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1. This week in the Oireachtas (23-27 December 2013)

Dáil and Seanad rise for Christmas break

2. Oireachtas Questions and Debate (16-20 December 2013)

Children's Rights Referendum

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Children's Rights Referendum (17 Dec 2013)

Robert Troy (Longford-Westmeath, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs her timeframe for bringing forward legislation to underpin the result of the children's rights referendum; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-17a.50>

Asylum/Immigration

Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Direct Provision System (17 Dec 2013)

Sandra McLellan (Cork East, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality his views on whether it is acceptable that asylum seekers and their children are housed in so called reception centres which lack adequate facilities for any meaningful recreational activity; his views on whether it is imperative that children and young persons have access to open space and sports areas irrespective of their parents status; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-17a.946>

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

Other Questions: National Educational Welfare Board Remit (17 Dec 2013)

Denis Naughten (Roscommon-South Leitrim, Independent) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the steps she is taking to expand the role of the National Educational Welfare Board by liaising with other Departments; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-12-17a.77>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Special Educational Needs Services Provision (17 Dec 2013)

Thomas Pringle (Donegal South West, Independent) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if he will provide details of any research undertaken that informed the recommendation not to recognise Down's syndrome as a low-incidence disorder; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-17a.438>

Ceisteanna - Questions - Priority Questions: Early Child Care Education Issues (17 Dec 2013)

Robert Troy (Longford-Westmeath, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the public procurement exemption clause applied when allocating €900,000 to two independently managed child-care organisations in terms of what specific Department of Children and Youth Affairs guidelines feature this specific exemption; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-12-17a.7>

Ceisteanna - Questions - Priority Questions: Preschool Services (17 Dec 2013)

Luke Flanagan (Roscommon-South Leitrim, Independent) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she is determined to bring in a second preschool year; if so, the date on which it will happen; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-12-17a.42>

Ceisteanna - Questions - Priority Questions: Child Care Costs (17 Dec 2013)

Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin (Cavan-Monaghan, Sinn Féin) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the steps she will now take in order to help ensure the affordability of childcare across the board in view of the details exposed in the recently published Indecon report commissioned by the Donegal County Childcare Committee; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-12-17a.31>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: School Curriculum (17 Dec 2013)

Nicky McFadden (Longford-Westmeath, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the measures undertaken by his Department to develop and improve the ICT skills of students at primary and secondary level; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-17a.376>

Topical Issue Debate: Book Rental Scheme (17 Dec 2013)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-12-17a.410>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: School Patronage (19 Dec 2013)

Joanna Tuffy (Dublin Mid West, Labour) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if he will provide a break down of DEIS schools by patron as a percentage of schools of that patron; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-19a.352>

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

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child and Family Agency Establishment (17 Dec 2013)

Tommy Broughan (Dublin North East, Labour) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if public health nurses are excluded from the remit of the Child and Family Agency; if she will be liaising with the Department of Health to introduce reforms in the public health nursing system to support public health nurses in their vital role as the first point of contact with many families and potentially assisting the provision of early intervention to families in need. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-17a.1217>

Ceisteanna - Questions - Priority Questions: Youth Services Funding (17 Dec 2013)

Robert Troy (Longford-Westmeath, Fianna Fáil) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs when she will announce funding being provided to youth groups in 2014; if she will confirm that there will be no further reduction in such funding in 2014; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-12-17a.52>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Youth Services Issues (17 Dec 2013)

Bernard Durkan (Kildare North, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the extent to which her Department continues to interact with youth organisations with a view to encouraging young persons to develop their confidence and self-esteem; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-17a.20>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Youth Services Funding (17 Dec 2013)

Catherine Murphy (Kildare North, Independent) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the reason the number of funding administrative bodies has been decreased; the reason funding administering arrangements formerly carried out by six large youth organisations were transferred to the City of Dublin Education Training Board in 2012; if she will indicate who those six youth organisations were; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-17a.30>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Youth Services Funding (17 Dec 2013)

Jerry Buttimer (Cork South Central, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the rationale for the transfer of grant administering status to the City of Dublin Youth Service in respect of funding provided by her Department to vocational education committees; the procedures that were followed in deciding to allocate such a role to CDYSB; if a tendering process was used for allocating this role; the other bodies that were considered for this role; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-17a.1224>

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

Sandra McLellan (Cork East, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs her views on the recent report of inspections of foster and children's residential services; the discussions she has had with Health Information and Quality Authority in this regard; the implications of the report; the number of foster and residential facilities found to have standards of hygiene and cleanliness below the minimum standards expected; her plans to address these shortcomings; and the steps she will take to improve the situation in these centres. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-17a.47>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Legislative Process RIA (19 Dec 2013)

Lucinda Creighton (Dublin South East, Independent) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the total number of Bills that have been published by the Department since she was appointed Minister; the number and Title of those Bills that included a regulatory impact assessment in advance of publication; the regulatory impact assessments published; the total number of promised Bills for publication; if she will list the Bills that will include a regulatory impact assessment; the regulatory impact assessments that will be published before the publication of a Bill; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-19a.847>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Early Years Strategy Implementation (17 Dec 2013)

