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1. **This week in the Oireachtas (02-06 December 2013)**

<http://www.oireachtas.ie/viewdoc.asp?DocID=24887&&CatID=60>

2. **Oireachtas Questions and Debate (25-29 November 2013)**

Asylum/Immigration

Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Asylum Support Services (26 Nov 2013)

Éamon Ó Cuív (Galway West, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of persons in direct provision for more than one year, for more than two years, for more than three years, for more than four years, for more than five years and for six years or more; the cost of direct provision in 2013; the estimated costs in 2014; his plans to shorten the average time to process claims to remain in the country; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-26a.1047>

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 Structures (27 Nov 2013)

Dara Calleary (Mayo, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the current operational structure of his Department outlining the management structure but excluding naming of personnel; the responsibilities of each section; the number of persons working in each section; his plans for reforming this structure; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-27a.158>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Special Educational Needs Services Provision (26 Nov 2013)

Charlie McConologue (Donegal North East, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills his response to the recommendations of the recent National Council for Special Education research report, Moving to Further and Higher Education; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-26a.23>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Departmental Agencies Board Remuneration (26 Nov 2013)

Patrick Nulty (Dublin West, Independent) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if the twelve directors of the National Council for Special Education receive any payment, allowance or other form of benefit in kind as part of their role; and if he will make a statement on the matter.<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-26a.439>

Topical Issues: Child Care Services Funding (26 Nov 2013)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-11-26a.559>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Departmental Contracts (26 Nov 2013)

Robert Troy (Longford-Westmeath, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the procurement policy her Department undertook in awarding the €900,000 training fund contract; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-26a.1260>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Children in Care (26 Nov 2013)

Michael McCarthy (Cork South West, Labour) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the actions her Department will be taking after the recent report released by the national review panel concerning children who have died in care, after-care or known to the Health Service Executive in 2012; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-26a.1241>

Other Questions: State Examinations Issues (26 Nov 2013)

Patrick O'Donovan (Limerick, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills in view of the increased numbers taking up higher level maths for examination at leaving certificate as a result of the reintroduction of bonus points, if he will consider a similar initiative for those students taking up applied math, physics and chemistry; and if he will make a statement on the matter.
<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-11-26a.94>

Other Questions: Early Child Care Education Issues (26 Nov 2013)

Several questions on ECCE <http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-11-26a.69>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Educational Disadvantage (26 Nov 2013)

Jonathan O'Brien (Cork North Central, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if he will provide a detailed report on the cross-Border co-operative activities that are planned for 2014 which will draw on emerging evidence on improvements in learning and the evaluations of DEIS, the action plan of the Department of Education and Skills to combat educational disadvantage, developments in inspection practice, North and South, and a date for possible joint participation in professional development for inspectors. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-26a.16>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Teaching Qualifications (26 Nov 2013)

Jonathan O'Brien (Cork North Central, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills his plans to introduce a qualification criterion for teachers working with pupils with special educational needs. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-26a.395>

Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Child Care Services Provision (27 Nov 2013)

Joan Collins (Dublin South Central, People Before Profit Alliance) To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will report on the Scandinavian style child care that has been implemented since the announcement of Budget 2013 and future plans; the number of extra children that have child care access compared to 2011/12 in pre-school and day child care.
<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-27a.320>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Early Child Care Education Issues (26 Nov 201)

Robert Troy (Longford-Westmeath, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs to set out the mechanism with which she intends to roll out the mentoring programme for preschool years as announced in budget 2014; the timeframe for same; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-26a.1244>

Topical Issue Debate: Special Educational Needs Services Provision (28 Nov 2013)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-11-28a.397>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Special Educational Needs Staffing (26 Nov 2013)

Clare Daly (Dublin North, Socialist Party) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if he will address the anomaly that full-time special needs assistants contracts are specified by the National Council for Special Education as 32 hours, but the contract of employment specifies the working hours as the hours the school is open to students, that is, 28 hours and 20 minutes for a primary school.
<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-26a.13>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Special Educational Needs Staffing (26 Nov 2013)

Mick Wallace (Wexford, Independent) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the reason the deadline dates for appeals to decisions made by the National Council for Special Education during special needs assistants reviews preceded the date on which some schools were informed of SNA allocation; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-26a.43>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: School Patronage (27 Nov 2013)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-27a.234>

