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1. This week in the Oireachtas (21-25 October 2013)

<http://www.oireachtas.ie/viewdoc.asp?DocID=24534&&CatID=60>

2. Oireachtas Questions and Debate (14 October - 18 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: After-School Support Services (15 Oct 2013)

Gerald Nash (Louth, Labour) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs her plans to introduce statutory regulation of the after school sector; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-15a.1066>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Early Child Care Education Issues (17 Oct 2013)

Terence Flanagan (Dublin North East, Independent) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the timeline for publication for the early years strategy which is currently being prepared by her Department; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-17a.533>

Written Answers — Department of Finance: Tax Code (15 Oct 2013)

Gerald Nash (Louth, Labour) To ask the Minister for Finance if he or the Revenue Commissioners have undertaken research into the area of making child care deductible for tax purposes; if he has considered such a measure; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-15a.61>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: School Transport Provision (16 Oct 2013)

Stephen Donnelly (Wicklow, Independent) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if he will clarify comments relating to school transport and Bus Éireann that Bus Éireann makes a profit but it is not a profit in a commercial sense; if he will reveal these non-commercial profits in tabular form annually from 2005 to date in 2013. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-16a.48>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Special Educational Needs Services Provision (17 Oct 2013) <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-17a.243>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Special Educational Needs Staffing (16 Oct 2013)

Terence Flanagan (Dublin North East, Independent) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if more special needs assistants are being employed to assist with the increase in the number of children with a disability enrolling in mainstream and special schools; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-16a.67>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: School Patronage (17 Oct 2013)

Charlie McConalogue (Donegal North East, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills when decisions will be made in relation to the patronage of eight new second level schools; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-17a.257>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Literacy Levels (16 Oct 2013)

Alan Farrell (Dublin North, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills his views on the recent study published by the OECD that showed 17.9% of adults were at or below level one for literacy, compared to a European average of 16.7%; his plans on the way to how we can improve the literacy rates of Irish adults; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-16a.64>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Psychological Assessments (16 Oct 2013)

Terence Flanagan (Dublin North East, Independent) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the steps he is taking to ensure that more educational psychological assessments are available for children to help them access educational supports (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-16a.70>

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

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Legislative Programme (16 Oct 2013) Barry Cowen (Laois-Offaly, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the number of bills her Department has published since March 2011; the number of regulatory impact assessments that her Department has published since March 2011; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-16a.352>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Legislative Programme (15 Oct 2013) Seán Ó Fearghaíl (Kildare South, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs her plans to amend the Child Care Act 1991; if she will be amending section 54 of that Act; and if she will make a statement on the matter. Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Legislative Programme. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-15a.1063>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child and Family Support Agency Establishment (15 Oct 2013)

Aodhán Ó Ríordáin (Dublin North Central, Labour) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the current budget for the establishment of the child and family support agency 2013; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-15a.1077>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child Care Services Provision (15 Oct 2013)

Seán Kyne (Galway West, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she will consider the use of the city-county childcare committees structure for the implementation of the new mentioning system for childcare providers; her views on whether that the CCC structure could undertake this important new task relatively quickly and effectively. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-15a.1091>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Youth Services Provision (15 Oct 2013)

John Lyons (Dublin North West, Labour) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the number of students under 16 years who are attending out of school units instead of mainstream schools; the number of out of school facilities funded by his Department and the total spend by his Department on these units nationwide. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-15a.189>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Youth Services Provision (15 Oct 2013)

Martin Ferris (Kerry North-West Limerick, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs further to Parliamentary Question No. 1244 of 18 September 2013, the reason referrals to the youth advocacy programme are so low in County Kerry; the steps that will be taken to ensure the relevant State agencies are encouraged to use the service more; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-15a.1056>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Foster Care Supports (17 Oct 2013)

Róisín Shortall (Dublin North West, Independent) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the rates for foster payments that will apply in 2014. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-17a.536>

Child Abuse/Child Protection: including vetting, child abduction

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Sexual Offences (16 Oct 2013)

