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1. This week in the Oireachtas (19 March - 22 March 2013)

<http://www.oireachtas.ie/viewdoc.asp?DocID=23109&&CatID=60>

2. Oireachtas Questions and Debate (11 March -15 March 2013)

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

Dáil Éireann 14/03/2013 Written Answers: Autism Policy

Deputy Clare Daly asked the Minister for Education and Skills Ruairí Quinn if he will implement the recommendation of the Ombudsman for Children and publish his Department's policy on autism as a matter of urgency.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013031400049?opendocument>

Dáil Éireann 14/03/2013 Written Answers: Aistear Curriculum Framework

Deputy Charlie McConalogue asked the Minister for Education and Skills Ruairí Quinn the range of supports including the number of Aistear tutors and the number of in-service training hours

facilitated through the teacher training centres that have been provided to date to primary school teachers to upskill in relation to the implementation of the Aistear curriculum for infant classes; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013031400049?opendocument>

Dáil Éireann 14/03/2013 Written Answers: Special Educational Needs Services Provision

Deputy Joe McHugh asked the Minister for Education and Skills Ruairí Quinn if he will provide an overview of services that are available to a cohort of students (details supplied); his vision for the provision of such education to students of this profile into the future; the supports that are available to the families of such students; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013031400049?opendocument#WRC00950>

Dáil Éireann 14/03/2013 Written Answers: Schools Building Projects Status

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013031400048?opendocument#WRB03950>

Dáil Éireann 12/03/2013 Written Answers: Pupil Transfers

Deputy Luke 'Ming' Flanagan asked the Minister for Education and Skills Ruairí Quinn if he will review circular 32/03 section 3, transfer of pupils to another primary school to repeat sixth class; if he is satisfied that this is a useful and justifiable restriction; if he will consider having it removed; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013031200059?opendocument#WRH00700>

Dáil Éireann 12/03/2013 Written Answers: Educational Disadvantage

Deputy Gerry Adams asked the Minister for Education and Skills Ruairí Quinn the steps he has put in place to tackle educational disadvantage for deaf children.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013031200059?opendocument#WRH03100>

Dáil Éireann 12/03/2013 Written Answers: School Curriculum

Deputy Aodhán Ó Ríordán asked the Minister for Education and Skills Ruairí Quinn further to the social, personal and health education programme currently run in second level schools as a compulsory part of the curriculum, his plans to maintain this as a mandatory subject; and if he has any plans to reform the said programme.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013031200059?opendocument#WRH04800>

Dáil Éireann 12/03/2013 Written Answers: School Patronage

Deputy Eoghan Murphy asked the Minister for Education and Skills Ruairí Quinn if he will provide an update on plans to set up an Educate Together primary school in the Sandymount/Ringsend area of Dublin.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013031200059?opendocument#WRH05100>

Dáil Éireann 12/03/2013 Written Answers: Child Care Services

Deputy Terence Flanagan asked the Minister for Social Protection Joan Burton if she will re examine increasing the number of childcare places, currently 6,000, in order to allow for help for one parent families who face a cut in payment from July; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013031200063?opendocument#WRM02850>

Dáil Éireann 12/03/2013 Topical Issue Debate: School Completion Programme

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013031200030?opendocument#CC00400>

Dáil Éireann 12/03/2013: Child Care Services

Deputy Thomas P. Broughan asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald if she will provide a list of all private residential child care centres including the names of the providers and the owners of the centres; the number of staff in each of the centres and the level of training and qualifications attained by each member of staff in such centres.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013031200076?opendocument#WRZ03250>

Dáil Éireann 13/03/2013 Topical issue debate; Pupil-Teacher Ratio

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013031300028?opendocument#BB00350>

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

Seanad Éireann 13/03/2013: Youth Services

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/seanad2013031300026?opendocument#Z00350>

Dáil Éireann 12/03/2013 Written Answers: Child care Services

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald if she will provide in a tabular form the number of child minders advisory officers posts that she has withdrawn here by 28 February 2013 broken down by city and county; and the measures she will take to provide the necessary training and supports lost to providers of child minding services.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013031200076?opendocument#WRZ00950>

Dáil Éireann 12/03/2013 Written Answers: Aftercare Services

Deputy Colm Keaveney asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald her plans to provide for after school care funded or part funded from the Exchequer; if she is considering sub-letting, or some arrangement, school facilities to private operators to accommodate this care; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013031200076?opendocument#WRZ01150>

Dáil Éireann 12/03/2013 Written Answers: Youth Services

Deputy Róisín Shortall asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald if she will provide details of the funding allocation made to the CDYSB for each of the past five years with details of the element of this which was for the running of the CDYSM itself in each year; and if she will outline the steps that are being taken to ameliorate the most negative impacts on youth services of the significant funding allocation for the current year.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013031200076?opendocument#WRZ02750>

Dáil Éireann 12/03/2013: Child in Care

Deputy Thomas P. Broughan asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald if she will provide, in tabular form, the number of children in the care of the State placed in private residential child care centres at present; the cost of each placement; the reasons for the selection of private providers for each placement; the duration of each placement with private providers; the level of inspection carried out by the Health Service Executive or the Health Information and Quality Authority of such services; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013031200076?opendocument#WRZ03450>

