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1. This week in the Oireachtas (25 February - 01 March 2013)

<http://www.oireachtas.ie/viewdoc.asp?DocID=22916&&CatID=60>

2. Oireachtas Questions and Debate (18-22 February 2013)

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

Dáil Éireann 20/02/2013 Written Answers: Schools Building Projects Status

Deputy Paschal Donohoe asked the Minister for Education and Skills Ruairí Quinn if his attention has been drawn to the need for a secondary level school for educate together; and if his Department has assembled any plans in the provision of such a school; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013_022000083?opendocument

Dáil Éireann 19/02/2013 Written Answers: Child Care Services

Deputy Alan Farrell asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald the number of parents who have availed of the community childcare subvention programme in 2012; the cost of

this service to the Exchequer in 2012 and the estimated cost in 2013; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013021900095?opendocument#WRBB00350>

Dáil Éireann 19/02/2013 Written Answers: School Curriculum

Deputy Jim Daly asked the Minister for Education and Skills Ruairí Quinn the procedures to be followed by primary schools in issuing certificates to exempt students from studying the Irish language; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013021900080?opendocument#WRM01150>

Dáil Éireann 19/02/2013 Written Answers: Special Educational Needs

Deputy Terence Flanagan asked the Minister for Education and Skills Ruairí Quinn his plans to issue a policy document on educating children with autism; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013021900080?opendocument#WRM03150>

Dáil Éireann 19/02/2013 Topical Issue Debate: School Curriculum

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013021900029?opendocument#BB06000>

Dáil Éireann 19/02/2013 Written Answers: Early Childhood Education

Deputy Catherine Murphy asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald if she will confirm that, regarding the early childhood care and education scheme, there is currently nothing in legislation to prevent a child being removed early by a childcare service provider from their programme whilst allowing the service provider to claim a capitation fee in respect of the child for up to another month; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013021900094?opendocument#WRAA03750>

Dáil Éireann 19/02/2013 Anti-Racism Measures

Deputy Michael Kitt: I thank the Ceann Comhairle's office for allowing me to raise this issue and I thank the Minister for his attendance. I raised this issue with him previously by way of a question on the yellow flag programme. I will explain, for while the Minister knows the House might not.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013021900030?opendocument#CC00500>

Seanad Éireann 20/02/2013 Schools Recognition

Senator Martin Conway: Cuirim fáilte roimh an Aire go dtí an Teach. Mol an Óige national school in Ennistymon which is part of the Steiner family of schools was established a number of years ago by volunteers. It is based on the Steiner model, although it is more streamlined. Well in excess of 100 students attend the school.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/seanad2013022000031?opendocument#FF00850>

Dáil Éireann 19/02/2013 Written Answers: Special Educational Needs

Deputy Robert Dowds asked the Minister for Education and Skills Ruairí Quinn if special needs assistants may assist their assigned pupils with academic tasks, while at all times being under the

direction of the teacher; if not, if he will explain the reason and if he will consider reviewing the current procedures in the context of the new public service agreement which is currently under negotiation.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013021900078?opendocument>

Dáil Éireann 19/02/2013 Written Answers: Special Educational Needs

Deputy Nicky McFadden asked the Minister for Education and Skills Ruairí Quinn if a child with Down Syndrome can automatically qualify for resource hours and a special needs assistant to help them progress through mainstream school; his views on the importance of ensuring that children with Down Syndrome are provided with the necessary resources and assistance in order that they can participate and develop in an inclusive educational system; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013022000082?opendocument>

Asylum/Immigration

Dáil Éireann 19/02/2013 Written Answers: Asylum Seeker Accommodation

Deputy Thomas Pringle asked the Minister for Justice and Equality Alan Shatter further to Parliamentary Question No. 487 of 12 February 2013, if he will provide details in tabular form of those persons living in direct provision 36 months and over by year they entered direct provision.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013021900092?opendocument#WRY00750>

