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1. This week in the Oireachtas (31 March - 04 April 2014)  
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2. Oireachtas Questions and Debate (24-28 March 2014)

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: Early Child Care Education Issues (27 Mar 2014)

Clare Daly (Dublin North, Socialist Party) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she will extend the early childhood care and education programme to two years free pre-school in circumstances where local schools change their admission criteria resulting in a child who had a reasonable expectation of starting their primary education being denied that opportunity.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-03-27a.59>

Priority Questions: Special Educational Needs Services Provision (27 Mar 2014)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2014-03-27a.57>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child Care Qualifications (27 Mar 2014)

Robert Troy (Longford-Westmeath, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the main provisions of the learner fund to upskill early years practitioners; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-03-27a.12>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child Care Services Provision (27 Mar 2014)

Denis Naughten (Roscommon-South Leitrim, Independent) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the additional steps she will take to address the availability and affordability of regulated child care services; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-03-27a.65>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: School Transport Fees (25 Mar 2014)

Charlie McConalogue (Donegal North East, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if he will instruct Bus Éireann to introduce a payment plan for families so that they can pay for the cost of school transport over the course of the school year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-03-25a.426>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Departmental Funding (25 Mar 2014)

Jonathan O'Brien (Cork North Central, Sinn Féin) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if he will provide in tabular form the level of funding allocated by his Department to each non-governmental organisation during each of the past four years, including the names of these organisations; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-03-25a.449>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: School Transport Administration (25 Mar 2014)

Clare Daly (Dublin North, Socialist Party) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if he will provide in tabular form the amounts per annum that have been rebated to his Department by Bus Éireann each year for the use of any of the school bus fleet for non educational purposes, such as concerts or other commercial purposes since 1989 by Bus Éireann.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-03-25a.470>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: School Transport Administration (25 Mar 2014)

John Browne (Wexford, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the type of information deemed to be of a commercially sensitive nature; the reason information regarding overhead and indirect costs associated with the administration of the school transport scheme contained in the FGS report fall into this definition; if this information was considered commercially sensitive, the reason it was only after completion of the FGS report that a confidentiality agreement was entered into; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-03-25a.709>

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

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Children in Care (25 Mar 2014)

Tommy Broughan (Dublin North East, Labour) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs to set out the number of applications for admission to special care considered by the national special care admission and discharge committee in the years 2012, 2013 and to date in 2014; the number of such applications approved and rejected in those years; and the number of times the NSCADC met on an emergency basis to consider an application for the admission of a child to special care.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-03-25a.2270>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Departmental Bodies (27 Mar 2014)

Seán Kyne (Galway West, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the current role, including programmes and schemes, of county child care committees; and if further responsibilities could be transferred to the committees, particularly in view of the way the flexible structure of the committees has enabled them to take on additional tasks in recent years; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-03-27a.5>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Children in Care (27 Mar 2014)

Tommy Broughan (Dublin North East, Labour) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the current number of children in high support units and in special care units with a breakdown based on the number of children accommodated in each unit; the way she could state that no child was waiting for a special care place as of her reply to Parliamentary Question No. 13 of 12 February 2014 when she indicated in her supplementary reply to Parliamentary Question No. 716 of 15 January 2014 that 12 children had been approved and were awaiting a special care placement.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-03-27a.9>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child Care Proceedings (27 Mar 2014)

Catherine Murphy (Kildare North, Independent) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs her views on the findings of the Child Care Law Reporting Project that the rate of child care orders being sought varies considerably in different parts of the country; if her attention has been drawn to the large discrepancy in the figures between towns of comparable populations; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-03-27a.15>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Departmental Programmes (27 Mar 2014)

Bernard Durkan (Kildare North, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the extent to which her Department has been in a position to strategically examine and assess any specific deficiencies in respect of child care, youth support and/or development services with particular reference to identification of any problems arising at the earliest possible stage; if she is in a position to put in place adequate supports to assist children or teenagers who might be vulnerable; the extent to which she and her Department continue to liaise with specific groups in this regard; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-03-27a.62>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Ombudsman for Children Reports (27 Mar 2014)

Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin (Cavan-Monaghan, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she has received the report from the Ombudsman for Children, A Meta-Analysis of Repetitive Root Cause Issues Regarding the Provision of Services for Children in Care; her views on its findings; her plans for the implementation of its recommendations; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-03-27a.75>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child Care Legislation (27 Mar 2014)

Bernard Durkan (Kildare North, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she is satisfied regarding the adequacy of the resources available to her Department to implement all child care legislation; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-03-27a.494>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Social Workers Recruitment (26 Mar 2014)

Tommy Broughan (Dublin North East, Labour) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs further to Parliamentary Question No. 203 of 6 March 2014, when the 74 social worker vacancies she referred to will be filled. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-03-26a.460>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child and Family Agency Staff (25 Mar 2014)

Jonathan O'Brien (Cork North Central, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs to set out the number of social work posts currently filled by persons on temporary contracts. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-03-25a.2236>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child Care Services Provision (25 Mar 2014)

