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## 1. This week in the Oireachtas (22 April - 26 April 2013)

<http://www.oireachtas.ie/viewdoc.asp?DocID=23301&&CatID=60>

## 2. Oireachtas Questions and Debate (15 April -19 April 2013)

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

### **Dáil Éireann 16/04/2013 Child Care Costs**

**Deputy Robert Troy** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald the action she is taking to make child care more affordable here; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013041600003?opendocument>

### **Dáil Éireann 16/04/2013 Written Answers: Early Childhood Education**

**Deputy Jonathan O'Brien** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald if she will respond to the findings of an evaluation of an Early Years Service that is coordinated by Childhood Development Initiative which showed that in countries like Finland, well-funded pre-

school supports can help children overcome many of the barriers that otherwise prevent them from achieving their potential at school; and if she has plans to implement some of the findings contained in the report.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013041600095?opendocument#WRTT02950>

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

### **Dáil Éireann 16/04/2013 Legislative Programme**

**Deputy Robert Troy** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald the legislation she will introduce between now and the summer recess; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013041600009?opendocument>

### **Dáil Éireann 17/04/2013 Written Answers: UN Convention on Children's Rights**

**Deputy Thomas P. Broughan** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald her plans to sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure; if she can give an indication as to when signature and ratification of the Convention will take place; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013041700086?opendocument#WRAA00850>

### **Dáil Éireann 16/04/2013 Child and Family Support Agency Establishment**

Deputy Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald if she will clarify the factual position regarding the now anticipated official commencement of operations by the Child and Family Support Agency; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013041600005?opendocument>

### **Dáil Éireann 17/04/2013 Written Answers: Child and Family Support Agency Remit**

**Deputy Finian McGrath** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald if she will confirm that family resource centres will form an integral part of the new Child and Family Support Agency when it is established; the role family resource centres will play in the new Child and Family Support Agency; if she will commit to providing adequate funding to family resource centres in order for them to carry out their obligations to the community under the new Child and Family Support Agency; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013041700086?opendocument#WRAA00850>

### **Dáil Éireann 16/04/2013 Written Answers: Children's Strategy**

**Deputy Jonathan O'Brien** Jonathan O'Brien asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald if the cross-departmental consultations on the proposed new Children and Young People's Policy Framework have concluded as anticipated by end of March, 2013; if the analysis of the public consultation is nearing completion; her now anticipated time-frame for the publication of the new Policy Framework; and if she will make a statement on the

matter. <http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013041600054?opendocument#WRC00125>

#### **Dáil Éireann 16/04/2013 Written Answers: Child Care Services**

**Deputy Peadar Tóibín** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald if she will report on the progress made towards the introduction of a statutory right to aftercare for all young adults leaving the care system who seek and require continuing support; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013041600054?opendocument#WRC00125>

#### **Dáil Éireann 16/04/2013 Written Answers: Youth Services**

**Deputy Róisín Shortall** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald the basis for the budgetary cuts to youth services; and if she will provide an undertaking to minimise the impact of these on front-line services, and to protect services in the most disadvantaged

areas. <http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013041600054?opendocument#WRC01050>

**Deputy Bernard Durkan** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald her proposals over the next three years for the provision of support services for the youth with particular reference to the need to address such issues as cyber or other forms of bullying and intimidation; if she has received any submissions in this regard; if she expects to be in a position to set out primary guidelines; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013041600054?opendocument#WRC01350>

#### **Dáil Éireann 16/04/2013 Written Answers: Proposed Legislation**

**Deputy Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald the position regarding her preparations for the presentation to the Dáil of the adoption amendment legislation arising from the successful passage of the Children's Rights Referendum; the additional areas she is planning to include; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013041600054?opendocument#WRC01550>

#### **Dáil Éireann 16/04/2013 Written Answers: Children and Family Services**

**Deputy Bernard Durkan** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald the extent to which she has identified the full scope and extent of the responsibilities of her Department including the budgetary requirements over the next three years; the degree to which she has identified any shortcomings in the system in regard to the well-being and protection of children including early warning systems and the provision of stress-testing of the services to ensure an adequacy of response to meet the challenges of the modern era; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013041600054?opendocument#WRC01750>

#### **Dáil Éireann 16/04/2013 Written Answers: Foster Care provision**

**Deputy Dessie Ellis** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald the steps she is taking to address the deficiencies highlighted by the Health Information and Quality Authority regarding the fostering service in the Dublin North West area; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013041600054?opendocument#WRC01950>

**Dáil Éireann 16/04/2013 Written Answers: Departmental Strategies**

**Deputy Nicky McFadden** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald if the development of socially funded child care, after-school care and community based education programmes will form part of the Irish social investment strategy; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013041600095?opendocument#WRTT00550>

**Dáil Éireann 16/04/2013 Written Answers: Child Care Services**

**Deputy Joe McHugh** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald with reference to the €2.75m fund for maintaining the upkeep of interior services, equipment and natural outdoor spaces for all children, if she will clarify which types of childcare settings are eligible for this funding; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013041600095?opendocument#WRTT01550>

