

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

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## 1. This week in the Oireachtas (29 October – 2 November 2012)

<http://www.oireachtas.ie/viewdoc.asp?DocID=22007&&CatID=60>

## 2. Oireachtas Questions and Debate (22-26 October 2012)

### Children's Rights Referendum

**Dáil Éireann 25/10/2012 Children's Rights Referendum:** Deputy Timmy Dooley asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the way she proposes to put in place the resources that will be required to uphold and vindicate the rights of children; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012102500051?opendocument>

**Seanad Éireann 25/10/2012 Prelude:** I have also received notice from Senator Jim Walsh of the following matter: The need for the Minister for Children to make a statement confirming that the additional protections afforded to children under the forthcoming children's referendum amendment will equally apply to the unborn child.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/seanad2012102500002?opendocument>

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

**Dáil Éireann 24/10/2012 Written Answers. Early Childhood Education:** Deputy Charlie McConalogue asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald if she will consider increasing the minimum qualification criteria for those delivering the early childhood care and education programme; if she will apply a minimum qualification criteria to everyone working in early education and childcare sector; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012102400090?opendocument#Early%20Childhood%20Education>

**Dáil Éireann 24/10/2012 Written Answers. Bullying of Children:** Deputy Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Information on Frances Fitzgerald if she has or will engage with the Department of Health and the Department of Education and Skills on the issue of school bullying of children by children and the grave implications of this targeted abuse on the mental health of young persons in their youth years and in later life; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012102500044?opendocument#Bullying%20of%20Children>

**Dáil Éireann 25/10/2012 Written Answers. Bullying of Children:** Deputy Bernard J. Durkan asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald the extent to which her Department can address the issues of bullying including cyber bullying outside school hours with particular

reference to identification and early warning of such incidents; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012102500064?opendocument&highlight=youth%20services#Bullying%20of%20Children>

**Dáil Éireann 23/10/2012 Written Answers. Early Childhood Education:** Dáil Éireann 23/10/2012

Written Answers. Early Childhood Education: Deputy Patrick Deering asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the reason a City and Guilds qualifications in Child Care is not recognised in Ireland as a suitable qualification to work with children when it is in other EU countries.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012102300074?opendocument#Early%20Childhood%20Education>

**Dáil Éireann 24/10/2012 School Transport:**

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012102400074?opendocument#School%20Transport>

**Dáil Éireann 23/10/2012 Written Answers School Patronage:**

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012102300057?opendocument&highlight=patronage#School%20Patronage>

## Asylum/Immigration

**Dáil Éireann 24/10/2012 Written Answers. Asylum Seeker Accommodation:** Deputy Sandra McLellan asked the Minister for Justice and Equality Alan Shatter his views on whether it is acceptable for asylum seekers and their children to be housed in reception centres which lack adequate facilities for any meaningful recreational activity; if he accepts that it is imperative that children and young persons have access to open spaces and sports areas irrespective of their parents' status; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012102400071?opendocument&highlight=child%20care#Asylum%20Seeker%20Accommodation>

**Dáil Éireann 23/10/2012 Written Answers. Asylum Support Services:** Deputy Mick Wallace asked the Minister for Justice and Equality Alan Shatter his views on a report published by the Irish Refugee Council on 18 September 2012 which catalogues more than ten years of enforced child poverty, malnutrition and social exclusion caused by the system of direct provision; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012102300072?opendocument#Asylum%20Support%20Services>

**Dáil Éireann 24/10/2012 Written Answers. Asylum Seeker Accommodation:** Deputy Luke 'Ming' Flanagan asked the Minister for Justice and Equality Information Alan Shatter if he will consider postponing the closure of Lisbrook House, County Galway; if his attention has been drawn to the long term effects of closing this facility; his views on whether moving families to new locations will impact negatively on the education and development of children of asylum seekers, persons who in many cases have been uprooted and moved already; if he will consider closing the direct provision of accommodation and allow asylum seekers to acquire their own accommodation; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012102400069?opendocument#Asylum%20Seeker%20Accommodation>

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

**Dáil Éireann 24/10/2012 Written Answers. Child care Services:** Deputy Robert Troy asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald the measures she proposes to put in place to uphold the rights of parents in their dealings with Government agencies charged with child protection; if she will consider putting in place a parents charter in this regard; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012102400090?opendocument#Child%20Care%20Services>

**Dáil Éireann 25/10/2012 Written Answers. Youth Services:** Deputy Bernard J. Durkan asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald if she is satisfied that a network of youth or youth liaison officers are likely to be a feature of future child support whether in conjunction with child protection legislation or otherwise; the extent to which adequate enhancement of child psychological services is likely to emerge; if she intends to produce a menu of such support services; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012102500052?opendocument#Youth%20Services>

**Dáil Éireann 25/10/2012 Written Answers. Youth Services:** Deputy Bernard J. Durkan asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald the extent to which she expects to put in place the necessary staff to provide adequate children and youth support services outside of school hours; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012102500064?opendocument&highlight=youth%20services#Youth%20Services>

**Dáil Éireann 25/10/2012 Written Answers. Child Care Services:** Deputy Mary Lou McDonald asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Information on Frances Fitzgerald Zoom on Frances Fitzgerald her plans to ensure the registration and regulation of all paid child minders; her plans to introduce child protection training and Garda vetting requirements for the sector; her plans for routine inspections; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012102500052?opendocument#Child%20Care%20Services>

**Dáil Éireann 25/10/2012 Written Answers. Children in Care:** Deputy Sandra McLellan asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald the extent of aftercare provided; the length of same to young persons who have been resident in high support and special care unit residential places up to their eighteenth birthday; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012102500052?opendocument>

