acute mental health services for children here; the numbers on waiting lists for same; the average, shortest and longest waiting times; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-06-25a.57&>

#### **Written answers - Suicide Prevention (25 June 2013)**

Derek Keating: To ask the Minister for Health if he will present a detailed report in tabular form a breakdown of the extra €35 million spending on suicide prevention that he has committed to this year; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-06-25a.1464&>

## **Child Benefit/Social Welfare/Poverty/Housing**

### **Social Welfare and Pensions (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2013: Report and Final Stages (26 June 2013)**

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/sendebates/?id=2013-06-26a.486&>

#### **Written answers - Social Welfare Eligibility (26 June 2013)**

Brendan Smith: To ask the Minister for Social Protection if her attention has been drawn to the difficulties that arise for emigrants who have now returned home and who are being deprived of social welfare benefits due to the conditions of the habitual residence clause (details supplied); her plans to remove such unfair restrictions; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-06-26a.404&>

#### **Written answers - Respite Care Grant Payments (26 June 2013)**

Tom Fleming: To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will reconsider the cut to the respite care grant of almost 20% as this cut is having serious implications on the most vulnerable the most needy and the most deserving in society; if she will reverse this decision and reinstate the full grant; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-06-26a.398&>

#### **Written answers - Tax and Social Welfare Codes (25 June 2013)**

Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin: To ask the Minister for Social Protection her plans to introduce the second tier of child income support payment reform without abolishing family income supplement as suggested by the End Child Poverty Coalition.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-06-25a.772&>

#### **Written answers - Child Benefit Eligibility (25 June 2013)**

Dara Calleary: To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will consider reinstating the child benefit payment to all full time students up to 21 years of age; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-06-25a.803&>

## **Asylum/Immigration**

#### **Written answers - Asylum Seeker Accommodation (25 June 2013)**

Robert Dowds: To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality the mental health care provided for asylum seekers and persons seeking leave to remain who are living in direct provision; and if data is collected regarding the number of persons with serious mental health problems in the direct provision system.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-06-25a.1152&>

### **Written answers - Asylum Support Services (25 June 2013)**

Clare Daly: To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality if he will provide a breakdown of the numbers of persons within direct provision, who made their application for protection more than five years ago, and are respectively awaiting deportation, seeking subsidiary protection or leave to remain, or have a judicial attachment to their application; the number that are children and the options available to persons who have had their application rejected but are stateless or non-returnable; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-06-25a.1104&>

## **Family: including adoption**

### **Topical Issue Debate: Inter-Country Adoptions (27 June 2013)**

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-06-27a.390&>

### **Written answers - Inter-Country Adoptions (27 June 2013)**

Andrew Doyle: To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the position in relation to the establishment of a bilateral agreement between Ireland and Russia for the purpose of inter-country adoption; if he intends to seek a date for continuation of further talks with the Russian authorities for this purpose; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-06-27a.645&>

## **Justice Issues/ Human Rights/Equality**

### **Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) (Amendment) Bill 2013 [Seanad]: Committee and Remaining Stages (28 June 2013)**

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-06-28a.25&>

### **Seanad debates - Courts Bill 2013: Committee Stage (26 June 2013)**

Alan Shatter (Minister, Department of Justice, Equality and Defence): "...The need for this amendment was raised in a submission from the **Children's Rights Alliance**, whom I thank for drawing this matter to my attention..."

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/sendebates/?id=2013-06-26a.222&>

### **Order of Business (25 June 2013)**

Derek Keating: The promised legislation about which I wish to ask is the Children First Bill. Will the Taoiseach advise whether the Bill provides for mandatory reporting? An issue arose in my constituency recently when many parents were unhappy about the level of supervision afforded to 38 children who went on a school trip to County Donegal. An investigation recently took place involving the principal of the school and, apparently, he stepped aside during the course of the investigation. Many parents and others are concerned about the level of abuse in the case.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-06-25a.360&s=%22children+first%22+2013-06-24..2013-06-28#g403>

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