

Contents

1. [This Week in the Houses of the Oireachtas 10-14 February 2013](#)
2. [Oireachtas Questions and Debate 03-07 February 2014](#)

[Asylum/Immigration](#)

[Education: including special needs, ECCE, minorities, disadvantage, literacy and numeracy, school staffing, school buildings, school patronage, curriculum](#)

[Child Services/ Children in Care: including foster care and social work services, HSE staffing, youth services](#)

[Child Abuse/Child Protection: including vetting, child abduction](#)

[Family: including adoption](#)

[Health and Wellbeing: including disability, mental health, substance misuse, primary care, health services, hospital services, obesity, sports facilities](#)

[Child Benefit/Social Welfare/Poverty](#)

[Justice Issues/Human Rights/Equality](#)

1. This week in the Oireachtas (10-14 February 2014)

<http://www.oireachtas.ie/viewdoc.asp?DocID=25419&&CatID=60>

2. Oireachtas Questions and Debate (03-07 February 2014)

Asylum/Immigration

Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Direct Provision System (4 Feb 2014)

Ciara Conway (Waterford, Labour) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality if he will provide in tabular form a county breakdown of the number of persons in each of the direct provision centres around the country; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-04a.1090>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Direct Provision System (4 Feb 2014)

Ciara Conway (Waterford, Labour) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the role the Child and Family Agency has in ensuring the well-being of children living in direct provision centres; the work her Department has engaged in to date in relation to ensuring child welfare concerns for children in direct provision centres; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-04a.1352>

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

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: After-School Support Services (4 Feb 2014)

Jonathan O'Brien (Cork North Central, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if he will utilise under-employed teachers and trainee teachers for after-school programmes.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-04a.355>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Education Statistics (4 Feb 2014)

Tommy Broughan (Dublin North East, Labour) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the number of children under 17 years of age, with a breakdown based on the children's ages and the counties in which they reside, who are currently not in full-time education; and the number of children who are currently in receipt of home tuition, with a breakdown based on the children's ages and the counties in which they reside. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-04a.1365>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Teacher Recruitment (4 Feb 2014)

Jonathan O'Brien (Cork North Central, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if he will amend the Employment Equality Act to prevent schools from recruiting or dismissing teachers based on their religious ethos. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-04a.343>

Seanad: Adjournment Matters: School Curriculum (4 Feb 2014)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/sendebates/?id=2014-02-04a.208>

Written Answers — Department of Health: Early Child Care Education Issues (6 Feb 2014)

Michael Creed (Cork North West, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Health if he will outline the supports in terms of a child care assistant-special needs assistant available to a child with a chromosome deletion disorder who wishes to avail of the free preschool year in 2014-15; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-06a.486>

Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Garda Vetting of Personnel (5 Feb 2014)

Robert Troy (Longford-Westmeath, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality if his attention has been drawn to a situation that has arisen with regard to Garda vetting of early education and child care training programmes; that training organisations which process all Garda vetting forms for students have been informed by the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner that they cannot, under data protection legislation, share this with a third party placement facility as this requirement is jeopardising work placements; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-05a.5>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child Care Costs (4 Feb 2014)

Maureen O'Sullivan (Dublin Central, Independent) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if as part of her intention to review all the childcare support programmes and other proposals she will consider a proposal to have child care costs taken from gross rather than net pay of a parent or parents in an effort to provide the maximum benefit to parents while maintaining availability of high-quality child care supports; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-04a.1378>

Topical Issue Debate: Educational Disadvantage (4 Feb 2014)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2014-02-04a.397>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Special Educational Needs Services Provision (6 Feb 2014)

Maureen O'Sullivan (Dublin Central, Independent) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if he will respond to the recommendation of the Ombudsman for Children who in October 2012 called for the issuing of a policy document on educating children with autism; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-06a.165>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Home Tuition Scheme Administration (4 Feb 2014)