Family: Including adoption

Dáil Éireann 14/03/2013 Written Answers: Family Support Services

Deputy Joe McHugh asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform Brendan Howlin with reference to the Fiscal Case for Working with Troubled Families and also Listening to Troubled Families that were published by the British Government last month, if his Department will publish comparative statistical profiles; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013031400049?opendocument#WRC02250>

Child Abuse/Child Protection: including vetting, child abduction

Dáil Éireann 12/03/2013 Written Answers: Child Protection

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald if she will provide in a tabular form the cuts she has imposed to the Empowerment Plus child protection services since she took office in 2011; and the areas affected; and the measures she has taken to support or replace the lost services for vulnerable at risk children.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013031200076?opendocument#WRZ01150>

Dáil Éireann 12/03/2013 Written Answers: Child Protection

Deputy Róisín Shortall asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald her views on the role of child art psychotherapy in Child Welfare and Protection Services; if she intends to make such psychotherapeutic services available to children who are involved with child protection social workers; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013031200076?opendocument#WRZ02750>

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

Dáil Éireann 14/03/2013 Topical issue debate: Mental Health Services

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013031400034?opendocument#GG00850>

Dáil Éireann 12/03/2013 Written Answers: Social and Affordable Housing Provision

Deputy John Browne asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government Phil Hogan if he will provide a county breakdown of the number of properties identified by the National Asset Management Agency for social housing provision; the number accepted as suitable by local authorities; the number transferred from NAMA to local authorities or to housing associations to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013031200052?opendocument#WRA01550>

Joint Committee on Transport and Communications Debate 13/03/2013 Social Media: Discussion (Resumed) with National Anti-Bullying Coalition

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/committeetakes/TRJ2013031300003?opendocument#C00100>

Dáil Éireann 13/03/2013 Written Answers: Universal Health Insurance

Deputy Maureen O'Sullivan asked the Minister for Health James Reilly in view of the fact that, subject to eligibility and relevant charges, all persons in the State qualify for access to public health system currently, the way this might change with the introduction of the universal health insurance; if such a system would mean an up-front payment by all persons for health services that they may not use in a given year; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013031300089?opendocument#WRZ00200>

Child Benefit/Social Welfare/Poverty/Housing

Joint Committee on Health and Children 12/03/2013 Tackling Childhood Poverty: Discussion

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/committeetakes/HEJ2013031200002?opendocument>

Joint Committee on Health and Children 14/03/2013 Tackling Childhood Poverty: Discussion

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/committeetakes/HEJ2013031400008?opendocument>

Dáil Éireann 14/03/2013 Written Answers: Child Benefit Eligibility

Deputy Denis Naughten asked the Minister for Social Protection Joan Burton her Department's policy on the payment of child benefit to children and their parents who do not reside in Ireland during the summer months out of school term; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013031400049?opendocument#WRC02450>

Dáil Éireann 12/03/2013 Written Answers: Social Welfare Code Issues

Deputy Finian McGrath asked the Minister for Social Protection Joan Burton the number of hours a person on a welfare payment may work per week without losing their benefits.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013031200062?opendocument#WRL03700>

Dáil Éireann 12/03/2013 Written Answers: Homelessness Strategy

Deputy Michael Kitt asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government Phil Hogan if he is satisfied that he has the most up-to-date information on homelessness; the sources of this information for the Homelessness Policy Statement; the funding available to bring to an end long-term homelessness here; the issues involved in youth homelessness; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013031200068?opendocument#WRR02250>

12/03/13 Housing Statistics

Deputy Dessie Ellis asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government Phil Hogan the number of publicly owned social housing units that were delivered in 2011 and 2012 respectively; and the targets for same in 2013.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013031200069?opendocument#WRS00150>

Dáil Éireann 13/03/2013 Written Answers: Foster Care Expenditure

Deputy Luke 'Ming' Flanagan asked the Minister for Social Protection Joan Burton if the fostering care allowance should be excluded as income by lending institutions when calculating mortgage repayments (details supplied); her views on whether including such an allowance in mortgage repayments calculations is to put the welfare of fostered children in jeopardy; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013031300076?opendocument>

Dáil Éireann 13/03/2013 Written Answers: Social Welfare Code Issues

Deputy Joanna Tuffy asked the Minister for Social Protection Joan Burton the rules regarding habitual residence and to whom those rules apply; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013031300076?opendocument#WRM00800>

Justice Issues/ Human Rights/Equality

Seanad Éireann 13/03/2013 Employment Equality (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill 2013: Second Stage

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/seanad2013031300015?opendocument#O00200>

Dáil Éireann 12/03/2013 Written Answers: Traveller Accommodation

Deputy Joan Collins asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government Phil Hogan the position regarding the recent underspend of €50 million by local authorities on Traveller accommodation in view of the latest European Commission Report against Racism and Intolerance regarding Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013031200053?opendocument#WRB03600>

Dáil Éireann 13/03/2013: Anti-Social Behaviour

Deputy Robert Troy asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government Phil Hogan the measures in place for residents to deal with anti social behaviour in housing estates; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013031300081?opendocument#WRR00150>

Dáil Éireann 12/03/2013 Written Answers: Maintenance orders

Deputy Clare Daly asked the Minister for Justice and Equality Alan Shatter the steps he will take to ensure that maintenance orders are enforced.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013031200070?opendocument>

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