

First Minister

Nomination of First Minister

2.1 Subject to Section 47(3) of the Act, the Assembly must, within 28 days of an event specified in section 47(2) of the Act, nominate a Member for appointment as First Minister (“the nominee”).

2.2 The Presiding Officer must invite nominations. If only one nomination is made, the Presiding Officer must declare that Member to be the nominee. If more than one nomination is made, the Presiding Officer must by roll call in alphabetical order of the membership invite each Member present to vote for a candidate (except that neither the Presiding Officer nor the Deputy may vote). If two Members have been nominated, the Presiding Officer must declare the candidate who received the greater number of votes cast to be the nominee.

2.3 If more than two Members have been nominated and no Member receives more than half of the votes cast by roll call, the candidate who has received the smallest number of votes must be excluded and further votes by roll call taken until one candidate obtains more than half of the votes cast; and the Presiding Officer must declare that Member to be the nominee. If there is an equality of votes between the two remaining candidates (or the only two candidates) a further vote by roll call must take place.

Resignation etc. of First Minister or Ministers

2.4 When the Presiding Officer is notified that the First Minister has tendered his or her resignation to Her Majesty, the Presiding Officer must, if the resignation is accepted, notify the Assembly.

2.5 When the Presiding Officer is notified that any other member of the government has resigned the Presiding Officer must notify the Assembly.

2.6 If the Presiding Officer designates a person to exercise the functions of the First Minister under Section 46 of the Act, he or she must notify the Assembly.