Maureen O'Sullivan (Dublin Central, Independent) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if he will respond to correspondence by the Irish Centre of Behavioural Support and Research regarding changes being made to the home tuition grant requirements as set out in circular 0006/2013; his views on anxiety expressed by parents to retain the home tuition grant; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-04a.309>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: In-service Training (4 Feb 2014)

Jonathan O'Brien (Cork North Central, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the type of in-service training for teachers on racism and managing diversity in schools; and his plans to improve same. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-04a.346>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Special Educational Needs Services Provision (4 Feb 2014)

Maureen O'Sullivan (Dublin Central, Independent) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the way new early intervention preschools set up by his Department to support children with additional needs are functioning; if there has been engagement with the primary school teachers working there as to how they feel regarding their capacity, ability, skills and training to work with children with special needs and children with challenging behaviour; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-04a.437>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Departmental Expenditure (6 Feb 2014)

Terence Flanagan (Dublin North East, Independent) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if he will provide a list of all NGOs in receipt of funding/grants from his Department in each of the past five years; and the NGOs, if any, in receipt of funding/grants from his Department over the past five years that are bound by a service level agreement. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-06a.168>

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

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Social Workers Recruitment (5 Feb 2014)

Denis Naughten (Roscommon-South Leitrim, Independent) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the total number and percentage of WTE social worker vacancies in each local unit; the steps being taken to address this shortfall; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-05a.454>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Children in Care (4 Feb 2014)

Tommy Broughan (Dublin North East, Labour) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs further to Parliamentary Question No. 568 of 12 March 2013, if the report referred to in the reply is now to hand. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-04a.1369>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child and Family Agency Staff (4 Feb 2014)

Jonathan O'Brien (Cork North Central, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the date on which all social worker vacancies will be filled.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-04a.1384>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Departmental Funding (4 Feb 2014)

Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin (Cavan-Monaghan, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she will furnish a copy of the 2013 national survey into Health Service Executive-funded agencies providing child and family services; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-04a.1349>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Departmental Funding (4 Feb 2014)

Séamus Healy (Tipperary South, Independent) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs in view of the establishment of the Child and Family Agency, the position regarding funding for the Rape Crisis Network Ireland to allow the network to continue its vital work; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-04a.1389>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child Care Services Expenditure (5 Feb 2014)

Denis Naughten (Roscommon-South Leitrim, Independent) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the total average cost per annum for each type of care provision for children; the numbers in each category at present; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-05a.451>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Youth Services Expenditure (6 Feb 2014)

Seán Ó Fearghaíl (Kildare South, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the per capita spending by her Department for youth services in each county in 2013; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-06a.480>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Information and Communications Technology Issues (4 Feb 2014)

John Deasy (Waterford, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the apps her Department or attached agencies have been involved in developing for smart phones and other multi-media devices in the past three years; the cost and the software developer employed in each case. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-04a.1381>

Child Abuse/Child Protection: including vetting, child abduction

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Domestic Violence Policy (6 Feb 2014)

Pádraig MacLochlainn (Donegal North East, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if her attention has been drawn to the ongoing attempts by Lifeline Inishowen Domestic Violence Support Service to attain modest funding support so that it can continue to operate and serve a population of 40,000 in the peninsula; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-06a.477>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Child Abuse Issues (4 Feb 2014)

Michael McGrath (Cork South Central, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if consideration will be given to the State Claims Agency withdrawing the letters it sent to persons currently suing the State for compensation relating to abuse in national schools, advising that they would be pursued for costs if they were unsuccessful in their actions against the State; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-04a.306>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Child Abuse Issues (4 Feb 2014)

Maureen O'Sullivan (Dublin Central, Independent) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills his views on whether the recent decision of the European Court of Human Rights in vindicating the case so courageously pursued by a person (details supplied) has implications for the leadership at senior management level of his Department in terms of its ability to manage, govern, direct, motivate and lead reform in the education sector, especially where the safety and welfare of children in educational settings is concerned; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-04a.423>

Family: including adoption

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

Down's Syndrome (Equality of Access) Bill 2013: Second Stage (7 Feb 2014)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2014-02-07a.5>

