

STANDING ORDER 6 – Organisation of Business	
Periodic Timetable	
Title: Periodic <u>Assembly</u> Timetable	Amend this title Replace ‘Periodic timetable’ with ‘Assembly Timetable’.
<p>6.1 From time to time, the Business Committee must table a motion proposing, for periods of not less than six months:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) outline timetables of plenary meetings; (ii) times available for committee meetings; (iii) times available for meetings of political groups; (iv) recesses; and (v) dates for questions for oral answer by the First Minister, Welsh Ministers, the Counsel General and the Commission. 	<p>Amend this Standing Order</p> <p>Standing Order 6.1 has not been implemented in the Third Assembly. However, it is proposed that it should be retained and implemented in future. It would provide underpinning certainty about the organisation of plenary business (see paragraphs 11 and 12 of the covering paper).</p> <p>(iii) Delete - timetabling of political group meetings is not a matter for Standing Orders.</p>
<p>6.2 Motions under Standing Order 6.1 must have regard to the family and constituency or electoral region responsibilities of Members and their likely travel arrangements; and should normally seek to avoid timetabling business before 9.00am or after 6.00pm on any working day.</p>	<p>Amend this Standing Order</p> <p>It is unnecessary to specify “their likely travel arrangements” as well. This is covered by their constituency or electoral region responsibilities.</p>
Weekly Business	
<p>6.3 In each week that the Assembly meets in plenary, the Minister with responsibility for government business must:</p>	Amend this Standing Order

<p>(i) make a statement about the organisation of government business in plenary; and</p> <p>(ii) at the same time, announce the organisation of non-government and Assembly business in plenary,</p> <p>for the first week after the week when the statement is made, together with the provisional organisation of business for the two subsequent weeks.</p>	<p>A new “Assembly business” category would capture all business currently defined as “Assembly” or “non-government” business.</p> <p>“Assembly business” would encompass all categories of business currently defined as “non-government” or “Assembly” business. There would therefore only be two categories of business in future: “Government” and “Assembly” business.</p>
<p>6.4 The organisation of government business in plenary must be determined by the government.</p>	<p>No amendment necessary</p>
<p>6.5 The organisation of <u>Assembly</u> non-government business in plenary must be determined by the Business Committee, in accordance with Standing Order 11.7(ii).</p>	<p>Amend this Standing Order</p> <p>The organisation of all “Assembly business” would be subject to qualified weighted voting in Business Committee as currently applies to “non-government business”; other decisions in Business Committee would remain subject to full weighted voting (see also amendments to 11.7).</p>
<p>6.6 The organisation of Assembly business in plenary must be determined by the Business Committee, in accordance with Standing Order 11.7 (iii).</p>	<p>Delete this Standing Order</p> <p>Unnecessary provision as a consequence of changing the definition of “Assembly business”. It is now captured by 6.5.</p>
<p>6.7 Every item of business referred to in the statement and announcement must have an allotted time assigned to it.</p>	<p>No amendment necessary</p>
<p>6.8 An item of business referred to in the statement or announcement (other than any item of business when amendments to legislation are to be considered) may be designated (by the government if it is government</p>	<p>Amend this Standing Order</p>

<p>business or by the Business Committee if it is non-government or Assembly business) as an item of business where any vote necessary to dispose of the business is to be deferred to a specified time later on the same day.</p> <p>Replace with:</p> <p><u>In relation to any item of business referred to in the statement or announcement (other than any item of business when amendments to legislation are to be considered), the Government (if it is government business) or Business Committee (if it is Assembly business) may:</u></p> <p>(i) <u>specify a time no earlier than which any vote(s) necessary to dispose of the business is to be taken, unless the business is decided in accordance with Standing Order 7.30A; and</u></p> <p>(ii) <u>decide that Standing Order 7.30A should not apply to an item of business and specify a time at which any vote necessary to dispose of that item of business is to be taken..</u></p>	<p>The voting provisions have been changed to reflect established practice.</p> <p>6.8(i) this is a new provision which reflects the established practice that Business Committee agrees a ‘Voting Time’ in Committee for all items which are not agreed on the nod during the course of the plenary session (voting on the nod is now covered by SO 7.30A).</p> <p>6.8(ii) This is a simplified version of the current SO 6.8 which enables the Government or Business Committee to agree a specific voting time for any particular item of business - any vote necessary would be deferred to the specified time.</p>
<p>6.9 The Presiding Officer may permit questions to be asked of the Minister with responsibility for government business for not longer than 30 minutes after the statement has been made, but no vote may be taken on the statement or announcement.</p>	<p>Delete this Standing Order</p> <p>It is not possible to vote on a statement, therefore there is no need to state that no vote may be taken on the business statement announcement.</p> <p>There is now a new general provision on statements, which would cover this (see SO 7.41A and 7.42B).</p>
<p>6.10 The statement and announcement constitute the timetable for business in plenary for the first week after the week when the statement and announcement were made.</p>	<p>No amendment necessary.</p>

Business Notice	
Title: Business Notice <u>of Business</u>	Amend this title Delete 'Business' and add 'of Business' after 'Notice'.
<p>6.11 As soon as possible after each plenary meeting, the Clerk must publish <u>and maintain details of a forthcoming business notice</u> which must include the notice of plenary and committee agendas, together with information about any of the following which have been tabled or laid before the Assembly since the last business notice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) oral and written questions; (ii) motions and amendments to motions; (iii) proposed and draft legislative competence orders; (iv) proposed Measures and amendments to proposed Measures; (v) subordinate legislation or draft subordinate legislation; and (vi) any documents laid before the Assembly. 	Amend this Standing Order The Standing Order currently requires the publication of a "Business notice". There is no "business notice" as such, however all the information it has to include is published as soon as possible. Therefore the concept of a "Business Notice" is replaced by a duty to publish notice of business, reflecting established practice.

STANDING ORDER 7 - Business in Plenary Meetings		
Plenary Meetings		
7.1	Plenary meetings of the Assembly must take place in public and broadcasting access must be permitted in accordance with such arrangements as the Commission may from time to time agree.	No amendment necessary
7.2	The Assembly must meet in plenary in accordance with Standing Orders 6 and 7.	No amendment necessary
7.3	If no meeting is timetabled for a particular date or time, the Presiding Officer may, at the request of the First Minister, summon the Assembly to consider a matter of urgent public importance.	No amendment necessary
7.4	So far as is reasonably practicable, any documents provided for business taken in plenary meetings must be made publicly available.	No amendment necessary
7.5	Any documents referred to in Standing Order 7.4 must be made available to the Secretary of State for Wales at the same time as they are to Members.	No amendment necessary

