

Contents

1. [This Week in the Houses of the Oireachtas 26-30 November](#)

2. [Oireachtas Questions and Debate 19-23 November 2012](#)
 - [Children's Rights Referendum](#)
 - [Education: including special needs, minorities, disadvantage, literacy and numeracy, school staffing, school buildings, school patronage, curriculum](#)
 - [Asylum/Immigration](#)
 - [Child Services/ Children in Care: including foster care and social work services, HSE staffing, youth services](#)
 - [Family: including adoption](#)
 - [Child Abuse/Child Protection: including vetting, child abduction](#)
 - [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 (26-30 November 2012)

<http://www.oireachtas.ie/viewdoc.asp?DocID=22215&&CatID=60>

2. Oireachtas Questions and Debate (19-23 November 2012)

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

Dáil Éireann 20/11/2012 Bullying in Schools

Deputy Seamus Healy asked the Minister for Education and Skills Ruairí Quinn in view of the issue of bullying, if he will revert to the situation whereby career guidance teachers are ex-quota in secondary schools; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012112000008?opendocument#Bullying%20in%20Schools>

Dáil Éireann 21/11/2012 Bullying in Schools

Deputy Aodhán Ó Ríordáin: I thank the Ceann Comhairle's office for affording me the opportunity to speak on this matter and I thank the Minister for coming into the House to address this issue. I am sure all Members would agree that cyberbullying is a major and increasing problem. We are mindful of the families of Ciara Pugsley and Erin Gallagher who reportedly died by suicide as a result of cyberbullying in the recent past.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012112100031?opendocument#Bullying%20in%20Schools>

Dáil Éireann 20/11/2012 Written Answers - School Transport

Deputy Nicky McFadden Nicky McFadden asked the Minister for Education and Skills Information on Ruairí Quinn Zoom on Ruairí Quinn if waivers are available within the school transport scheme for families (details supplied) in County Westmeath who do not have the financial means to pay school transport costs; if he acknowledges that some students attend for viable reasons a particular school that is not the closest one to their home; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012112000059?opendocument#School%20Transport>

Dáil Éireann 20/11/2012 Written Answers Special Educational Needs

Deputy Mary Mitchell O'Connor asked the Minister for Education and Skills Ruairí Quinn his plans to review the present situation whereby a student in a public private school is entitled to a special needs assistant and a student in a private primary school is not so entitled; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012112000059?opendocument#Special%20Educational%20Needs>

Dáil Éireann 20/11/2012 Written Answers. Special Educational Needs

Deputy Finian McGrath asked the Minister for Education and Skills Ruairí Quinn if he will support the matter of applied behavioural analysis education for children with autism.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012112000059?opendocument#Special%20Educational%20Needs>

Dáil Éireann 20/11/2012 Written Answers. Special Educational Needs

Deputy Simon Harris asked the Minister for Education and Skills Ruairí Quinn the way that he oversees the operation of autism spectrum disorders units; the supports and training provided for staff in these units; the standards and best practice models being utilised to ensure these ADS units are maximised to their potential; the number of ASD units currently in place in primary and secondary schools and the number of children enrolled at both primary and secondary level; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012112000059?opendocument#Special%20Educational%20Needs>

Dáil Éireann 20/11/2012 Written Answers. School Patronage

Deputy Brendan Smith asked the Minister for Education and Skills Ruairí Quinn the response to date to the first five parental surveys on patronage carried out by his Department; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012112000053?opendocument&highlight=school%20transport#School%20Patronage>

Dáil Éireann 20/11/2012 Written Answers

Deputy Michael Moynihan asked the Minister for Education and Skills Ruairí Quinn the progress made to date in drawing up a plan for the implementation of the EPSEN Act 2004 to prioritise access for children with special needs to an individual education plan; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012112000053?opendocument&highlight=school%20transport#Special%20Educational%20Needs>

Dáil Éireann 20/11/2012 Written Answers - Bullying in Schools

Deputy Seamus Kirk asked the Minister for Education and Skills Ruairí Quinn when he expects to publish the report of the working group on tackling bullying; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012112000053?opendocument&highlight=school%20transport#Bullying%20in%20Schools>

Dáil Éireann 20/11/2012 Written Answers. Special Educational Needs

Deputy Bernard J. Durkan asked the Minister for Education and Skills Ruairí Quinn the extent to which he expects to be in a position to meet the special needs requirements at primary and post-primary level throughout the country in the coming year notwithstanding the on-going economic situation; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012112000061?opendocument&highlight=school%20transport#Special%20Educational%20Needs>

