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1. **This week in the Oireachtas (27-31 January 2014)**

<http://www.oireachtas.ie/viewdoc.asp?DocID=25320&&CatID=60>

2. **Oireachtas Questions and Debate (20-24 January 2014)**

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

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Education Welfare Service Provision (21 Jan 2014)

Tommy Broughan (Dublin North East, Labour) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the actions being taken by his Department to address the findings and recommendations contained in the recently published investigation by the Ombudsman for Children's office entitled A statement based on an investigation into provision by the Department of Education and Skills and the HSE for a child in care, particularly the recommendations contained therein in relation to enrolment policies and the importance of ensuring school placements for children in care.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-01-21a.8>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Early Child Care Education Issues (21 Jan 2014)

Robert Troy (Longford-Westmeath, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the actions his Department will take in 2014 to ensure a high quality early years education system; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-01-21a.48>

Priority Questions: Schools Amalgamation (21 Jan 2014)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2014-01-21a.63>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Special Educational Needs Services Provision (22 Jan 2014)

Tommy Broughan (Dublin North East, Labour) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if he will introduce regulations on the use of withdrawal rooms in schools, particularly in schools for children with autistic spectrum disorder. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-01-22a.149>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Special Educational Needs Services Provision (22 Jan 2014)

Colm Keaveney (Galway East, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if, for the purposes of allocation of special needs resources, he will examine the case for adding Down syndrome to the list of complex, low incidence disorders; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-01-22a.202>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Special Educational Needs Services Provision (21 Jan 2014)

Richard Boyd Barrett: 135. To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if he will provide reassurances to parents and teachers that there will be no cuts or reductions in services to the visiting teacher service; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [2349/14]

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Special Educational Needs Services Provision (21 Jan 2014)

Jonathan O'Brien: 148. To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the number of schools here that operate withdrawal or timeout rooms for children with autism; and his plans to regulate and monitor the use of them. [2339/14]

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Special Educational Needs Services Provision (21 Jan 2014)

Clare Daly: 151. To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the steps he has taken to avoid the problems he noted his predecessor was facing in February 2008 with regard to institutional rigidities

and being bullied by teachers' interests and Civil Service conservatism when it came to providing ABA interventions for children with autism. [2318/14]

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Special Educational Needs Services Provision (21 Jan 2014)

Tommy Broughan: 246. To ask the Minister for Education and Skills to outline the position regarding the review of the visiting teacher service for visually impaired children; and to confirm that the service will not be subject to cuts following the review. [2583/14]

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Special Educational Needs Services Provision (21 Jan 2014)

Thomas Pringle: 251. To ask the Minister for Education and Skills his views on reports that autistic children are being confined in withdrawal rooms for extended periods without supervision during school hours; his views regarding guidelines on the use of these rooms being set by the board of management of individual schools rather than at national level; his views on whether this is an appropriate method to...

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Special Educational Needs Services Provision (21 Jan 2014)

Bernard Durkan: ...degree of services in view of the importance of ensuring that such children are given a reasonable chance in a very competitive climate; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [2909/14]

Written Answers — Department of Health: Disability Diagnoses (21 Jan 2014)

James Reilly: ...). I am also advised that all primary and post-primary schools have been allocated additional teaching resources, under the General Allocation Model (GAM), to cater for children with high incidence special educational needs, including Specific Learning Disabilities. I understand that the Department of Education and Skills provides funding for the purchase of specialised equipment such as...

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: School Patronage (21 Jan 2014)

Mattie McGrath: 138. To ask the Minister for Education and Skills his views on whether the Forum for Patronage Report was far too narrow in scope and centred much more around the religious education curriculum rather than any meaningful understanding of whole school ethos; his views on whether the forum report's philosophy will impose restrictions on Roman Catholic schools in respect of the way religious...

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: School Patronage (21 Jan 2014)

Richard Boyd Barrett: 140. To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if he will instruct his Department to engage and consult directly and openly with the board of management of a school (details supplied) with the aim of briefing the board and parents on his Department's efforts to find a location for the school; if he will meet with them within the next two weeks; and if he will make a statement on the...

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: School Patronage (21 Jan 2014)

Bernard Durkan: ...to recognise their ethos and ensure that commitments previously entered into or understandings reached over generations continue to be recognised; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [2916/14]

Other Questions: Schools Guidance Counsellors (21 Jan 2014)

Charlie McConalogue: ...ability to deliver this service. Does the Minister believe the role guidance counsellors carry out is important and has a real impact on students? It offers real assistance in terms of students' mental health, particularly for those experiencing difficulties within the school system. It also has a real impact in guiding students towards the next level and third level. Let me bring...

