

CSO(2)-07-06 (p9) Annex

Standing Order 37 - Revision and Suspension of Standing Orders

Revisions

37.1 The First Minister, the Business Minister or at least six Members may submit to the Business Committee proposals for revisions to Standing Orders. The Committee shall consider the proposed revisions and submit a report to the Assembly with its recommendations.

In discussing the control of business and the functions of the Business Committee the Committee indicated that it thought changes to Standing Orders might be made by a separate Procedures Committee.

Q - Which Committee should consider proposals for revisions to SOs?

In practice the Business Committee has considered proposals for changes to SOs from the Business Minister and from Committees or APS officials.

Q2 – Should any Member be able to submit a proposal for consideration by the relevant Committee? i.e. Bureau, Business Committee or Procedures Committee.

37.2 Motions for revisions to Standing Orders shall be tabled and proposed by a member of the Business Committee (but such revisions shall be adopted only if at least two-thirds of the Members voting support the motion).

Q3 – Should a motion be tabled only by the relevant committee? i.e. Bureau, Business Committee or Procedures Committee.

37.3 Revisions to Standing Orders shall have immediate effect unless the Assembly resolves otherwise.

Does not appear to require amendment.

37.4 The Assembly may provide that any Standing Order or any revision thereto shall be temporary and where a Standing Order or a revision thereto is temporary, its precise duration shall be expressed in a distinct paragraph of the Standing Order or the revision.

Does not appear to require amendment.

Suspension

37.5 Any Standing Order may be suspended for a specific purpose and in respect of a particular day on a motion proposed by a Minister which is approved by the Assembly on a vote in which at least two-thirds of the Members voting support the motion.

Does not appear to require amendment.

37.6 A motion proposed under Standing Order 37.5 shall normally be tabled not less than one working day before it is to be considered by the Assembly, but the Presiding Officer may permit such a motion to be proposed without notice 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. Members shall be notified forthwith by electronic means as soon as such a motion is tabled.

Does not appear to require amendment.