Dáil Éireann 20/11/2012 Student Retention Rates

Deputy Michael Colreavy asked the Minister for Education and Skills Ruairí Quinn his views on whether, in order to sustain the current rise in pupil retention rates, current levels of investment in education must be maintained at the present levels; and if adequate resources will be made to fund programmes that target marginalised students.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012112000054?opendocument#Student%20Retention%20Rates>

Dáil Éireann 20/11/2012 Pupil-Teacher Ratio

Deputy Michael McNamara asked the Minister for Education and Skills Information on Ruairí Quinn Zoom on Ruairí Quinn if fee-paying, non-resident, and non-national primary and secondary boarding school pupils from outside of the EU are included in calculating pupil teacher ratios for the purpose of allocating teachers paid by his Department.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012112000054?opendocument#Student%20Retention%20Rates>

Dáil Éireann 20/11/2012 Written Answers. Special Educational Needs

Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett asked the Minister for Education and Skills Ruairí Quinn if he will provide an update on the provision of special needs resources in primary schools; his plans to maintain such resources; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012112000054?opendocument#Special%20Educational%20Needs>

Dáil Éireann 20/11/2012 Written Answers. Special Educational Needs

Deputy Mick Wallace asked the Minister for Education and Skills Ruairí Quinn if he will remove the cap on the number of special needs assistants in order to allow resources to be allocated on the basis of need; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012112000054?opendocument#Special%20Educational%20Needs>

Dáil Éireann 20/11/2012 Written Answers. School Enrolments

Deputy Bernard Durkan asked the Minister for Education and Skills Ruairí Quinn the total number of primary schools in urban or rural areas deemed to be at risk due to demographics or other reasons throughout the country; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012112000061?opendocument#School%20Accommodation>

Dáil Éireann 21/11/2012 Written Answers

Deputy Jonathan O'Brien asked the Minister for Education and Skills Ruairí Quinn the steps he has taken to implement the recommendations of the National Council for Special Educators report into Evidence of Best Practice Models and Outcomes into the Education of Children with Emotional Disturbances and Behavioural Difficulties; the steps he has taken to implement the recommendation that behavioural psychologists and other psychology professionals have proposed to implement direct interventions with students with EBD within the school context.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012112100071?opendocument&highlight=special%20educational%20needs#Special%20Educational%20Needs>

Dáil Éireann 20/11/2012 Written Answers. Disadvantaged Status

Deputy Seán Fleming asked the Minister for Education and Skills Ruairí Quinn if he will commit to protecting DEIS in the coming years following the recent report from his Department on improved retention rates at post primary level including improved retention rates in DEIS schools; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012112000052?opendocument#Disadvantaged%20Status>

Dáil Éireann 20/11/2012 Special Educational Needs

Deputy Michael McCarthy asked the Minister for Health Information on Dr. James Reilly the way he intends to ensure that plans by the Health Service Executive to reconfigure therapy resources such as speech therapy, occupational therapy, and physiotherapy into geographic-based teams will not adversely affect children in special schools in view of the fact that it means that therapists in special schools will now have to travel to mainstream schools; if he will address concerns that this will lead to a reduction in the level of service to children in special schools; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012112000078?opendocument&highlight=early%20intervention#Special%20Educational%20Needs>

Asylum/Immigration

Dáil Éireann 20/11/2012 Written Answers Nos. Asylum Seeker Accommodation

Deputy Pearse Doherty asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if he will provide, in tabular form, the total cost to the State per year for every year since it opened of the Towers Hotel direct provision hostel, Clondalkin, Dublin 22; . . .

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012112000071?opendocument#Asylum%20Seeker%20Accommodation>

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

Dáil Éireann 22/11/2012 Written Answers. Youth Services

Deputy Eoghan Murphy asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald if her attention has been drawn to the fact that the City of Dublin Vocational Education Committee are in the process of withdrawing funding from the position of catholic youth care education officer and the impact this will have on youth groups across the south inner city.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012112200066?opendocument&highlight=youth%20services#Youth%20Services>

Family: Including adoption

Dáil Éireann 20/11/2012 Written Answers. Adoption Services

Deputy Michael Colreavy asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald if there is any legislative requirement for prospective adoptive parents to use the services of ARC Adoption Services for any or all aspects of processing adoption of children from Bulgaria; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail201212000075?opendocument&highlight=adoption#Adoption%20Services>