<p><u>7.5A Plenary meetings must usually:</u></p> <p><u>(i) be held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and start at 1.30pm;</u></p> <p><u>(ii) take government business first.</u></p>	<p>Insert new Standing Order</p> <p>This would replace the following Standing Orders: 7.7, 7.8 and 7.9. 7.5A would still be subject to the requirement of SO 6.2 which requires business hours to be “family friendly.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) This would allow more flexibility as to Plenary days and start times. (ii) This would allow more flexibility on when “government” or “Assembly” items can be taken in plenary, however government items “must usually” be taken first as is our current practice.
<p>Categories and Order of Plenary Business</p>	
<p>Title: Categories and Order of Plenary Business</p>	<p>Amend this title</p> <p>All Standing Order provisions relating to categories of business would be moved to the revised Standing Order 6: Organisation of Business. All that would remain in Standing Order 7 would be those relating to the order of business in plenary.</p>
<p>7.6 The aggregate of time allocated as between government and non-government <u>Assembly</u> business in plenary meetings in an Assembly year must, so far as is reasonably practicable, be in the proportion of 3:2.</p>	<p>Move to revised Standing Order 6: Organisation of Business and amend this Standing Order</p> <p>This requires amending as a consequence of changing the definition of “Assembly business”.</p>
<p>7.7 Plenary meetings are normally to be held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays when the allocation of sitting time must be in accordance with Standing Orders 7.8 and 7.9.</p>	<p>Delete this Standing Order</p> <p>This is replaced by SO 7.5A read with SO 7.6.</p>

<p>7.8 — Tuesday plenary meetings must usually:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) start at 1.30pm; (ii) consider Assembly business under Standing Order 7.10(i) to 7.10(vii) and government business only; and (iii) subject to Standing Order 7.16 or any procedural motion under Standing Order 7.28, finish no later than 6pm. 	<p>Delete this Standing Order</p> <p>This is replaced by SO 7.5A – see above.</p>
<p>7.9 — Wednesday plenary meetings must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) usually start at <u>1.30pm</u>; (ii) <u>usually</u> consider government business from 1.30pm to 2.30pm, and Assembly and non-government business from 2.30pm; and (iii) subject to Standing Order 7.16 or any procedural motion under Standing Order 7.28, finish no later than 6pm. 	<p>Delete this Standing Order</p> <p>This is replaced by SO 7.5A – see above.</p>
<p>7.10 — For the purposes of Standing Orders 6, 7 and 11, Assembly business includes proceedings on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) — motions under Standing Order 7.42 or 7.43; (ii) — statements by the Presiding Officer; (iii) — introduction of new Members; (iv) — obituary tributes to former Members and others; 	<p>Delete this Standing Order</p> <p>Assembly business and non-government business are now all captured by a new “Assembly” business category as defined in the amended SO 7.12</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (v) elections, nominations or appointments by the Assembly; (vi) personal statements; (vii) motions to remake or revise Standing Orders; (viii) any urgent debate proposed by a member of the Commission, which relates to the Commission’s functions, under Standing Order 7.58; (ix) oral questions to the Commission; (x) statements by the Commission about any matter coming within the responsibilities of the Commission; (xi) any matter under Standing Order 7.61; and (xii) debates on reports submitted by the Committee on Standards of Conduct. 	
<p>7.11 For the purposes of Standing Orders 6, 7 and 11, government business includes proceedings on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) oral questions (other than oral questions to the Commission); (ii) any urgent debate proposed by a member of the government under Standing Order 7.58; (iii) statements by a member of the government; (iv) any budget motion; 	<p>Move to revised Standing Order 6: Organisation of Business and amend this Standing Order</p> <p>The definition of “government business” is simplified by deleting any unnecessary provisions. The category is too prescriptive as it stands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (iv) This is covered by 7.11(ix) (vi) This is covered by 7.11(ix) (vii) This is covered by 7.11(ix) (viii) This is covered by 7.11(ix)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (v) legislation where the Member in charge of the legislation is a member of the government; (vi) any motion under Standing Order 24.4; (vii) any matter under Standing Order 7.62; (viii) a legislative consent motion under Standing Order 26.4; and (ix) any other motion moved <u>tabled</u> by a member of the government (other than a motion relating to Assembly or non-government business): 	<p>(x) This is corrected to reflect established practice (i.e. if the Business Minister moves a motion tabled by the Presiding Officer, it is not “government business”, it would still be “Assembly business”).</p>
<p>7.12 For the purposes of Standing Orders 6, 7 and 11, non-government <u>Assembly business</u> includes proceedings on: <u>all other items of business except for those listed under Standing Order 7.11.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) any urgent debate proposed by a Member, who is not a member of the government, under Standing Order 7.58; (ii) legislation where the Member in charge of the legislation is not a member of the government; (iii) any motion under Standing Order 24.2; (iv) any matters under Standing Order 7.63; (v) Short Debates under Standing Order 7.64; and (vi) any other motion moved by a Member who is not a member of the government (other than a motion relating to Assembly or government business): 	<p>Move to revised Standing Order 6: Organisation of Business and amend this Standing Order</p> <p>This defines the new category of “Assembly business” – it captures all business previously listed under 7.10 and 7.12. The definition is simplified by reference to what is defined as “Government business” i.e. everything else will be considered “Assembly business”. The categories are otherwise too prescriptive.</p>

<p>7.13 The Presiding Officer must determine any question as to whether a matter is Assembly, government or Assembly non-government business.</p>	<p>Move to revised Standing Order 6: Organisation of Business and amend this Standing Order</p> <p>This requires amending as a consequence of changing the definition of “Assembly business”.</p>
<p>7.14 Business must be called by the Presiding Officer and taken in the order in which it appears in the plenary agenda, subject to Standing Order 7.15.</p>	<p>No amendment necessary</p>
<p>7.33 <u>7.14A</u> If proceedings on an item of business conclude before the end of the time allotted to it, the next business (if any) must then be taken.</p>	<p>Move existing Standing Order 7.33 to this position</p> <p>This Standing Order has been moved from SO 7.33 to the appropriate section on “Order of Plenary Business” which sets out how the Presiding Officer manages the business on the agenda. At the moment it is listed under the section on voting. Standing Order 7.33 therefore becomes SO 7.14A.</p>
<p>7.15 The categories of business that may be taken at a plenary meeting without notice, <u>with the agreement of the Presiding Officer</u>, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) business under Standing Orders 7.10(ii), (iii), (iv), (vi), (viii), (x); (ii) business under Standing Orders 7.11(ii), (iii); (iii) business under Standing Order 7.12(i); (iv) procedural motions under Standing Order 7.25; and (v) points of order relating to the conduct of business. 	<p>Amend this Standing Order</p> <p>This is amended to include “with the agreement of the Presiding Officer” as is the established practice.</p> <p>The cross-references have been deleted as they no longer exist but replaced by the explanatory list, so all items previously included under 7.15 would still be covered:</p> <p>Current 7.15 (i) - now covered by 7.15(i)A, , (ii)A, (iii)A, (v)A, (vi)A.</p> <p>Current 7.15 (ii) - now covered by 7.15 (i)A, (iii)A</p> <p>Current 7.15 (iii) - now covered by 7.15 (vi)A</p> <p>Current 7.15 (iv) - replicated as (vii)A</p>

