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1. This week in the Oireachtas (07-11 October 2013)

<http://www.oireachtas.ie/viewdoc.asp?DocID=24433&&CatID=60>

2. Oireachtas Questions and Debate (30 September - 04 October 2013)

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

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Third Level Participation (1 Oct 2013)

Catherine Murphy (Kildare North, Independent) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if he will provide a breakdown by socio-economic background of all those pursuing both full-time and part-time higher education who entered immediately after completing their leaving certificate; the way these figures compare historically; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-01a.489>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Early Child Care Education Issues (3 Oct 2013)

Terence Flanagan (Dublin North East, Independent) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she has plans to extend the early childhood care and education scheme so that children can avail of two years as opposed to one; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-03a.608>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Early Child Care Education Issues (3 Oct 2013)

Patrick Nulty (Dublin West, Independent) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if her attention has been drawn to difficulties faced by childcare providers under the early childhood care and education scheme in paying for staff in view of the fact that the scheme does not cover staff costs for the full calendar year; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-03a.620>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child Care Qualifications/Services/Inspections (2 Oct 2013)

various question on childcare (ECCE) from Michael Healy-Rae (Kerry South, Independent)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-02a.604>

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-02a.610>

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-02a.614>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: After-School Support Services (1 Oct 2013)

Robert Troy (Longford-Westmeath, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs in view of the fact that the pilot phase of the subsidised after-school child care scheme is now complete and the scheme commenced national roll-out in September 2013, the uptake there has been on the pilot phase of the scheme in terms of numbers; if she is on target for the allocation of the proposed 6,000 places announced earlier this year; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-01a.1282>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: School Transport Issues (3 Oct 2013)

Various questions by Luke Flanagan (Roscommon-South Leitrim, Independent) on school transport

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-03a.278>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: School Transport Issues (2 Oct 2013)

Various questions by Clare Daly (Dublin North, Socialist Party) on school transport.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-02a.339>

Seanad: Adjournment Matters: Pupil-Teacher Ratio (1 Oct 2013)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/sendebates/?id=2013-10-01a.243>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Special Educational Needs Staffing (3 Oct 2013)

John Halligan (Waterford, Independent) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if he will confirm the rationale behind the decision to introduce the supplementary allocation panel for special needs assistants; the reason entry onto this panel is only open to special needs assistants who have been working for the past school year and were to lose their positions on 31 August; the way a panel such as this could so blatantly discriminate against special needs assistants who had the misfortune to lose their positions at an earlier date; the number of persons currently on this panel; if a school is obliged to state on any job advertisements that applicants will be taken from the panel only; if there should be an obligation on his Department to have those best suited for the available positions added to the panel; the way he can justify this panel as it stands; if he will make a commitment to look into the implications of this oversight and make the necessary arrangements to have entry to such panels opened to all qualified applicants. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-03a.259>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Special Educational Needs Services Provision (3 Oct 2013)

Michael McGrath (Cork South Central, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if he will provide details of grant support available in respect of special needs children of pre-school age attending early intervention units; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-03a.262>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Special Educational Needs Expenditure (3 Oct 2013)

Seán Ó Feargháil (Kildare South, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the estimated cost of restoring resource teaching hours to the level that existed in 2010/11 and in 2011/12; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-03a.315>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Special Educational Needs Staffing (2 Oct 2013)

Joe Higgins (Dublin West, Socialist Party) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills of those special needs assistants who have recently been made redundant, the number on the panel established by his Department. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-02a.391>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Special Educational Needs Services Provision (2 Oct 2013)

Pat Deering (Carlow-Kilkenny, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills his plans to correct the current imbalance in general allocation model-English as an additional language, GAM-EAL, support, based on gender, where the allocation of support is 25% higher in all boys and co-ed schools than in all girls schools and where there is an even higher allocation to Gaelscoileanna generally even though they have very few EAL pupils; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-02a.397>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Special Educational Needs Services Provision (1 Oct 2013)

Michael Healy-Rae (Kerry South, Independent) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if he will allocate resource hours to all children with Down Syndrome; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-01a.457>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Special Educational Needs (1 Oct 2013)

Several questions by Charlie McConalogue (Donegal North East, Fianna Fail)
<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-01a.521>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: School Staffing (1 Oct 2013)

