

3.1: Order of Oral Questions	
See paper BC(3)03-11 Paper 2: paragraphs 5 - 10	
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 <u>60</u> 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 45 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 (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>Agreed to amend this Standing Order</p> <p>At the Business Committee meeting on 9 November, Business Managers agreed to increase the maximum timings for questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) a maximum of 60 minutes for First Minister's Questions; and (ii) 45 minutes for Ministers.

<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, issued in accordance with <u>Standing Order 2.17</u>.</p>	<p>Agreed to amend this Standing Order</p> <p>At the Business Committee meeting on 2 November, Business Managers agreed 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><u>7.52A The Presiding Officer must undertake a ballot to select the names of those Members who may table questions in accordance with Standing Order 7.54.</u></p>	<p>Insert new Standing Order</p> <p>7.52A – The purpose of the new SOs is to require the Presiding Officer to first determine the names of those Members who may table oral questions. Once the names of the Members have been selected, those Members may then table their questions in accordance with SO7.54.</p>

	The detailed procedures that underpin this process will be included in guidance available to Members - the Presiding Officer's Principles and Practice.
<u>7.52B A ballot under Standing Order 7.52A must be conducted at least one working day before the first day on which questions may be tabled.</u>	Insert new Standing Order This new Standing Order will require the Presiding Officer to undertake the initial ballot at least one working day before the first day on which questions may be tabled. In practice this will provide Members at least one full working day's notice that they have been successful in the ballot and that they need to table their question.
7.53 Each Member may <u>enter their names into the ballot under Standing Order 7.52A</u> table no more than twice 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 <u>once</u>). one question) for answer at any plenary meeting.	Amend Standing Order Current SO provisions enable Members to table two oral questions to Welsh Ministers and the Counsel General, and one question to the First Minister and Assembly Commission. The change in procedure will mean that the Members' names are initially selected. However, any proposed change must ensure that Members do not lose the opportunity of tabling two questions. The revised Standing Order would allow Members to enter their names into a relevant ballot twice (where appropriate) ensuring Members still have the opportunity to table two questions. The detailed procedures that underpin this process will be included in the Presiding Officer's Principles and Practice
7.54 The order of oral questions must be determined as follows: (i) for questions accepted before a deadline agreed by the	No amendment necessary [Although the Members' names will be initially selected in a ballot,

<p>Business Committee on the first day on which they may be tabled, by random means;</p> <p>(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>	<p>we do not envisage this providing the order of the questions. In practice Members will be informed that they have been selected to table (one or two) questions. Once all the questions for the day have been tabled, the order of the questions will be determined by random means (i.e. the shuffle process currently used).]</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>

3.2: Short Debate Ballots	
See paper BC(3)03-11 Paper 2: paragraphs 11 - 16	
Short Debate	
7.64 The Presiding Officer must hold a ballot to determine the name of the Member <u>or Members</u> , 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.	Amend Standing Order The existing Standing Order requires there to be a short debate in each week that the Assembly meets in Plenary. The proposed change removes this requirement to allow an element of flexibility. It would also allow the Presiding Officer to select the name of more than one Member at a time, if appropriate.
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.	No amendment necessary
7.66 In the debate: (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.	No amendment necessary

3.3: Business initiated by backbench Members	
See paper BC(3)03-11 Paper 2: paragraphs 17 - 25	
Motions	
<p><u>7.22B The Presiding Officer, having consulted the Business Committee, may hold a ballot to determine the name of the Member or Members, other than a member of the government, who may be allocated time for a motion tabled in their name to be debated.</u></p>	<p>Insert new Standing Order</p> <p>If Business Managers wish to provide an additional formal mechanism by which backbench Members are selected to bring forward a topic for debate, it is proposed that a new Standing Order is inserted allowing the Llywydd to hold a ballot from time to time to select any backbench Member who would be allocated plenary time for a debate on a motion which they would need to table. Details on the frequency of the ballot would be agreed in consultation with the Business Committee [see paragraph 25 of paper BC(3)33-10(p8)]</p> <p>This would be in addition to the existing ability for any Member to table a motion (and any other Member to note their support for that motion) and request that the Business Committee allocate time for it to be debated [SO 7.18(ii) and new SO 7.18A].</p>

3.4: Guaranteeing time for Short Debates and Backbench Debates

See paper BC(3)03-11 Paper 2: paragraphs 15 and 23

6.21* Time must be made available in each Assembly year for debates on the following items of business:

- (i) the UK Government's legislative programme (in accordance with section 33 of the Act);
- (ii) the policy objectives and legislative programme of the government;
- (iii) 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;
- (iii)A motions proposed by any Member who is not a member of the government;
- (iv) debates on reports laid by Committees;
- (iv)A Short Debates; and
- (v) legislation where the Member in charge of the legislation is not a member of the government.

* New SO 6.21 as agreed in principle on 2 and 9 November 2010. New SO 6.21 is an amended version of current SO 7.62 and 7.63.

Amend this Standing Order

Insert new SO 6.21(iii)A: If Business Managers wish to ensure that time is protected for backbench debates to take place during an Assembly year, provision will need to be made under new SO 6.21 requiring time to be made available for debates on motions proposed by any Member who is not a Welsh Minister or Deputy Welsh Minister [see paragraph 23 of paper BC(3)33-10(p8)].

Insert new SO 6.21(iv)A: If Business Managers wish to ensure that time is protected for Short Debates to take place during an Assembly year, provision will need to be made under new SO 6.21 requiring time to be made available for this purpose [see paragraph 15 of paper BC(3)33-10(p8)].

Including these new provisions ensures that some time must be made available for backbench and short debates but allows the Business Committee the discretion to decide the detail of when they will occur.