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## 1. This week in the Oireachtas (15-22 July 2013)

<http://www.oireachtas.ie/viewdoc.asp?DocID=24103&&CatID=60>

## 2. Oireachtas Questions and Debate (08-12 July 2013)

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

**Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child Care Services Funding (11 Jul 2013)**

Andrew Doyle (Wicklow, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if he will provide a county breakdown of the total funding she and her Department have allocated for the second round of child care capital grants in 2013; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-07-11a.403>

**Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Early Child Care Education Issues (9 Jul 2013)**

Shane Ross (Dublin South, Independent) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if there will be a recognition in her plans for reform of childcare and pre-school care facilities for staff members and creche owners whose childcare qualifications are prior to FETAC and whose montessori diploma have been granted a FETAC 5 equivalent; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-07-09a.1140>

**Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child Care Services Inspections (9 Jul 2013)**

Shane Ross (Dublin South, Independent) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if there will be a recognition in her plans for reform of childcare and pre-school care facilities for staff members and creche owners whose childcare qualifications are prior to FETAC and whose montessori diploma have been granted a FETAC 5 equivalent; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-07-09a.1149>

**Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child Care Services Regulation (9 Jul 2013)**

Michael Healy-Rae (Kerry South, Independent) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the reason there is a delay in publishing the regulations for stronger control in pre-schools and crèches; when the report will be printed; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-07-09a.1152>

**Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: School Transport Eligibility (9 Jul 2013)**

Robert Troy (Longford-Westmeath, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if he will reconsider either the boundaries of the school transport scheme or the cost of the transport to a child's chosen school. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-07-09a.401>

**Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Special Educational Needs Services Provision (11 Jul 2013)**

Andrew Doyle (Wicklow, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the supports available to school leavers with disabilities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-07-11a.77>

**Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Special Educational Needs Staffing (10 Jul 2013)**

Shane Ross (Dublin South, Independent) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if he will provide reassurance that special needs assistants who have been unemployed for longer than a year will be eligible to be placed on a panel for further recruitment either in their present school or elsewhere, as per the Haddington Road agreement; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-07-10a.342>

**Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Special Educational Needs Staffing (9 Jul 2013)**

Jonathan O'Brien (Cork North Central, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills in a case where a post-primary school is over quota if the principal and Board of Management of that school have the discretion to decide the way learning support and resource teaching hours are allocated; his Department's circular/policy document that School Boards of Management must adhere to when allocating resource hours to mainstream teachers at post-primary level; the policy at post primary level that informs principals and Boards of Management how to give hours allocated to pupils with special needs to mainstream teachers instead of resource teachers; and if his attention has been

drawn to the fact that a qualified resource teacher can lose their job as a result of the hours they should be teaching being given to a mainstream teacher because the school is in an over quota position. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-07-09a.413>

**Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Special Educational Needs Staffing (9 Jul 2013)**

Patrick Nulty (Dublin West, Independent) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if he intends to lift the cap on the number of special needs assistants within the education system to meet increased demand in the system. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-07-09a.471>

**Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Special Educational Needs Services Provision (9 Jul 2013)**

Anthony Lawlor (Kildare North, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the reason, according to circular 07/2012, five years per week learning support is offered to pupils in all-boys mainstream classrooms while only four hours per week is offered to pupils attending all-girls mainstream classroom; his views on whether it is fair that a differentiation should be made between boys and girls; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-07-09a.477>

**Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Special Educational Needs Staffing (9 Jul 2013)**

Olivia Mitchell (Dublin South, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if he will consider extending membership of the supplementary assignment panel for special needs assistants, SNAs, to those who were made redundant prior to 1 May 2013 and SNAs involved in service in 2012-2013 in a suitable capacity as the panel militates unfairly against such SNAs; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-07-09a.485>

**Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Pupil-Teacher Ratio (9 Jul 2013)**

Michael Healy-Rae (Kerry South, Independent) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if he will provide an assurance that class sizes will not be allowed to expand any further; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-07-09a.407>

**Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: School Patronage (9 Jul 2013)**

Seán Kyne (Galway West, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if, in the context of the move to bring plurality to educational patronage, parents seeking a school in the Steiner model will be accommodated in County Galway and elsewhere in the West. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-07-09a.510>

## Asylum/Immigration

**Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Asylum Policy (9 Jul 2013)**

Derek Nolan (Galway West, Labour) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality when and why the decision was taken for Ireland not to participate in the recast asylum procedures directive, which was successfully negotiated under his chairmanship; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-07-09a.1047>

**Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Asylum Policy (9 Jul 2013)**

Derek Nolan (Galway West, Labour) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of persons who have been detained following a refusal of leave to land here in 2011, 2012 and the first six months of 2013; their length of detention, place of detention, their nationality and if they were

subsequently removed from the State; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-07-09a.1057>

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

### Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Young Carers (10 Jul 2013)

Terence Terence (Dublin North East, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she will provide an update regarding the implementation of the recommendations outlined in the Study of Young Carers in the Irish Population, which was funded by her Department in 2010 and the recommendations outlined in the national carers' strategy which specifically support young carers; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-07-10a.617>

### Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Youth Services Provision (9 Jul 2013)

Thomas Pringle (Donegal South West, Independent) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she will commit to securing the necessary funding to ensure that the Big Brother Big Sister Programme will continue to provide a vital service to the 3,200 young persons who benefit from the programme each year; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-07-09a.1137>

### Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Aftercare Services (9 Jul 2013)

Róisín Shortall (Dublin North West, Independent) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs in view of her Department's willingness to fund a FETAC level 6 course for a person (details supplied) in Dublin 13 the reason they are unwilling to provide the same funding to this person during the first two years of a degree course in the same discipline; if this is in line with the national aftercare policy's commitment to provide aftercare services to young persons in education up to the age of 23; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-07-09a.1146>

### Written Answers — Department of Environment, Community and Local Government: Voluntary Sector Funding (10 Jul 2013)

Terence Flanagan (Dublin North East, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government his plans to establish a grant scheme to assist voluntary organisations with the costs associated with complying with Government generated regulatory requirements, such as mandatory training and vetting; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-07-10a.514>

## Family: including adoption

### Seanad: Parental Leave Bill 2013: Second Stage (10 Jul 2013)

Paschal Mooney (Fianna Fail) Before I call on the proposal to be moved, on my behalf and that of my colleague from County Leitrim, Senator Comiskey, I welcome Councillor Frank Dolan and some friends and neighbours from Sligo and Leitrim who have joined us in the Visitors Gallery. As Leitrim people we are particularly pleased to welcome you. With that, our little bit of parochialism is out of

the way. I hope the Minister of State does not mind us indulging ourselves.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/sendebates/?id=2013-07-10a.392>

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

### **Seanad: Adjournment Matters: Medical Card Eligibility (11 Jul 2013)**

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/sendebates/?id=2013-07-11a.837>

### **Written Answers — Department of Health: Primary Care Strategy (10 Jul 2013)**

Terence Flanagan (Dublin North East, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update on the primary health strategy's commitment to have 400 to 600 fully functioning primary care teams by the end of 2014; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-07-10a.630>

### **Written Answers — Department of Health: Primary Care Centres Provision (9 Jul 2013)**

Maureen O'Sullivan (Dublin Central, Independent) To ask the Minister for Health his plans for a primary care centre for Dublin's inner city in view of the fact that the site has been secured; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-07-09a.1293>

### **Written Answers — Department of Health: Primary Care Strategy (9 Jul 2013)**

Seán Kyne (Galway West, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Health if he will report on the progress made to date on meeting the primary health strategy commitment of establishing between 400 and 600 functioning primary care teams by the end of 2014.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-07-09a.1405>

## Child Benefit/Social Welfare/Poverty/Housing

### **Mortgage Arrears Proposals: Motion [Private Members] (9 Jul 2013)**

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-07-09a.391>

### **Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Child Benefit Rates (9 Jul 2013)**

Jonathan O'Brien (Cork North Central, Sinn Féin) To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will guarantee the current rates of child benefit as a universal payment; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-07-09a.7>

### **Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Respite Care Grant Administration (11 Jul 2013)**

Michael Healy-Rae (Kerry South, Independent) To ask the Minister for Social Protection further to the 19% cut to the respite care grant in 2012, the measures she will take to ensure that there are no more cuts; the reforms that will be taken to help restore the grant and ensure those affected by the cuts must no longer endure the hardship of budget cuts to the respite care grant; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-07-11a.137>

### **Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Social Welfare Code Issues (11 Jul 2013)**

Nicky McFadden (Longford-Westmeath, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will ensure that carers are adequately protected so that they may continue to provide care rather than

placing their loved ones in full-time care; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-07-11a.153>

**Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Budget 2014 Issues (11 Jul 2013)**

Brendan Griffin (Kerry South, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Social Protection if income supports will be protected for family carers in budget 2014; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-07-11a.159>

**Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Respite Care Grant Administration (11 Jul 2013)**

Brendan Griffin (Kerry South, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will consider reversing the cuts to the respite grants or offer an alternative as a redress to compensate for these cuts; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-07-11a.162>

**Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Social Welfare Schemes (9 Jul 2013)**

Peadar Tóibín (Meath West, Sinn Féin) To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will provide details of each social protection scheme; the annual cost of each scheme; and the numbers availing of the payment for each of the past three years.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-07-09a.53>

**Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Respite Care Grant Payments (9 Jul 2013)**

Mary Lou McDonald (Dublin Central, Sinn Féin) To ask the Minister for Social Protection her plans to reverse the Budget 2013 cuts to respite carers' grant.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-07-09a.108>

**Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Social Welfare Appeals Waiting Times (9 Jul 2013)**

Bernard Durkan (Kildare North, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Social Protection the steps she has taken or intends to take to streamline the appeals system in respect of all payments issuing from her Department with a view to minimising hardship on those awaiting the outcome of appeal; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-07-09a.813>

