

On the Issue of Nursing Home Charges

16th February 2005

Speech by Liz O'Donnell

Speech by Liz O'Donnell on the Special Dáil Debate on the issue of Nursing Homes Charges

Quite apart from all of the emotive issues which have been raised today about the care of our elderly in long-term care and the legality or otherwise of the deductions, no political party opposed the making of these charges over the years.

Some 11 successive Governments found no fault in these charges, although individual Deputies have raised questions, including Deputy Sherlock, who stated that he has been doing so for 15 years. Given that the Labour Party was in Government with Fine Gael and others between 1992 and 1997, why did the party not take action then?

Mr. Neville: *They did not want to answer the questions.*

Ms O'Donnell: This is true in the case of the Department of Agriculture and Food in regard to the establishment of the beef tribunal. It was stated in the beef tribunal report that had questions in the Dáil to the relevant Ministers and Departments been properly replied to, there would have been no cause for the tribunal.

In this case, successive Ministers were kept in the dark about the questions around the justifiability of these deductions.

For further information see:

- [Department of Health and Children](#)