Billy Kelleher (Cork North Central, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the total numbers of children who made disclosures of sexual abuse in 2010, 2011 and 2012; in each year, if she will indicate the number of these children that attended an initial assessment of needs interview and subsequently went on to access therapeutic services from the Health Service Executive; the number of children making disclosures that did not access therapeutic services and if reasons for this have been recorded and categorised; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-16a.346>

Family: including adoption

Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Divorce Process (17 Oct 2013)

Seán Ó Feargháil (Kildare South, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality his views on the costs involved in progressing a legal separation or divorce in the State; his views on whether the costs of such activities may well be excessive; if he will consider means to control or reduce such costs; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-17a.468>

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

Written Answers — Department of Health: Alcohol Pricing (17 Oct 2013)

Brendan Smith (Cavan-Monaghan, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Health his plans to ban below cost selling of alcohol; if legislation is required or if an order will be made to that effect under current legislation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-17a.539>

Written Answers — Department of Health: Departmental Bodies (17 Oct 2013)

Aengus Ó Snodaigh (Dublin South Central, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Health when the Drugs Advisory Group last met; the agenda and outcome of the meeting. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-17a.644>

Written Answers — Department of Health: Medical Card Data (17 Oct 2013)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-17a.542>

Written Answers — Department of Health: Mental Health Services Report (17 Oct 2013)

Seán Ó Feargháil (Kildare South, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Health the key elements of Vision for Change that have been implemented; the key elements that have yet to be achieved; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-17a.571>

Written Answers — Department of Health: Mental Health Services Funding (17 Oct 2013)

Patrick Nulty (Dublin West, Independent) To ask the Minister for Health the action he is taking to ensure that the target of spending 8% of the health budget on mental health is reached; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-17a.604>

Written Answers — Department of Health: Suicide Prevention (17 Oct 2013)

Patrick Nulty (Dublin West, Independent) To ask the Minister for Health the reason only one of the eight key recommendations of the Reach Out National Suicide Prevention Strategy has been implemented in full; when all the recommendations in the strategy will be fully implemented; the action he is taking to ensure that the Strategy is fully implemented without further delay; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-17a.611>

Written Answers — Department of Health: Obesity Strategy (15 Oct 2013)

Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin (Cavan-Monaghan, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Health the numbers of obesity related deaths here in 2010, 2011, 2012 and to date in 2013; the funding provided for the weight management clinic at Loughlinstown Hospital for the same period; his plans to address the obesity epidemic in this State; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-15a.1173>

Written Answers — Department of Health: Services for People with Disabilities (16 Oct 2013)

Terence Flanagan (Dublin North East, Independent) To ask the Minister for Health the steps being taken to ensure that the 763 children that have been waiting six months or more for an assessment of need under the Disability Act will be assessed as soon as possible; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-16a.410>

Child Benefit/Social Welfare/Poverty/Housing

Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Child Benefit Eligibility (16 Oct 2013)

Regina Doherty (Meath East, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of persons whose children turned 18 years of age during their last year at school who have had their children's allowance withdrawn; her plans to review the situation; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-16a.155>

Other Questions: Departmental Customer Charters (17 Oct 2013)

Re. Dept Social protection customer charter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-10-17a.795>

Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Domiciliary Care Allowance Review (17 Oct 2013)

Niall Collins (Limerick, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Social Protection if her Department has completed the review of the domiciliary care allowance; the outcome of the review; the actions that will now be taken; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-17a.58>

Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Domiciliary Care Allowance Eligibility (17 Oct 2013)

Aengus Ó Snodaigh (Dublin South Central, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Social Protection if appendix 8 of the medical eligibility guidelines for domiciliary care allowance, on medical conditions, is still in force; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-17a.280>

Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Domiciliary Care Allowance Appeals (15 Oct 2013)

Anthony Lawlor (Kildare North, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Social Protection the average processing time for domiciliary care allowance appeal applications; the reason there is such a backlog with cases; his plans to deal with this backlog; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-15a.356>

Other Questions: Child Benefit Appeals (17 Oct 2013)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-10-17a.764>

Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Social Welfare Code Review (17 Oct 2013)