<p><u>(i)A statements by the Presiding Officer, a member of the government or by the Commission about any matter within the responsibilities of the Commission;</u></p> <p><u>(ii)A introduction of new Members;</u></p> <p><u>(iii)A obituary tributes to former Members and others;</u></p> <p><u>(iv)A elections, nominations or appointments by the Assembly;</u></p> <p><u>(v)A personal statements;</u></p> <p><u>(vi)A any urgent debate proposed by a member under Standing Order 7.58;</u></p> <p><u>(vii)A procedural motions under Standing Order 7.25;</u></p> <p><u>(viii)A points of order relating to the content of business; and</u></p> <p><u>(ix)A any other matters as the Presiding Officer considers appropriate.</u></p>	<p>Current 7.15 (v) - replicated as (viii)A</p> <p>Also added to the list are:</p> <p><u>(iv)A elections, nominations or appointments by the Assembly – this would be used exceptionally. However it would allow, for example, for any Committee membership changes (where groups replace their Members) to be taken at the next plenary session without having to suspend Standing Orders as is currently the case.</u></p> <p><u>(ix)A any other matters as the Presiding Officer considers appropriate. – this is a catch-all provision to allow greater flexibility.</u></p>
<p>7.16 If an item of business is taken without notice, the <u>The Presiding Officer may make any necessary arrangements to adjust the timetable for business on that day (including by extending the length of the sitting), in order to facilitate the effective conduct of business.</u></p>	<p>Amend this Standing Order</p> <p>This is made into a more general provision to reflect established practice.</p>
<p>8.15-7.16A <u>In any circumstance where he or she thinks it appropriate to do so, the Presiding Officer may adjourn proceedings without putting any proposition to the vote, or</u></p>	<p>Move an amended Standing Order 8.15 to this position</p> <p>No material change. 8.15 is a general provision and can be applied</p>

<p><u>may suspend proceedings for a specified time.</u></p>	<p>“in any circumstance”. It would therefore be useful to have the general provision listed under the appropriate section on “Order of Plenary Business” which sets out how the Presiding Officer manages the business on the agenda. At the moment it is listed under “Maintenance of Order” (SO 8.15), and an adjournment or suspension may be necessary for reasons other than to maintain order.</p>
<p>Motions</p>	
<p>7.17 Business in plenary meetings must proceed on the basis of motions proposed, except for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) statements by the Presiding Officer; (ii) introduction of new Members; (iii) obituary tributes to former Members and others; (iv) oral questions; (v) <u>any urgent debates matters the Assembly resolves to consider</u> under Standing Order 7.58; <u>and</u> (vi) where a Member proposes a topic for a Short Debate under Standing Order 7.64. 	<p>Amend this Standing Order</p> <p>7.17 (i) Technical correction.</p> <p>7.17 (v) revised wording for sake of clarity – no material change.</p>
<p>7.18 Except where Standing Orders provide otherwise, a motion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) must be tabled at least five working days before it is to be debated; and (ii) may be proposed by any Member; <u>and</u> (iii) <u>must be tabled in accordance with Standing Order 29.</u> 	<p>Amend this Standing Order</p> <p>7.18 (i) This makes it clear that it is not necessary to have an item of business scheduled in the business statement (i.e. an agreed date for the debate) before Members may table a motion.</p> <p>7.18 (iii) this is a signposting provision - Standing Order 29 sets out the rules about how to table motions.</p>

<p><u>7.18A Any Member may add his or her name to a motion by notifying the Clerk at any time until the end of the working day before it is due to be considered in the plenary meeting.</u></p>	<p>Insert new Standing Order</p> <p>This is a new provision to enable Members to add their names to tabled motions or amendments if they wish to indicate their support (it follows practice which currently applies only to legislative amendments). If the Business Committee in future wished to pursue the option of introducing backbench time on the basis of motions tabled, this would be one way for them to gauge the level of support from other Members (see also 7.19 below).</p>
<p>7.19 Except where Standing Orders provide otherwise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) <u>amendments may</u> be proposed to any motion and must be tabled at least three working days before the motion is to be debated; <u>and</u> (ii) <u>any Member may add his or her name to an amendment by notifying the Clerk at any time until the end of the working day before it is due to be considered in the plenary meeting.</u> 	<p>Amend this Standing Order</p> <p>7.19 (ii) Add a new provision - as for legislative amendments- other Members can add their names to indicate their support for amendments (see also 7.18A above). The provisions on selection of amendments by the Presiding Officer has been separated and now appear in 7.19A.</p>
<p><u>7.19A</u> The Presiding Officer may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) group related amendments and require them to be proposed as a group; (ii) determine the order in which amendments which arise in the same place in the motion are taken; and (iii) decline to select an amendment where he or she considers that the proper conduct of business makes it appropriate to do so. 	<p>Move part of Standing Order 7.19 to create new Standing Order 7.19A</p> <p>No material change. 7.19 has been divided into two Standing Orders as a consequence of the amendment to 7.19 above.</p>

<p>7.20 The Presiding Officer may propose that motions be debated together, but if any Member objects to the proposal, the motions must be debated separately.</p>	<p>No amendment necessary</p>
<p>7.21 A motion or amendment which refers to any document may not be tabled unless the document is available to all Members.</p>	<p>No amendment necessary</p>
<p>7.22 If it appears to the Presiding Officer that a motion or amendment has been tabled in breach of the requirements of Standing Order 7.21, the Presiding Officer must not permit it to be debated until the document has been made available to all Members and such further time has elapsed as the Presiding Officer considers appropriate.</p>	<p>No amendment necessary</p>
<p><u>7.22A A motion or amendment which has been moved may only be withdrawn with the unanimous agreement of the Assembly.</u></p>	<p>Insert new Standing Order This is a well-established convention. It is set out in Standing Order 23.77 in relation to legislative amendments, but there is no explicit provision in relation to amendments or motions in general. It is helpful to have it set out in Standing Orders for transparency.</p>
<p>Procedural Motions</p>	
<p>7.23 Procedural motions take precedence over other business and the provisions of Standing Order 7.18 relating to the notice period for tabling motions do not apply.</p>	<p>No amendment necessary</p>
<p>7.24 The Presiding Officer may permit a Member to speak briefly in favour of any procedural motion, and another Member to speak briefly against, and must then put the motion to the vote.</p>	<p>No amendment necessary</p>

<p>7.25 The following matters may be proposed in procedural motions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the postponement of an item of business in accordance with Standing Order 7.26; (ii) the referral of a matter to a committee; (iii) the closure of debate in accordance with Standing Order 7.27; (iv) the extension of the time allotted to an item of business in accordance with Standing Order 7.28; (v) the adjournment of an item of business in accordance with Standing Order 7.29; and (vi) such other matters as the Presiding Officer considers appropriate. 	<p>No amendment necessary</p>
<p>7.26 A motion to postpone an item of business may be proposed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the Member in charge of the item of business; (ii) another Member nominated to the Presiding Officer in advance by the Member in charge of the item of business; or (iii) in the case of government business, a member of the government. <p>If the motion is agreed to, the Presiding Officer must make arrangements for the adjustment of the timetable for business</p>	<p>No amendment necessary</p>