Aodhán Ó Ríordáin (Dublin North Central, Labour) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she will provide an overview of the key recommendations in the right from the start early years strategy; the time-line for their implementation; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-17a.70>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Early Years Strategy Implementation (17 Dec 2013)

Tommy Broughan (Dublin North East, Labour) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs when the Early Years strategy will be compiled following the publication of the report of the expert group on the Early Years strategy. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-17a.1220>

Other Questions: Children in Care (17 Dec 2013)

Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin (Cavan-Monaghan, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs her plans to progress legislation on aftercare provision for young persons leaving care to ensure they are provided with the type of transitional support that their individual situation requires; the date on which she expects this legislation to be published; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-12-17a.88>

Child Abuse/Child Protection: including vetting, child abduction

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child Abuse Reports (17 Dec 2013)

Ciara Conway (Waterford, Labour) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the progress to date in implementing the lessons learned from the various child abuse inquiries; the findings of the recent examination of such recommendations; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-17a.7>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child Abuse Reports (17 Dec 2013)

Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin (Cavan-Monaghan, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs her views on the finding in a new study by Trinity College, Dublin academics which looked at the recommendations of five high-profile inquiries into child abuse in families between 1993 and 2010 that there is recommendation fatigue; the implication of same on inquiries in the future; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-17a.53>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child Abuse Reports (17 Dec 2013)

Lucinda Creighton (Dublin South East, Independent) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the specific actions taken to date to address the misgivings uncovered since the investigation by RTÉ into abuses in creches in May of 2013; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-17a.63>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Ministerial Responsibilities (17 Dec 2013)

Lucinda Creighton (Dublin South East, Independent) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the total amount of responsibilities she currently has, not including the areas which Health Service Executive have responsibility for, on a statutory basis; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-17a.77>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child Abuse Prevention (17 Dec 2013)

Bernard Durkan (Kildare North, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the extent to which her Department continues to be made aware of incidents of various forms of child abuse on a weekly or monthly basis in the course of the past 12 months to date; the extent to which it has been found possible to make a positive intervention at the earliest possible stage; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-17a.1236>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child Abuse Prevention (17 Dec 2013)

Bernard Durkan (Kildare North, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the number of instances of child physical, mental or sex abuse reported to her Department throughout County Kildare in the past two years; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-17a.1255>

Other Questions: Child Care Services Inspections (17 Dec 2013)

Tommy Broughan (Dublin North East, Labour) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if it is planned that residential child care centres run by private operators in which children in the care of the State are cared for will come under the inspection remit of the Health Information and Quality Authority. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-12-17a.110>

Other Questions: Children in Care (17 Dec 2013)

Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin (Cavan-Monaghan, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs her plans to progress legislation on aftercare provision for young persons leaving care to ensure they are provided with the type of transitional support that their individual situation requires; the date on which she expects this legislation to be published; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-12-17a.88>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Children in Care (17 Dec 2013)

Tommy Broughan (Dublin North East, Labour) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the actions she will take in tandem with the newly established Child and Family Agency to reduce and ultimately eliminate the number of Irish children placed in residential care outside of Ireland who are detained under special care orders and therefore provide the necessary care and supports to these children in this jurisdiction. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-17a.56>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Children in Care (17 Dec 2013)

Clare Daly (Dublin North, Socialist Party) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs further to Parliamentary Question No. 145 of 4 December 2013, if she will clarify the nationalities of children in care on a national basis for the past ten years. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-17a.1227>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child Care Reports (17 Dec 2013)

Mick Wallace (Wexford, Independent) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the interaction she has had with Ombudsman for Children since receiving the internal Health Service Executive and Garda inquiries into the removal of Roma children from their families; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-17a.59>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Child Protection Guidelines (17 Dec 2013)

Richard Boyd Barrett (Dún Laoghaire, People Before Profit Alliance) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the child protection standards in place in the English language school sector which uses host family accommodation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-17a.265>

Family: including adoption

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Adoption Legislation (18 Dec 2013)

Anne Ferris (Wicklow, Labour) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she has considered the possibility of holding a constitutional amendment to allow the citizens of Ireland decide whether adopted persons will be allowed full access to information on files about their adoption held by the State; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-18a.588>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Adoption Records Provision (18 Dec 2013)

Anne Ferris (Wicklow, Labour) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the number of adoptees and the number of natural parents currently registered on the national adoption contact preference register; the number of matches made and communicated in the past 12 months; the average duration each person has been on the register and the average time spent on the register prior to a match being made; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-18a.591>

Ceisteanna - Questions - Priority Questions: Adoption Records Provision (17 Dec 2013)

A number of questions by Deputy Clare Daly. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-12-17a.66>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Inter-Country Adoptions (17 Dec 2013)

Robert Troy (Longford-Westmeath, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs her plans for dealing with the ongoing issues relating to Russian adoptions; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-17a.23>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Adoption Services Provision (17 Dec 2013)

