

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

ARRANGEMENTS FOR BUSINESS AND BUSINESS SCHEDULE FOR WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY, 20 & 21 JANUARY 2021*

Wednesday (10.00 a.m. – 6.34 p.m.) [Convention Centre Dublin]

Private Members' Business (Sinn Féin):	10.00 a.m. – 12.00 p.m. (120 mins)
- Motion re Pay for Student Nurses and Midwives	
Leaders' Questions (SF, Lab, Sol PBP, Reg Group)	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. – 6.34 p.m. (5 hrs 30 mins)
- Motion on the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (120 mins)**	
- Statements on the Report of the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes (Department of Health) (210 mins)	
<i>Adjournment</i>	6.34 p.m.

** Any division demanded to be taken immediately on reduced numbers

Thursday (10.00 a.m. – 6.22 p.m.) [Convention Centre Dublin]

Government Business:	
- Statements and Q&A on the Covid Vaccine Programme	10.00 a.m. – 12.00 p.m. (110 mins)
Leaders' Questions (SF, Soc Dems, Reg Group, Rural Ind Group)	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. – 5.34 p.m. (4 hrs 30 mins)
- Statements and Q&A by Minister for Foreign Affairs on Brexit (Dept of Foreign Affairs) (135 mins)	
- Statements and Q&A by Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine on Brexit and the Fishing Industry (135 mins)	
Topical Issues	5.34 p.m. – 6.22 p.m. (48 mins)
<i>Adjournment</i>	6.22 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 – Motion re the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement

- Shall be brought to a conclusion within 120 minutes, and shall be confined to a single round of speeches, to which the following arrangements shall apply:
 - (i) the Taoiseach, the Tánaiste and the Minister for Foreign Affairs shall be called upon in that order and their speeches 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 Foreign Affairs);
 - (ii) following the Government contributions, the speech of the Sinn Féin representative shall not exceed 15 minutes, followed by the representatives 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 speeches shall not exceed 10 minutes each,
 - (iii) a Minister or Minister of State may make a 10-minute speech in reply,
 - (iv) all members may share time, and
 - (v) any division demanded on the proceedings on the motion shall be taken immediately

Wednesday proposal no. 3 – Statements on the Report of the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes

- Shall not exceed 200 minutes, and the arrangements shall be in accordance with those agreed by Order of the Dáil of 30th July, 2020, for 200 minutes, followed by a 10-minute statement in reply by a Minister or Minister of State, and all members may share time

Wednesday proposal no. 4 – No suspension of sitting

- There shall be no suspension of sitting pursuant to the weekly Dáil schedule agreed by Order of the Dáil on 16th December 2020

Wednesday proposal no. 5 – Topical issues

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

Wednesday proposal no. 6 – Voting block deferred

- With the exception of any division claimed on the Motion re the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement, any division that would have been taken in the weekly division time this evening shall be deferred until the next weekly division time

Wednesday proposal no. 7 – Quorum

- That, with effect from today, and notwithstanding the Order of the Dáil of 30th April 2020, where Standing Orders 21 and 22 require a quorum of 20, that quorum shall at all times be reduced to five, until further notice in the 33rd Dáil.

Wednesday proposal no. 8 – Adjournment

- The Dáil shall adjourn on the conclusion of Statements on the Report of the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes until 10.00 a.m. 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 and Q&A by the Minister for Health on the Covid Vaccine Programme

- Shall not exceed 110 minutes and the arrangements shall be in accordance with those agreed by Order of the Dáil of 30th July, 2020, for 110 minutes, provided that members may use their time for a combination of statements and questions and answers, or questions and answers only, to conclude with a 10-minute statement in reply by a Minister or Minister of State, and all members may share time

Thursday proposal no. 3 – Statements and Q&A by the Minister for Foreign Affairs on Brexit

- Shall not exceed 135 minutes and the arrangements shall be in accordance with those agreed by Order of the Dáil of 30th July, 2020, for 135 minutes, provided that members may use their time for a combination of statements and questions and answers, or questions and answers only, and all members may share time

Thursday proposal no. 4 – Statements and Q&A by Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine on Brexit and the Fishing Industry

- Shall not exceed 135 minutes and the arrangements shall be in accordance with those agreed by Order of the Dáil of 30th July, 2020, for 135 minutes, provided that members may use their time for a combination of statements and questions and answers, or questions and answers only, and all members may share time

Thursday proposal no. 5 – No suspension of sitting

- There shall be no suspension of sitting pursuant to the weekly Dáil schedule agreed by Order of the Dáil on 16th December 2020

Thursday proposal no. 6 – Topical issues

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

Thursday proposal no. 7 – Thursday evening business

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

MEMBERS DISSENTING

Deputies Pádraig MacLochlainn and Cian O'Callaghan have expressed their dissent relating to the lack of time given to debating matters on Social Protection and Covid-19.

Deputies Pádraig MacLochlainn and Richard Boyd Barrett expressed their dissent relating to the length of time allocated to the debate on the Covid Vaccine Programme.

Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett has expressed his dissent relating to the two-day week sittings.

Deputy Mattie McGrath has expressed his dissent relating to the lack of a second Topical Issues slot.

NOTE RE TWO-DAY SITTING WEEK

For the information of members, the decision of the Business Committee that the Dáil sit for two days only this week, was made on the basis of health and safety advice.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Wednesday from 10.00 a.m. – 12.00 noon

Sinn Féin – Motion re Pay for Student Nurses and Midwives

BUSINESS COMMITTEE

18 January 2021