<p>as he or she considers appropriate.</p>	
<p>7.27 At any time after a motion or an amendment has been proposed, a Member may move that the motion or amendment should be voted on immediately; but the Presiding Officer may put that motion to the vote only if at least ten Members express support and if he or she is satisfied that to do so would not be an abuse of the Assembly’s procedures or an infringement of the rights of minorities in the Assembly.</p>	<p>No amendment necessary</p>
<p>7.28 A motion to extend the time allotted to an item of business by a specified period may be proposed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the Member in charge of the item of business; (ii) another Member nominated to the Presiding Officer in advance by the Member in charge of the item of business; or (iii) in the case of government business, a member of the government. <p>If the motion is agreed to, the whole of the business day is deemed to have been extended by the specified amount of time.</p>	<p>No amendment necessary</p>
<p>7.29 A motion to adjourn an item of business (either to a specified day or to no named day) may be proposed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the Member in charge of the item of business; (ii) another Member nominated to the Presiding Officer in advance by the Member in charge of the item of business; or 	<p>No amendment necessary</p>

<p>(iii) in the case of government business, a member of the government.</p>	
<p>Decisions on Motions and Amendments</p>	<p>Amend this section</p> <p>This section sets out how voting should be conducted. They have been changed to reflect the established practice of Business Committee deciding on a “Voting Time” and decisions either being made “on the nod” or deferred to voting time. See also SO 6.8 above which is how Business Committee determines when voting time should take place.</p>
<p>7.30 At the end of the time allotted to any item of business, the Presiding Officer must interrupt the business and:</p> <p>(i) if the business has been designated under Standing Order 6.8, proceed to the next item of business; or</p> <p>(ii) in any other case, invite the Assembly to vote on any questions necessary to dispose of the business.</p>	<p>Delete this Standing Order</p>
<p><u>7.30A Subject to Standing Order 6.8(ii), at the end of proceedings on an item of business, the Presiding Officer must invite the Assembly to agree the motion or amendment. If any Member objects, a recorded vote must be taken in accordance with Standing Order 7.36 and may be deferred until a time which has been specified under Standing Order 6.8(i). If no Member objects, the motion or amendment is deemed agreed by the Assembly.</u></p>	<p>Insert new Standing Order</p> <p>Revised to reflect current practice of a motion being “agreed on the nod” under the current Standing Order 7.35 or being deferred to Voting Time (as designated under SO 6.8).</p>
<p>7.31 If business has been designated at any day’s sitting under Standing Order 6.8, at At the specified time (or times)</p>	<p>Amend this Standing Order</p>

<p><u>specified under Standing Order 6.8</u>, the Presiding Officer must interrupt the business and invite the Assembly to vote on any questions necessary to dispose of any <u>the business which has been deferred under Standing Order 7.30A or any business to which Standing Order 6.8(ii) applies so designated</u>.</p>	<p>This Standing Order has been amended as a consequence of amending Standing Order 6.8 and 7.30.</p>
<p>7.32 If the Presiding Officer interrupts the business at a specified time under Standing Order 7.31, the time taken to vote on the questions necessary at that specified time does not count against the time allotted to the business which has been interrupted.</p>	<p>No amendment necessary</p>
<p>7.33 If proceedings on an item of business conclude before the end of the time allotted to it, the next business (if any) must then be taken.</p>	<p>Move this Standing Order This Standing Order has been moved from SO 7.33 to the appropriate section on “Order of Plenary Business” which sets out how the Presiding Officer manages the business on the agenda. SO 7.33 therefore becomes SO 7.14A.</p>
<p><u>7.33A For the purposes of voting, the Presiding Officer may propose that votes on motions or amendments are grouped and that they are subject to a single vote. If a Member objects, each motion and amendment must be voted on separately.</u></p>	<p>Insert new Standing Order This has been inserted to reflect the established practice of “en bloc” voting – thereby formally enabling it. It is useful for legislative proceedings in particular.</p>
<p>7.34 Members must cast their votes individually and in person (but are not obliged to vote).</p>	<p>No amendment necessary</p>
<p>7.35 Where the Presiding Officer is satisfied that no Member wishes a recorded vote to take place on any motion or amendment, he or she may announce a provisional decision in respect of that motion or amendment. If any Member objects, a recorded vote must be taken in accordance with Standing Order 7.36. If</p>	<p>Delete this Standing Order Replaced by SO 7.30A</p>

<p>no Member objects, that provisional decision becomes the decision of the Assembly on that motion or amendment is deemed agreed by the Assembly.</p>	
<p>7.35A <u>Where legislation requires a resolution or motion to be passed on a vote in which the number of Assembly Members voting in favour of it is not less than two-thirds of the total number of Assembly seats, a recorded vote must be taken.</u></p>	<p>Insert new Standing Order This is to ensure that a recorded vote take place where legislation requires a majority of 40 out of 60 votes.</p>
<p>7.36 Subject to Standing Order 7.35, the Presiding Officer must put a motion or an amendment to a vote by electronic means; or failing that, either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) if the Presiding Officer so decides, by show of hands, provided no more than two Members object to the Presiding Officer's decision; or (ii) by roll call, in alphabetical order, of the Membership. 	<p>No amendment necessary</p>
<p>7.37 When at least three Members, before a vote is taken, so request, the bell must be rung. If votes are to be taken immediately after one another, the bell need not be rung more than once. Five minutes after the bell began ringing, the vote or votes must be taken.</p>	<p>No amendment necessary</p>
<p>7.37A <u>If all items of business for the day have been concluded before the time specified under Standing Order 6.8 and items have been deferred to voting time, the bell must be rung (unless all Members are present). Five minutes after the bell began ringing, the vote or votes must be taken.</u></p>	<p>Insert new Standing Order This is a new provision which would force the bell to be rung (unless all Members are present), if business for the day has been concluded before the agreed voting time. This is to protect all Members from a vote being taken before voting time without having been notified.</p>
<p>7.38 A vote is not valid unless at least ten Members participate. If</p>	<p>No amendment necessary</p>

<p>fewer than ten Members participate, that business must be held over (and the Presiding Officer must make arrangements for the adjustment of the timetable for business as he or she considers appropriate) and the Assembly must proceed to the next item of business.</p>	
<p>7.39 In determining the number of Members participating in a vote, those recording an abstention are to be regarded as participating.</p>	<p>No amendment necessary</p>
<p>7.40 The names of Members voting, including those recording an abstention, must be included in the record of plenary proceedings.</p>	<p>No amendment necessary</p>
<p>7.41 A report of the vote must be made available as soon as possible after the vote has taken place.</p>	<p>No amendment necessary</p>
<p>Motions of No Confidence</p>	
<p>Title: Motions of No-Confidence etc.</p>	<p>Delete this section and move Standing Orders to Standing Order 2 and 4 These Standing Orders provide for the removal of the Presiding Officers or motions of no-confidence in the Welsh Ministers. It would be more appropriate to place these provisions under Standing Orders relating to these offices, so that the provisions about their appointment, resignation and how they may be removed from office are all found in one place.</p>
<p>7.42 If a motion:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(i) that the Presiding Officer be removed from office; or</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(ii) that the Deputy be removed from office;</p>	<p>Move this Standing Order to the end of Standing Order 2: Presiding Officer and Deputy</p> <p>As above.</p>