Seanad Éireann 20/02/2013 Order of Business: Direct Provision

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/seanad2013022000004?opendocument>

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

Dáil Éireann 19/02/2013 Written Answers: Legislative Programme

Deputy Seán Ó Feargháil asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald the position regarding the Children and Family Support Agency Bill; if the integrity of the family resource centres programme will be preserved; if funding for this programme will be ringfenced; if it is intended that the family resource centres will have representations on the new board and if their views will be taken on board in the finalisation of the legislation; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013021900094?opendocument#WRAA03950>

Dáil Éireann 20/02/2013 Written Answers: Youth Services

Deputy Maureen O'Sullivan asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald if she will address the delay to some youth services, in the north inner city of Dublin, in being informed of 2013 funding from CDYSB; the reason for this delay; and the funding allocation for 2013.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013022000092?opendocument>

Dáil Éireann 20/02/2013 Written Answers: State Agencies

Deputy Regina Doherty asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald the State agencies or bodies not currently included under Schedules 1 and 2 of the Ombudsman for Children Act 2002; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013022000092?opendocument#WRY01350>

Dáil Éireann 21/02/2013 Order of Business: Children First Bill

The Tánaiste: Information on Eamon Gilmore Zoom on Eamon Gilmore On the Children First Bill, there is ongoing consideration of the views of the Oireachtas committee, including significant policy, operational and legal issues. It is intended to be published this session.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013022100006?opendocument>

Family: Including adoption

Dáil Éireann 19/02/2013 Written Answers: Adoption Services

Deputy Sandra McLellan asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald if she will ensure that persons who spent time in Besborough House in Cork and other such institutions around the country be given access to their records for the time they spent there; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013021900094?opendocument#WRAA03550>

Child Abuse/Child Protection: including vetting, child abduction

Joint Committee on Education and Social Protection Debate 20/02/2013 Residential Institutions Statutory Fund Board: Discussion with Chairperson Designate

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/committeetales/EDJ2013022000014?opendocument#O01300>

Dáil Éireann 19/02/2013 Written Answers: National Vetting Bureau

Deputy Thomas P. Broughan asked the Minister for Justice and Equality Alan Shatter if he will explain the fee structure in relation to applications for vetting disclosures under the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act 2012; if a defined fee structure is in place for applications for vetting disclosures made to the newly established National Vetting Bureau; the reason for the imposition of charges on applicants; if these charges will be fixed in the longer term; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013021900092?opendocument&highlight=vetting#WRY02450>

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

Dáil Éireann 19/02/2013 Written Answers: Childhood Obesity

Deputy Ciaran Lynch asked the Minister for Education and Skills Ruairí Quinn the plans in place to counter the spread of childhood obesity; the part that will be played by physical education as part of the school curriculum; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013021900080?opendocument#WRM04050>

Child Benefit/Social Welfare/Poverty/Housing

Dáil Éireann 21/02/2013 Rights of the Child

Deputy Robert Troy: I thank the Ceann Comhairle's office for giving me the opportunity to raise this important issue. First, I acknowledge the Children's Rights Alliance gave the Government an "A" grade for the passage of the children's rights referendum. However, I wish to point out that the referendum was not just a Government initiative, but had the support of 165 of the 166 Deputies in this House, as well as the support of the Senators and many children's organisations.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013022100039?opendocument>

Dáil Éireann 20/02/2013 Leaders' Questions Deputy John Halligan:

I take the opportunity to compliment the Taoiseach on the remarks he made in the presence of the Magdalen women here yesterday. Every word he said was sincere. I pay tribute to the bravery of the women who came to the House. Last week, the Children's Rights Alliance report card for 2013 awarded Ireland a grade "A" for strengthening children's constitutional rights but an "F" on the levels of child poverty in the State. . . .

