

people **news**

Connacht Gold

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Photo: Connacht Dairy - 2013 April

CHAMPAGNE CHARLIES!

Naughten slams doubling of entertainment budget

Speaking in the Dail on Wednesday night, Sinn Féin TD Denis Naughten described the fact that the Department of Health could double its entertainment budget at the same time as services for children with a profound intellectual disability were being withdrawn as "disgraceful".

"This week we had parents and families of 13 children with cerebral palsy disabilities protesting outside the gates of the Dail about cuts in the services provided to disabled children. At the same time, certain Government Departments had a crisis of conscience with regard to 'stag hunting' visits

Denis Naughten.

"We have not heard a single word from them about the decision to give €12,000 million to a repair fund. Yet the most vulnerable people in society, many of whom cannot speak for themselves, will have to live on their shoulders the debt resulting from that decision."

"The crisis has resulted from the (IEA's) decision to take €113 million more than was agreed from the anti-fraud disability budget, which will lead to the reduction of services provided by the Brothers of Charity in families in County Down, Co. Wick and Co. Galway

It is getting that the Brothers of Charity has to look at reducing valuable respite services to families and is under immense pressure to balance the books while at the same time the Department of Health and Children has increased its budget for after-school care by 67 percent, its budget for consulting services by 600 percent and its entertainment budget from €100,000 to €200,000.

"These appalling facts demonstrate the lack of priority of this Government, which is turning its back on the most vulnerable people in our community," concluded Denis Naughten.

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