<p>is tabled by at least six Members, time must be made available as soon as possible for the motion to be debated; and in any event such a debate must take place within five working days of the motion having been tabled.</p>	
<p>7.43 If a motion that the Welsh Ministers no longer enjoy the confidence of the Assembly is tabled by at least six Members, time must be made available as soon as possible for the motion to be debated; and in any event such a debate must take place within five working days of the motion having been tabled.</p>	<p>Move this Standing Order to Standing Order 4: Welsh Ministers and Deputy Welsh Ministers</p> <p>As above.</p>
<p>Statements</p>	
<p><u>7.41A Statements may be made by:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) <u>the Presiding Officer,</u> (ii) <u>a member of the government;</u> (iii) <u>a member of the Commission about any matter coming within the responsibilities of the Commission;</u> (iv) <u>any other Member, where the subject matter of the statement relates to a function of the Assembly for which they are responsible, with the agreement of the Presiding Officer.</u> 	<p>Insert new Standing Order</p> <p>New provisions on statements: there are very few provisions in Standing Orders at the moment which relate to statements. Inserting a section on statements would help transparency of procedures.</p> <p>The list captures all those who may make statements under the current Standing Orders (7.41A (i), (ii) and (ii)).</p> <p>7.41A(iv) – this enables for example, a request by a backbench Member to make a statements on the introduction of their legislation.</p>
<p><u>7.41B The Presiding Officer may permit questions to be asked of a Member making the statement.</u></p>	<p>Insert new Standing Order</p> <p>This is to accompany the new provision above.</p>
<p>Personal Statements</p>	
<p>7.44 The Presiding Officer may allow a Member to make a personal</p>	<p>No amendment necessary</p>

statement, following notice in writing to him or her.	
7.45 A personal statement must be brief, factual and must not be subject to debate.	No amendment necessary
Oral Questions	
7.46 Members may table oral questions to the First Minister, to each Welsh Minister or to the Counsel General, about any matters relating to his or her responsibilities (except that oral questions may be tabled to the Minister with responsibility for government business only about matters relating to his or her responsibilities other than for government business (if any)).	No amendment necessary
7.47 Members may table oral questions to the Commission about any matter relating to the Commission's responsibilities.	No amendment necessary
7.48 Time must be made available in plenary meetings for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the First Minister to answer oral questions once, and for a maximum of 45 minutes, in each week that the Assembly meets in plenary; (ii) each Welsh Minister and the Counsel General to answer oral questions in relation to his or her responsibilities, at least once, and for a maximum of 30 minutes, in every four weeks that the Assembly meets in plenary (except that the Minister with responsibility for government business is only to answer questions under Standing Order 7.48(ii) if he or she has responsibilities for matters other than government business); and 	Amend this Standing Order The time restrictions have been removed to reflect current practice.

<p>(iii) the Commission to answer oral questions at least once, and for a maximum of 30 minutes, in every four weeks that the Assembly meets in plenary.</p>	
<p>7.49 A Deputy Welsh Minister may at the request of the First Minister, a Welsh Minister or the Counsel General, answer any oral question on any matter on which he or she assists the First Minister, a Welsh Minister or the Counsel General (as the case may be).</p>	<p>No amendment necessary</p>
<p>7.50 Where it is not reasonably practicable for the First Minister, a Welsh Minister or the Counsel General to answer oral questions on a day when he or she would normally do so, another Welsh Minister may, after prior notification to the Presiding Officer, answer those questions.</p>	<p>No amendment necessary</p>
<p>7.51 Questions must be tabled at least five, but not more than ten, working days before they are to be answered.</p>	<p>No amendment necessary</p>
<p>7.52 Questions are accepted at the discretion of the Presiding Officer, who must have regard to any written guidance which the Assembly may adopt, <u>issued in accordance with Standing Order 2.17.</u></p>	<p>Amend this Standing Order</p> <p>It is proposed that there should be a simplified mechanism for the Presiding Officer to issue guidance to Members on the conduct of Assembly business, which would require that the Presiding Officer must consult Business Committee before issuing the guidance rather than the current mixed system where some guidance requires the endorsement of the Assembly and some not.</p>
<p>7.53 Each Member may table no more than two oral questions to a particular Welsh Minister or the Counsel General (or, in the case of the questions to the First Minister or the Commission, no more than one question) for answer at any plenary meeting.</p>	<p>No amendment necessary</p>

<p>7.54 The order of oral questions must be determined as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) for questions accepted before a deadline agreed by the Business Committee on the first day on which they may be tabled, by random means; (ii) for questions accepted after the deadline agreed by the Business Committee on the first day on which they may be tabled, by the order in which they are received. 	<p>No amendment necessary</p>
<p>7.55 The Presiding Officer must call the Member asking the question to ask a supplementary oral question and may then call other Members to ask related supplementary oral questions.</p>	<p>No amendment necessary</p>
<p>7.56 At the end of the period allocated to oral questions or at such other time as the Presiding Officer may determine, the Presiding Officer may call a Member to ask a question for which notice under Standing Order 7.51 has not been given if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the Presiding Officer and the member of the government concerned, or the Commission, as the case may be, have been given prior notice of at least two hours before the question is to be asked; and (ii) the Presiding Officer is satisfied that the question is of urgent public importance. 	<p>No amendment necessary</p>
<p>7.56A <u>Where the Presiding Officer has been given prior notice that a request for an urgent question under Standing Order 7.56 relates to the functions of the Commission, the function assigned to the Presiding Officer in 7.56(ii) shall be assigned to the Deputy Presiding Officer.</u></p>	<p>Insert new Standing Order</p> <p>To avoid any conflict of interest, the DPO will rule on any urgent questions regarding Commission business.</p>

<p>7.57 Where any oral question is not reached <u>or not asked</u>, the Member must receive a written answer on the same day. The written answer must be published in the record of plenary proceedings.</p>	<p>Amend this Standing Order</p> <p>Amended to reflect current practice – if a question is not asked in plenary and has not been withdrawn, the Minister provides a written answer.</p>
<p>Urgent Debates</p>	
<p>7.58 At any plenary meeting, a Member may move in a speech lasting no longer than three minutes that the Assembly should consider a particular matter, provided that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the Member has notified the Presiding Officer of his or her wish to do so, and of the matter, at least one hour before the beginning of the meeting; (ii) where the matter does not relate to the functions of the Commission, if a Member other than a member of the government has given the notification, the Presiding Officer has given a member of the government an opportunity to comment in private to him or her on the matter; (iii) where the matter relates to the functions of the Commission, if a Member other than a member of the Commission has given the notification, the <u>Deputy</u> Presiding Officer has given the Commission an opportunity to comment in private to him or her on the matter; and (iv) the Presiding Officer <u>(or Deputy Presiding Officer if the debate falls under Standing Order 7.58(iii))</u> is satisfied that the matter is of urgent public importance and has informed the Member (and, if necessary, the member of the government or the 	<p>Amend this Standing Order</p> <p>7.58 (iv) To avoid any conflict of interest, the DPO will rule on any urgent debates regarding Commission business.</p>

