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**1. This week in the Oireachtas (16-20 December 2013)**

<http://www.oireachtas.ie/viewdoc.asp?DocID=25070&&CatID=60>

**2. Oireachtas Questions and Debate (09-13 December 2013)**

## Asylum/Immigration

**Seanad: Adjournment Matters: Direct Provision System (12 Dec 2013)**

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/sendebates/?id=2013-12-12a.531>

**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 Funding (10 Dec 2013)**

Billy Timmins (Wicklow, Independent) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the amount of funding that his Department gives to Irish charities; the name of each organisation that receives funding; the amount of funding each organisation receives; the number that are open and transparent regarding salaries; and the steps he is taking to deal with non-disclosures.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-10a.412>

**Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Early Child Care Education Issues (12 Dec 2013)**

Pat Deering (Carlow-Kilkenny, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if pupils attending a pre-school ASDI class for three to five year olds should be added on to the register in primary schools; if pupils attending pre-school ASD classes are to be included in the NEWB returns; and his plans to issue a circular regarding pre-school ASD classes clarifying such matters and also including length of day. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-12a.200>

**Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Early Years Strategy Implementation (12 Dec 2013)**

Charlie McConalogue (Donegal North East, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the role of his Department in the development of the national early years strategy; the number of staff from the early years education policy unit in his Department who are involved in same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-12a.214>

**Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Departmental Programmes (12 Dec 2013)**

Charlie McConalogue (Donegal North East, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the policy programmes in his Department that cover the early years and preschool sector; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-12a.217>

**Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Early Years Strategy Publication (11 Dec 2013)**

Aodhán Ó Ríordáin (Dublin North Central, Labour) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs when a draft of the national early years strategy will be ready; if she plans to carry out a public consultation on the strategy; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-11a.440>

**Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Preschool Services (12 Dec 2013)**

Charlie McConalogue (Donegal North East, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the role of his Department in the Government's preschool quality agenda; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-12a.211>

**Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Fee Paying Schools (12 Dec 2013)**

Terence Flanagan (Dublin North East, Independent) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if he will provide a breakdown of taxpayer funding paid to fee paying schools over the past five years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-12a.203>

**Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Public Sector Staff Issues (11 Dec 2013)**

Clare Daly (Dublin North, Socialist Party) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if he will issue a circular to all the boards of management of schools to ensure that all special needs assistant contracts are correct and properly worded and abide by the National Council for Special Education and his Department guidelines detailing the 32-hour week; and if any are in error, if he will instruct the boards of management to rectify such contracts immediately.

**Topical Issue Debate: Special Educational Needs Staffing (10 Dec 2013)**

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-12-10a.404>

**Topical Issue Debate: Special Educational Needs Services Provision (12 Dec 2013)**

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-12-12a.602>

**Topical Issue Debate: Special Educational Needs Staffing (10 Dec 2013)**

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-12-10a.404>

**Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Special Educational Needs Staffing (10 Dec 2013)**

Jonathan O'Brien (Cork North Central, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if he intends to review the special needs assistant contract scheme to ensure that all schools are compliant with his Department's circulars. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-10a.363>

**Topical Issue Debate: Gaelscoileanna Issues (10 Dec 2013)**

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-12-10a.416>

**Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: School Patronage (10 Dec 2013)**

Jonathan O'Brien (Cork North Central, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the reasons the vocational education committee, VEC, was awarded patronage of the new schools in Maynooth, County Kildare; and his plans to hold an inquiry into this matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-10a.312>

**Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: School Enrolments (10 Dec 2013)**

Stephen Donnelly (Wicklow, Independent) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if schools can amend admissions policies to prioritise children of a particular faith in instances where their applications for patronage stated they will embrace children of all faiths and none; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-10a.369>

**Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Special Educational Needs Staffing (10 Dec 2013)**

Jonathan O'Brien (Cork North Central, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if he intends to review the special needs assistant contract scheme to ensure that all schools are compliant with his Department's circulars. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-10a.363>

**Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: School Placement (12 Dec 2013)**

Bernard Durkan (Kildare North, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if he will indicate, notwithstanding his previous replies to related questions, the extent to which it has been brought to his attention that a number of children who may have been expelled from their second level schools or who may not be able to obtain a place in such schools convenient to their residential location may find themselves unable to complete their second level education, notwithstanding the efforts of the National Educational Welfare Board, thereby depriving them of ever having an opportunity to complete their second level education; the number of such cases now emerging; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-12a.194>

**Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Early Years Strategy Publication (11 Dec 2013)**

Aodhán Ó Ríordáin (Dublin North Central, Labour) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs when a draft of the national early years strategy will be ready; if she plans to carry out a public consultation on the strategy; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-11a.440>

**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 (11 Dec 2013)**  
<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-11a.433>

**Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child Care Services Provision (10 Dec 2013)**

Brendan Ryan (Dublin North, Labour) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the future plans for a unit (Crannóg Nua) in County Dublin; if the unit will remain open in its current form; if not, the changes that will be made; the rationale behind such planned changes; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-10a.1092>

**Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Charities Regulation (10 Dec 2013)**

Billy Timmins (Wicklow, Independent) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the amount of funding that her Department gives to Irish charities; the name of each organisation that receives funding; the amount of funding each organisation receives; the number that are open and transparent regarding salaries; and the steps she is taking to deal with non-disclosures. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-10a.1119>

**Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Departmental Expenditure (10 Dec 2013)**

Kevin Humphreys (Dublin South East, Labour) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs of the €11 million in capital spending recorded as not spent under the expenditure profile at end November in the most recent analysis of gross voted expenditure Exchequer figures, the reason for the underspend; if he will provide a breakdown of the capital projects or outlays that have not commenced as yet as per the profile; if any of the total €107.2 million in total capital carryover in Government for 2012 relates to her Department; the amount of same; if it has been spent; on what it has been spent; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-10a.1112>

**Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Health Services Staff Data (12 Dec 2013)**

Stephen Donnelly (Wicklow, Independent) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs further to Parliamentary Question No. 232 of 26 September 2013, if the Health Service Executive has provided a response; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-12a.588>

**Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: HIQA Investigations (11 Dec 2013)**

Joan Collins (Dublin South Central, People Before Profit Alliance) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she will provide an updated report on the Health Information and Quality Authority investigation into Dublin North West social services; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-11a.447>

**Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Foster Care Supports (10 Dec 2013)**

Tommy Broughan (Dublin North East, Labour) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs further to Parliamentary Question No. 385 of 3 December 2013, if statistics will be collected on the nature and extent of training received by relative foster carers before children are placed with them; the number of children placed with relative carers on an emergency basis in the years 2012 and to date in 2013 before approval was provided by a foster care committee.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-10a.1104>

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

**Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Child Safety (10 Dec 2013)**

Luke Flanagan (Roscommon-South Leitrim, Independent) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the reason his Department does not always report allegations of criminality to An Garda Síochána in view of its grim record of funding industrial schools, work laundries and other institutions where paedophilia thrived in the past; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-10a.384>

**Family: including adoption**

**Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Adoption Legislation (10 Dec 2013)**

Mary Lou McDonald (Dublin Central, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she intends to amend the Adoption Act 2010; and if these amendments will be published before the end of the current year. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-10a.1095>

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

**Written Answers — Department of Health: Obesity Strategy (12 Dec 2013)**

Terence Flanagan (Dublin North East, Independent) To ask the Minister for Health the measures he is taking to prevent obesity in school children; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-12a.649>

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

**Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Social Welfare Benefits (10 Dec 2013)**

Michael Healy-Rae (Kerry South, Independent) To ask the Minister for Social Protection her views on correspondence (details supplied) regarding Christmas bonuses; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-10a.611>

**Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Social Welfare Appeals Data (11 Dec 2013)**

Thomas Pringle (Donegal South West, Independent) To ask the Minister for Social Protection the percentage of applicants refused a social welfare payment who do not go to the Social Welfare Appeals Office; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-11a.208>

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

Paul Connaughton (Galway East, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if an application or submission was received from Tuam, County Galway in respect of the area-based interventions addressing child poverty; the type of organisations that made submissions or applications; if it is still open to groups to make submissions or applications; the plans for such interventions in the future; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-12a.581>

**Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child Poverty (10 Dec 2013)**

Several questions from Charlie McConalogue (Donegal North East, Fianna Fail)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-10a.1107>

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

Paul Connaughton (Galway East, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if an application or submission was received from Tuam, County Galway in respect of the area-based interventions addressing child poverty; the type of organisations that made submissions or applications; if it is still open to groups to make submissions or applications; the plans for such interventions in the future; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-12a.581>

**Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Youth Guarantee (10 Dec 2013)**

Tommy Broughan (Dublin North East, Labour) To ask the Minister for Social Protection her Department's progress in preparing the youth guarantee implementation action plan due to be submitted to the European Union authorities this month.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-10a.571>

**Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Social Welfare Appeals Data (11 Dec 2013)**

Thomas Pringle (Donegal South West, Independent) To ask the Minister for Social Protection the percentage of applicants refused a social welfare payment who do not go to the Social Welfare Appeals Office; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-11a.208>

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

### **Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Ombudsman for Children Investigations (10 Dec 2013)**

Mick Wallace (Wexford, Independent) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality when he will provide the Ombudsman for Children with powers under section 42 of the Garda Síochána Act, as amended, to allow her to commence her independent investigation into actions by An Garda Síochána in the Roma children controversy; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-10a.45>

### **Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Inspector of Prisons Reports (11 Dec 2013)**

Tommy Broughan (Dublin North East, Labour) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality the actions the Department will take to address the findings and recommendations contained in the recent interim report of the Inspector of Prisons on the Dóchas Centre; and in particular the actions that will be taken to address overcrowding in the prison.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-11a.316>

### **Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Youth Justice Strategy (10 Dec 2013)**

Eamonn Maloney (Dublin South West, Labour) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality the impact of the Garda diversion programme on anti-social behaviour and youth crime; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-10a.876>

### **Ceisteanna - Questions - Priority Questions: Law Reform Proposals (10 Dec 2013)**

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-12-10a.16>

### **Ceisteanna - Questions - Priority Questions: Proposed Legislation (10 Dec 2013)**

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-12-10a.56>

### **Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Traveller Culture (10 Dec 2013)**

Mick Wallace (Wexford, Independent) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality in view of the fact that the recognition of Traveller ethnicity has been repeatedly called for by the UN in order for Ireland to comply with its obligations under the ICCPR, when and how he intends to recognise Traveller ethnicity; the official steps or progression his Department has made over the past 12 months; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-10a.8>

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