Other Questions: School Patronage (26 Nov 2013)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-11-26a.122>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: School Patronage (26 Nov 2013)

Micheál Martin (Leader of the Opposition; Cork South Central, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills his views on the forum on patronage and pluralism in the primary sector as outlined in the programme for Government. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-26a.305>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Educational Disadvantage (26 Nov 2013)

Michael Healy-Rae (Kerry South, Independent) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the position regarding cuts of 90% to education for the Traveller community; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-26a.320>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: School Transport Scheme (27 Nov 2013)

Charles Flanagan (Laois-Offaly, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if his attention has been drawn to allegations of corruption at Bus Éireann in the matter of the €166 million school transport scheme with particular reference to the awarding of contracts to bus and taxi operators; and the steps he will take to have the matter fully examined and investigated.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-27a.151>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: School Transport Provision (27 Nov 2013)

John McGuinness (Carlow-Kilkenny, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if he will acknowledge the statement of account as published on the Department's website does not give complete information to enable persons to determine whether Bus Éireann makes a profit on the school transport scheme; and if he will clarify the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-27a.208>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: School Transport Provision (26 Nov 2013)

Lucinda Creighton (Dublin South East, Independent) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the reason his Department is not conducting its own separate investigation into allegations of bribery and corruption in Bus Éireann involving the school transport scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-26a.19>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: School Transport Provision (26 Nov 2013)

Catherine Murphy (Kildare North, Independent) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if he has undertaken a cost benefit analysis of the school transport scheme operated by Bus Éireann; if he will account for the high cost of operating the scheme compared to school transport systems in other jurisdictions; if he will confirm if Bus Éireann makes a profit from the scheme; if he will provide the latest accounts provided to him by Bus Éireann; if he is concerned about market distortion by the overwhelming presence of Bus Éireann in the school transport market; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-26a.81>

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

Seanad: Child and Family Agency Bill 2013: Second Stage (27 Nov 2013)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/sendebates/?id=2013-11-27a.75>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Ombudsman for Children Remit (27 Nov 2013)

Michael McCarthy (Cork South West, Labour) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the actions her Department will be taking after the recent report released by the national review panel concerning children who have died in care, after-care or known to the Health Service Executive in 2012; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-26a.1241>

Written Answers — Department of Health: Health Promotion Issues (27 Nov 2013)

Terence Flanagan (Dublin North East, Independent) To ask the Minister for Health if his Department will be investing more in prevention measures in an attempt to cut our high levels of smoking and drinking following publication of the latest figures from the OECD in the report Health at a Glance, which shows that Ireland is among the top global smokers and drinkers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-27a.495>

Family: including adoption

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Adoption Records Issues (28 Nov 2013)

Finian McGrath (Dublin North Central, Independent) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if there are plans by the Adoption Authority of Ireland to carry out an extensive audit of its own files and of all accredited body files for evidence of illegal adoptions; if so, the time frame for same; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-28a.409>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Foreign Adoptions (27 Nov 2013)

Michael Lowry (Tipperary North, Independent) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she will provide an assurance that the families seeking to adopt in Russia, who have been affected by the conflict in Irish and Russian law as a result of section 63 of the Adoption Act, will be provided for prior to the Christmas recess; if a response has been received from the Attorney General on this matter; if not, when a reply is expected; if she will bring forward legislation immediately to tackle this issue in view of the very short timeframe open to these families; if she will provide an update on progress to date; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-27a.468>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Adoption Services Provision (26 Nov 2013)

Clare Daly (Dublin North, Socialist Party) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she has instructed the Adoption Authority of Ireland to carry out an extensive audit of all of its files and all accredited bodies as part of an investigation into seeking information about illegal adoptions; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-26a.1237>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Inter-Country Adoptions (26 Nov 2013)

Charlie McConalogue (Donegal North East, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the progress to date regarding inter-country adoption; the progress that the Adoption Authority of Ireland has made in establishing arrangements with the Hague Convention countries; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-26a.1257>

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

Written Answers — Department of Health: Primary Care Centres Provision (27 Nov 2013)