<p>Commission, as appropriate) accordingly.</p>	
<p>7.59 Where the matter does not relate to the functions of the Commission, if a Member other than a member of the government moves the motion, the Presiding Officer must allow a member of the government to reply in a speech lasting no longer than three minutes. The Presiding Officer must put the motion to the vote immediately after it has been moved or, if a member of the government replies, after that reply. If the Assembly resolves to consider the matter, it must do so at that meeting or (if the Presiding Officer so decides) at the one immediately following and the Presiding Officer must make arrangements for the adjustment of the timetable for business as he or she considers appropriate.</p>	<p>No amendment necessary</p>
<p>7.60 Where the matter relates to the functions of the Commission, if a Member other than a member of the Commission moves the motion, the Presiding Officer must allow a member of the Commission to reply in a speech lasting no longer than three minutes. The Presiding Officer must put the motion to the vote immediately after it has been moved or, if a member of the Commission replies, after that reply. If the Assembly resolves to consider the matter, it must do so at that meeting or (if the Presiding Officer so decides) at the one immediately following and the Presiding Officer must make arrangements for the adjustment of the timetable for business as he or she considers appropriate.</p>	<p>No amendment necessary</p>

<p>Provisions Relating to Plenary Business</p>	<p>Move the section to revised Standing Order 6: Organisation of Business and amend the Standing Orders</p> <p>All Standing Order provisions in this section would be moved to the revised Standing Order 6: Organisation of Business.</p> <p>The list of required annual debates has been reduced to make it less prescriptive. This would not restrict the Assembly’s ability to debate any of the annual reports listed if the Government so proposes or Business Committee agrees to allocate time to these items.</p> <p>This section has also been amended to remove references to the categories of business (“Assembly”, “non-government” or “government”).</p>
<p>7.61 Time must be made available in each Assembly year for debates on the following items of Assembly business:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the UK Government’s legislative programme (in accordance with section 33 of the Act); (ii) the annual report of the Commission; (iii) the annual report of the Committee on Standards of Conduct; (iv) the annual report of the Equal Opportunities Commission; (v) the annual report of the Commission for Racial Equality; (vi) the annual report of the Disability Rights Commission; and (vii) the annual report of the Ombudsman. 	<p>Move to revised Standing Order 6: Organisation of Business and amend this Standing Order</p> <p>See above.</p> <p>The only debate which would be required now would be the debate on the UK government’s annual legislative programme as required by the Government of Wales Act.</p>

<p>7.62—Time must be made available in each Assembly year for debates on the following items of government business:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the policy objectives and legislative programme of the government; and (ii) the annual report of the Children’s Commissioner for Wales. 	<p>Move to revised Standing Order 6: Organisation of Business and amend this Standing Order</p> <p>See above. The only required debate would be a debate on the government’s legislative programme.</p> <p>There would be nothing to prevent the Government (or any other Member) tabling a motion to debate the annual report of the Children’s Commissioner, or the reports published by any other of the Commissioners for Wales.</p>
<p>7.63—Time must be made available in each Assembly year for the following items of non-government business:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) motions proposed on behalf of political groups who are not political groups with an executive role (and the time allocated to each political group for motions proposed by it must so far as possible be in proportion to the group’s representation in the Assembly); (ii) debates on reports laid submitted by any Committees; other than a committee established as a consequence of Standing Orders 22.16(i), 22.18, 23.22 or 23.31(ii), or the Committee on Standards of Conduct; (iii) legislation where the Member in charge of the legislation is not a member of the government. 	<p>Move to revised Standing Order 6: Organisation of Business and amend this Standing Order</p> <p>See above.</p> <p>7.63 (ii) this is a simplified provision.</p>
<p>Short Debates</p>	
<p>7.64 The Presiding Officer must hold a ballot to determine the name of the Member, other than a member of the government, who may propose a topic for a Short Debate lasting no more than 30 minutes in each week that the Assembly meets in plenary.</p>	<p>No amendment necessary</p>

<p>7.65 The Member who has succeeded in the ballot must notify the Presiding Officer of the topic not later than five working days before it is to be debated.</p>	<p>No amendment necessary</p>
<p>7.66 In the debate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the Member who succeeded in the ballot may speak; (ii) a member of the government (or, if the matter is within the responsibilities of the Commission, a member of the Commission) may respond; and (iii) no other Member may speak unless he or she has the permission of the Member who succeeded in the ballot or is permitted to intervene by the Member responding. 	<p>No amendment necessary</p>

STANDING ORDER 8 – Order in Plenary Meetings	
Rules of Debate	
8.1 Members called by the Presiding Officer to speak must address the chair.	No amendment necessary
8.2 Members may speak in English or Welsh, and simultaneous interpretation facilities must be provided for speeches made in Welsh.	No amendment necessary
8.3 The Secretary of State for Wales is entitled to participate in plenary meetings but not to vote. The Presiding Officer may call the Secretary of State to speak in any debate in which the Secretary of State is participating.	No amendment necessary
<u>8.3A Anyone else may address the Assembly, if the Business Committee so determines.</u>	Insert new Standing Order This is a new provision to enable the Assembly to invite someone to address it, if the Business Committee agrees. This would give Business Committee the option of allowing others to address the Plenary as an item on the agenda, rather than before the start of Plenary as has been the practice to date
8.4 Speeches must be relevant to the business before the Assembly, and avoid tedious repetition.	No amendment necessary
8.5 The Presiding Officer may announce a time limit on Members' speeches and may direct a Member who has spoken for too long to stop speaking.	No amendment necessary

<p>8.6 A Member, other than the proposer of a motion or an amendment who is exercising a right of reply, may not speak more than once on any matter except, with leave of the Presiding Officer, for the purpose of briefly explaining some material point of his or her original speech.</p>	<p>No amendment necessary</p>
<p>8.7 A Member who is speaking may allow other Members to intervene for the purposes of clarification before resuming a speech.</p>	<p>No amendment necessary</p>
<p>8.8 A Member may not speak after the proposer of a motion has exercised a right of reply.</p>	<p>No amendment necessary</p>
<p>Maintenance of Order</p>	
<p>8.9 The Presiding Officer is to maintain order in plenary meetings and must call to order any Member who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) is engaging in conduct which would, in the opinion of the Presiding Officer, constitute a criminal offence or contempt of court; (ii) is obstructing the business of the Assembly; (iii) seeks to raise a matter outside the scope of the debate or motion; (iv) is guilty of discourteous or unbecoming conduct; (v) is using disorderly, discriminatory or offensive language or language which detracts from the dignity of the Assembly; 	<p>No amendment necessary</p>

