

(Supplementary Order Paper)

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DÁIL ÉIREANN

Dé Máirt, 27 Eanáir, 2009
Tuesday, 27th January, 2009

2.30 p.m.

GNÓ COMHALTAÍ PRÍOBHÁIDEACHA
PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Fógra i dtaobh leasú ar Thairscint : Notice of Amendment to Motion

48. “That Dáil Éireann:

expressing its serious concern at:

- the shocking and disturbing revelations of neglect and physical and sexual abuse suffered by six children in Roscommon; and
- the failure of the Western Health Board to appropriately intervene at an early stage;

calls on the Government to:

- appoint an Independent Commission pursuant to the Commissions of Investigation Act 2004 to examine all of the family circumstances relating to the six Roscommon children whose mother was convicted of incest and other offences of child abuse and neglect in Roscommon Circuit Court on Wednesday, 19th January, 2009;
- ensure that such investigation has specific regard to the actions and child protection practices and procedures of:
 - the former Western Health Board and the Health Service Executive;
 - all school and religious authorities and personnel who had contact with the children;
 - doctors and nurses who had contact with the children; and in addition
 - has regard to the actions, if any, of other relevant persons and organisations which affected the approach taken by the Western Health Board or who were in a position to report child neglect or abuse;
- ensure that the terms of reference of the Commission also require it to investigate the action taken by Government and more particularly by successive Ministers for Health and Children and Ministers for Children to ensure the effective implementation of the Children First Child Protection Guidelines of 1999, and to implement the outstanding relevant recommendations contained in the Report of the Committee of Enquiry into the death of Kelly Fitzgerald, published by the Joint Oireachtas Committee on the Family in April, 1996; and
- ensure that the Minister for Health and Children and the Minister for Children both

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take all necessary and immediate action to ensure that all children at risk receive the protection to which they are entitled under our current law and that our Child Protection Guidelines are effectively and uniformly implemented throughout the State.” — *Alan Shatter, Enda Kenny, Bernard Allen, James Bannon, Seán Barrett, Pat Breen, Richard Bruton, Ulick Burke, Catherine Byrne, Joe Carey, Deirdre Clune, Paul Connaughton, Noel J. Coonan, Simon Coveney, Seymour Crawford, Michael Creed, Lucinda Creighton, Michael D’Arcy, John Deasy, Jimmy Deenihan, Andrew Doyle, Bernard J. Durkan, Damien English, Olwyn Enright, Frank Feighan, Charles Flanagan, Terence Flanagan, Brian Hayes, Tom Hayes, Phil Hogan, Paul Kehoe, Pádraic McCormack, Shane McEntee, Dinny McGinley, Joe McHugh, Olivia Mitchell, Denis Naughten, Dan Neville, Michael Noonan, Kieran O’Donnell, Fergus O’Dowd, Jim O’Keeffe, John O’Mahony, John Perry, James Reilly, Michael Ring, Tom Sheahan, P. J. Sheehan, David Stanton, Billy Timmins, Leo Varadkar.*

Leasú:

Amendment:

1. To delete all words after “Dáil Éireann” and substitute the following:

“in expressing its deepest concern at the circumstances surrounding the case of incest, severe child abuse and neglect involving six children heard before Roscommon Circuit Court last week:

- welcomes the HSE’s setting up of an independent inquiry into these appalling events to:
 - examine the entire management of the case from a care perspective;
 - identify any shortcomings/deficits in the care management process; and
 - make a report on the findings and learning arising from the investigation;
- acknowledges the extremely difficult and complex work carried out by HSE staff in the area of child protection in particular;
- recognises the HSE’s work to reform child and family services which includes commitments to:
 - put in place national standards relating to social work and its practice; and
 - work with the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs to advance social work practice and organisational reform in the context of the Government’s overall policy for children’s services — the ‘Agenda for Children Services’;
- acknowledges the steps being taken by the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs in coordinating and leading policy development and actions to bring about improvements in the delivery of services for children within its specific policy remit and across the public service;
- commends investments in the provision of services for children which have been made by recent Governments since 1997; and
- commends the work of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on the Constitutional Amendment on Children, chaired by Mrs. Mary O’Rourke, T.D., and in particular, the recommendation included in the Committee’s interim report of September 11th, 2008, with regard to the preparation and publication of legislation to give legal authority for the collection and exchange of information concerning the risk or the occurrence of endangerment, sexual exploitation or sexual abuse of children.” — *Barra Mac Aindriú, Aire Stáit ag an Roinn Sláinte agus Leanaí.*