

<b>2.1: Determining early business prior to the appointment of the Business Committee</b>		
See paper BC(3)03-11 Paper 1		
<b>Plenary Meetings</b>		
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><b>Insert new Standing Order</b></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"> <li>(i) This would allow more flexibility as to Plenary days and start times.</li> <li>(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.</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Title: Plenary Meetings following an Assembly Election</u></b></p>	<p><b>Insert new section</b></p> <p>It is proposed that there should be a new sub-section to Standing Order 7 making provisions for how business is organised in plenary meetings following an Assembly election until a Business Committee is appointed. The proposal is based on the provisions which were set out in the temporary Standing Order for the Third Assembly (Standing Order 36). This new sub-section would specify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) who determines the dates and times of these plenary meetings and how Members are to be notified;</li> <li>(ii) what type of business may be taken at these plenary meetings.</li> </ul>
<p><u>7.5B The first plenary meeting following an Assembly election is to take place at a time specified by the Presiding Officer, having consulted with political groups, (or if the Presiding Officer is unwilling or unable to act, the Clerk must specify the time), in accordance with sections 3 or 5 of the Act.</u></p>	<p><b>Insert new Standing Order</b></p> <p>Under section 25 of the Government of Wales Act, the Presiding Officer holds office until the conclusion of an election for a new Presiding Officer following an Assembly election. The Presiding Officer appointed in the previous Assembly would therefore be</p>

	<p>responsible for determining the time and date of the first meeting following an Assembly election (this must be within 7 days of the Assembly election, subject to certain exclusions, in accordance with section 3 of the Act), following consultation with all political groups.</p> <p>However, if the Presiding Officer is for any reason unwilling or unable to undertake this role, provision is made for the Clerk of the Assembly to act in his or her absence.</p>
<p><u>7.5C Subsequent plenary meetings must be on a day and time specified by the Presiding Officer, having consulted with political groups, until the first meeting for which a statement and announcement has been made under Standing Order 6.3.</u></p>	<p><b>Insert new Standing Order</b></p> <p>Once a new Presiding Officer has been elected, he or she would be responsible for specifying the day and time of subsequent plenary meetings, in consultation with all political groups, until such time as the Business Committee has been established and the Minister with responsibility for business makes the first business statement and announcement under Standing Order 6.3.</p>
<p><u>7.5D The Clerk must notify all Members of the date and time of the plenary meetings arranged under Standing Order 7.5B and 7.5C not less than 24 hours before the meeting.</u></p>	<p><b>Insert new Standing Order</b></p> <p>This would place a duty on the Clerk to give Members at least 24 hours' notice of these plenary meetings.</p>
<p><u>7.5E The only business to be taken at plenary meetings arranged under Standing Order 7.5B and 7.5C is:</u></p> <p>(i) <u>any business under Standing Order 7.15;</u></p> <p>(ii) <u>such other business as the Assembly may by resolution agree.</u></p>	<p><b>Insert new Standing Order</b></p> <p>This would limit the type of business which may be taken at the first and any subsequent plenary meetings until the plenary meeting at which the first business statement announcement is made.</p> <p>It would allow the following business to be taken without notice during these early plenary meetings:</p> <p>7.5E(i) - Standing Order 7.15 covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- elections, nominations or appointments by the Assembly (SO</li> </ul>

	<p>7.15(iv)A): this would cover the election of the PO and DPO; the nomination of the First Minister; the election of the Business Committee membership; the appointment of members of the Commission; the resolution to approve the First Minister’s recommendation for Counsel General;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- statements by the Presiding Officer, a member of the government or by the Commission about any matter within the responsibilities of the Commission (SO 7.15(i)A);</li> <li>- introduction of new Members; obituary tributes to former Members and others; personal statements (7.15(ii)A, (iii)A, (v)A);</li> <li>- any urgent debate proposed by a member under Standing Order 7.58(SO 7.15(vi)A);</li> <li>- procedural motions and points of order (SO 7.15(vii)A and (viii)A);</li> <li>- any other matters as the Presiding Officer considers appropriate (SO 7.15(ix)A).</li> </ul> <p>7.5E(ii) - it is proposed that the Assembly should be able to resolve to consider any other business as it may by resolution agree.</p>
<p><u>7.5F Standing Orders 6.4 and 6.5 do not apply to plenary meetings arranged under Standing Order 7.5B and 7.5C.</u></p>	<p><b>Insert new Standing Order</b></p> <p>Standing Orders 6.4 and 6.5 state that the government determines its business and the Business Committee determines Assembly Business. This Standing Order makes it clear that any plenary meetings arranged in accordance with SO 7.5B or 7.5C would not be subject to the provisions of SO 6.4 and 6.5 as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) the government would only be able to determine its</li> </ul>

	<p>(ii) business subject to SO 7.15; there would be no Business Committee to make decisions in relation to Assembly Business.</p>
<p><u>7.5G The periods of notice for motions and amendments under Standing Orders 7.18 and 7.19 shall not apply to any motions proposed for business to be taken at plenary meetings arranged under Standing Order 7.5B or 7.5C, or to any amendments proposed to such motions.</u></p>	<p><b>Insert new Standing Order</b></p> <p>Matters under Standing Order 7.15 may be taken without notice, however, this Standing Order makes it clear that any business as set out in Standing Order 7.5E (i) and (ii) would not be subject to the usual 5 days notice period for motions and amendments.</p>