**Written Answers — Department of Health: Domiciliary Care Allowance Eligibility (9 Jul 2013)**

Denis Naughten (Roscommon-South Leitrim, Independent) To ask the Minister for Health the details of the Health Service Executive's scheme to review applications to have domiciliary care allowance backdated which were previously refused under a new national standardised approach by community care offices; the guidelines for this scheme; the information which applicants must submit; who will carry out the reviews; how far such applications for backdating will be considered; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-07-09a.1217>

**Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Budget 2014 Issues (10 Jul 2013)**

Andrew Doyle (Wicklow, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Social Protection the names of the voluntary groups and organisations she has met to date in advance of the Budget 2014 negotiations; the rationale for the selection of the groups she has met; the dates on which she met them; if she will state if other such groups contact her between now and October that she will agree to have discussions with them; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-07-10a.472>

**Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Social Welfare Code Issues (9 Jul 2013)**

Thomas Pringle (Donegal South West, Independent) To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will outline the level of information required to be provided by claimants who are returning Irish emigrants to satisfy the habitual residence condition; if she will provide an average time frame for the verification of habitual residency of such persons; and if she is satisfied with this process.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-07-09a.100>

**Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Social Welfare Code Issues (9 Jul 2013)**

Clare Daly (Dublin North, Socialist Party) To ask the Minister for Social Protection her plans to bring in legislation to deduct maintenance orders from social welfare payments where the court order is ignored.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-07-09a.64>

**Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: One-Parent Family Payment Expenditure (9 Jul 2013)**

Seán Fleming (Laois-Offaly, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of persons who will be affected by the proposed changes to the lone parent's allowance which will commence on 4 July; the savings she estimates will be made from these changes; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-07-09a.56>

## Justice Issues/ Human Rights/Equality

**Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Juvenile Offenders (9 Jul 2013)**

Thomas Pringle (Donegal South West, Independent) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she will provide a time frame for the completion of the young offenders' facility in Oberstown in north County Dublin, including the transfer of all minors to this facility; and if she will consider expediting its completion in view of the decision to transfer all current inmates to Wheatfield Prison, Dublin.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-07-09a.1134>

**Courts and Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2013: Second Stage (9 Jul 2013)**

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-07-09a.365>

**Dáil debates 09/07/2013 - Order of Business**

Dessie Ellis (Dublin North West, Sinn Fein) The Constitutional Convention recently voted overwhelmingly to have a referendum on the issue of marriage equality. Only a fortnight ago we had a massively successful Pride festival which brought tens of thousands onto the streets of Dublin from all over Ireland and further afield. The LGBT community is clearly a positive part of our society but its members are still not treated as equals before the law.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-07-09a.241#g276>

**Child Care (Amendment) (No. 3) Bill 2013: First Stage (10 Jul 2013)**

Robert Troy (Longford-Westmeath, Fianna Fail) I move: That leave be granted to introduce a Bill entitled an Act to amend the Child Care Act 1991 (as amended) so as to enable any person to apply to the court seeking an order or direction in respect of a child who is not subject to the proceedings brought under the Guardianship of Infants Act 1964, the Child Care Act 1991 or any subsequent legislation dealing with similar proceedings, but who has been brought to the attention of the Health Service Executive, where there are reasonable grounds for believing the child in question is not receiving adequate care and protection.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-07-10a.118>

**Written Answers — Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation: Employment Rights Issues (10 Jul 2013)**

Seán Crowe (Dublin South West, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation in view of the recent concerns regarding crèches and child care, if he will consider developing regulations on the recruitment, placement and employment of au pairs.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-07-10a.5>

**Courts and Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2013: Second Stage (9 Jul 2013)**

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-07-09a.365>

**Seanad: Adjournment Matters: Data Protection (9 Jul 2013)**

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/sendebates/?id=2013-07-09a.202>

**Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Adoption Legislation (9 Jul 2013)**

John Paul Phelan (Carlow-Kilkenny, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the current status of the proposed new Adoption Bill; if she will outline the principal areas that it is intended to deal with; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-07-09a.1155>

**Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Traveller Community Issues (9 Jul 2013)**

Ciara Conway (Waterford, Labour) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality his plans to introduce legislation that will provide for the recognition of traveller ethnicity; if he will provide an update and a timeline for same; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-07-09a.1044>

**Protection of Life During Pregnancy Bill 2013: Report Stage (Resumed) (10 Jul 2013)**

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-07-10a.598>

**Seanad: Parental Leave Bill 2013: Second Stage (10 Jul 2013)**

Paschal Mooney (Fianna Fail) Before I call on the proposal to be moved, on my behalf and that of my colleague from County Leitrim, Senator Comiskey, I welcome Councillor Frank Dolan and some friends and neighbours from Sligo and Leitrim who have joined us in the Visitors Gallery. As Leitrim people we are particularly pleased to welcome you. With that, our little bit of parochialism is out of the way. I hope the Minister of State does not mind us indulging ourselves.

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