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**1. This week in the Oireachtas (18-22 November 2013)**

<http://www.oireachtas.ie/viewdoc.asp?DocID=24736&&CatID=60>

**2. Oireachtas Questions and Debate (11-15 November 2013)**

**Children's Rights**

**Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Children's Rights Referendum (12 Nov 2013)**

Robert Troy (Longford-Westmeath, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the measures she is putting in place to underpin the result of the referendum on children's rights, which result has been upheld in the High Court; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-12a.62>

**Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Proposed Legislation (14 Nov 2013)**

Seán Fleming (Laois-Offaly, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs when legislation will be enacted and brought into force to give legal effect to the referendum for children as approved by the people; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-14a.513>

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

**Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Departmental Expenditure (12 Nov 2013)**

Charlie McConalogue (Donegal North East, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the reason that current net voted expenditure in his Department was €114 million behind profile at the end of October 2013; if he expects this underspend to continue to the end of 2013; if any unspent allocation will be available for any other programmes in 2013; if he anticipates that any underspend in 2013 will be greater than the level of cuts his Department made in 2013; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-12a.324>

**Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Teacher Training Provision (13 Nov 2013)**

Micheál Martin (Leader of the Opposition; Cork South Central, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills in view of the fact the higher diploma in education is to be replaced by a two year masters degree in education from 2014 if his attention has been drawn to the fact the back to education allowance is not available for a masters degree in education, as it was for the higher diploma in education, and maintenance grants are not available for the course; the reason these changes were made; if such changes are a disincentive to enter the teaching profession; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-13a.188>

**Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: School Absenteeism (13 Nov 2013)**

Alan Farrell (Dublin North, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs in view of the fact that 30% of students in disadvantaged schools that have missed 20 days or more of school in 2010-11, to explain her plans to reduce the absenteeism figure; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-13a.444>

**Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child Care Services Provision (12 Nov 2013)**

Denis Naughten (Roscommon-South Leitrim, Independent) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the additional steps she will take to address the availability and affordability of regulated child care services; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-12a.8>

**Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Bullying in Schools (12 Nov 2013)**

Mary Mitchell O'Connor (Dún Laoghaire, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the progress made following the introduction of the action plan on bullying in view of the anniversary of the death of two young girls who were victims of cyberbullying through a website (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-12a.358>

**Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: School Patronage (14 Nov 2013)**

Brendan Griffin (Kerry South, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills further to Parliamentary Question No. 147 of 2 October 2013 if his Department have instructed all school management bodies and National Parents' Councils Primary to provide the information leaflet inviting parents to make submissions on patronage and pluralism to all parents of children attending their schools and if he intends to investigate the reason schools and management bodies have not distributed this information. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-14a.179>

**Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: School Patronage (12 Nov 2013)**

Clare Daly (Dublin North, Socialist Party) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if the patronage of the new Balbriggan second level school has been decided; and if not, when a decision will issue. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-12a.309>

**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 (12 Nov 2013)**

Bernard Durkan (Kildare North, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the extent to which she is in contact with the various voluntary statutory and support services throughout the country with a view to ensuring the identification of areas of particular need; the extent to which she is confident that such needs can be met on an on-going basis; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-12a.1102>

**Other Questions: Child and Family Agency Establishment (12 Nov 2013)**

Sandra McLellan (Cork East, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs her views on whether adequate resources are available for social care work; the additional resources that will be provided to ensure the proper functioning of the new Child and Family Agency; if all children in care have allocated social workers and specific care plans, and if not, what is the shortfall. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-11-12a.81>

**Ceisteanna - Questions - Priority Questions: Children in Care (12 Nov 2013)**

Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin (Cavan-Monaghan, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs her response to the taking into care, and subsequent early return to their families, of children from Roma families in Dublin and Athlone; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-11-12a.17>

**Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Children in Care (12 Nov 2013)**

Tommy Broughan (Dublin North East, Labour) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the timeline for the closure of children's high-support units in the State; if capacity at special care units will be further increased to address the shortage of specialised child residential services that will arise with the closure of such units; and the supports that will be provided to children exiting high-support units. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-12a.31>

**Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Children in Care (12 Nov 2013)**

Mick Wallace (Wexford, Independent) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she intends to review guidelines in relation to the Health Service Executive's use of section 12 of the Child Care Act. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-12a.40>

**Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Children in Care (12 Nov 2013)**

Bernard Durkan (Kildare North, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she is satisfied that the rights of parents and children are adequately provided for and preserved in all cases where children have been put into care over the past four years; the extent to which any particular issues have been brought to her attention; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-12a.1090>

**Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Children in Care (12 Nov 2013)**

Bernard Durkan (Kildare North, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the extent to which she is in contact with the various voluntary statutory and support services throughout the country with a view to ensuring the identification of areas of particular need; the extent to which she is confident that such needs can be met on an on-going basis; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-12a.1102>

**Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Children in Care (12 Nov 2013)**

Bernard Durkan (Kildare North, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if clearly defined demarcation lines exist between her Department and the Department of Health with respect to responsibility to address the welfare and well-being of children, their placement into care in the event of such necessity; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-12a.1111>

**Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Children in Care (12 Nov 2013)**

Mick Wallace (Wexford, Independent) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she intends to review guidelines in relation to the Health Service Executive's use of section 12 of the Child Care Act. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-12a.40>

**Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: State Bodies Issues (12 Nov 2013)**

Robert Troy (Longford-Westmeath, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs her views regarding the sharing of administrative facilities for the Information Commissioner and the Office of the Ombudsman for Children; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-12a.1083>

**Other Questions: Budget 2014 (12 Nov 2013)**

Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin (Cavan-Monaghan, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she will provide the full year effect of all expenditure reductions for her Department as set out in the expenditure report 2014 as was provided for in the expenditure report 2013; the areas in which cuts are to be effected; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-11-12a.89>

**Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Children in Care (12 Nov 2013)**

Bernard Durkan (Kildare North, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she is satisfied that the rights of parents and children are adequately provided for and preserved in all cases where children have been put into care over the past four years; the extent to which any particular issues have been brought to her attention; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-12a.1090>

**Other Questions: Child and Family Agency Establishment (12 Nov 2013)**

Sandra McLellan (Cork East, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs her views on whether adequate resources are available for social care work; the additional resources that will be provided to ensure the proper functioning of the new Child and Family Agency; if all children in care have allocated social workers and specific care plans, and if not, what is the shortfall.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-11-12a.81>

**Questions - Priority Questions: Child Care Services Provision (12 Nov 2013)**

Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin (Cavan-Monaghan, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs her response to the Health Information and Quality Authority report into Rath na nÓg high support unit; her future plans for the unit; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-11-12a.68>

**Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child and Family Agency Remit (12 Nov 2013)**

Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin (Cavan-Monaghan, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the planned governance and administration of family resource centres and the role of the Child and Family Agency in same; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-12a.34>

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

**Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child Protection (12 Nov 2013)**

Thomas Pringle (Donegal South West, Independent) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs her plans to make child protection training mandatory for all those who have interaction with children whether in a voluntary or professional capacity; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-12a.56>

**Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Residential Institutions Redress Scheme Issues (12 Nov 2013)**

Several questions by Pearse Doherty (Donegal South West, Sinn Fein) on the Residential Institutions Redress Scheme <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-12a.294>

**Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child Protection Issues (12 Nov 2013)**

Robert Troy (Longford-Westmeath, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she has received a report from the Health Service Executive regarding the recent incidents involving children in the Roma community; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-12a.11>

**Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Child Protection Issues (12 Nov 2013)**

John Halligan (Waterford, Independent) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality the criminal concerns the Garda had, as distinct from child protection concerns, in the case of the seven year old child taken from a Roma family in Tallaght; if it is criminal concerns that explains the removal of the child from the home; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-12a.800>

**Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: HSE Staff Responsibilities (14 Nov 2013)**

Billy Kelleher (Cork North Central, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if the Health Service Executive requires all social workers to read and sign off on the child protection and welfare practice handbook; the number that have signed off and the number that have not since its introduction in 2011, the number of instances of non-compliance with those guidelines on the part of social workers the HSE has recorded; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-14a.510>

**Other Questions: Departmental Reports (12 Nov 2013)**

Various question in relation to the investigations into the Roma children case. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-11-12a.99>

**Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Proposed Legislation (12 Nov 2013)**

Richard Boyd Barrett (Dún Laoghaire, People Before Profit Alliance) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs when the children first Bill will be published; if it will mean that Departments and/or the Health Service Executive can be reported for failure to protect the welfare of vulnerable children; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-12a.37>

**Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child Protection (12 Nov 2013)**

Thomas Pringle (Donegal South West, Independent) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs her plans to make child protection training mandatory for all those who have interaction with children whether in a voluntary or professional capacity; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-12a.56>

## **Family: including adoption**

### **Ceisteanna - Questions - Priority Questions: Adoption Records Provision (12 Nov 2013)**

Clare Daly (Dublin North, Socialist Party) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the reason for the lack of progress and the inordinate delays experienced by adopted persons attempting to trace their birth mothers and mothers trying to trace their born children; and her plans to resolve this matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-11-12a.31>

### **Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Foreign Adoptions (12 Nov 2013)**

Joe McHugh (Donegal North East, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she will outline her work to date to help families whose unresolved applications to adopt children from abroad preceded Ireland's consent to the provisions of the Hague Agreement; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-12a.4>

### **Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Adoption Records Provision (12 Nov 2013)**

Clare Daly (Dublin North, Socialist Party) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the location where the records from the 42 mothers and baby homes that operated here and handled tens of thousands of adoptions over the decades are held; the amount of information held by the Health Service Executive in Glanmire; and the other information that is held in Glanmire, which can be made available to persons tracing their birth mothers or their children. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-12a.24>

### **Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Inter-Country Adoptions (12 Nov 2013)**

Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin (Cavan-Monaghan, Sinn Féin) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the measures taken to assist those prospective adopters who have been in the process of finalising arrangements to adopt a child from Russia and who had pre-2010 declarations but found themselves in the distressful situation of not being able to conclude the process due to a decision of the Russian authorities that came into effect on 3 July 2013; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-12a.65>

### **Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Adoption Records Provision (12 Nov 2013)**

Clare Daly (Dublin North, Socialist Party) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she will indicate in relation to cases where the identity of the birth mother has been established, the way information can be withheld on the grounds of protecting her identity. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-12a.1057>

### **Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Children in Care (12 Nov 2013)**

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

### **Seanad: Adjournment Matters: Services for People with Disabilities (13 Nov 2013)**

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/sendebates/?id=2013-11-13a.458>

### **Written Answers — Department of Health: Mental Health Services Provision (12 Nov 2013)**

Bernard Durkan (Kildare North, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Health if children between the ages of 10 and 17 years who have presented at accident and emergency for treatment arising from attempted self-harm, some on more than one occasion, have been further investigated with a view to determination of the underlying cause of their individual situations, the extent to which specific reasons have been identified as the most commonly occurring in such cases over the past four years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-12a.1143>

**Other Questions: Mental Health Services Provision (13 Nov 2013)**

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-11-13a.115>

**Written Answers — Department of Health: Mental Health Services Funding (13 Nov 2013)**

Tommy Broughan (Dublin North East, Labour) To ask the Minister for Health the reasons for the underspend in the mental health services budget this year, which was specifically identified as ring-fenced funding; and the way commitments to increase staffing levels in mental health services can be fulfilled in view of the ongoing constraints in the Health Service Executive's overall budget.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-13a.13>