Written Answers — Department of Health: Speech and Language Therapy (6 Feb 2014)

Billy Timmins (Wicklow, Independent) To ask the Minister for Health the policy in relation to allocating speech therapy assistance to primary school students; and if the IQ level of the student has any impact on this policy. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-06a.489>

Seanad: Charities Sector: Statements (4 Feb 2014)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/sendebates/?id=2014-02-04a.105>

Written Answers — Department of Health: Mental Health Services Provision (4 Feb 2014)

Maureen O'Sullivan (Dublin Central, Independent) To ask the Minister for Health the number of referrals to child and adolescent mental health services, CAMHS, in 2013; the number who were accepted; the number refused; the reason for refusal; if he is satisfied there are sufficient resources to cover referrals; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-04a.1757>

Written Answers — Department of Health: Substance Abuse Prevention Education (6 Feb 2014)

Tommy Broughan (Dublin North East, Labour) To ask the Minister for Health the amount of Health Service Executive expenditure for the purposes of preventing and treating alcohol addiction; if he will provide details of the various programmes and initiatives in place across the country for preventing and treating alcohol addiction in the years 2012 and 2013; and the projected allocation for 2014. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-06a.591>

Topical Issue Debate: Health Services Provision (6 Feb 2014)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2014-02-06a.270>

Written Answers — Department of Health: Mental Health Services Provision (6 Feb 2014)

Patrick Nulty (Dublin West, Independent) To ask the Minister for Health the reason north Dublin is excluded from the Health Service Executive directive that all children under 18 years should be seen by child and adolescent mental health services; his views on whether it is acceptable that in Dublin North these adolescents are still being treated within the over-stretched adult psychiatry services; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-06a.517>

Written Answers — Department of Health: Services for People with Disabilities (4 Feb 2014)

Peadar Tóibín (Meath West, Sinn Féin) To ask the Minister for Health the resources that will be provided to each county through the progressing disability services for children and young people programme in the next two years. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-04a.1581>

Child Benefit/Social Welfare/Poverty/Housing

Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Social Welfare Schemes (5 Feb 2014)

Kevin Humphreys (Dublin South East, Labour) To ask the Minister for Social Protection further to Parliamentary Question No. 84 of 30 January 2014, the number of schemes and payments in her Department that are paid out with non-statutory rules and guidance not based in primary legislation as she recently indicated applied for back to education allowance; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-05a.237>

Seanad: Homelessness Strategy: Motion (5 Feb 2014)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/sendebates/?id=2014-02-05a.315>

Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Rent Supplement Scheme Payments (5 Feb 2014)

Peadar Tóibín (Meath West, Sinn Féin) To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will raise the cap on rent allowance in view of increasing rents throughout certain parts of the country.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-05a.223>

Written Answers — Department of Environment, Community and Local Government: Private Rented Accommodation Provision (4 Feb 2014)

Dessie Ellis (Dublin North West, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government the efforts he has made to investigate the possibility of introducing measures to tie private rents to the cost of living in order to ease the difficulties faced by many private tenants at this moment and secure better value for money for the State in its use of private accommodation to house people. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-04a.1063>

Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: National Social Target (4 Feb 2014)

Michelle Mulherin (Mayo, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Social Protection the progress that has been made in achieving the national social target for poverty reduction to date; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-04a.672>

Justice Issues/ Human Rights/Equality

Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Family Law Cases (6 Feb 2014)

Róisín Shortall (Dublin North West, Independent) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality in respect of family law cases, if a court can make a ruling on access in the absence of custody being determined; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-06a.352>

Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Courts Service (6 Feb 2014)

Terence Flanagan (Dublin North East, Independent) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality the steps he is taking to improve the efficiency of the family law courts; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-06a.391>

Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Sentencing Policy (6 Feb 2014)

Terence Flanagan (Dublin North East, Independent) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality if he will introduce mandatory sentencing; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-06a.397>

Other Questions: Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (5 Feb 2014)