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

Dáil Éireann 22/11/2012 Mental Health Services

Deputy Jim Daly asked the Minister for Health Dr. James Reilly the portion of the €35 million euro that was ring fenced for mental health services for the year 2012 that has been spent; if any unspent moneys will be carried forward to next year in addition to the 2013 funding; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012112200066?opendocument#Mental%20Health%20Services>

Committee 20/11/2012 Forthcoming Health Council: Discussion with Minister for Health

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/committeetakes/HEJ2012112000002?opendocument>

Dáil Éireann 21/11/2012 Written Answers. Domestic Violence

Deputy Anne Ferris asked the Minister for Justice and Equality Alan Shatter his views on the signing and ratifying of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence; when he expects to bring updated and consolidated legislation on domestic violence; when he envisages a referendum being held to reform the courts system; and if he will make a statement on the matter

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012112100083?opendocument&highlight=family%20law#Domestic%20Violence>

Dáil Éireann 20/11/2012 Written Answers. Child Benefit Rates

Deputy Nicky McFadden asked the Minister for Social Protection Joan Burton if she will ensure that the child benefit payments for multiples will not be cut; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail201212000064?opendocument#Child%20Benefit%20Rates>

Child Benefit/Social Welfare/Poverty/Housing

Dáil Éireann 22/11/2012 Child Benefit Eligibility

Deputy Alan Farrell asked the Minister for Finance Michael Noonan the feasibility and cost of taxing child benefit for high income earners who may fall over a defined high income threshold; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012112200053?opendocument#Child%20Benefit%20Eligibility>

Dáil Éireann 22/11/2012 Domiciliary Care Allowance Review. Domiciliary Care Allowance Review

Deputy Pat Deering asked the Minister for Social Protection if she will provide a progress report on the review of the domiciliary care allowance application process.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012112000065?opendocument#Domiciliary%20Care%20Allowance%20Review>

Dáil Éireann 20/11/2012 Written Answers Budget 2013

Deputy Seán Fleming asked the Minister for Social Protection Information on Joan Burton Zoom on Joan Burton if she will take steps to ensure that the carer's allowance rate, the half rate carer's allowance will be protected in Budget 2013; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012112000066?opendocument&highlight=domiciliary#Budget%202013>

Dáil Éireann 20/11/2012 Written Answers: Child Benefit Payments

Deputy Denis Naughten asked the Minister for Social Protection Joan Burton the control savings and reviews recorded on child benefit in each of the past five years; the overpayments sought each year, and the repayments to date; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012112000067?opendocument#Child%20Benefit%20Payments>

Dáil Éireann 21/11/2012 Priority Questions. Budget 2013

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform Howlin if he will equality proof the Government's Budget 2013 expenditure measures; and if he will publish the evidence generated as part of this pre budget proofing process.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012112100021?opendocument#Budget%202013>

Dáil Éireann 22/11/2012 Written Answers. Homelessness Strategy

Deputy Terence Flanagan asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government Phil Hogan if he will ensure that funding for homelessness is not cut in Budget 2013; the action taken by his Department to deal with homelessness; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012112200062?opendocument#Homelessness%20Strategy>

Justice Issues/ Human Rights/Equality

Dáil Éireann 20/11/2012 Written Answers. Charities and Voluntary Organisations

Deputy Gerald Nash asked the Minister for Justice and Equality Alan Shatter if he will review plans to wind down the charitable lotteries scheme; his views on whether he will oblige the successful applicant for the State's lottery licence to provide resources to organisations currently supported under the charitable lotteries scheme by way of a clause in, or condition under the licence regime; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012112000070?opendocument&highlight=Human%20Rights%20and%20Equality%20Commission#Charities%20and%20Voluntary%20Organisations>

Dáil Éireann 20/11/2012 Written Answers. Merger of State Agencies

Deputy Denis Naughten asked the Minister for Justice and Equality Alan Shatter if he will provide an update on the merger of the Equality Authority and the Human Rights Commission; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012112000070?opendocument&highlight=Human%20Rights%20and%20Equality%20Commission#Charities%20and%20Voluntary%20Organisations>

Dáil Éireann 20/11/2012 National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Bill 2012: Report and Final Stages

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012112000035?opendocument>

Dáil Éireann 20/11/2012 Written Answers. Human Rights Issues

Deputy Aodhán Ó Ríordáin asked the Minister for Justice and Equality Alan Shatter in view of Ireland's seat on the UN Human Rights Council, when he plans to grant Irish Travellers ethnic status in recognition of their human rights; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2012112000071?opendocument#Human%20Rights%20Issues>