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013022000005?opendocument>

Seanad Éireann 21/02/2013 Order of Business

Senator Paschal Mooney: . . . The first report of the advisory group on tax and social welfare was published yesterday. I understand that overnight the Minister for Social Protection kicked the report into an Oireachtas committee and that the newspapers are reporting that it could be 18 months or after the next general election before an attempt is made to address the issues raised in it. The Minister should come before the House to outline her views on the report which she has had for over one year. . . .

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/seanad2013022100002?opendocument>

Dáil Éireann 21/02/2013 Written Answers

Deputy Michael Healy-Rae asked the Minister for Social Protection Joan Burton the way she proposes to protect middle income families, who will be hardest hit, if the Government goes ahead with the taxing of child benefit as outlined in the Mangan Report; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013022100063?opendocument>

Dáil Éireann 19/02/2013 Written Answers: Early Childhood Education

Deputy Catherine Murphy asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald if she will confirm that, regarding the early childhood care and education scheme, there is currently nothing in legislation to prevent a child being removed early by a childcare service provider from their programme whilst allowing the service provider to claim a capitation fee in respect of the child for up to another month; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013021900094?opendocument#WRAA03750>

Seanad Éireann 19/02/2013 Order of Business

Senator Jillian van Turnhout: . . . I welcome the publication yesterday by the Children's Rights Alliance of its report card for 2013, . . .

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/seanad2013021900004?opendocument>

Joint Committee on Education and Social Protection Debate 20/02/2013 Social Welfare Appeals: Discussion with Department of Social Protection

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/committeetakes/EDJ2013022000003?opendocument>

Justice Issues/ Human Rights/Equality

Dáil Éireann 21/02/2013 Written Answers: State Agencies

Deputy Maureen O'Sullivan asked the Minister for Justice and Equality Alan Shatter his views on reports (details supplied) that the selection committee for the new Commission of the Human Rights and Equality Commission lack urgency and are engaged in a process of head hunting the Chief Commissioner, a process that would breach the requirements in the UN Paris Principles in relation to such an appointment; and the action he will take to resolve same.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013022100066?opendocument#WRR02150>

Deputy Pádraig Mac Lochlainn asked the Minister for Justice and Equality Alan Shatter his views on recent reports that the Equality Authority and the Irish Human Rights Commission have had significant staff and budget reductions since 2009 and are failing to operate effectively as a result; the exact staff reductions and budget cutbacks experienced by these bodies since 2009; the way he intends to ensure that the merged Human Rights and Equality Commission will operate more effectively, efficiently and cohesively as he committed to in September 2012 when this merger process began in view of the weakened state of both bodies currently.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013022100066?opendocument#WRR02150>

Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement Debate 21/02/2013 Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland: Discussion

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/committeetakes/GFJ2013022100003?opendocument>

Dáil Éireann 19/02/2013 Magdalen Laundries Report: Statements

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013021900034?opendocument>

Dáil Éireann 19/02/2013 Written Answers: Same Sex Marriage

Deputy Clare Daly asked the Minister for Justice and Equality Alan Shatter his plans to enable marriages between same sex couples.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013021900089?opendocument#WRV03850>

Dáil Éireann 19/02/2013 Written Answers: National Traveller-Roma Strategy

Deputy Joan Collins asked the Minister for Justice and Equality Alan Shatter the measures specific to the Roma to be included in the National Traveller Roma Integration Strategy in the four areas of education, employment, healthcare and housing; the mechanisms in place or planned to ensure Traveller and Roma active participation in the development and implementation of the strategy; the steps being taken to introduce targets, timelines and budget for the implementation of Ireland's National Traveller Roma Integration Strategy.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013021900089?opendocument#WRV03850>

Dáil Éireann 19/02/2013 Written Answers: Employment Rights Issues

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald following the recently published Migrant Rights Centre Ireland Report December 2012 Part of the Family, which illustrates the way the unregulated au pair system is being used to facilitate cheap childcare and that leaves au pairs without basic protections, her plans to address the issue of au pairs here; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013021900095?opendocument>

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