

Contents

1. This Week in the Houses of the Oireachtas 23-27 June 2014
2. Oireachtas Questions and Debate 16-20 June 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 (23-27 June 2014)

<http://www.oireachtas.ie/viewdoc.asp?DocID=26327&&CatID=60>

2. Oireachtas Questions and Debate (16-20 June 2014)

Asylum/Immigration

Topical Issue Debate: Direct Provision System (19 Jun 2014)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2014-06-19a.386>

Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Direct Provision System (18 Jun 2014)

Regina Doherty (Meath East, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality the exact number of persons who are in the direct provision system; the way it is broken down by reception centre or facility and length of stay here; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-06-18a.433>

Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Direct Provision Expenditure (18 Jun 2014)

Regina Doherty (Meath East, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality the exact cost of direct provision by year over the past nine years broken down by year, county and facility; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-06-18a.437>

Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Direct Provision System (18 Jun 2014)

Regina Doherty (Meath East, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality the exact number and cost of judicial review of applicants resident in direct provision facilities broken down by year over the past nine years; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-06-18a.440>

Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Direct Provision System (17 Jun 2014)

Thomas Pringle (Donegal South West, Independent) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality her plans to end the current system of direct provision; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-06-17a.1311>

Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Direct Provision System (17 Jun 2014)

Stephen Donnelly (Wicklow, Independent) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of persons, broken down into men, women and children, in direct provision accommodation in County Meath on 09 June 2014.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-06-17a.1453>

Written Answers — Department of Health: Direct Provision System (17 Jun 2014)

Stephen Donnelly (Wicklow, Independent) To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide a yearly breakdown of the number of persons that have been admitted from Direct Provision accommodation to psychiatric units in the past five years.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-06-17a.1481>

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

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Student Retention Rates (17 Jun 2014)

Jonathan O'Brien (Cork North Central, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the improvement that has been made in improving retention rates for students in second level schools.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-06-17a.438>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Early Child Care Education (17 Jun 2014)

Jonathan O'Brien (Cork North Central, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the percentage of GDP spent on early years education during each of the past ten years.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-06-17a.461>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: School Transport Administration (18 Jun 2014)

Billy Kelleher (Cork North Central, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills further to Parliamentary Question No. 196 of 8 April 2014 if the Secretary General of his Department was aware when he personally told the Committee of Public Accounts on 15 May 2014, "we are confident in the robustness of the systems we have in place but we have been seeking to enhance them and we are open to further enhancements", that his Department allowed the non-compliance with the EU directive by allowing direct awards of contracts to be made in 100% of the contracts awarded to private school bus contractors in the school transport scheme from 1 July 1993 when Directive 92/50 became law in Ireland up to the 2010/2011 school year; the action he will take; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-06-18a.151>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: School Transport Eligibility (17 Jun 2014)

Martin Heydon (Kildare South, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if there are any financial supports to assist struggling families to cover the cost of school transport where they have medical cards but are required to pay school transport charges as the school their children are attending is not the closest to them and where they already have older siblings attending the same school not requiring a payment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-06-17a.578>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Preschool Services (17 Jun 2014)

Jonathan O'Brien (Cork North Central, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if he will provide an update on his Department's goal to improve the oral language competence of young children in early childhood care and education settings and its readiness to develop early mathematical language and ideas; and the mechanism used to measure same. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-06-17a.428>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Special Educational Needs Staffing (18 Jun 2014)

Robert Troy (Longford-Westmeath, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if he will reverse the decision to cut special needs assistants by a further 10%; and if he will make a commitment to review the current guidelines and increase the number of allocated SNAs per school. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-06-18a.136>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Literacy and Numeracy Levels (17 Jun 2014)

Jonathan O'Brien (Cork North Central, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the percentage of primary school children performing at level 3 or higher in the national assessment of mathematics and English reading in second class and sixth class during each of the past seven years. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-06-17a.431>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Literacy Levels (17 Jun 2014)

Jonathan O'Brien (Cork North Central, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the percentage of 15 year old students performing at or above level 4 in PISA reading literacy and numeracy tests during each of the past five years. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-06-17a.447>

