

Dear Members and Friends,

Please be advised that, owing to changes in the design of the debates section of [www.oireachtas.ie](http://www.oireachtas.ie) web site, we are only able to offer you a limited Oireachtas Monitor that may be missing some relevant information. We apologise for this and hope to resolve the issue with the Oireachtas Debates Office as soon as possible. If you would like more information, please get in touch.

Best wishes,

Ken Reid

Information Officer

## Oireachtas Monitor

Published: 01 October 2012

### Contents

1. [This Week in the Houses of the Oireachtas 01-05 October](#)
  
2. [Oireachtas Questions and Debate 24-28 September](#)
  - [Children's Rights Referendum](#)
  - [Education: including special needs, 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 (01-05 October 2012)

<http://www.oireachtas.ie/viewdoc.asp?DocID=21807&&CatID=60>

## 2. Oireachtas Questions and Debate (24-28 September 2012)

### Children's Rights Referendum

**25/09/2012 Thirty-First Amendment of the Constitution (Children) Bill 2012: Order for Second Stage**

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012092500032?opendocument>

**27/09/2012 Thirty-First Amendment of the Constitution (Children) Bill 2012: Second Stage (Resumed)**

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012092700010?opendocument>

**27/09/2012 Thirty-First Amendment of the Constitution (Children) Bill 2012: Second Stage (Resumed) (Continued)**

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012092700026?opendocument>

**27/09/2012 Thirty-First Amendment of the Constitution (Children) Bill 2012: Committee and Remaining Stages**

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012092700043?opendocument>

**26/09/2012 Dáil Éireann Written Answers. Constitutional Amendment on Children. Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Information Frances Fitzgerald if she is satisfied regarding the availability of sufficient personnel to ensure the full implementation of any legislation arising from the forthcoming referendum on the rights of children; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012092600080?opendocument>

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

**25/09/2012 Seanad Éireann Homophobic Bullying: Statements.**

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/seanad2012092500022?opendocument>

**26/09/2012 Dáil Éireann Written Answers. School Absenteeism.** Deputy Charlie McConalogue asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald if he will provide a breakdown of the most recent truancy rates broken down on a county basis.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012092600080?opendocument>

**26/09/2012 Dáil Éireann Written Answers. Education Welfare Service. Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald if she will indicate arising from reports her Department may have received from school authorities throughout the country appertaining to the health and welfare of children, if she intends to take any particular or specific measures to combat issues arising; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012092600080?opendocument>

**26/09/2012 Seanad Éireann School Transport: Statements.**

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/seanad2012092600036?opendocument>

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

**26/09/12. Children in Care. Deputy Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald the number of children currently receiving special care in overseas facilities; the facilities in which they are placed; the cost of providing treatment in each of these facilities; her plans to ensure that children with special care needs receive this care within this State.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012092600025?opendocument>

**26/09/12. Children in Care. Deputy Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin.** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald the number of children who have sought aftercare on leaving the care system during each of the last seven years; the number of children who have received aftercare on leaving the care system during each of the last seven years; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012092600022?opendocument>

**26/09/12 Child Care Costs. Deputy Éamon Ó Cuív** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald if she has had discussions with groups representing childcare providers regarding the impact that Minister Burton's proposed sick pay proposals would have on the provision of childcare services and the additional costs such a measure could impose on these services; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012092600024?opendocument>

**26/09/2012 Dáil Éireann. Priority Questions. Child and Family Support Agency. Deputy Dara Calleary** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald the number of special needs assistants being provided to children availing of the free pre-school year this year; and the way this compares to the number of SNAs provided to children availing of the free pre-school year in 2011; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012092600022?opendocument>

**26/09/2012 Dáil Éireann Written Answers. Child Care Services. Deputy Bernard J. Durkan.** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald her priorities for the future development of her Department in the aftermath of the forthcoming referendum on children; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012092600081?opendocument>

**26/09/2012 Dáil Éireann Written Answers. Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald the extent if any, to which she and her Department have worked out the scale or extent of youth support services required to ensure that young persons can draw confidence from the existence of such support services; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012092600080?opendocument>