Several questions by Charlie McConalogue (Donegal North East, Fianna Fail)
<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-01a.511>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: School Patronage (2 Oct 2013)

Brendan Griffin (Kerry South, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if he will invite submissions from all boards of management and parents' associations of all schools on the subject of school patronage to ensure receipt of a wide diversity of submissions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-02a.366>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Private Schools (1 Oct 2013)

Andrew Doyle (Wicklow, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the amount of funding his Department has allocated or committed to paying off the debts of a college (details supplied) in County Kilkenny, including outstanding loans, the move from a 21:1 to 23:1 teacher ratio and the college's switch from a private to public school; if he will outline any other expenditure incurred by his Department as result of this switch between 2012 and into the 2013-14 school year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-01a.447>

Asylum/Immigration

Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Asylum Seeker Accommodation (3 Oct 2013)

Sandra McLellan (Cork East, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality his views on whether it is acceptable that asylum seekers and their children are housed in reception centres which lack adequate facilities for any meaningful recreational activity; his views on whether it is imperative that children and young persons have access to open space and sports areas irrespective of their parents' status; and if he will make a statement on the matter.
<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-03a.546>

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

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Children in Care (3 Oct 2013)

Tommy Broughan (Dublin North East, Labour) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs further to Parliamentary Question No. 37 of 19 September 2013, if she will provide more information on the in-depth review being undertaken of all residential care services for children and young persons by an appointed national manager of the Health Service Executive; and when this review will be completed. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-03a.611>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child Care Services Inspections (2 Oct 2013)

Michael Healy-Rae (Kerry South, Independent) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she will include early childhood specialists within inspection teams to build an existing expertise within the sector; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Michael Healy-Rae (Kerry South, Independent) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs on behalf of early childhood Ireland, if she will ensure that services have the right to reply on all inspection reports; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-02a.614>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Legislative Process (1 Oct 2013)

Kevin Humphreys (Dublin South East, Labour) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she will provide a list of the Acts or specific provisions of Acts under her Department that have not yet been commenced; if it is intended to commence the provision in each case; if so, when; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-01a.1292>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Regulatory Impact Assessment Numbers (1 Oct 2013)

Joanna Tuffy (Dublin Mid West, Labour) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she will provide an update on all regulatory impact assessments carried out on Bills in her Department since this Government took office to date; if she will list these Bills in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-01a.1308>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Legislative Process (1 Oct 2013)

Kevin Humphreys (Dublin South East, Labour) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she will provide a list of the Acts or specific provisions of Acts under her Department that have not yet been commenced; if it is intended to commence the provision in each case; if so, when; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-01a.1289>

Child Abuse/Child Protection: including vetting, child abduction

Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Garda Vetting of Personnel (3 Oct 2013)

Various Qs by Terence Flanagan (Dublin North East, Independent) for vetting for Childcare workers. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-03a.459>

Written Answers — Department of Health: Child Care Services Inspections (1 Oct 2013)

Written Answers — Peadar Tóibín (Meath West, Sinn Féin) To ask the Minister for Health the number of staff are employed in each county as child care facilities inspectors; the number of new staff that have been employed in each county by the Health Service Executive as child care facilities inspectors since the Prime Time Investigates entitled A Breach of Trust Exposé; in view of the fact that new legislation will strengthen regulations in this sector, the number of new staff that will be employed to inspect these new regulations. Department of Health: Child Care Services Inspections (1 Oct 2013). <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-01a.1435>

Topical Issue Debate: Residential Institutions Statutory Fund Board (3 Oct 2013)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-10-03a.264>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Residential Institutions Statutory Fund Board (1 Oct 2013)

Various qs on the Residential Institutions Statutory Fund Board by Jonathan O'Brien (Cork North Central, Sinn Féin)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-01a.539>

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-01a.557>

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-01a.561>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Residential Institutions Statutory Fund Board (1 Oct 2013)

Seán Kyne (Galway West, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if there has been an increase in the past 12 months in the contributions being made by the 18 religious orders to the statutory fund designed to make restitution to the victims of abuse; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-01a.592>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Child Protection Issues (1 Oct 2013)

