

STANDING ORDER 11 - Business Committee

- 11.1 There is to be a Business Committee.
- 11.2 Standing Orders 10.3 to 10.5 do not apply to the Committee.
- 11.3 As soon as possible after an Assembly election, the Minister responsible for government business must table a motion to appoint as members of the Committee, the Presiding Officer, one Member nominated by each Leader of the political groups represented in the Assembly and (if any three or more Members who are not members of a political group decide to form a grouping for the purposes of Standing Order 11) a Member nominated by each grouping of Members.
- 11.4 A motion under Standing Order 11.3 cannot be passed (if the motion for it is passed on a vote) unless at least two-thirds of the Members voting support it.
- 11.5 If a motion under Standing Order 11.3 is passed:
- (i) the Committee must be chaired by the Presiding Officer (who may vote only in the exercise of a casting vote);
 - (ii) each other member of the Committee carries one vote for each member of the political group (or grouping, as the case may be) which he or she represents (including himself or herself and the Presiding Officer and Deputy if they are members of his or her political group or grouping);
 - (iii) where the number of Members who are not members of a political group is such that it is (for that reason only) not possible for them to form a political group or grouping, each such Member is entitled to attend proceedings of the Committee and may vote;
 - (iv) a member of the Committee representing a political group with an executive role may, subject to Standing Order 11.5(v), use the votes he or she carries under Standing Order 11.5(ii) in determining the organisation of non-government business in plenary under Standing Order 11.7(ii); and
 - (v) the number of votes that a member of the Committee, referred to in Standing Order 11.5(iv), carries shall be reduced by the number equivalent to the number of Members who are members of the government and who are members of the political group to which that member belongs; and

(vi) Standing Orders 10.18, 10.19 and 10.32 to 10.35 do not apply to the Committee.

11.6 If a motion under Standing Order 11.3 is proposed but not passed, then Standing Orders 10.6 to 10.9 apply to the Committee with the substitution of the words "under Standing Order 11.3 to appoint the members of the Business Committee" in 10.6 for the words "to determine the membership of a Committee under Standing Order 10.3", and of the words "Minister responsible for government business" for "Business Committee".

11.7 The functions of the Committee are:

- (i) to comment on proposals for the organisation of government business (which must be determined under Standing Order 6.4) and non-government business in plenary;
- (ii) to determine the organisation of non-government business in plenary, subject to Standing Order 11.5(iv);
- (iii) to determine the organisation of Assembly business in plenary;
- (iv) to make recommendations on the general practice and procedure of the Assembly in the conduct of its business (including any proposals for the re-making or revision of Standing Orders, or any part thereof);
- (v) the functions assigned to the Committee in Standing Orders.

11.8 The Committee must meet at least once every two sitting weeks.

11.9 The Committee may meet in private to discuss matters arising under 11.7(i) to (iii) and 11.7(v).