**26/09/12. Dáil Éireann Written Answers. Deputy Bernard J. Durkan asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald** the extent to which she can avail of expert opinion with particular reference to calling on the experience on youth leaders in the community in the preparation of any legislation appertaining to the development of support services for youth in the future; if a particular best practice can be determined to address the challenges faced by young persons whether of a social or health nature.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012092600068?opendocument>

**26/09/2012 Dáil Éireann Written Answers. Deputy Gerry Adams** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald the number of vacant social worker posts within the Health Service Executive; and the date on which these will be filled.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012092600068?opendocument>

**26/09/2012 Dáil Éireann Written Answers. Departmental Strategy Statements. Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the date on which the new Children and Young People's Policy Framework will be published.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012092600068?opendocument#Departmental%20Strategy%20Statements>

**26/09/2012 Dáil Éireann Written Answers. Child and Family Support Agency. Deputy Brendan Smith** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald the steps she has taken to date to improve mental health services for young persons; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012092600068?opendocument#Child%20and%20Family%20Support%20Agency>

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

**26/09/2012 Dáil Éireann Written Answers. Child Abuse. Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald the steps she will take to ensure a more rapid response to reported abuse of children, whether of a physical or sexual nature; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012092600081?opendocument>

**26/09/2012 Dáil Éireann Written Answers. Child Abuse. Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald the extent to which she envisages improved counselling for children at risk and their families; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012092600081?opendocument>

**26/09/2012 Dáil Éireann Written Answers. Psychological Service. Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald if any particular studies have been done to address the issue of child psychological services in all areas throughout the country having particular regard to experiences of the past; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012092600081?opendocument>

**26/09/2012 Dáil Éireann Written Answers. Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Information on Frances Fitzgerald if arising from the number of reports of child abuse received by her Department in the past year, she is satisfied that structures can be put in place to address such issues with particular reference to early intervention; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012092600080?opendocument>

**26/09/2012 Dáil Éireann Written Answers. Deputy Thomas P. Broughan** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald the action she will take in response to the findings of the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012092600068?opendocument>

**26/09/2012 Dáil Éireann Written Answers. Missing Children. Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald if she will provide an update on plans for the 11600 missing childrens hotline; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012092600070?opendocument&highlight=missing%20children#Missing%20Children>

## Family: including adoption

**25/09/2012 Dáil Éireann. Written Answers. Adoption Legislation. Deputy Clare Daly** asked the Minister for Children Frances Fitzgerald her plans to deal with the issue of adopted persons' right to access their own information with regard to their adoptions.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012092500078?opendocument#Adoption%20Legislation>

**25/09/2012 Dáil Éireann. Written Answers. Inter-Country Adoptions. Deputy Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald if comments she made in Topical Debates earlier this year (details supplied) will mean that upon the pending signing of an agreement on intercountry adoption between Ireland and Vietnam, Vietnamese-born children with special needs will not be afforded the full protections, safeguards and rights as set out under the terms of the Hague Convention on Protection and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012092500078?opendocument#Adoption%20Legislation>

**26/09/2012 Dáil Éireann. Written Answers. Adoption Legislation. Deputy Clare Daly** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald if the Adoption Amendment Bill will address the problems experienced by adopted persons in relation to their information rights following the 1998 Supreme Court (IOT vs B) ruling; and if not, the steps she will take to secure their information and tracing rights as a matter of urgency.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012092600070?opendocument&highlight=adoption#Adoption%20Legislation>

**26/09/2012 Dáil Éireann. Written Answers. Post-Adoption Contact Register. Deputy Clare Daly** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald noting her statement in Dáil Éireann on 19 September 2012 that for decades this country has failed its children, her views on whether children illegally adopted were failed by the State; if she will agree to meet with those now adult who have asked to meet her; and if she will ensure to make secure medical and other records in private hands which can provide evidence of the crime committed against these children.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012092600070?opendocument&highlight=adoption#Post-Adoption%20Contact%20Register>

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

**26/09/2012 Dáil Éireann Written Answers. Childhood Obesity. Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald if she is conscious of the need to encourage greater awareness of health amongst children and young adults with particular reference to addressing such issues as obesity; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012092600081?opendocument>

**26/09/2012 Dáil Éireann Written Answers. Psychological Service. Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald if any particular studies have been done to address the issue of child psychological services in all areas throughout the country having particular regard to experiences of the past; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012092600081?opendocument>