Róisín Shortall (Dublin North West, Independent) To ask the Minister for Health in respect of the list of primary care centres to be delivered by public private partnership, if he will confirm that it is still the intention that these would be design, build, maintain contracts and that these projects will be delivered in two bundles; his views on the promised second phase of the programme which was due to be announced before the end of 2012. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-27a.555>

Child Benefit/Social Welfare/Poverty/Housing

Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Social Welfare Fraud Investigations (28 Nov 2013)

Denis Naughten (Roscommon-South Leitrim, Independent) To ask the Minister for Social Protection her plans to review the monitoring mechanisms employed to reduce fraudulent payment of child benefit; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-28a.5>

Written Answers — Department of Finance: Tax Credits (28 Nov 2013)

Michael Creed (Cork North West, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Finance the way the Revenue Commissioners police entitlement to the one parent family tax credit; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-28a.109>

Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Rent Supplement Scheme Administration (28 Nov 2013)

Joan Collins (Dublin South Central, People Before Profit Alliance) To ask the Minister for Social Protection her views on the increase in rents, particularly in the Dublin area, which is pushing beyond the reach of those in receipt of rent supplement from social welfare access to private rented accommodation. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-28a.8>

Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Social Welfare Code (27 Nov 2013)

Dessie Ellis (Dublin North West, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Social Protection her views on the claims by Focus Ireland and other housing organisations that recent cuts to rent supplement have contributed to making a number of families homeless. ritten Answers — Department of Social Protection: Social Welfare Code (27 Nov 2013) <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-27a.280>

Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Rent Supplement Scheme Administration (26 Nov 2013)

Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin (Cavan-Monaghan, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will identify accommodation in Ashbourne or Ratoath, County Meath available to rent suitable for a couple/one parent family with three children for €650 as of today; if she will provide the same for a couple/one parent family with two children for €600; if she will acknowledge that there is a serious discrepancy between the rent supplement threshold and the actual cost of rent in these towns; if she will immediately address this situation; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-26a.829>

Written Answers — Department of Environment, Community and Local Government: Homeless Accommodation Funding (26 Nov 2013) Terence Flanagan (Dublin North East, Independent) To ask the Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government the funding provided by his Department to organisations or agencies to deal with homelessness over the past five years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-26a.1021>

Written Answers — Department of Health: Homeless Accommodation Funding (26 Nov 2013) Terence Flanagan (Dublin North East, Independent) To ask the Minister for Health the funding provided by his Department and the Health Service Executive to organisations or agencies to deal with homelessness over the past five years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-26a.1497>

Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Anti-Poverty Strategy (28 Nov 2013) Willie O'Dea (Limerick City, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she is concerned by recent reports of food shortages from charities in Dublin; if she is concerned by rising food poverty here; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-28a.26>

Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Anti-Poverty Strategy (28 Nov 2013) Billy Kelleher (Cork North Central, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Social Protection her views on whether the official measurements of poverty give sufficient consideration of the extra costs of having a disability; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-28a.35>

Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Budget 2013 Impact (28 Nov 2013) Joan Collins (Dublin South Central, People Before Profit Alliance) To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she has received the equality budgeting check that was promised when she introduced the budget proposals; if she will present them; if she has received same, and if not, when she expects to receive same. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-28a.198>

Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Social Welfare Benefits (26 Nov 2013) Michael Creed (Cork North West, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will reconsider her decision to withdraw the telephone rental allowance where the household involved is renting specialised telephone equipment to deal with hearing difficulties; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-26a.714>

Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Youth Guarantee (26 Nov 2013) Stephen Donnelly (Wicklow, Independent) To ask the Minister for Social Protection the management and governance of the youth guarantee here; if she will give a commitment that the initiative will be overseen by a high level group made up of the key stakeholders such as young jobseekers, youth organisations, education and training providers, career guidance experts, employers and relevant Government Departments as required by the youth guarantee implementation plan which must be

submitted to the European Parliament; and if she will make a statement on the matter.
<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-26a.698>

Justice Issues/ Human Rights/Equality

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child Detention Centres (26 Nov 2013)

Róisín Shortall (Dublin North West, Independent) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the number and location of all child detention places; the average monthly occupancy rates in each case; the number of occasion over the past two years when no place was available for a minor referred by the Courts; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-11-26a.1267>