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1. **This week in the Oireachtas (03-07 February 2014)**

<http://www.oireachtas.ie/viewdoc.asp?DocID=25367&&CatID=60>

2. **Oireachtas Questions and Debate (27-31 January 2014)**

## **Asylum/Immigration**

### **Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Direct Provision System (29 Jan 2014)**

Patrick Nulty (Dublin West, Independent) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality if his attention has been drawn to the fact that concerns have been raised regarding child protection issues in direct provision centres; the steps he proposes to take regarding same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-01-29a.386>

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

### **Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: National Educational Welfare Board Staff (30 Jan 2014)**

Robert Dowds (Dublin Mid West, Labour) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the number of staff, in terms of whole-time equivalents, employed at the National Education Welfare Board as education welfare officers nationally and within the city and county of Dublin; her views on whether the numbers are adequate.

### **Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Early Child Care Education Issues (28 Jan 2014)**

Michael Creed (Cork North West, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the age criteria for children availing of the free preschool year; if the child care option over 50 weeks of two hours and 15 minutes daily is still available; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-01-28a.1498>

### **Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: School Transport Provision (29 Jan 2014)**

Luke Flanagan (Roscommon-South Leitrim, Independent) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills further to Parliamentary Question No. 258 of 16 January 2013, if he will name his officials and their respective responsibilities who assisted him in answering same; the reason they made the decision to withhold the information; the entity that was commercially sensitive information and the reason for same; if he considered the implication of the definition of corruption under the Prevention of Corruption Act 2010 where wrongly withholding information or making misleading statements is a crime and failing to report crime is also a criminal offence under section 19 of the Criminal Justice Act 2011; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-01-29a.132>

### **Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Special Educational Needs Data (30 Jan 2014)**

Clare Daly (Dublin North, Socialist Party) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the way the National Council for Special Education and his Department arrived at the number of 32 hours as the benchmark for a full-time post for an special needs assistant. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-01-30a.108>

### **Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Autism Support Services (30 Jan 2014)**

Clare Daly (Dublin North, Socialist Party) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the way the National Council for Special Education and his Department arrived at the number of 32 hours as the benchmark for a full-time post for an special needs assistant. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-01-30a.135>

### **Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Special Education Review (29 Jan 2014)**

Michael McGrath (Cork South Central, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills his plans to hold a cross-sectoral forum involving his Department, the Health Service Executive and the National Council for Special Education regarding special education; if he will confirm details of same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-01-29a.129>

**Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Departmental Investigations (28 Jan 2014)**

Maureen O'Sullivan (Dublin Central, Independent) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if his Department is undergoing an investigation into allegations of children with autism being kept in isolation rooms for hours at a time; if he will consider the removal of isolation room; and his views on whether the reduction in resource teacher hours has contributed to the overuse of isolation rooms. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-01-28a.391>

**Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Special Educational Needs Services Provision (28 Jan 2014)**

Maureen O'Sullivan (Dublin Central, Independent) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills his plans for the visiting teacher service; if the service is under review; the proposed changes that are included; the level of involvement with parents and teachers in the relevant schools during the review; and if consultation will be engaged in before the findings of the review are made. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-01-28a.397>

**Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Special Educational Needs Services Provision (28 Jan 2014)**

Clare Daly (Dublin North, Socialist Party) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the reason 15 months after his Department promised the Children's Ombudsman that it would promptly publish its autism policy, his Department has failed to do so; and his views on whether it is reasonable to expect the teachers of those with autism to be able to summarise Government policy from the existing legislation, regulations, rulings, order plans, strategies and stated policies when it has taken more than 15 months for the experts in his Department to do so. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-01-28a.544>

**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 Funding (29 Jan 2014)**

John Lyons (Dublin North West, Labour) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she will clarify reports that core funding for the Rape Crisis Network Ireland, which is under the aegis of the Child and Family Agency, will be ceased from 31 March 2014; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-01-29a.474>

**Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child Care Services Provision (28 Jan 2014)**

Seán Kenny (Dublin North East, Labour) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs her plans to extend the emergency out-of-hours social work service nationwide; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-01-28a.1508>

**Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Foster Care Policy (28 Jan 2014)**

Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin (Cavan-Monaghan, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the number of children-young persons in the care of the State that are in special foster care placements in this jurisdiction; the number of special foster care placements facilitated by private agencies; and the number of children-young persons in the care of the State in special foster care placements outside of this jurisdiction. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-01-28a.1515>

**Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Appointments to State Boards (28 Jan 2014)**

Pearse Doherty (Donegal South West, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the number of appointments to State boards under the remit of her Department that were made as a result of applications made through the publicjobs.ie website in the last three years; the number of board posts that were advertised on publicjobs.ie; the number of board posts that were not advertised on the website but instead were made directly; and the average pay to directly appointed board members. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-01-28a.1526>

**Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child and Family Agency Staff (30 Jan 2014)**

Robert Dowds (Dublin Mid West, Labour) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if reports in the press by the Children's Rights Alliance earlier in the year that there are no child psychologists employed by the new Child and Family Agency are correct; and her plans to change same. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-01-30a.508>

**Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child Care Services Funding (30 Jan 2014)**

Jack Wall (Kildare South, Labour) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if the community grant afforded to those in community childcare facilities includes training for staff in first aid and other child care courses; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-01-30a.496>