**26/09/2012 Seanad Éireann Life-Limiting Health Conditions in Children: Motion.**

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/seanad2012092600044?opendocument>

## Child Benefit/Social Welfare/Poverty/Housing

**25/09/12 Written Answers. Social Welfare Benefits. Deputy Thomas P. Broughan** asked the Minister for Social Protection Joan Burton the current waiting time for an application for one parent family payment; the number of applicants currently waiting for their one parent family payment application to be processed; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012092500067?opendocument>

**25/09/12 Written Answers. Domiciliary Care Allowance. Deputy Brendan Griffin** asked the Minister for Social Protection Information on Joan Burton when the review group on domiciliary care allowance is due to report back; if she will reassure recipients of domiciliary care allowance who are worried about the implications of any possible cuts to domiciliary care allowance; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012092500065?opendocument>

**27/09/12. Written Answers. Child Benefit Payments. Deputy Brendan Griffin** asked the Minister for Social Protection Joan Burton on the savings that will be made by an obligatory return of child benefit by households with incomes of over €100,000; if the Revenue Commissioners will be in a position to enforce this policy; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012092700078?opendocument>

**26/09/2012. Budget 2013: Discussion with Minister for Social Protection.**

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/committeetakes/EDJ2012092600009?opendocument>

**25/09/12 Written Answers. Family Income Supplement. Deputy Thomas P. Broughan** asked the Minister for Social Protection Joan Burton the current waiting time for an application for family income supplement; the number of applicants currently waiting for their family income supplement application to be processed; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012092500067?opendocument>

**26/09/2012. Budget 2013.**

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012092600023?opendocument>

**26/09/12 Child and Family Support Agency. Priority Questions. Deputy Charlie McConalogue** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald if she remains committed to establishing the new Child and Family Support Agency by early 2013 as stated at the Committee on Health and Children in July 2012; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012092600022?opendocument>



**25/09/2012 Dáil Éireann. Written Answers. Social Welfare Code. Deputy Willie O'Dea** asked the Minister for Social Protection Joan Burton her plans to protect young persons who have grown up in care and subsequently enter emergency accommodation, who discover they are unable to house themselves in private rented accommodation in view of the fact that they are not in receipt of a full social welfare payment; her plans to address this matter by awarding a full payment to such applicants; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012092500069?opendocument&highlight=adoption#Social%20Welfare%20Code>

## Justice Issues/ Human Rights/Equality

**27/09/2012 Dáil Éireann Order of Business (Continued) Deputy Mary Lou McDonald:** When will the health (amendment) Bill, which provides for the phased extension of publicly funded GP services, be published and brought before the Dáil? This is the legislation associated with one of the central criticisms by the former Minister of State, Deputy Róisín Shortall, of the Minister for Health, Deputy James Reilly. Second, when does the Government expect the constitutional convention to meet? We were led to believe it would convene at the end of this month, but there has been no subsequent communication and that timeframe is now clearly redundant. Can the Minister indicate a time line for progress?

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012092700008?opendocument>

**26/09/2012 Seanad Éireann Ombudsman (Amendment) Bill 2008: Second Stage (Continued) .**

**Deputy Brendan Howlin:** . . . There was a point made about having constitutional status for the Ombudsman but I have not considered the idea. Perhaps - thinking off the top of my head - it might be a suitable issue for the constitutional convention . . .

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/seanad012092600019?opendocument>

**26/09/12 Other Questions. United Nations Conventions.**

**Deputy Aodhán Ó Ríordáin** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Information on Frances Fitzgerald if the State has signed the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Communications Procedure; and if so, when same will be ratified; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012092600026?opendocument>

**Deputy Aodhán Ó Ríordáin** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Information on Frances Fitzgerald if the State has signed the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography; and if so, when same will be ratified; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012092600026?opendocument>

**26/09/2012 Dáil Éireann Written Answers. Youth Detention. Deputy John McGuinness** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald the progress made to date in expanding the facilities at Oberstown Children Detention Centre, County Dublin; and if she will make a

statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012092600068?opendocument>

**25/09/12. Joint Committee on Justice, Defence and Equality Debate. Selection Panel for Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission: Discussion. Selection Panel for Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission: Discussion**

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/committeetakes/JJJ2012092500004?opendocument>