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

Seanad: Address to Seanad Éireann by Ms Catherine McGuinness (19 Jun 2014)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/sendebates/?id=2014-06-19a.45>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Industrial Disputes (19 Jun 2014)

Clare Daly (Dublin North, United Left) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs further to Parliamentary Question No. 135 of 13 May 2014, his views on any outcome of the LRC conciliation process in relation to the fact that residential care staff sleep over and have had their duty hours and payments calculated in a manner which has been suggested is a breach of the EU Working Time Directive. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-06-19a.609>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Appointments to State Boards (18 Jun 2014)

Seán Fleming (Laois-Offaly, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the number of appointments to State boards under the remit of his Department in each year from 2011 to 2014; the number that were publicly advertised; the reason all appointments are not open to public competition; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-06-18a.581>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Capital Programme Expenditure (17 Jun 2014)

Peadar Tóibín (Meath West, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the total amount of capital spending on construction projects carried out by his Department and by bodies operating under the responsibility of his Department between 2008 and to date in 2014; if he will provide the information on an annual basis in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-06-17a.2002>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Child Care Services Funding (17 Jun 2014)

Éamon Ó Cuív (Galway West, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if there is capital funding available for the upgrading and refurbishment of child care facilities in 2014; if applications are being accepted at present; to whom applications should be made; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-06-17a.2026>

Written Answers — Department of Education and Skills: Youth Services Issues (17 Jun 2014)

Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin (Cavan-Monaghan, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the number of participants aged between 18 and 25 years currently on a Youthreach programme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-06-17a.549>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Youth Services Funding (17 Jun 2014)

Michael McCarthy (Cork South West, Labour) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if he will provide a breakdown of all funding allocated to youth projects in County Cork for the years 2012, 2013 and 2014; his plans to re-establish a youth café in a town (details supplied); if he has received any applications from groups in that town for youth café funding; if his attention has been drawn to the lack of youth services in the local area; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-06-17a.1993>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Educational Disadvantage (17 Jun 2014)

Jonathan O'Brien (Cork North Central, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if he will provide an update on the implementation of the national early years access initiative and the area-based childhood ABC programme. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-06-17a.1990>

Child Abuse/Child Protection: including vetting, child abduction

Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Garda Vetting of Personnel (17 Jun 2014)

Olivia Mitchell (Dublin South, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality her plans to introduce an e-vetting system; the speed with which it will cut the waiting times for persons on a community employment scheme awaiting Garda clearance; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-06-17a.1357>

Family: including adoption

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Inter-Country Adoptions (17 Jun 2014)

Eamonn Maloney (Dublin South West, Labour) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if a review of the Helping Hands Adoption Mediation Agency has been conducted; and if he will provide details of the nature, scope, date of completion and outcome of any inquiries carried out by the then Adoption Board arising from comments in the 2009 ISS report. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-06-17a.2017>

Seanad: Adjournment Matters: Adoption Services Provision (18 Jun 2014)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/sendebates/?id=2014-06-18a.237>

Written Answers — Department of Children and Youth Affairs: Adoption Legislation (17 Jun 2014)

Michael McGrath (Cork South Central, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the progress that has been made in putting transitional arrangements in place for prospective adoptive parents who are at risk of being aged out of the system while waiting for the accredited agency to be fully operational; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-06-17a.2020>

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

Written Answers — Department of Health: Medical Records (17 Jun 2014)

Dominic Hannigan (Meath East, Labour) To ask the Minister for Health if he has been notified by each hospital of its policies for the release of medical records to persons who were raised in mother and baby homes, . . . <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-06-17a.1593>

Committee on Health and Children: Select Sub-Committee on Health: Health (General Practitioner Service) Bill 2014: Committee Stage (19 Jun 2014)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/committees/?id=2014-06-19a.554>

Written Answers — Department of Health: Health Services Expenditure (19 Jun 2014)

Terence Flanagan (Dublin North East, Independent) To ask the Minister for Health the expected cost of the health service over the next 20 years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-06-19a.544>

Written Answers — Department of Health: Health Services Staff Recruitment (17 Jun 2014)

