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1. This week in the Oireachtas (24-28 February 2014)

<http://www.oireachtas.ie/viewdoc.asp?DocID=25524&&CatID=60>

2. Oireachtas Questions and Debate (17-21 February 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: Home-School Liaison Scheme (18 Feb 2014)

Róisín Shortall (Dublin North West, Independent) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if he will provide details of the home school community liaison allocation to each of the second level schools in Dublin 9 and Dublin 11 areas. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-18a.536>

Seanad: Teaching Council of Ireland: Statements (19 Feb 2014)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/sendebates/?id=2014-02-19a.111>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Special Educational Needs Data (20 Feb 2014)

Pearse Doherty (Donegal South West, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills of the 11 disabilities categories as low incidence the percentage of the total numbers for each disability on the list. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-20a.289>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Teacher Training Places (18 Feb 2014)

Michael McCarthy (Cork South West, Labour) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if his attention has been drawn to the difficulties of trainee teachers in their attempts to gain probationary teaching hours; if he will put in place a strategy to address this problem; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-18a.431>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Teacher Secondment (18 Feb 2014)

John O'Mahony (Mayo, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the person who will provide continuous professional development for teachers in the area of special educational needs as those who currently do so have been informed they will be returning to classroom teaching in September 2014; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-18a.434>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Special Educational Needs Services Provision (18 Feb 2014)

Clare Daly (Dublin North, Socialist Party) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if he will confirm or deny that a report was done for the National Council for Special Education and his Department pre 2005, since the assumption is that they have used some guideline or report to base their recommendations based on the working hours of the 4,000 schools in the country, since his Department was responsible for the generation of the report, which has been used under appendix 5 of Sp. Ed. 01/05, since NCSE did not have such information, or had come into effect.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-18a.505>

Topical Issue Debate: School Textbooks Rental Scheme (19 Feb 2014)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2014-02-19a.449>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Pupil-Teacher Ratio (18 Feb 2014)

Brendan Griffin (Kerry South, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills his views regarding the declining standard of education being provided to Irish children in the small schools that are losing teachers under the budget 2012 changes to threshold requirements for teacher allocation; if he will reverse these changes; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-18a.406>

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

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: State Bodies Expenditure (19 Feb 2014)

Robert Troy (Longford-Westmeath, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs with regard to Tusla and its establishment, the cost of rebranding, new stationery and facilities and refurbishment of offices for the organisation; the cost of overall website design and rebranding; if an external public relations or design company was employed to develop or undertake the rebranding; the cost of any such external companies employed; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-19a.505>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Guardian Status (18 Feb 2014)

Tommy Broughan (Dublin North East, Labour) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs further to Parliamentary Question of 4 February 2014, in view of the large amount of expenditure incurred on guardians ad litem, their solicitors and counsel, if she will urgently be recommending that arrangements for the future organisation and delivery of the guardian ad litem service will be put on a statutory basis. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-18a.1579>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child Care Services Provision (18 Feb 2014)

Tommy Broughan (Dublin North East, Labour) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if any children were placed in private child care centres in this jurisdiction on foot of special care orders made by the High Court in the years 2012 and 2013. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-18a.1585>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Departmental Bodies Establishment (18 Feb 2014)

Seán Fleming (Laois-Offaly, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she will list any new organisations/agencies established in her Department since 9 March 2011; the role and functions and the annual operating budget for these organisations/agencies; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-18a.1600>

Seanad: Adjournment Matters: Youth Services Funding (20 Feb 2014)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/sendebates/?id=2014-02-20a.226>

Topical Issue Debate: Tax Credits (19 Feb 2014)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2014-02-19a.441>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child Care Services Provision (18 Feb 2014)

Gerald Nash (Louth, Labour) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the childcare supports available to lone parents participating in springboard courses; if she will extend eligibility under childcare education and training supports to those parenting alone who are on springboard courses; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-18a.1604>

Family: including adoption

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Adoption Legislation (20 Feb 2014)

Nicky McFadden (Longford-Westmeath, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the position in relation to the rights of an adopted person to access their birth certificate and adoption files on turning 18 years of age; if access to this information could be made available to the adopted person; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-20a.625>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Adoption Services Provision (18 Feb 2014)

Tommy Broughan (Dublin North East, Labour) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs further to Parliamentary Question No. 720 of 15 January 2014, the number of social workers being deployed this year from existing adoption teams to information and tracing work; and the total number of staff dedicated to information and tracing work within the adoption service in the Child and Family Agency. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-18a.1582>

Seanad: Adjournment Matters: Inter-Country Adoptions (20 Feb 2014)

Colm Burke (Fine Gael) I thank the Minister of State for attending here to deal with this matter. I appreciate that the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs is not present as we had an early start at 9.30 a.m. for the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Health and Children meeting that dealt with the whole area of child care. I appreciate that Deputy O'Dowd has stepped in to represent her on this occasion. My Adjournment matter deals with adoptions from India. I understand there is a difficulty at present and no agency has been appointed. The situation may have changed over recent weeks. However, people who want to adopt from India are concerned about setting up a proper structure. What progress has been made on that matter? If progress has not been made, when are we likely to see it? When will a formal arrangement or proper procedures be put in place?