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

**Topical Issue Debate: Rape Crisis Network Funding (29 Jan 2014)**

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2014-01-29a.318>

**Family: including adoption**

**Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Inter-Country Adoptions (28 Jan 2014)**

Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin (Cavan-Monaghan, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs her plans to advance a bilateral agreement with Russia for the purposes of inter-country adoption; if she will expedite this work; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-01-28a.1491>

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

**Seanad: Health Identifiers Bill 2013: Second Stage (29 Jan 2014)**

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/sendebates/?id=2014-01-29a.81>

**Health Services: Motion [Private Members] (28 Jan 2014)**

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2014-01-28a.499>

**Written Answers — Department of Health: Primary Care Centres Provision (29 Jan 2014)**

John Lyons (Dublin North West, Labour) To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update on the roll-out of primary health care centres around the country; and if he will clarify which centres have been completed and are operational, which are at planning stage, and which have not moved on to the planning stage. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-01-29a.509>

**Written Answers — Department of Health: Primary Care Centres Provision (28 Jan 2014)**

John Deasy (Waterford, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Health his plans to extend the provision of additional services in primary care centres to deliver more medical treatment at community level and ease pressure in public hospitals; and if he will outline the types of services that could be extended to these centres. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-01-28a.1547>

**Written Answers — Department of Health: Mental Health Services Funding (28 Jan 2014)**

Jerry Buttimer (Cork South Central, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Health if he will furnish details on expenditure on mental health, including A Vision for Change, in 2011, 2012 and 2013; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-01-28a.1813>

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

**Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Homelessness Strategy (28 Jan 2014)**

Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin (Cavan-Monaghan, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the progress that has been made on the implementation of the recommendations in the review of the youth homelessness strategy published last year, including the consultation that has been undertaken regarding the recommendations in the review; and the timeline for the full implementation of agreed recommendations. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-01-28a.1512>

**Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Advisory Group on Tax and Social Welfare (28 Jan 2014)**

Willie O'Dea (Limerick City, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she intends to implement any further policy changes arising out of the report of the Advisory Group on Tax and Social Welfare; if she will provide an indication of when the social impact assessment of budget 2014 will be published by her Department; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-01-28a.790>

**Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Social Welfare Appeals Waiting Times (28 Jan 2014)**

Tommy Broughan (Dublin North East, Labour) To ask the Minister for Social Protection the waiting times for social welfare appeals to be decided in the years 2011, 2012 and 2013, including the key social protection benefits and allowances. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-01-28a.83>

**Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Domiciliary Care Allowance Payments (28 Jan 2014)**

Richard Boyd Barrett (Dún Laoghaire, People Before Profit Alliance) To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will report on the effectiveness of the domiciliary care allowance in caring for children with special needs; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-01-28a.753>

**Priority Questions: Drug Treatment Programmes Places (28 Jan 2014)**

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2014-01-28a.29>

**Written Answers — Department of Finance: Tax Credits (28 Jan 2014)**

Nicky McFadden (Longford-Westmeath, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Finance if alternatives for financial support are available to single parents who have been affected by the replacement of the one-parent family tax credit with the single person child care credit; if he will provide further information on the option to allow the credit to be used by a non-primary carer in situations where the primary carer has no tax liability; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-01-28a.234>

**Written Answers — Department of Finance: Tax Reliefs Eligibility (28 Jan 2014)**

Tom Fleming (Kerry South, Independent) To ask the Minister for Finance if he will review the budget change in respect of tax relief credits for single parents, as it discriminates and means a cut of €32 per week for the non-primary carer or €1,650 per annum and this is most unreasonable, unfair and unjust; if he will take into consideration that thousands of non-primary carers are care sharing two or three days every week and are paying maintenance; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-01-28a.349>

**Written Answers — Department of Environment, Community and Local Government: Traveller Accommodation (28 Jan 2014)**

Aengus Ó Snodaigh (Dublin South Central, Sinn Féin) To ask the Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government the steps that are being taken to address the housing needs of Travellers in Labre Park in Ballyfermot, Dublin 10 <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-01-28a.1060>

**Written Answers — Department of Environment, Community and Local Government: Rental Accommodation Scheme Expenditure (29 Jan 2014)**

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-01-29a.360>

**Justice Issues/ Human Rights/Equality**

**Seanad: Youth Justice Policy: Statements (28 Jan 2014)**

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/sendebates/?id=2014-01-28a.90>

**Constitutional Convention: Motion (29 Jan 2014)**

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/sendebates/?id=2014-01-29a.70>

**Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Family Law Cases (30 Jan 2014)**

Róisín Shortall (Dublin North West, Independent) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality to set out the basis on which media reporting is allowed in family law cases held in camera; the basis on which one or other of the parties to a case is allowed to object to such reporting and the way such a disagreement is resolved. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-01-30a.425>

**Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Anti-Social Behaviour (28 Jan 2014)**

Seán Ó Feargháil (Kildare South, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Social Protection the initiatives taken by her Department to deal with persons in receipt of rent allowance who are engaged in anti-social activity; if her Department has withdrawn rent allowance from persons engaged in such activity; if she will give consideration to the vetting of applicants for rent allowance to minimise the spread of anti-social behaviour; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

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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](mailto:communications@childrensrights.ie) with unsubscribe in the subject Field.

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