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

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Departmental Reports (21 Jan 2014)

Barry Cowen (Laois-Offaly, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she will provide in tabular form the total amount spent since February 2011 on external reports commissioned by her Department including payments from Ministerial allowances, broken down by report; if she will provide the details of any consultants employed; the names of each report and their status as published or ongoing; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-01-21a.1232>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Health Reports (21 Jan 2014)

Tommy Broughan (Dublin North East, Labour) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the actions that will be taken to address the recommendations and findings of the Health Information and Quality Authority report entitled Inspection of a high support unit in the Health Service Executive Dublin North East published recently. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-01-21a.1238>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Health Reports (21 Jan 2014)

Tommy Broughan (Dublin North East, Labour) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the actions that will be taken to address the recommendations and findings of the Health Information and Quality Authority report entitled Inspection of a high support unit in the Health Service Executive Dublin North East published recently. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-01-21a.1238>

Child Abuse/Child Protection: including vetting, child abduction

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child and Family Agency Remit (21 Jan 2014)

Tommy Broughan (Dublin North East, Labour) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the specific actions that will be taken by the Child and Family Agency in 2014 to increase special care provision because of the reported waiting lists for children at risk who have met the criteria for admission to special care units but are unable to obtain a place in any special care unit.

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Residential Institutions Statutory Fund Board (21 Jan 2014)

Clare Daly (Dublin North, Socialist Party) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills to outline the costs of the Caranua scheme; the number of employees in the organisation; and if he is open to amendments. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-01-21a.366>

Censorship of Publications Board Repeal Bill 2013: Second Stage (24 Jan 2014)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2014-01-24a.5>

Family: including adoption

Seanad: Adjournment Matters: Domestic Violence Policy (22 Jan 2014)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/sendebates/?id=2014-01-22a.351>

Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Surrogacy Issues (21 Jan 2014)

Michael Healy-Rae (Kerry South, Independent) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality his plans in view of recent revelations to look at the legality of surrogacy here; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-01-21a.1090>

Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Divorce Process (23 Jan 2014)

Anthony Lawlor (Kildare North, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Social Protection if the different types of divorce available in China are recognised in Irish law; the documentation required by the General Register's Office for each of these divorces to register to marry in the Irish State, particularly those which are reached through mediation in China; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-01-23a.321>

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

Written Answers — Department of Health: HSE National Service Plan (23 Jan 2014)

Terence Flanagan (Dublin North East, Independent) To ask the Minister for Health his views on the changes, trends in the Health Service Executive service plan 2014 versus 2013, 2012 and 2011; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-01-23a.656>

Written Answers — Department of Health: Obesity Strategy (23 Jan 2014)

Terence Flanagan (Dublin North East, Independent) To ask the Minister for Health his views on the progress made by his Department in tackling obesity; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-01-23a.668>

Written Answers — Department of Health: Mental Health Services Provision (21 Jan 2014)

Dan Neville: 602. To ask the Minister for Health the number of children on the waiting list to access mental health services. [2428/14]

Child Benefit/Social Welfare/Poverty/Housing

Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Domiciliary Care Allowance Review (21 Jan 2014)

Denis Naughten (Roscommon-South Leitrim, Independent) To ask the Minister for Social Protection when the review group report on domiciliary care allowance will be published; the recommendations and implementation plan on foot of the report; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-01-21a.663>

Written Answers — Department of Environment, Community and Local Government: Traveller Accommodation (22 Jan 2014)

Finian McGrath (Dublin North Central, Independent) To ask the Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government if his attention has been drawn to the impact inadequate accommodation, lack of appropriate accommodation and overcrowding on sites is having on Traveller mental health <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-01-22a.373>

Justice Issues/ Human Rights/Equality

Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Court Procedures (23 Jan 2014)

Sandra McLellan (Cork East, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality the persons that benefit from the courts poor box when persons are fined in court; the way an organisation can apply to become a beneficiary to the courts poor box; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-01-23a.473>

Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Family Law Cases (23 Jan 2014)

Terence Flanagan (Dublin North East, Independent) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality his views on the new family law reporting by the media; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-01-23a.479>

Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Departmental Bodies Establishment (22 Jan 2014)

Dara Calleary (Mayo, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of new agencies and State bodies established since 9 March 2011 under the remit of his Department; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-01-22a.462>

Written Answers — Department of Environment, Community and Local Government: Constitutional Convention Recommendations (21 Jan 2014)

Gerry Adams (Louth, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government when he expects to act on the recommendation of the Constitutional Convention to extend voting rights to the Irish diaspora. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-01-21a.804>

The Oireachtas Monitor is produced by the Children's Rights Alliance and is a compilation of links to Oireachtas Debates and Questions relating to children and families. The source is derived from content on the kildarestreet.com website. We acknowledge their assistance in the provision of this service. As the information is sourced from an external party, we do not accept responsibility for its content. If you wish to be removed from the list of recipients please email communications@childrensrights.ie with unsubscribe in the subject Field.

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