Clare Daly (Dublin North, Socialist Party) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the percentage of cases where the Adoption Authority of Ireland has overturned negative assessments of couples as being unsuitable parents; the circumstances in which these decisions are made; and if she has any plans to reform this system. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-17a.33>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Proposed Legislation (17 Dec 2013)

Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin (Cavan-Monaghan, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the measures she is taking to address the current barriers which prevent adoptees from tracing their birth parents; the date on which the Adoption (Information and Tracing) Bill will be published; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-17a.37>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Adoption Services Provision (17 Dec 2013)

Mick Wallace (Wexford, Independent) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs her views on the very low success rate of the National contact preference register in matching only about 5% of the people who sought their assistance; the action she will take regarding same; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-17a.41>

Adoption (Amendment) Bill 2013: Second and Subsequent Stages (19 Dec 2013)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-12-19a.580>

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

Written Answers — Department of Health: Health Services Provision (17 Dec 2013)

Michael Lowry (Tipperary North, Independent) To ask the Minister for Health further to parliamentary Questions Nos. 499 and 522 of 10 December, if he will address the specific issues raised with regard to the lack of supports available for teenagers who have suffered a brain injury; if his attention has been drawn to the lack of a dedicated adolescent rehabilitation unit for teenagers who have suffered an acquired brain injury; if his attention has been drawn to the lack of support group or organisation for affected teenagers; if his attention has been drawn to the devastation caused to teenagers as a result of these injuries; if his attention has been drawn to the fact that a teenage brain can recover swifter and better if the correct supports are put in place; if he is aware that the organisations referred to in the reply do not cater for teenagers as was erroneously stated; if he will take immediate action to tackle this issue and provide for an adolescent support unit; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-17a.1461>

Topical Issues Debate: Mental Health Services Provision (19 Dec 2013)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-12-19a.621>

Ceisteanna - Questions - Priority Questions: Mental Health Services Provision (18 Dec 2013)

Billy Kelleher (Cork North Central, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Health the way in which community mental health services will be developed in 2014; the new funding being provided for same; the number of new posts this will support; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-12-18a.83>

Written Answers — Department of Health: Mental Health Services Funding (18 Dec 2013)

Colm Keaveney (Galway East, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Health the reason the programme for Government commitment on ringfenced funding of €35 million for community mental health posts is not being honoured in 2014; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-18a.8>

Written Answers — Department of Health: Traveller Community (18 Dec 2013)

Mick Wallace (Wexford, Independent) To ask the Minister for Health his plans to address the fact that it is consistently shown that Travellers have a shorter life span and substantially poorer health than their settled peers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-18a.33>

Written Answers — Department of Health: Psychological Services (18 Dec 2013)

Maureen O'Sullivan (Dublin Central, Independent) To ask the Minister for Health if he will include key performance indicators for waiting lists for psychological therapy in the upcoming Health Service Executive plan 2013; if he will include indicators to measure not only the number of mental health service users but also the outcome of the use of these services to monitor and improve the services over time; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-18a.73>

Child Benefit/Social Welfare/Poverty/Housing

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child Poverty (17 Dec 2013)

Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin (Cavan-Monaghan, Sinn Féin) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if her Department routinely assesses the impact of the current economic recession on overall child welfare; if her attention has been drawn to the findings of the recent Growing Up in Ireland report including the finding that young children from the most disadvantaged backgrounds are more likely to be obese, have poorer diets and display behavioural problems than children from more

advantaged families; the consideration that is given to such findings; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-17a.17>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child Poverty (17 Dec 2013)

Aodhán Ó Ríordáin (Dublin North Central, Labour) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the area based childhood programmes that have been rolled out; her plans for further roll-out; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-17a.44>

Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Rent Supplement Scheme Eligibility (19 Dec 2013)

Catherine Murphy (Kildare North, Independent) To ask the Minister for Social Protection if her attention has been drawn to the fact that rents have increased significantly in parts of County Kildare in recent months; if her further attention has been further drawn to the extent to which this is impacting on the extent of homelessness in County Kildare where the housing waiting list is in excess of 7000 individuals or families; if she will relax the rent caps; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-19a.440>

Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Social Welfare Benefits (19 Dec 2013)

Lucinda Creighton (Dublin South East, Independent) To ask the Minister for Social Protection if there are any timetables for the delivery of social welfare benefits which social welfare officers must follow; if she has given any consideration to imposing guaranteed timetables for the delivery of each social welfare benefit as a way of ensuring citizens receive their entitled services in a timely manner; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-19a.482>

Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Family Income Supplement Payments (18 Dec 2013)

John Halligan (Waterford, Independent) To ask the Minister for Social Protection further to Parliamentary Question No. 140 of 24 October 2013, in which this Deputy requested details of the number of public service workers currently supplementing their income with family income supplement payments, if she will provide a further breakdown the 3,595 public service workers in receipt of FIS in the year 2013; the number of same that are members of the armed forces; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2013-12-18a.354>

Justice Issues/ Human Rights/Equality

Third Report of the Constitutional Convention - Same-Sex Marriage: Statements (17 Dec 2013)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2013-12-17a.425>