

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

ARRANGEMENTS FOR BUSINESS AND BUSINESS SCHEDULE FOR WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY, 13 & 14 JANUARY 2021*

Wednesday (12.00 p.m. – 6.14 p.m.) [Convention Centre Dublin]

Leaders' Questions (<i>SF, Sol-PBP, Reg Group, Rural Ind Group</i>)	12.00 p.m. – 12.34 p.m. (34 mins)
Order of Business	12.34 p.m. – 1.04 p.m. (30 mins)
Government Business:	1.04 p.m. – 6.14 p.m. (5 hrs 10 mins)
- Statements by Leaders on the Report of the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes (110 mins)	
- Statements on Health and Covid-19 (100 mins) (statements only, not including Q&A)	
- Statements and Q&A on Health and Covid-19 (100 mins) (members may use their time for a combination of statements and Q&A)	
Adjournment	6.14 p.m.

Thursday (12.00 p.m. – 5.47 p.m.) [Convention Centre Dublin]

Leaders' Questions (<i>SF, Reg Group, Rural Ind Group, Ind Group</i>)	12.00 p.m. – 12.34 p.m. (34 mins)
Questions on Promised Legislation	12.34 p.m. – 1.04 p.m. (30 mins)
Government Business:	1.04 p.m. – 4.59 p.m. (3 hrs 55 mins)
- Statements by the Ministers for Education and Higher Education on Education and Higher Education re Covid-19 (135 mins) (statements only, not including Q&A)	
- Statements and Q&A with the Ministers for Education and Higher Education on Education and Higher Education re Covid-19 (100 mins) (members may use their time for a combination of statements and Q&A)	
Topical Issues	4.59 p.m. – 5.47 p.m. (48 mins)
Adjournment	5.47 p.m.

* Sittings subject to reduced numbers

The proposed arrangements for the taking of business are as follows:

ARRANGEMENTS FOR DÁIL BUSINESS

Wednesday proposal no. 1 – Oral Parliamentary Questions

- Oral Parliamentary Questions pursuant to Standing Order 46 shall not be taken

Wednesday proposal no. 2 – Statements by Leaders on the Report of the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes

- Shall be brought to a conclusion within 110 minutes, and shall be confined to a single round, to which the following arrangements shall apply:
 - (i) the Taoiseach, the Tánaiste and the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth shall be called upon in that order and their statements shall not exceed 15 minutes (in the case of the Taoiseach) and 10 minutes each (in the case of the Tánaiste and the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth); and
 - (ii) following the Government contributions, the statement of the leader of Sinn Féin shall not exceed 15 minutes, followed by the leaders or a representative of the Labour Party, Social Democrats, Solidarity-People Before Profit, the Regional Group, the Rural Independent Group and the Independent Group, who shall be called upon in that order, and whose statements shall not exceed 10 minutes each

Wednesday proposal no. 3 – Statements and Q&A on Health and Covid-19

- Shall be brought to a conclusion within 200 minutes, and shall be confined to two rounds, to which the following arrangements shall apply:
 - (i) each speaking round shall not exceed 100 minutes, and shall be arranged as agreed by Order of the Dáil of 30th July, 2020, for 100 minutes, provided that members may use their allotted time

- on the second round for a combination of statement and questions and answers, or questions and answers only; and
- (ii) all members may share time

Wednesday proposal no. 4 – Private Members’ Business

- Private members’ business pursuant to Standing Order 159 shall not be taken

Wednesday proposal no. 5 – Topical issues

- Topical issues pursuant to Standing Order 37 shall not be taken

Wednesday proposal no. 6 – Adjournment

- The Dáil shall adjourn on the conclusion of Statements and Q&A on Health and Covid-19 until 12 noon on Thursday, when it shall meet in the Convention Centre Dublin

Thursday proposal no. 1 – Oral Parliamentary Questions

- No oral Parliamentary Questions pursuant to Standing Order 46 shall be taken

Thursday proposal no. 2 – Statements by the Ministers for Education and Higher Education on Education and Higher Education and Q&A re Covid-19

- Shall be brought to a conclusion within 235 minutes, and shall be confined to two speaking rounds, to which the following arrangements shall apply:
 - (i) the first speaking round shall not exceed 135 minutes, with arrangements as agreed by Order of the Dáil of 30th July, 2020, for that time;
 - (ii) the second speaking round shall not exceed 100 minutes, with arrangements as agreed by Order of the Dáil of 30th July, 2020, for that time, provided that members may use their allotted time on the second round for a combination of statement and questions and answers, or questions and answers only; and
 - (iii) all members may share time

Thursday proposal no. 3 – Topical issues

- Topical issues pursuant to Standing Order 37 shall be taken on the conclusion of the education statements and Q&A

Thursday proposal no. 4 – Thursday evening business

- No Thursday evening business pursuant to Standing Order 159(2) shall be taken

MEMBERS DISSENTING

Deputies Mattie McGrath and Cian O’Callaghan expressed their dissent relating to the lack of time given to debating Fisheries in the context of Brexit.

BUSINESS COMMITTEE
11 January 2021