<p>(vi) refuses to conform to any Standing Order or other requirement for the conduct of Members; or</p> <p>(vii) disregards the authority of the chair.</p>	
<p>8.10 A Member must comply with any directions given by the Presiding Officer about any conduct for which he or she has been called to order.</p>	<p>No amendment necessary</p>
<p>8.11 A Member may be required by the Presiding Officer to withdraw from Assembly proceedings for the remainder of the day if the Presiding Officer considers the conduct such as to warrant withdrawal.</p>	<p>No amendment necessary</p>
<p>8.12 When the Presiding Officer has required a Member to withdraw from Assembly proceedings and the Member has not done so, a motion to exclude the Member from Assembly proceedings must be proposed by the Presiding Officer and must be voted on immediately.</p>	<p>No amendment necessary</p>
<p>8.13 The exclusion of a Member under Standing Order 8.12 has immediate effect and must be:</p> <p>(i) on the first occasion during any 12 month period, until the end of the working day immediately following the day of exclusion;</p> <p>(ii) on a second occasion during the same 12 month period, for five working days immediately following the day of exclusion; and</p>	<p>No amendment necessary</p>

<p>(iii) on a third or any subsequent occasion during the same 12 month period, for 20 working days immediately following the day of exclusion.</p>	
<p>8.14 During the period of a Member’s exclusion under Standing Orders 8.12 and 8.13, he or she is not entitled to receive any salary from the Assembly and is not permitted to attend any Assembly proceedings.</p>	<p>No amendment necessary</p>
<p>8.15 In case of grave disorder arising in plenary meetings or in any other circumstance where he or she thinks it appropriate to do so, the Presiding Officer may adjourn proceedings without putting any proposition to the vote, or may suspend proceedings for a specified time.</p>	<p>Move this amended Standing Order to 7.16A</p> <p>The general provision has been moved to Standing Order 7.16A under the appropriate section - “Order of Plenary Business” which sets out how the Presiding Officer manages the business on the agenda.</p>
<p>Sub Judice</p>	
<p>8.16 Subject to the right of the Assembly to legislate on any matter or to discuss subordinate legislation, a Member must not raise or pursue in plenary meetings any matter <u>which relates to active where court proceedings have been initiated (as defined by Schedule 1 to the Contempt of Court Act 1981) or where notice of appeal has been given in the United Kingdom,</u> or where the Children’s Commissioner for Wales or the Commissioner for Older People in Wales has decided to conduct an examination of a case, until the time when judgement has been given or a report has been made by either Commissioner, unless the Presiding Officer is satisfied that:</p> <p>(i) the matter is clearly related to a matter of general public importance or a ministerial decision is in question;</p>	<p>Amend this Standing Order</p> <p>The SO does not define when proceedings are “initiated”. The Assembly’s Chief Legal Adviser, Keith Bush, has advised that the same approach should be taken as that in the Contempt of Court Act 1981 (CCA).</p> <p>CCA does not refer to proceedings being “initiated” but to “active proceedings” (and when defining what this means makes it clear that proceedings that have been initiated can cease to be active if for example they are discontinued).</p> <p>“Active proceedings” can include active appellate proceedings so a separate reference to appeals is redundant.</p>

<p>(ii) the matter does not relate to a case which is to be heard, or is being heard, before a criminal court or before a jury or to a case which is to be heard, or is being heard, in family proceedings; and</p> <p>(iii) the Member does not, in his or her comments, create a real and substantial risk of prejudice to the proceedings of a court either generally or in respect of a particular case.</p>	
<p>Relations with the Judiciary</p>	
<p>8.17 Unless the matter is the subject of a substantive motion, Members must not in plenary meetings make criticisms of the conduct of judges of the courts of the United Kingdom in the discharge of their judicial office; and in Standing Order 8.17 “judge” includes persons holding the position of judge, whether full-time or part-time.</p>	<p>No amendment necessary</p>
<p>8.18 The Assembly must not discuss individual judicial appointments.</p>	<p>No amendment necessary</p>

STANDING ORDER 9 - Written Questions, Written Statements and Statements of Opinion	
Written Questions	
<p>9.1 Members may table questions for written answer by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the First Minister, a Welsh Minister or the Counsel General, on any matter relating to his or her responsibilities; or (ii) the Commission on any matter relating to the Commission's responsibilities. 	No amendment necessary
<p>9.2 A Deputy Welsh Minister may, at the request of the First Minister, a Welsh Minister or the Counsel General, answer any written question on any matter on which he or she assists the First Minister, a Welsh Minister or the Counsel General (as the case may be).</p>	No amendment necessary
<p>9.3 A question must be tabled at least five working days before it is to be answered</p>	No amendment necessary
<p>9.4 Questions are accepted at the discretion of the Presiding Officer, who must have regard to any written guidance <u>issued in accordance with Standing Order 2.17</u> which the Assembly may adopt.</p>	<p>Amend this Standing Order</p> <p>It is proposed that there should be a simplified mechanism for the Presiding Officer to issue guidance to Members on the conduct of Assembly business, which would require that the Presiding Officer must consult Business Committee before issuing the guidance rather than the current mixed system where some guidance requires the endorsement of the Assembly and some not.</p>

9.5	The answers to accepted questions must be published in the record of plenary proceedings.	No amendment necessary
Written Statements		
9.6	The First Minister, a Welsh Minister or the Counsel General may make a written statement on any matter relating to his or her responsibilities.	No amendment necessary
9.7	The Commission may make a written statement on any matter relating to the Commission's responsibilities.	No amendment necessary
9.8	Any written statement must be published in the record of plenary proceedings.	No amendment necessary
Statements of Opinion		
9.9	A Statement of Opinion not exceeding 100 words on a matter affecting Wales may be tabled by any Member other than a member of the government; and any such Statement may be supported, opposed or otherwise subject to comment in writing by any other Member.	No amendment necessary
9.10	If a Statement of Opinion is deemed by the Presiding Officer to be in order it must be published, together with any expression of support or opposition tabled by any other Member.	No amendment necessary

STANDING ORDER 11 - Business Committee	
Proposal to incorporate this Standing Order into SO6: Organisation of Business	
11.1 <u>There is to be a Business Committee, to facilitate the effective organisation of Assembly proceedings.</u>	Amend this Standing Order This is to clarify that the role of Business Committee is “to facilitate the effective organisation of Assembly proceedings”: this would capture the wider role that Business Committee plays, for example, in agreeing additional Committee meetings outside the Assembly timetable
11.2 Standing Orders 10.3 10.4 to 10.5 do not apply to the Committee.	Amend this Standing Order There should be a mechanism to enable Business Committee to make membership changes during the course of an Assembly – this will be amended once changes to SO 10 have been agreed.
11.3 As soon as possible after an Assembly election, the Minister with responsibility for government business must table a motion to appoint as members of the Committee, the Presiding Officer, one Member nominated by each leader of the political groups represented in the Assembly and (if any three or more Members who are not members of a political group decide to form a grouping for the purposes of Standing Order 11) a Member nominated by each grouping of Members. No amendments may be tabled to a motion under Standing Order 11.3.	No amendment necessary
11.4 A motion under Standing Order 11.3 cannot be passed (if the motion for it is passed on a vote) unless at least two-thirds of the Members voting support it.	No amendment necessary