Written Pat Deering (Carlow-Kilkenny, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the protection that exists for children and teachers who are regularly in a position where there is only one adult present with a number of young children; whether this is in breach of best practice for child protection and does it leave teachers open to allegations of inappropriate behaviour
Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Child Protection Issues.
<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-01a.586>

Family: including adoption

Written Answers — Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade: Inter-Country Adoptions (1 Oct 2013)

Eoghan Murphy (Dublin South East, Fine Gael) To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade if he will provide an update on meetings with the relevant Russian authorities in relation to changes in Russian adoption legislation that has meant that a number of prospective adoptive parents here may now be unable to adopt. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-01a.273>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Foreign Adoptions (1 Oct 2013)

Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin (Cavan-Monaghan, Sinn Féin) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she will provide an update on efforts to secure a bilateral adoption agreement between Ireland and Ethiopia; and if she will make a statement on the matter.
<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-01a.1295>

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

Written Answers — Department of Health: Services for People with Disabilities (2 Oct 2013)

Aengus Ó Snodaigh (Dublin South Central, Sinn Féin) To ask the Minister for Health his views the implications of the funding cut to St. Michael's House, as outlined by its directors, including the reduction in staffing across the organisation in day services, clinical services and administration, contraction of residential and respite services, closure of residential services for one Sunday each month, cessation of rent subsidy, cessation of the trainee allowance, reductions in transport, no new residential places or long-term respite and reduced day service for school and training centre leavers; if he has met with the directors and the relevant Health Service Executive officials to discuss the matter; and if he will make special budgetary provision or take other steps to avert the crisis.
<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-02a.682>

Written Answers — Department of Health: Primary Care Centres Provision (2 Oct 2013)

Billy Kelleher (Cork North Central, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Health the position regarding the primary care centre projects announced on 17 July 2012; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-02a.679>

Written Answers — Department of Health: Obesity Strategy (1 Oct 2013)

Seán Kyne (Galway West, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Health if, despite the opposition to such a measure which is driven by commercial interests and a complete unwillingness to accept the growing scientific and medical evidence which demonstrates that sugar, in various processed forms, is responsible for the substantial increase in obesity-related health problems, he is committed to introducing measures to encourage healthier eating and encourage business to reduce such harmful ingredients in products; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-01a.1477>

Child Benefit/Social Welfare/Poverty/Housing

Topical Issue Debate: Community Welfare Services (1 Oct 2013)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-10-01a.403>

Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Social Welfare Benefits Data (1 Oct 2013)

Various questions from Willie O'Dea (Limerick City, Fianna Fail)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-01a.771>

Written Answers — Department of Environment, Community and Local Government: Homeless Persons Data (3 Oct 2013)

Noel Grealish (Galway West, Independent) To ask the Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government the current level of homelessness in Dublin and the other urban areas compared with two years ago; the amount of such homelessness that can be attributed to the new standards in rental accommodation, specifically those relating to the prohibition of bed-sits; if the requirement to have an individual bathroom for each unit of accommodation is a contributory factor; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-03a.437>

Topical Issue Debate: Child Benefit Reform (2 Oct 2013)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-10-02a.408>

Justice Issues/ Human Rights/Equality

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Children in Care (3 Oct 2013)

Tommy Broughan (Dublin North East, Labour) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs further to Parliamentary Question No. 28 of 19 September 2013, if she will elaborate on the work that will be undertaken by the Irish Youth Justice Service and the Health Service Executive Child and Family Service to analyse the trend of children exiting the HSE secure residential system and thereafter being remanded in custody in the Oberstown Campus; and when it is expected that this analysis will be completed. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-03a.611>

Seanad: Order of Business (2 Oct 2013)

Ivana Bacik (Independent) ...An area on which I know former Senator Mary Henry did great work was that of assisted human reproduction. There has been a good deal of litigation on that issue before the courts, most recently on the issue of surrogacy. There is an excellent report from the Commission on Assisted Human Reproduction. The Seanad should be putting forward legislation where there is clearly a vacuum currently in terms of legislative or regulatory policy, and we should be looking to fill that gap. I would like us to have a debate on other such areas where the Seanad could play a useful role. ... <http://www.kildarestreet.com/sendebates/?id=2013-10-02a.7#g10>

Written Answers — Department of Environment, Community and Local Government: Traveller Accommodation (1 Oct 2013)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-01a.1054>

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