Clare Daly (Dublin North, Socialist Party) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality his plans to amend the Prosecution of Offences Act 1974, or introduce any other legislation in order to improve the transparency and accountability of the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2014-02-05a.95>

Ceisteanna - Questions - Priority Questions: Garda Oversight (5 Feb 2014)

Pádraig MacLochlainn (Donegal North East, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality his plans to introduce amending legislation to ensure the independence of An Garda Síochána based on other policing models on this island or elsewhere in Europe.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2014-02-05a.80>

Questions - Priority Questions: Judicial Appointments (5 Feb 2014)

Niall Collins (Limerick, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality his plans to reform the judicial appointments process; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2014-02-05a.70>

Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Garda Youth Diversion Projects (5 Feb 2014)

Ciara Conway (Waterford, Labour) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of children engaged in the Garda diversion programme; the number with juvenile liaison officers; his plans to review and develop the programme; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-05a.71>

Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Judicial Appointments (5 Feb 2014)

Mattie McGrath (Tipperary South, Independent) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality if he will undertake a review of the Judicial Appointments Advisory Board so as to further ensure its complete independence from political interference; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-05a.106>

Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Judicial Council Legislation (5 Feb 2014)

Pádraig MacLochlainn (Donegal North East, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality if he will consider incorporating a model based on the sentencing council in England and Wales within the new judicial council Bill expected this year.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-05a.120>

Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Legal Aid Service Reform (5 Feb 2014)

Bernard Durkan (Kildare North, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality the extent to which it is intended to improve the efficiency of the legal aid services notwithstanding the ongoing economic situation; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-05a.344>

Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Legal Aid Applications (4 Feb 2014)

Michael Lowry (Tipperary North, Independent) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality the current waiting time to access legal aid in County Tipperary, both north and south; the way this compares nationally; if his attention has been drawn to the distress and upset being caused to those awaiting legal assistance; if he is aware of the detrimental impact this delay is having on those in financial distress, for example, with mortgage repayments; if he will sanction further staff to tackle this backlog; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-04a.1099>

Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Proposed Legislation (5 Feb 2014)

Seán Kyne (Galway West, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality if he will report on the progress of the creation of the new Irish human rights and equality commission; when the new commission will commence its examination of section 37 of the Employment Equality Act 1998; and the expected duration of this examination.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-05a.93>

Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Garda Youth Diversion Projects (5 Feb 2014)

Ciara Conway (Waterford, Labour) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of children engaged in the Garda diversion programme; the number with juvenile liaison officers; his plans to review and develop the programme; and if he will make a statement on the matter

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-05a.71>

Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Departmental Funding (6 Feb 2014)

Terence Flanagan (Dublin North East, Independent) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality if he will provide a list of all NGOs in receipt of funding/grants from his Department in each of the past five years; and the NGOs, if any, in receipt of funding/grants from his Department over the past five years that are bound by a service level agreement.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-06a.364>

Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Prisoner Rehabilitation Programmes (5 Feb 2014)

Bernard Durkan (Kildare North, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of prisoners currently in receipt of educational or rehabilitative training in each of the prisons throughout the country; the number of such places occupied by first time offenders; the number held by repeat offenders; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-05a.364>

Written Answers — Department of An Taoiseach: Referendum Campaigns (4 Feb 2014)

Gerry Adams (Louth, Sinn Fein) To ask the Taoiseach if he will set out the referendums he plans to hold in the next two years; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-04a.161>

Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission Remit (5 Feb 2014)

Mick Wallace (Wexford, Independent) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality if he will consider establishing a Garda Síochána independent board with monitoring, supervisory and oversight functions over An Garda Síochána in order to strengthen the democratic accountability of the force; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-05a.54>

Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Irish Prison Service (5 Feb 2014)

Michael McNamara (Clare, Labour) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality if he will provide an update on implementing the Irish Prison Service Strategic Plan 2012–2015 and implementation of its key recommendations; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-05a.97>

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@childrensrighs.ie with unsubscribe in the subject field.

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