**Written Answers — Department of Health: Mental Health Services Funding (13 Nov 2013)**

Billy Kelleher (Cork North Central, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Health the reason the programme for Government commitment to an annual ring-fenced allocation of €35 million for community health services is not being honoured in 2014; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-13a.52>

**Written Answers — Department of Health: Mental Health Services Provision (13 Nov 2013)**

Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin (Cavan-Monaghan, Sinn Féin) To ask the Minister for Health in regard to the 477 multidisciplinary staff for community mental health services promised for 2013, the number that are currently in post; if all of the 477 staff for 2013 will be hired in 2013; if he will provide a breakdown of the 477 staff for 2013 by discipline and by region; if he will provide a breakdown of the 477 staff in terms of the allocation to adult mental health services, CAMHS, intellectual disability, old age and forensic services; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-13a.457>

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

**Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Social Welfare Appeals Data (14 Nov 2013)**

Heather Humphreys (Cavan-Monaghan, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will provide, in tabular form, the number of appeals received in the social protection appeals office in each of the past five years; the number of appeals in respect of each social welfare payment; the steps currently being taken to reduce appeal waiting times; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-14a.263>

**Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Social Welfare Benefits (13 Nov 2013)**

Michael McCarthy (Cork South West, Labour) To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will confirm if it is compulsory that social welfare recipients must now receive payments via bank transfer; the reason for same; if there are circumstances in which a person may have payments via An Post; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-13a.264>

**Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Social Welfare Benefits Data (12 Nov 2013)**

Catherine Murphy (Kildare North, Independent) To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of young persons on social welfare and in families that receive social welfare on a county basis; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-12a.467>

**Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Homelessness Strategy (12 Nov 2013)**

Catherine Murphy (Kildare North, Independent) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she has identified specific measures to tackle the main causes of homelessness among young persons; the rates of youth homelessness for each county, including temporary homelessness; the programmes in place in each county to combat this issue; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-12a.44>



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

### **Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Youth Justice Strategy (13 Nov 2013)**

Robert Troy (Longford-Westmeath, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs when she intends to publish a successor strategy to the national youth justice strategy 2008-10; the reason no successor strategy has been published to date; her assessment of the impact of the 2008-10 strategy; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-13a.447>

### **Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child Detention Centres (12 Nov 2013)**

Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin (Cavan-Monaghan, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she will provide an update on the transition from St. Patrick's Institution to the Oberstown campus, including management and governance structures, staffing, training and rostering arrangements at Oberstown; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-12a.59>

### **Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Juvenile Offenders (12 Nov 2013)**

Catherine Murphy (Kildare North, Independent) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of juvenile offenders in each county; the programmes under his Department's remit in place in each county to combat juvenile offences; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-12a.793>

### **Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child Detention Centres (12 Nov 2013)**

Maureen O'Sullivan (Dublin Central, Independent) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the state of development at Oberstown; the drug treatment facilities that will be available; the resources that will be available for staff; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-12a.1050>

### **Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Juvenile Offenders (12 Nov 2013)**

Bernard Durkan (Kildare North, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the extent to which her Department can engage with juvenile offenders with a view to rehabilitative or educational supports; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-12a.1117>

### **Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Human Trafficking (13 Nov 2013)**

Finian McGrath (Dublin North Central, Independent) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality the actions taken to deal with the exploitation of women and sex trafficking.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-13a.348>

### **Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Juvenile Offenders (12 Nov 2013)**

Bernard Durkan (Kildare North, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the extent to which her Department can engage with juvenile offenders with a view to rehabilitative or educational supports; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-12a.1117>

### **Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Employment Rights Issues (12 Nov 2013)**

Brendan Griffin (Kerry South, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality his views on a matter (details supplied) regarding Section 37 of the Employment Equality Acts 1998 to 2011; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-12a.787>

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