<p>11.5 If a motion under Standing Order 11.3 is passed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the Committee must be chaired by the Presiding Officer (who may vote only in the exercise of a casting vote); (ii) each other member of the Committee carries one vote for each member of the political group (or grouping, as the case may be) which he or she represents (including himself or herself and the Presiding Officer and Deputy if they are members of his or her political group or grouping); (iii) where the number of Members who are not members of a political group is such that it is (for that reason only) not possible for them to form a political group or grouping, each such Member is entitled to attend proceedings of the Committee and may vote; (iv) <u>in determining the organisation of Assembly business in plenary under Standing Order 11.7(ii), a member of the Committee representing a political group with an executive role may use the votes he or she carries under Standing Order 11.5(ii), but it shall be reduced by the number equivalent to the number of Members in his or her political group who are also members of the government in</u> determining the organisation of Assembly non-government business in plenary under Standing Order 11.7(ii); and (v) the number of votes that a member of the Committee, referred to in Standing Order 11.5(iv), carries shall be reduced by the number equivalent to the number of Members who are members of the government and who are members of the political group to which that member belongs; and (vi) Standing Orders 10.18, 10.19 and 10.32 <u>10.33</u> to 10.35 do not apply to the Committee. 	<p>Amend this Standing Order</p> <p>11.5 (iv) and (v) – no material change. They have been merged to make it simpler to understand.</p> <p>11.5 (vi) - method of voting in Business Committee: currently Standing Order 11.5(vi) provides that Standing Order 10.32 does not apply to the Business Committee (any Member of the Committee may request that the vote is recorded in the minutes of the meeting, and voting would be by show of hands). There is no reason why this should not apply to Business Committee, it is proposed therefore that SO 10.32 should apply also to Business Committee.</p>
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<p>11.6 If a motion under Standing Order 11.3 is proposed but not passed, then Standing Orders 10.6 to 10.9 apply to the Committee with the substitution of the words “under Standing Order 11.3 to appoint the members of the Business Committee” in 10.6 for the words “to determine the membership of a committee under Standing Order 10.3”, and of the words “Minister with responsibility for government business” for “Business Committee”.</p>	<p>No amendment necessary</p>
<p>11.7 The functions of the Committee <u>must</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) to comment on proposals for the organisation of government business (which must be determined under Standing Order 6.4) and non-government business in plenary; (ii) to determine the organisation of <u>Assembly business in plenary</u> non-government business in plenary, subject to Standing Order 11.5(iv); (iii) to determine the organisation of Assembly business in plenary; (iv) to make recommendations on the general practice and procedure of the Assembly in the conduct of its business (including any proposals for the re-making or revision of Standing Orders, or any part thereof); (v) <u>undertake</u> the functions assigned to the Committee in Standing Orders. 	<p>Amend this Standing Order</p> <p>This requires amending as a consequence of creating the new category of “Assembly business”.</p> <p>11.7 (ii) - the organisation of all “Assembly” business” will be subject to qualified weighted voting in Business Committee as currently applies to “non-government” business; other decisions in Business Committee will remain subject to full weighted voting.</p> <p>11.7 (i) - amended as it is unnecessary to specify that the Committee must comment on the organisation of Assembly business in plenary.</p>
<p>11.8 The Committee must meet at least once every two sitting weeks.</p>	<p>No amendment necessary</p>

<p>11.9 — The Committee may meet in private to discuss matters arising under 11.7(i) to (iii) and 11.7(v).</p>	<p>Delete this Standing Order</p> <p>This determines when the Business Committee may meet in private: the Committee would rely instead on the general provisions to resolve to meet in private under Standing Order 10 .37 (ix) which would give it more flexibility to decide when to meet in private.</p>
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STANDING ORDER 29 - Laying and Tabling Procedures	
<p>29.1 The following documents or categories of document may be laid before the Assembly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) a document specified in any enactment as one which must or may be laid before the Assembly or a document which falls within the terms of section 86 of, or paragraphs 36 or 37 of Schedule 11 to, the Act; (ii) legislation or proposed or draft legislation required to be laid under Standing Orders 22, 23, 24 or 25; (iii) any report made by an Assembly committee and which that committee has agreed should be submitted to the Assembly, other than any report to which (iv) or (v) below applies; (iv) any report specified in Standing Orders 7.61 and 7.62 other than any to which paragraph (v) below applies; (v) any other document specified elsewhere in Standing Orders which is required to be laid in accordance with the specific requirements in a Standing Order; and (vi) any other document, or category of document, that the Assembly, by resolution in plenary, requires should be laid. 	<p>No amendment necessary</p>
<p>29.2 A member of the government <u>or Presiding Officer</u> may lay other appropriate documents</p>	<p>Amend this Standing Order</p> <p>This enables the Presiding Officer to lay appropriate documents as well.</p>

<p>29.3 Where any document is laid, or any motion, amendment, question or other business is tabled under Standing Order 29 or any other Standing Order, it must be laid or tabled in compliance with written guidance issued by the Presiding Officer, <u>in accordance with Standing Order 2.17.</u></p>	<p>Amend this Standing Order</p> <p>It is proposed that there should be a simplified mechanism for the Presiding Officer to issue guidance to Members on the conduct of Assembly business, which would require that the Presiding Officer must consult Business Committee before issuing the guidance rather than the current mixed system where some guidance requires the endorsement of the Assembly and some not.</p>
<p>29.4 Any document laid or business tabled by the Presiding Officer, the Commission, the government, any committee or the Clerk, must be laid or tabled in both English and Welsh, so far as is appropriate in the circumstances and reasonably practicable.</p>	<p>No amendment necessary</p>
<p>29.5 The receipt, by the <u>Clerk</u> Table Office, of any document or business on a working day during its agreed office hours <u>agreed by the Business Committee</u> (including receipt by electronic means) constitutes (as the case may be) the laying of the document or the tabling of the business.</p>	<p>Amend this Standing Order</p> <p>These changes would not effect any change to the current tabling practice, they are mainly style / presentational changes.</p> <p>Any references to “Table Office” in Standing Orders will be replaced with “Clerk” to achieve a consistent approach throughout. In practice, the Table Office will still be responsible for receiving documents to be laid or business to be tabled. Any guidance to Members would make it clear that they should be sent to the “Table Office” and that it can be submitted by electronic means or in hard copy.</p> <p>This would also apply to Standing Order 23.71, in relation to legislative amendments. Amendments</p>

	are tabled to Legislation Office, therefore the current reference to “Table Office” in SO23.71 does not reflect our practice.
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