## Family: including adoption

**Dáil Éireann 25/10/2012 Foster Care:** Deputy Mattie McGrath asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald her plans to introduce measures to compensate foster carers in respect of deliberate damage caused to their property by a foster child, when such damage is not

covered by home insurance due to the deliberate nature of the damage; if her attention has been drawn to the fact that the Health Service Executive has for many years informed carers that they could make such claims from their house insurer if they had informed their insurer they were foster carers when in fact no such cover was available; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012102500045?opendocument#Foster%20Care>

**Dáil Éireann 25/10/2012 Foster Care:** Deputy Peadar Tóibín asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald the progress being made by the Health Service Executive in their efforts to ensure that all foster carers are fully compliant with all regulations and standards, including full vetting; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012102500052?opendocument#Foster%20Care>

## Child Benefit/Social Welfare/Poverty/Housing

**Seanad Éireann 23/10/2012 Domiciliary Care Allowance:** Senator Tony Mulcahy: The best way of setting the tone in terms of this issue is by way of example. I have recently come across a number of cases involving applications for domiciliary care allowance, in respect, primarily, of young children with intellectual disabilities. One case involves a young child of four and a half years who is in nappies, cannot talk and struggles to walk and has been clinical diagnosed by a qualified clinical psychologist-occupational therapist as having autism, among a number of other challenges.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/seanad2012102300037?opendocument#Domiciliary%20Care%20Allowance>

**Dáil Éireann 24/10/2012 Prospects for Irish Economy: Statements:**

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012102400017?opendocument#Prospects%20for%20Irish%20Economy:%20Statements>

**Dáil Éireann 23/10/2012 Social Welfare Benefits:** Deputy Brendan Ryan asked the Minister for Social Protection Joan Burton the reason incapacity supplement is not a qualifying payment for partial capacity benefit; and if there are plans to extend the partial capacity benefit scheme to make it available to those in receipt of incapacity supplement.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012102300065?opendocument#Domiciliary%20Care%20Allowance>

**Dáil Éireann 23/10/2012 Child Benefit Payments:** Deputy John Paul Phelan asked the Minister for Social Protection Joan Burton the measures she has taken to date and future proposals to address the issue of child benefit being paid in respect of children living outside the State; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012102300065?opendocument#Child%20Benefit%20Payments>

**Dáil Éireann 24/10/2012 Written Answers Social Welfare Benefits:** Various question by Deputy Willie O’Dea

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012102400080?opendocument#Social%20Welfare%20Benefits>

**23/10/2012 Statutory Sick Pay: Motion [Private Members]:** Deputy Dara Calleary: Research by ISME and the Local Business Alliance survey show that this potential Burton burden will have a disastrous impact on competitiveness and jobs and that it will lead to an increase in absenteeism levels in the small and medium business sector. The survey confirms that if the proposals are introduced, 96% of companies surveyed anticipate job losses; 94% of companies outlined that their cost base would increase; 94% feel that absenteeism levels will increase with only 1% expecting a reduction. Another group which has done research in this area is Early Childhood Ireland which represents 3,330 child care professionals supporting more than 100,000 children Its survey found that almost four out of ten child care providers would have to cut staff numbers if the sick pay proposal was introduced while 42% said they would increase their fees. . . .

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012102300042?opendocument>

## Justice Issues/ Human Rights/Equality

**Dáil Éireann 23/10/2012 Written Answers Constitutional Convention:** Deputy Michael P. Kitt asked the Taoiseach Enda Kenny if he will commit to adding the Right to a Home to the second phase of the Constitutional Convention; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012102300052?opendocument#Constitutional%20Convention>

**Dáil Éireann 24/10/2012 Leaders' Questions. Order of Business:** The Taoiseach: If I might just say at the start of the Order of Business, I would like the House to know that I have informed the Opposition leaders, Deputy Martin and Deputy Adams, that I intend to make an announcement later today, along with the Tánaiste, on the appointment of Mr. Tom Arnold to chair the constitutional convention. . . .

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012102400006?opendocument>

**Dáil Éireann 24/10/2012 Written Answers. Child Detention Centres:** Deputy Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin asked the Minister for Justice and Equality Alan Shatter the number of children under 18 years who were residing within St. Patrick’s Institution, Dublin on 20 September, 2012.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012102400069?opendocument#Child%20Detention%20Centres>

**Dáil Éireann 23/10/2012 Written Answers. Child Detention Centres:** Deputy Patrick Nulty asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the position as of this month on the number of high support and or special care secure accommodation unit residential places in total here; if she will confirm the location of the facilities; if she will further confirm the up-to-date position as of this month regarding the number of children currently awaiting such a placement on the direction and/or recommendation of a judge; if she will outline the current average waiting time for a child to be provided such a placement after the direction and or recommendation of a judge; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012102300075?opendocument>

**Dáil Éireann 24/10/2012 Written Answers. Juvenile Offenders:** Deputy Jonathan O'Brien asked the Minister for Justice and Equality Alan Shatter following the report by the Prisons Inspector, Judge Michael Reilly, on practices by some staff at St Patrick's Institution, Dublin, the interim measures he will put in place to protect their rights and enable appropriate rehabilitation.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012102400070?opendocument#Juvenile%20Offenders>

**Dáil Éireann 24/10/2012 Written Answers. Juvenile Offenders:** Deputy Bernard J. Durkan asked the Minister for Justice and Equality Alan Shatter the steps that have been taken or are likely to be taken to discourage by way of rehabilitation, training or education young offenders particularly first time offenders from a life of crime; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012102400085?opendocument>