

Contents

1. [This Week in the Houses of the Oireachtas 14-18 October 2013](#)
2. [Oireachtas Questions and Debate 07 October 11 October 2013](#)
  - [Education: including special needs, ECCE, minorities, disadvantage, literacy and numeracy, school staffing, school buildings, school patronage, curriculum](#)
  - [Asylum/Immigration](#)
  - [Child Services/ Children in Care: including foster care and social work services, HSE staffing, youth services](#)
  - [Child Abuse/Child Protection: including vetting, child abduction](#)
  - [Family: including adoption](#)
  - [Health and Wellbeing: including disability, mental health, substance misuse, primary care, health services, hospital services, obesity, sports facilities](#)
  - [Child Benefit/Social Welfare/Poverty](#)
  - [Justice Issues/Human Rights/Equality](#)

**1. This week in the Oireachtas (14-18 October 2013)**

<http://www.oireachtas.ie/viewdoc.asp?DocID=24483&&CatID=60>

**2. Oireachtas Questions and Debate (07 October - 11 October 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: Early Child Care Education Issues (9 Oct 2013)**

Nicky McFadden (Longford-Westmeath, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the progress being made in relation to the development of a national early years strategy, regarding the provision of affordable childcare; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-09a.482>

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

Dominic Hannigan (Meath East, Labour) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she is planning a strategy for getting Exchequer investment in early childhood care and education towards a minimum of 1% of GDP by 2020; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-09a.488>

**Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child Care Services Inspections (8 Oct 2013)**

Emmet Stagg (Kildare North, Labour) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if the Children Act 1991 will be amended to include after school crèche provision in the existing regulatory inspection system; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-08a.1216&s=%22child+care%22+2013-10-07..2013-10-11>

**Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child Care Services Provision (8 Oct 2013)**

Maureen O'Sullivan (Dublin Central, Independent) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs further to Parliamentary Question No. 19 of 19 September 2013, the extent of the reduction in hours for child care staff in residential care homes funded by the Health Service Executive and in the voluntary sector and the number of closures in that sector.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-08a.1225>

**Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: School Transport Availability (10 Oct 2013)**

Michael McGrath (Cork South Central, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the transport 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=2013-10-10a.205>

**Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Traveller Education (8 Oct 2013)**

Pearse Doherty (Donegal South West, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if he will provide an assessment of the effects on Traveller children of the withdrawal of all major educational Traveller-specific supports; if he will consider reinstating State affirmative action such as upskilling and employing Travellers to be employed by his Department as community education workers and within schools and the National Education Welfare Board; and if he will consider reviewing his Department's policy regarding same??? as recommended by the Irish Traveller Movement?.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-08a.144>

**Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Special Educational Needs Staff Remuneration (9 Oct 2013)**

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-09a.197>

**Other Questions: Special Educational Needs Services Provision (8 Oct 2013)**

Seán Kyne (Galway West, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if the progress report from the National Council for Special Education-appointed working group, tasked with developing a new model for the allocation of resources to schools in line with the NCSE's main recommendations, has been received as expected by the end of September; if the report will be published; and if there will be an opportunity for interested parties to make comments and suggestions on the report which could ultimately aid the working group in its work.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-10-08a.109>

**Other Questions: Legislative Programme (8 Oct 2013)**

Brian Stanley (Laois-Offaly, Sinn Féin) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the cost of implementing the unimplemented aspects of the Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs Act <http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-10-08a.68>

**Priority Questions: Special Educational Needs Services Provision (8 Oct 2013)**

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-10-08a.44>

**Other Questions: Special Educational Needs Services Provision (8 Oct 2013)ons: Special Educational Needs Services Provision (8 Oct 2013)**

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-10-08a.54>

**Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Special Educational Needs Expenditure (8 Oct 2013)**

Mick Wallace (Wexford, Independent) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills his plans to ring-fence current funding for special needs assistants in budget 2014; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-08a.17>

**Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Educational Disadvantage (8 Oct 2013)**

Peter Mathews (Dublin South, Independent) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the steps he intends to take to address the increasing numbers of disadvantaged children within the education system in view of the significant reduction in funding to support such children; the psychological supports being provided to children from grossly indebted families; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-08a.141>

**Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Special Educational Needs Data (8 Oct 2013)**

Charlie McConalogue (Donegal North East, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if he will provide in tabular form the disabilities that qualify for automatic low-incidence resource hours and the number of children currently receiving resource hours for each of these disabilities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-08a.387>

**Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: School Discipline (8 Oct 2013)**

Gerry Adams (Louth, Sinn Féin) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the current guidelines set out by Department with regard to suspension of special needs children arising from alleged incidents within a school facility; the guidelines that exist for the withdrawal of school services for a special needs child; the alternative or supports that will be put in place by the Department during this period; if formal guidelines are in place setting out how school should interact with parents/guardians in such instances. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-08a.447>

**Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Special Educational Needs Services Provision (8 Oct 2013)**

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-08a.506>

**Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: School Completion Rates (8 Oct 2013)**

Bernard Durkan (Kildare North, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the extent to which school drop out rates in respect of primary, second and third level education continue to be monitored with a view to addressing social or economic causes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. (8 Oct 2013) <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-08a.531>

**Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: School Closures (8 Oct 2013)**

Bernard Durkan (Kildare North, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the extent to which he expects to be in a position to maintain the fabric of smaller rural and urban schools under the patronage of all churches, with particular reference to the need to ensure that such communities are not in any way marginalised arising either from demographics, location and-or socioeconomic status, and having due regard to traditional commitments; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-08a.24>

**Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: School Patronage (8 Oct 2013)**

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-08a.106>

**Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Back to School Costs (8 Oct 2013)**

Dessie Ellis (Dublin North West, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills his views on the latest Central Statistics Office consumer price survey which shows the cost of education is 4.8% higher compared to September 2012; and his further views on whether the financial strain being placed on parents and students is reflected by the fact that the average third level grant amounts to €84 per week compared to the lowest rate of job seeker's allowance which is €100.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-08a.77>

**Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Literacy and Numeracy Strategy (8 Oct 2013)**

Nicky McFadden (Longford-Westmeath, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the progress being made since the 2011 roll out of the new national literacy and numeracy strategy; if data is collected on the number of children leaving school with the necessary literacy and numeracy skills; the way success of the strategy is monitored; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-08a.377>

**Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Literacy and Numeracy Strategy (8 Oct 2013)**

Jonathan O'Brien (Cork North Central, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if the proposed Spring 2014 standardised tests in literacy and numeracy for second level second year students are on schedule to be carried out; if his Department is confident that these tests, which are an integral part of his strategy for literacy and numeracy, will be conducted for English literacy, litearthacht sa Ghaeilge, Numeracy and Uimhearthacht.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-08a.383>

**Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Physical Education (8 Oct 2013)**

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-08a.344>

**Asylum/Immigration**

**Topical Issue Debate: Asylum Seeker Accommodation (9 Oct 2013)**

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-10-09a.420>

**Order of Business (8 Oct 2013)**

Pádraig MacLochlainn: The Immigration, Residence and Protection Bill is being revised. If he is not aware of it, I would like to bring to the Taoiseach's attention a report in today's The Irish Times on direct provision centres which referred to the treatment immigrants receive in them, the fact a family of six was living in one bedroom during one inspection, blocked emergency exists and breaches in child <http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-10-08a.385#g440>

**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 (8 Oct 2013)**

Sandra McLellan (Cork East, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if there are advocacy groups to assist parents whose children are in care; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-08a.1219>

**Child Abuse/Child Protection: including vetting, child abduction****Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Residential Institutions Redress Scheme (8 Oct 2013)**

Sandra McLellan (Cork East, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills further to his recent comments that there is no scope for more education cuts, and that he does not know where he can make savings, the efforts his Department has made to force the religious institutions to meet their obligations to compensate the survivors of residential abuse.

**Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Residential Institutions Statutory Fund Board (8 Oct 2013)**

Charlie McConalogue (Donegal North East, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the possible date in October when the funds from the Residential Institutions Statutory Fund will be made available for the use of survivors of abuse, many of whom are elderly and sick; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-08a.390>

**Family: including adoption****Topical Issue Debate: Adoption Issues (10 Oct 2013)**

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-10-10a.230>

**Leaders' Questions (9 Oct 2013)**

Enda Kenny (Taoiseach, Department of An Taoiseach; Mayo, Fine Gael) There are 30 heads in the adoption (information and tracing) Bill, to which the Deputy referred, and it is expected to be published in early 2014. The Deputy says there are 25,000 files, and it has been confirmed here by the Minister that they have been sent to Glanmire in Cork and I assume they are stored and categorised. If people are entitled and eligible to access those files, where that is appropriate, it is obvious that a structure needs to be put in place where that can happen. The Deputy mentioned that there is very healthy demand from people to access the files and I assume that is a demand from people who want to access them for the purpose of finding or tracing their children or parents, as the case might be. If it is the position that the files are now in Cork but they appear to be inaccessible, then obviously that is a matter of structure or personnel or access, so let us examine that and see if can we improve the situation. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-10-09a.5#g134>

**Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Adoption Records Provision (8 Oct 2013)**

Tommy Broughan (Dublin North East, Labour) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the number of adopted persons and natural relatives registered on the National Adoption Contact Preference Register; the number of new persons added to the register in the years 2011, 2012 and to date in 2013; the number of adopted persons who have made contact with their natural relatives as a result of being included on the register; and if she will outline the ongoing steps that are being taken to raise awareness of the existence of the register.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-08a.1222>

**Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Foreign Adoptions (8 Oct 2013)**

Michael Lowry (Tipperary North, Independent) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the progress made to date in assisting the families currently engaged in the adoption process with Russia and who are affected by a recent change in Russian law which creates a conflict with Section 63 of the Adoption Act 2010; if the responses received further to representations made to the Russian Authorities; if she will provide an assurance that she will bring forward amendments to the Adoption Act if action is not forthcoming from the Russian Authorities; if she will provide an assure that these families will be allowed complete their adoptions prior to the 31 October deadline; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-08a.1231>

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

**Discretionary Medical Cards: Motion [Private Members] (8 Oct 2013)**

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-10-08a.541>

**Written Answers — Department of Health: Substance Misuse (8 Oct 2013)**

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-08a.1483>

**Written Answers — Department of Health: Primary Care Centres Provision (10 Oct 2013)**

Clare Daly (Dublin North, Socialist Party) To ask the Minister for Health the number of local health centres or clinics which were closed over this Government's term in office.

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

**Written Answers — Department of Health: Health Promotion Issues (8 Oct 2013)**

Jerry Buttimer (Cork South Central, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Health if he will outline the implementation plan to support the actions and initiatives in Healthy Ireland – A Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013 – 2015; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-08a.1467>

**Topical Issue Debate: Mental Health Awareness (10 Oct 2013)**

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-10-10a.222>

**Written Answers — Department of Health: Mental Health Services Provision (8 Oct 2013)**

Jerry Buttimer (Cork South Central, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update on the recruitment of staff to community mental health services; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-08a.1461>

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

**Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Social Welfare Benefits Eligibility (9 Oct 2013)**

Aengus Ó Snodaigh (Dublin South Central, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will provide a list of the social welfare benefits that do not require primary legislation to alter their eligibility rules or payment levels <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-09a.301>

**Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child Poverty (9 Oct 2013)**

Kevin Humphreys (Dublin South East, Labour) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she will provide an update in the area based approach to child poverty; the funding available for same; the date on which the areas and allocations will be announced; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-09a.485>

**Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Family Income Supplement Eligibility (9 Oct 2013)**

Róisín Shortall (Dublin North West, Independent) To ask the Minister for Social Protection the rules that apply to the family income supplement scheme in respect of fathers who do not have full custody of their children but who financially contribute to their children's upkeep and who live with them for agreed periods but not full time; and the statutory basis for these rules. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-09a.308>

**Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Family Income Supplement Expenditure (9 Oct 2013)**

Nicky McFadden (Longford-Westmeath, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Social Protection if the family income supplement scheme will continue to be administered in order to provide financial support to those on low wages; and if she will make a statement on the matter <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-09a.328>

**Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Social Welfare Schemes (8 Oct 2013)**

Brendan Griffin (Kerry South, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Social Protection her views on a matter regarding ten solutions for a smarter future (One Family PBS); and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-08a.736>

**Written Answers — Department of Finance: Budget Submissions (9 Oct 2013)**

Finian McGrath (Dublin North Central, Independent) To ask the Minister for Finance if he will support the pre-budget submission from Simon Communities in Ireland to make homelessness a priority issue. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-09a.149>

**Questions - Priority Questions: Equality Proofing of Budgets (9 Oct 2013)**

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-10-09a.280>

**Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Child Benefit Eligibility (9 Oct 2013)**

Róisín Shortall (Dublin North West, Independent) To ask the Minister for Social Protection the rules that apply to the child benefit scheme in respect of fathers who do not have full custody of their children but who financially contribute to their children's upkeep and who live with them for agreed periods but not full time; and the statutory basis for these rules. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-09a.311>

**Justice Issues/ Human Rights/Equality**

**Child Sex Offenders (Information And Monitoring) Bill 2012: Second Stage [Private Members] (11 Oct 2013)**

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-10-11a.5>

**Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child Poverty (9 Oct 2013)**

Kevin Humphreys (Dublin South East, Labour) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she will provide an update in the area based approach to child poverty; the funding available for same; the date on which the areas and allocations will be announced; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-10-11a.5>

**Second Report of the Convention on the Constitution (Women in the Home): Statements (Resumed)**

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-10-10a.162>

**Second Report of the Convention on the Constitution: Statements (10 Oct 2013)**

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-10-10a.145>

**Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Social Welfare Benefits Eligibility (9 Oct 2013)**

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-09a.301>

**Second Report of the Convention on the Constitution: Statements (10 Oct 2013)**

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-10-10a.145>

**Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Child Protection Guidelines (8 Oct 2013)**

Seán Fleming (Laois-Offaly, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality under the Child Care Act 1991 are guardian ad litem appointed for children who are not the subject of care proceedings or subject of a special care order; the mechanisms for such a process to be appointed where the children are within the care of their parents or legal guardian; the number of reports that have been requested in these situations; when a commencement order in respect of these matters was signed; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-08a.1035>

**Criminal Justice (Forensic Evidence and DNA Database System) Bill 2013: Second Stage (9 Oct 2013)**

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-10-09a.248>

**Other Questions: Open Government Partnership (9 Oct 2013)**

Mary Lou McDonald (Dublin Central, Sinn Fein) I welcome the good work that was done in respect of the consultation with civic society during the summer months. In light of that, what does the Minister make of the open letter yesterday from eight civil society organisations - the National Women's Council of Ireland, FLAC, the Irish Council for Civil Liberties, the Children's Rights Alliance, Open, Gay and Lesbian Equality Network, Equality and Rights Alliance, and Amnesty - in respect of a decision taken by the Dáil Committee on Procedure and Privileges to shut down access to the audio-visual room for all party briefings? It flies in the face of any commitment to open Government and transparency, such as the Minister has articulated, to shut down what is essentially a space for civil society, interest groups and others to come to brief members. The decision by the committee was taken on foot of a briefing given by the ESB group of unions in respect of their pension fund and serious issues for Government and the public purse. I am very concerned about this and I would like to know what the Minister thinks. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-10-09a.322>

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