

7.1: Finance Committee Report on the Welsh Assembly Government’s budget: Standing Order 27.0E

See BC(3)33-10 Paper 6: paragraphs 4 - 5

27.0E In determining the timetable under Standing Order 27.0D(ii), the responsible committee must be given *[at least 6 working]* weeks to report on the Welsh Assembly Government’s draft budget.

Insert new Standing Order

This new provision would ensure that the timetable allows the responsible committee a minimum time to report.

Business Managers are invited to consider what the appropriate minimum timeframe should be. The Finance Committee recommended that this should be 6 working weeks.

The Business Committee would need to agree the exact deadline to report as outlined above under SO 27.0D.

7.2: Statement on the introduction of the Welsh Assembly Government’s budget: Standing Order 27.1A

See BC(3)33-10 Paper 6: paragraph 6

27.1A A Welsh Minister must make a statement in plenary on the draft budget as soon as possible after the draft budget is laid in accordance with Standing Order 27.1.

Insert new Standing Order

At the last Business Committee meeting, Peter Black AM proposed that the budget scrutiny process should begin with an oral statement in Plenary, made by the responsible Minister, once the draft budget is laid. New SO 27.1A would give effect to this proposal.

7.3: The Assembly Commission's budget: Standing Orders 27.7 – 27.12A

See BC(3)33-10 Paper 6: paragraphs 7 - 8

<p>The Commission</p>	<p>It is proposed to amend the deadline for laying the Commission budget to the 1 October.</p> <p>To allow the same amount of time for the consideration of the Commission's budget, the end date in SO27.11 and SO27.12 should therefore also be extended by 1 week to 27 November.</p> <p>The responsible committee would be given 3 weeks to report. In its response, the Finance Committee has indicated that this is sufficient time to report.</p> <p>After the responsible committee has reported, the Commission may lay its budget at any time, bearing in mind it has to get it agreed before 27 November.</p>
<p>27.7 Not later than 24 September <u>1 October</u> in each financial year, a member of the Commission must lay before the Assembly a draft budget for the Commission setting out the amounts of resources and cash which the Commission proposes to use for the following financial year and provisional amounts for the subsequent two years or for such other period as the Commission has agreed with the Welsh Ministers.</p>	<p>Amend this Standing Order</p> <p>It is proposed to amend the deadline for laying the Commission budget to the 1 October. This allows the Commission more leeway to decide when to lay its draft budget after the summer recess.</p>
<p>27.8 The Finance Committee <u>responsible committee</u> must consider and report to the Assembly on the draft budget for the Commission no later than three weeks after it has been laid before the Assembly. The Finance Committee's <u>responsible committee's</u> report may recommend variations in the amounts proposed in the draft budget provided that the net effect of those variations would not increase the aggregate amounts of resources or cash proposed in the draft budget for the Commission.</p>	<p>Amend this Standing Order</p> <p>This amendment gives effect to the replacement of named committees in Standing Orders with function-based Standing Orders.</p>

<p>27.9 No later than 30 October, a <u>A</u> member of the Commission must lay before the Assembly a budget for the Commission, together with a motion that the budget be agreed and incorporated in the annual budget motion under Standing Order 27.17(ii). The budget may not be laid until after the deadline by which the responsible committee is required to report on the draft budget for the Commission.</p>	<p>Amend this Standing Order</p> <p>Remove date. It will be for the Commission to decide when to lay its budget and when to have the debate, bearing in mind that it has to get it agreed before 27 November (and allow time to agree any revised budgets if necessary).</p>
<p><u>27.9A</u> A member of the Commission must table a motion that the budget laid under Standing Order 27.9 be agreed and incorporated in the annual budget motion under Standing Order 27.17A(ii). No amendment to the motion may be tabled and the motion must be debated within <u>five working</u> seven days of it being tabled (<u>not counting working days in a week when there is no plenary meeting of the Assembly</u>).</p>	<p>Amend this Standing Order</p> <p>The requirement to lay the budget and the tabling of the motion have been separated. I.e. the Commission could, if it wished, lay its budget in advance of the motion (to give Members longer to consider if appropriate). The motion would be laid five days before the Commission wishes to have the debate. This gives provides more flexibility.</p> <p>The requirement to debate the motion within five working days is retained to ensure the Commission has plenary time to debate the budget. This ensures the Commission has control over the date of the debate.</p>
<p>27.10 If the final budget for the Commission is not agreed, then a member of the Commission must lay before the Assembly a revised budget for the Commission, together with a motion that it be agreed and incorporated in the annual budget motion under Standing Order 27.17A(ii). No amendment to the motion may be tabled and the motion must be debated within <u>five working</u> seven days of it being tabled (<u>not counting working days in a week when there is no plenary meeting of the Assembly</u>).</p>	<p>Amend this Standing Order</p> <p>This is amended to make it clear that any days falling within recess would not count.</p>
<p>27.11 Further motions under Standing Order 27.10 may be tabled until such time as agreement has been reached but no such motion may be considered by the Assembly after 20 <u>27</u> November.</p>	<p>Amend this Standing Order</p> <p>It is proposed that the deadline for laying the Commission budget is amended to the 1 October.</p> <p>To allow the same amount of time for the</p>

	consideration of the Commission’s budget, the end date specified in this Standing Order and SO27.12 below should therefore also be amended by 1 week to 27 November.
27.12 If the budget for the Commission has not been agreed by 20 <u>27</u> November, then the budget for the Commission to be incorporated in the annual budget motion under Standing Order 27.17A(ii) is to comprise, for each service or purpose for which resources or cash were authorised to be used by the Commission in the previous financial year, 95% of the amount so authorised.	<p>Amend this Standing Order</p> <p>See SO 27.11 above.</p>
<p><u>27.12A In a financial year in which a UK Government or Welsh Assembly Government Spending Review takes place, the Commission may, with the agreement of the Business Committee, change the dates by which it must lay the draft budget for the Commission in Standing Order 27.7 and consequently the date referred to in Standing Order 27.11 and Standing Order 27.12. If the Business Committee agrees, it must notify the Assembly by laying a report.</u></p>	<p>Insert new Standing Order</p> <p>In a year in which a UK Government or Welsh Government spending review was taking place, the Commission may propose to change the dates by which they must lay the draft budget in Standing Order 27.7 and consequently the date referred to in 27.11 and 27.12.</p> <p>This would require the agreement of the Business Committee, which would then notify the Assembly by laying a report.</p> <p>This introduces some flexibility to change the usual dates for the Commission’s budget timetable and should avoid the need to agree a temporary Standing Order as has happened this year.</p>