**Dáil Éireann 16/04/2013 Written Answers: Child Care Services**

**Deputy Stephen Donnelly** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald if he will release the analysis undertaken prior to removing Health Service Executive funding from the Childminder Advisory Officers; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013041600095?opendocument#WRTT01950>

**Dáil Éireann 16/04/2013 Written Answers: Children and Family Services**

**Deputy Róisín Shortall** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald if she will agree to an early meeting with a cross-party group of TDs which recently met with CDYSB funded projects which will suffer significant funding cuts, in order to discuss the implications of these cuts for young persons in the Dublin city area; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013041600095?opendocument#WRTT03150>

**Dáil Éireann 16/04/2013 Written Answers: Children Services Committees**

**Deputy Róisín Shortall** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald further to Parliamentary Question No. 236 of 21 march 2013, her plans to deal with the considerable variation in geographical coverage of the various agencies she mentions as being part of the CSC initiative.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013041600095?opendocument&highlight=child%20and%20family#WRTT03550>

## Family: Including adoption

**Dáil Éireann 16/04/2013 Written Answers: Illegal Adoptions**

**Deputy Clare Daly** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald if she will adopt a similar approach as that of the Australian government in apologising and acknowledging the people who were illegally adopted in that State.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013041600054?opendocument#WRC01950>

#### **Dáil Éireann 16/04/2013 Written Answers: Inter-Country Adoption**

Deputy Robert Troy asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald when inter country adoptions between Ireland and Vietnam will resume; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013041600095?opendocument#WRTT00950>

#### **Dáil Éireann 16/04/2013 Written Answers: Adoption legislation**

**Deputy Pádraig MacLochlainn** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald if her attention has been drawn to the judgment of the European Court of Human rights in X and Others v Austria on discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation in step-parent adoption and the implications for the legal system here; her plans to amend Irish law to become ECHR compliant in this area; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013041600095?opendocument#WRTT02550>

**Deputy Patrick O'Donovan** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald if she will consider initiating discussions between Ireland and Belarus on the matter of inter-country adoptions; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013041600095?opendocument#WRTT03150>

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

#### **Dáil Éireann 16/04/2013 Written Answers: Child Protection Issues**

**Deputy Mick Wallace** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald the action she has taken to date to address ongoing concerns in relation to child protection and welfare for children living in the direct provision system, as highlighted by the 2012 Irish Refugee Council report State sanctioned child poverty and exclusion; if she is working with the Department of Justice and Equality to review the existing child protection safeguards in direct provision centres; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013041600054?opendocument#WRC00850>

#### **Dáil Éireann 16/04/2013 Written Answers: Child Protection Services**

**Deputy Mary Lou McDonald** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald the position regarding the review of child protection practices across all Catholic Church dioceses; the numbers and names of those completed; the number and names of those underway; when she expects that the remaining reviews will get underway; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013041600054?opendocument#WRC01950>

#### **Dáil Éireann 16/04/2013 Written Answers: Child Death Review Group Report**

**Deputy Dara Calleary** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald the action she has taken following on from the report of the Independent Child Death Review Group; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013041600054?opendocument#WRC01950>

**Dáil Éireann 16/04/2013 Written Answers: Child Abuse**

**Deputy Denis Naughten** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald when the audit of serious neglect cases will be published; the reason for the delay in its publication; if she is concerned that the audit report which was produced on foot of a specific recommendation of a public inquiry has not yet been published two years after it has been completed; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013041600054?opendocument#WRC01950>

**Dáil Éireann 16/04/2013 Written Answers: Child Care Services**

**Deputy Denis Naughten** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald the progress made to date in implementing the recommendations in the report on the Roscommon Child Care Case; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013041600095?opendocument#WRTT02350>

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

**Joint Committee on Transport and Communications 17/04/2013 Sponsorship of Major Sporting Events by Drinks Industry: Discussion with Alcohol Action Ireland and College of Psychiatrists of Ireland**

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/committeetakes/TRJ2013041700003?opendocument>

**Dáil Éireann 19/04/2013 Maternity Protection (Members of the Houses of the Oireachtas) Bill 2013: Second Stage [Private Members]**

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013041900003?opendocument>

**Dáil Éireann 16/04/2013 Written Answers: Children and Family Services**

**Deputy Seán Crowe** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald the number of social workers who have received and who are currently receiving, child and adolescent mental health training; her plans to extend this training to all social workers dealing with children and young adults; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013041600054?opendocument#WRC01950>

## Child Benefit/Social Welfare/Poverty/Housing

**Dáil Éireann 16/04/2013 Written Answers: Child Poverty**

**Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald the amount spent on area based approach to child poverty to date; and the plans and projected cost for further improvement in this year.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013041600095?opendocument#WRTT02550>

## Justice Issues/ Human Rights/Equality

### **Dáil Éireann 16/04/2013 Written Answers: Anti-Social Behaviour**

**Deputy Sandra McLellan** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald if his attention has been drawn to the relationship between Youth Services in Dublin and community policing, and impact of this in reducing crime and anti-social behaviour in working class communities, and that cuts to funding of such services will alter this relationship and put additional pressure on disadvantaged communities; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013041600095?opendocument#WRTT00350>

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