Tommy Broughan (Dublin North East, Labour) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs to set out the current status of the child care information system; and if she will provide a timeline for its full implementation. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-03-25a.2281>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child and Family Agency Remit (25 Mar 2014)

Tommy Broughan (Dublin North East, Labour) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs when the Child and Family Agency will prepare a policy on corporate parenting. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-03-25a.2287>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child and Family Agency Expenditure (25 Mar 2014)

Gerry Adams (Louth, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs to explain the reason funding of Rape Crisis Network Ireland is due to cease at the end of March; the tendering process that will be involved; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-03-25a.2290>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child and Family Agency Staff (25 Mar 2014)

Jonathan O'Brien (Cork North Central, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs to set out the number of education welfare officers in Dublin on maternity leave or sick leave or any other form of leave; their locations; and if they have been replaced.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-03-25a.2300>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Education Welfare Service Staff (25 Mar 2014)

Tommy Broughan (Dublin North East, Labour) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs further to Parliamentary Question No. 490 of 11 March 2014, if she will provide a breakdown in tabular form on an annual basis for the years 2011, 2012, 2013 and to date in 2014 of the locations in which educational welfare officers have been and are assigned and the number of EWOs in each location. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-03-25a.2337>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child and Family Agency Reports (25 Mar 2014)

Robert Troy (Longford-Westmeath, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if the Child and Family Agency will be publishing monthly reports with details of children's services in the manner published by the Health Service Executive up to the end of 2013; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-03-25a.2324>

Other Questions: Child Care Services Funding (27 Mar 2014)

Éamon Ó Cuív (Galway West, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the total funding available in 2014 for assistance with child care; the means test that applies for this assistance; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2014-03-27a.107>

Other Questions: Child Care Services Provision (27 Mar 2014)

Seán Kyne (Galway West, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she will provide an update on the progress of the review of child care support programmes which her Department initiated; and if she will outline the objectives of the review; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2014-03-27a.78>

Priority Questions: Child Care Costs (27 Mar 2014)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2014-03-27a.7>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child Care Services Regulation (25 Mar 2014)

Robert Troy (Longford-Westmeath, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs to outline her views on the recent publication by the European Commission Directorate-General for Justice on child care services for school-age children; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-03-25a.2327>

Priority Questions: Youth Services Issues (27 Mar 2014)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2014-03-27a.68>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Youth Cafes Expenditure (25 Mar 2014)

Jim Daly (Cork South West, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the reason an application for funding for a youth cafe distributed by her Department and assisted by Pobal was refused; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-03-25a.2353>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Programme for Government Implementation (25 Mar 2014)

Billy Kelleher (Cork North Central, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she will provide an update in tabular form of the commitments in the programme for Government that relate to her Department; and the progress that has been made in the implementation of each commitment. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-03-25a.2361>

Child Abuse/Child Protection: including vetting, child abduction

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: HSE Complaints Procedures (27 Mar 2014)

Clare Daly (Dublin North, Socialist Party) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the steps that are open to an adult who was the victim of sexual abuse and had that abuse compounded by inadequate child protection decision made by personnel who remain in a senior position within the Health Service Executive. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-03-27a.41>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child Protection (27 Mar 2014)

Clare Daly (Dublin North, Socialist Party) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the interaction her Department has had with the Department of Justice and Equality to ensure that the victims of child sexual abuse are properly protected by their legal representatives and the courts.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-03-27a.485>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child Protection (27 Mar 2014)

Bernard Durkan (Kildare North, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the extent to which her Department has been made aware of the need for child development support in the home and outside in respect of children and teenagers with particular reference to children at risk; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-03-27a.497>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child Abuse Issues (27 Mar 2014)

Bernard Durkan (Kildare North, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the number of reported incidents of child abuse of a mental, physical or sexual nature brought to the attention of her Department in each of the past three years to date; the extent to which existing structures and current legislation is adequate to meet the challenge; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-03-27a.501>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child Care Reports (25 Mar 2014)

Denis Naughten (Roscommon-South Leitrim, Independent) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the investigations she is taking into the disclosure by the child care law reporting project that health officials placed a girl in the care of an uncle against whom credible allegations of sexual abuse had been made; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-03-25a.2358>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Bullying of Children (27 Mar 2014)  
Bernard Durkan (Kildare North, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the extent to which her Department has received complaints in respect of bullying outside of school hours or in the workplace in respect of teenagers; the degree to which necessary provisions are being put in place to deal with such issues; and if she will make a statement on the matter.  
<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-03-27a.491>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child Safety (27 Mar 2014)  
Bernard Durkan (Kildare North, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the extent to which incidents of internet grooming have been reported to her Department in each of the past three years to date; the extent to which legislative measures to date are adequate to deal with the situation; and if she will make a statement on the matter.  
<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-03-27a.504>

#### Family: including adoption

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Adoption Legislation (25 Mar 2014)  
Robert Troy (Longford-Westmeath, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs to outline her plans to amend the Adoption Act 2010; and if she will make a statement on the matter.  
<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-03-25a.2318>