Colm Keaveney (Galway East, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 610 of 23 April 2014, if all of the posts listed in the response have now been filled and if any remain to be filled; when he expects the recruitment process to be completed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-06-17a.1747>

Child Benefit/Social Welfare/Poverty/Housing

Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Family Income Supplement Eligibility (17 Jun 2014)

James Bannon (Longford-Westmeath, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Social Protection her plans to reform family income supplement to ensure that more low income self-employed families can qualify; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-06-17a.692>

Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: One-Parent Family Payments (19 Jun 2014)

Clare Daly (Dublin North, United Left) To ask the Minister for Social Protection in view of her comments on a radio programme (details supplied) in respect of the restriction and means testing to the one-parent family payment introduced by her in the Budget 2013 if she accepts that her actions are the direct opposite of those of her predecessor which she sought to praise.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-06-19a.225>

Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Carer's Allowance Payments (17 Jun 2014)

Terence Flanagan (Dublin North East, Independent) To ask the Minister for Social Protection her plans to increase the carer's allowance payment in the forthcoming budget; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-06-17a.723>

Seanad: Adjournment Matters: One-Parent Family Payments (19 Jun 2014)

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/sendebates/?id=2014-06-19a.161>

Written Answers — Department of Finance: Child Care Costs (17 Jun 2014)

Seán Kyne (Galway West, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Finance his plans to improve the taxation arrangements regarding child care, such as exempting child care costs from tax liability when such a service is provided by an employer; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-06-17a.394>

Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Family Income Supplement Eligibility (17 Jun 2014)

James Bannon (Longford-Westmeath, Fine Gael) To ask the Minister for Social Protection her plans to reform family income supplement to ensure that more low income self-employed families can qualify; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-06-17a.692>

Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Family Income Supplement Expenditure (17 Jun 2014)

Gerald Nash (Louth, Labour) To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will provide details of the increased spend in her Department, year on year, on the family income supplement measure; if she will provide details of her plans to create a wider awareness of the scheme for qualifying families; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-06-17a.765>

Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Family Income Supplement Applications (17 Jun 2014)

Pearse Doherty (Donegal South West, Sinn Fein) To ask the Minister for Social Protection the reason the family income support section are only carrying out full yearly reviews on applicants when requested from the applicant in writing to do so; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-06-17a.823>

Written Answers — Department of Environment, Community and Local Government: Local and Community Development Programme Planning (17 Jun 2014)
<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-06-17a.1005>

Written Answers — Department of Social Protection: Child Benefit Reform (17 Jun 2014)
Denis Naughten (Roscommon-South Leitrim, Independent) To ask the Minister for Social Protection the cost of administering the child benefit scheme; the estimated administration cost of a means-tested child benefit scheme; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-06-17a.717>

Justice Issues/ Human Rights/Equality

Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Legislative Programme (17 Jun 2014)
Niall Collins (Limerick, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality the legislation she intends to introduce in the Houses of the Oireachtas before August 2014; the legislation she intends to introduce in the Houses of the Oireachtas before December 2014; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-06-17a.1384>

Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Prison Data (17 Jun 2014)
Niall Collins (Limerick, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality the total prison population; the number of prisoners in tabular form, broken down by prison; the capacity of each prison within the State; the number of prisoners on bail; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-06-17a.1381>

Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Guardian Status (17 Jun 2014)
Seán Fleming (Laois-Offaly, Fianna Fail) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality her views on whether unmarried fathers should have equal rights of access and guardianship to their children as unmarried mothers; her plans, if any, to deal with this matter; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-06-17a.1401>

Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Proposed Legislation (17 Jun 2014)
Terence Flanagan (Dublin North East, Independent) To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality if she will provide a timeframe regarding the passing by the Oireachtas of the children and family relationships Bill; and if she will make a statement on the matter. <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-06-17a.1413>

Seanad: Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Bill 2014: Second Stage (18 Jun 2014)
<http://www.kildarestreet.com/sendebates/?id=2014-06-18a.187>

Written Answers — Department of Justice and Equality: Appointments to State Boards (18 Jun 2014)
<http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2014-06-18a.430>