Éamon Ó Cuív (Galway West, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Social Protection her views that there are anomalies in the family income support system; if she has any plans to rectify these; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-17a.8>

Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Budget 2014 (17 Oct 2013)

Various questions. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-17a.23>

Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Family Income Supplement Eligibility (15 Oct 2013)

Mattie McGrath (Tipperary South, Independent) To ask the Minister for Social Protection her views on whether the minimum hours in employment condition of the family income supplement scheme is a barrier to those taking up low-paid employment or continuing in low-paid employment; her views on whether it is equitable that a person working 30 hours per week is entitled to a family income supplement while a person working 15 hours per week is not entitled to a family income supplement or any other social welfare payment due to the hours of work; the options available to a person whose hours of employment have been reduced below the minimum hours of employment and where he or she does not qualify for a jobseeker's payment as the hours of employment mean that the person is not available for work; if she will consider this situation and review the minimum hours requirement; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-15a.440>

Written answers - Child Benefit Eligibility (15 Oct 2013)

Brendan Griffin (Kerry South, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Social Protection her reasons for not accepting Deputy Denis Naughten's innovative proposal on linking child-benefit payments to school attendance; if she acknowledges that such a system would help reduce the incidence of early school leaving, school absenteeism, child-benefit fraud and would eliminate overseas payments; the savings her Department estimates would be achieved from such a system; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-15a.436>

Ceisteanna - Questions - Priority Questions: Budget 2014 (17 Oct 2013)

Aengus Ó Snodaigh (Dublin South Central, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she has conducted research assessing the capacity of those targeted by Budget 2014 to absorb the changes affecting them; her views on the impact the changes to social transfers will have on poverty and employment; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-10-17a.678>

Written Answers — Department of Environment, Community and Local Government: Traveller Accommodation (16 Oct 2013)

Éamon Ó Cuív (Galway West, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government his plans to develop a national plan for traveller housing in view of the housing crisis that exists for travellers and the urgent need that 819 units of housing be provided for them; if it is intended to set up a national housing agency for traveller housing; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-16a.211>

Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Poverty Impact Assessment (17 Oct 2013)

John McGuinness (Carlow-Kilkenny, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Social Protection her views that all Government policy should be poverty proofed; if she has any proposals in this regard; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-17a.65>

Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Anti-Poverty Strategy (17 Oct 2013)

Aengus Ó Snodaigh (Dublin South Central, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Social Protection her views on the sharp rise in severe material deprivation recorded here since 2007; the likely consequences of the changes to social transfers introduced by the latest budget for the prevalence and depth of poverty. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-17a.96>

Written Answers — Department of Environment, Community and Local Government: Homeless Accommodation Funding (16 Oct 2013)

Séamus Healy (Tipperary South, Independent) To ask the Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government if he will reverse the reduction in section 10 homeless funding, notified to Waterford City Council in respect of the south east region for the provision of homeless services including the reduction at such a late stage in the financial year, to the budget of Suan Saoir, Clonmel, County Tipperary; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-16a.251>

Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Homeless Persons Data (17 Oct 2013)

Catherine Murphy (Kildare North, Independent) To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of applications made for an emergency needs payment which were prompted because a person or family had become homeless in 2010, 2011, 2012 and to date in 2013; the number of payments awarded in that time and the total cost; her views on whether current housing and rent assistance policy is directly fuelling this problem; the measure she proposes to tackle the issue; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-17a.102>

Financial Resolutions 2014 - Budget Statement 2014 (15 Oct 2013)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-10-15a.6>

Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Supplementary Welfare Allowance Expenditure (15 Oct 2013)

Terence Flanagan (Dublin North East, Independent) To ask the Minister for Social Protection if her Department assists with secondary school costs for twins, other than the clothing and footwear allowance; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-15a.474>

Justice Issues/ Human Rights/Equality

Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Legislative Programme (16 Oct 2013)

Barry Cowen (Laois-Offaly, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of bills his Department has published since March 2011; the number of regulatory impact assessments that his Department has published since March 2011; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-10-16a.280>

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