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/sendebates/?id=2014-02-20a.214>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Inter-Country Adoptions (20 Feb 2014)

Michelle Mulherin (Mayo, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the position regarding the negotiations between the Adoption Authority of Ireland and the Russian authorities regarding the bilateral agreement on inter-country adoptions and when will the AAI have finalised the wording of the agreement; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-20a.628>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Legislative Programme (18 Feb 2014)

Dominic Hannigan (Meath East, Labour) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the position regarding the heads of the Adoption (Information and Tracing) Bill is; when she expects the Bill to come before the relevant committee for discussion; the way the issue of both the parents and children's right to privacy is being considered in the Bill; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-18a.1567>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Inter-Country Adoptions (18 Feb 2014)

Pat Deering (Carlow-Kilkenny, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if the valid timeframe for declarations to adopt a child from a country will be extended to allow enough time for the whole process to be completed. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-18a.1594>

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

Health Identifiers Bill 2013: Second Stage (20 Feb 2014)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2014-02-20a.633>

Seanad: Mental Health Services Provision: Motion (19 Feb 2014)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/sendebates/?id=2014-02-19a.225>

Written Answers — Department of Health: Alcohol Pricing (18 Feb 2014)

Terence Flanagan (Dublin North East, Independent) To ask the Minister for Health his plans to deal with below cost selling of alcohol; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-18a.1732>

Written Answers — Department of Health: Primary Care Centres Provision (19 Feb 2014)

Róisín Shortall (Dublin North West, Independent) To ask the Minister for Health in respect of the provision of primary care centres by means of leasing arrangements with the private sector, if he will outline the system, if any, by which locations are prioritised to ensure limited resources are allocated to the areas of greatest need; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-19a.638>

Written Answers — Department of Health: Autism Incidence (18 Feb 2014)

Séamus Kirk (Louth, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Health the steps needed in relation to getting a child tested for autism; if he will state the waiting list for children with autism to be tested; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-18a.1745>

Written Answers — Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport: Sports Sponsorship (18 Feb 2014)

Timmy Dooley (Clare, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport his views regarding the sponsorship of sport by alcohol producers; if he has been in contact with the national sporting organisations to establish if there is an alternative to alcoholic sponsorship in sport; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-18a.87>

Written Answers — Department of Health: Mental Health Services Provision (18 Feb 2014)

Seán Kenny (Dublin North East, Labour) To ask the Minister for Health the number of the 890 additional posts announced in the community mental health service over the past number of years that have been filled to date; when he expects all outstanding posts to be filled; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-18a.1763>

Written Answers — Department of Health: Mental Health Services Provision (18 Feb 2014)

Dominic Hannigan (Meath East, Labour) To ask the Minister for Health if the Meath child and adolescent mental health services are fully staffed; if not, the positions that are vacant; when he expects them to be filled; the way a child or young person in County Meath can access the services; and the services a child or young person may expect to receive.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-18a.1900>

Child Benefit/Social Welfare/Poverty/Housing

Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Social Welfare Appeals Data (20 Feb 2014)

Tommy Broughan (Dublin North East, Labour) To ask the Minister for Social Protection further to Parliamentary Question No. 142 of 13 February 2014, the number of appeals of decisions not to grant domiciliary care allowance lodged with the social welfare appeals office in the years 2012 and 2013; the number of these appeals allowed and partially allowed in each of those years; and the longest waiting time for a domiciliary care allowance to be decided by the social welfare appeals office during that period of time. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-20a.361>

Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Social Welfare Code Reform (20 Feb 2014)

Tommy Broughan (Dublin North East, Labour) To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will introduce legislative provisions to put the proposed living wage on a statutory basis.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-20a.371>

Written Answers — Department of Environment, Community and Local Government: Homeless Persons Data (18 Feb 2014)

Robert Dowds (Dublin Mid West, Labour) To ask the Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government the number of persons known to be homeless here at present.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-18a.1136>

Justice Issues/ Human Rights/Equality

Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Proposed Legislation (19 Feb 2014)

Róisín Shortall (Dublin North West, Independent) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality if the proposed children and family relationships Bill 2014 will have retrospective application where there has been family breakdown; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-19a.426>

Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Child Custody and Access (18 Feb 2014)

Michael McGrath (Cork South Central, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality in the context of the Children and Family Relationships Bill 2013, if he intends to provide for access to children by grandparents without them having to resort to the courts; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-18a.1290>

Seanad: Free Speech, Homophobia and the role of the State Broadcaster: Motion [Private Members] (18 Feb 2014)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/sendebates/?id=2014-02-18a.103>

An Bille um an gCeathrú Leasú is Tríocha ar an mBunreacht (Ceapacháin Bhreithiúnacha) 2013: An Dara Céim - Thirty-fourth Amendment to the Constitution (Judicial Appointments) Bill 2013: Second Stage [Private Members] (21 Feb 2014)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2014-02-21a.6>

Written Answers — Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation: Equality Tribunal Cases (18 Feb 2014)

Olivia Mitchell (Dublin South, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation if his attention has been drawn to the two year waiting time for the hearing of complaints at the Equality Tribunal; his plans to allocate additional resources to the tribunal to reduce waiting times; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-18a.684>

Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Legislative Measures (20 Feb 2014)

Heather Humphreys (Cavan-Monaghan, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality the way the Criminal Justice (Spent Convictions) Bill 2012 will impact on Garda vetting disclosures in the future; if the criminal justice Bill will result in certain minor offences which may have taken place a long number of years previously not being disclosed when a person is applying for a job; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-20a.565>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Juvenile Offenders (19 Feb 2014)

Catherine Murphy (Kildare North, Independent) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the average cost per annum to the State for a juvenile offender under 18 years serving a custodial sentence or other form of court mandated detention in 2011, 2012 and 2013; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-02-19a.502>

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