Other Questions: Adoption Legislation (27 Mar 2014)  
Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin (Cavan-Monaghan, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she will provide an update on the adoption (information and tracing) Bill; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2014-03-27a.116>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Adoption Records Provision (27 Mar 2014)  
Tommy Broughan (Dublin North East, Labour) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs her priorities in terms of managing access to adoption records; the amount of expenditure incurred by her Department to preserve and catalogue adoption records, particularly the records which are transferring and which have been transferred to the Child and Family Agency and formerly the Health Service Executive from former adoption societies.  
<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-03-27a.15>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Inter-Country Adoptions (27 Mar 2014)  
Clare Daly (Dublin North, Socialist Party) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if the Government is committed to the Hague convention as the safest regulations in place for inter-country adoption. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-03-27a.23>

Topical Issue Debate: Adoption Services Provision (25 Mar 2014)  
<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2014-03-25a.476>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Inter-Country Adoptions (25 Mar 2014)  
Mary Lou McDonald (Dublin Central, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the number of persons and-or couples who have completed a mandatory Health Service Executive assessment for the purposes of applying to adopt a child from outside the State under the terms of the Hague adoption convention since Ireland's ratification in 2010.  
<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-03-25a.2226>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Adoption Services Provision (25 Mar 2014)

David Stanton (Cork East, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs to explain the way her Department and the Health Service Executive define and classify post adoption trauma or incidences of post traumatic stress disorder as a result of adoption; the research, if any, carried out by her Department or bodies under the aegis of her Department into post adoption trauma; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-03-25a.2230>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Inter-Country Adoptions (25 Mar 2014)

Robert Troy (Longford-Westmeath, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs to explain the exact application process and guidelines that must be satisfied for a family to legally adopt a non-EU national child not residing in the State. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-03-25a.2264>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Inter-Country Adoptions (25 Mar 2014)

Mary Mitchell O'Connor (Dún Laoghaire, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the recourse parents have after their three year pre-Hague Declaration has become invalid and similarly for parents with post-Hague Declarations that cannot adopt from countries like Russia and Ethiopia which are not compliant with the 1993 Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-03-25a.2344>

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

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Mental Health Services Provision (27 Mar 2014)

Bernard Durkan (Kildare North, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the extent to which the mental health of teenagers and young persons remains an issue for concern in her Department in view of the extent to which incidents have been recorded over the past number of years to date; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-03-27a.512>

Written Answers — Department of Health: Mental Health Services Provision (27 Mar 2014)

Bernard Durkan (Kildare North, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Health the extent to which incidents of self-harm among children and or teenagers continue to be reported and monitored by his Department, whether at risk families in this regard are specifically identified for supportive action; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-03-27a.518>

Written Answers — Department of Health: Mental Health Services Provision (25 Mar 2014)

Tommy Broughan (Dublin North East, Labour) To ask the Minister for Health if a specific policy exists in relation to the provision of mental health services to children in care of the State; and in particular if there is a national policy on the provision of mental health services to children in care in circumstances where children are placed in a Health Service Executive area outside of their own locality. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-03-25a.2524>



## Child Benefit/Social Welfare/Poverty/Housing

Topical Issue Debate: Local Authority Housing Evictions (25 Mar 2014)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2014-03-25a.471>

Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Social Welfare Eligibility (25 Mar 2014)

Willie Penrose (Longford-Westmeath, Labour) To ask the Minister for Social Protection if a person who is separated, has two children aged nine and seven and is in receipt of €200 maintenance, working 19 hours per week and receiving €190, is entitled to a one-parent family payment based upon these figures; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-03-25a.1226>

Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Child Care Services Provision (25 Mar 2014)

Joanna Tuffy (Dublin Mid West, Labour) To ask the Minister for Social Protection if there are any further measures planned to support lone parents in getting access to affordable childcare; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-03-25a.1070>

Written Answers — Department of Finance: Tax Credits (27 Mar 2014)

Heather Humphreys (Cavan-Monaghan, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Finance if he will consider introducing a tax credit for child care costs; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-03-27a.122>

## Justice Issues/ Human Rights/Equality

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Children's Rights Referendum (25 Mar 2014)

Robert Troy (Longford-Westmeath, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs to detail the legislation or initiatives that have been put on hold owing to the court challenge to the children's rights referendum; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-03-25a.2315>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Children's Rights (27 Mar 2014)

Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin (Cavan-Monaghan, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs her views on the findings on the right to equality and non-discrimination of Traveller and migrant children contained in the Children's Rights Alliance Report Card 2014; her plans to immediately address these deficiencies; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-03-27a.38>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: UN Convention on Children's Rights (27 Mar 2014)

Robert Troy (Longford-Westmeath, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if it is her intention to ensure that the principle and provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child is fully reflected in all Ireland's laws, policies and practice; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-03-27a.53>

## Other

Written Answers — Department of An Taoiseach: Programme for Government Implementation (25 Mar 2014)

Billy Kelleher (Cork North Central, Fianna Fail) To ask the Taoiseach if he will provide an update in tabular form of the commitments in the programme for Government that relate to his Department; and the progress that has been made in the implementation of each commitment.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-03-25a.81>

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