

**REPORT OF THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE**  
**ARRANGEMENTS FOR BUSINESS AND BUSINESS SCHEDULE FOR**  
**WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY, 3 and 4 FEBRUARY 2021\***

**Wednesday 3 February (10.00 a.m. – 6 p.m.) [Convention Centre Dublin]**

<b>Private Members' Business (Sinn Féin):</b>	10.00 a.m. – 12.00 p.m. (120 mins)
- Motion re Fuel Poverty [ <i>working title</i> ]	
Leaders' Questions (SF, Soc Dems, Sol PBP, Reg Grp)	12.00 p.m. – 12.34 p.m. (34 mins)
Order of Business**	12.34 p.m. – 1.04 p.m. (30 mins)
<b>Motion without debate</b>	
- Motion re 7th Report of the Committee of Selection ***	
<b>Government Business:</b>	1.04 p.m. – 6.00 p.m. (4 hrs 56 mins)
- Motion re Finance Act 2004 (Section 91) (Deferred Surrender to the Central Fund) Order 2021 ( <i>Dept of Public Expenditure and Reform</i> ) (105 mins) ***	
- Motion re Re-appointment of Ombudsman for Children ( <i>Dept of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth</i> ) (45 mins) ***	
- Motion re Regulations to extend the rates of Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme ( <i>Dept of Finance</i> ) (105 mins) ***	
- Criminal Justice (Theft and Fraud Offences) (Amendment) Bill 2020 [ <i>Seanad</i> ] – Second Stage ( <i>resumed</i> ) ( <i>Dept of Justice</i> ) ( <i>to adjourn at 6.00p.m., if not previously concluded</i> ) ***	
<i>Adjournment</i>	6.00 p.m.

**Thursday 4 February 2021 (10.00 a.m. – 6.22 p.m.) [Convention Centre Dublin]**

<b>Government Business:</b>	10.00 a.m. – 11.40 a.m. (100 mins)
- Statements and Q&A on Mental Health and Covid-19 ( <i>Dept of Health</i> ) (100 mins)	
Leaders' Questions (SF, Lab, Reg Group, 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)
<b>Government Business:</b>	1.04 p.m. – 5.34 p.m. (4 hrs 30 mins)
- Statements and Q&A by the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth on Covid-19 and Childcare ( <i>Dept of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth</i> ) (100 mins)	
- Criminal Justice (Theft and Fraud Offences) (Amendment) Bill 2020 [ <i>Seanad</i> ] – Second Stage ( <i>resumed, if not previously concluded</i> ) ***	
- Air Navigation and Transport Bill 2020 – Second Stage ( <i>Dept of Transport</i> ) ( <i>to adjourn at 5.34 p.m., if not previously concluded</i> ) ***	
Topical Issues	5.34 p.m. – 6.22 p.m. (48 mins)
<i>Adjournment</i>	6.22 p.m.

\* **Sittings subject to reduced numbers**

\*\* **Any divisions on reduced numbers**

\*\*\* **No immediate division, if claimed**

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 7th Report of the Committee of Selection**

- Shall be taken without debate

**Wednesday proposal no. 3 – No suspension of sitting**

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

**Wednesday proposal no. 4 – Motion re Finance Act 2004 (Section 91) (Deferred Surrender to the Central Fund) Order 2021**

- Shall not exceed 105 minutes and the arrangements shall be in accordance with those agreed by Order of the Dáil of 30th July, 2020, for 100 minutes, to conclude with a 5-minute speech in reply by a Minister or Minister of State
- All members may share time

**Wednesday proposal no. 5 – Motion re Re-appointment of Ombudsman for Children**

- Shall be brought to a conclusion within 45 minutes, and the following arrangements shall apply:
  - (i) a Minister or Minister of State and representatives of Sinn Féin, 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, may each make a speech not exceeding 5 minutes;
  - (ii) a Minister or Minister of State may make a speech in reply, which shall not exceed 5 minutes; and
  - (iii) all members may share time

**Wednesday proposal no. 6 – Motion re Regulations to extend the rates of Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme**

- Shall not exceed 105 minutes and the arrangements shall be in accordance with those agreed by Order of the Dáil of 30th July, 2020, for 100 minutes, to conclude with a 5-minute speech in reply by a Minister or Minister of State
- All members may share time

**Wednesday proposal no. 7 – Topical issues**

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

**Wednesday proposal no. 8 – Voting block deferred**

- 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. 9 – Adjournment**

- in relation to the adjournment of the Dáil—
  - (i) where the business is not concluded by 6 p.m., the proceedings on any business under consideration shall be interrupted and the Dáil shall adjourn at 6 p.m.,
  - (ii) where the business concludes before 6 p.m., the Dáil shall adjourn forthwith, and
  - (iii) on its rising, the Dáil shall adjourn until 10.00 a.m. on Thursday, when it shall meet in the Convention Centre Dublin to take Statements and Q&A on Mental Health

**Thursday proposal no. 1 – Adjournment of the Dáil**

The Dáil shall adjourn on the conclusion of topical issues until 10 a.m. on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021 when it shall meet in the Convention Centre Dublin to take private members' business

**Thursday proposal no. 2 – Oral Parliamentary Questions**

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

**Thursday proposal no. 3 – Statements and Q&A on Mental Health and Covid-19**

- the following arrangements to apply:
  - (i) the statements and Questions and Answers shall not exceed 100 minutes and the arrangements shall be in accordance with those agreed by Order of the Dáil of 30th July, 2020, for 100 minutes, provided that members may use their time for a combination of statements and questions and answers, or questions and answers only;
  - (ii) all members may share time; and
  - (iii) if the statements and questions and answers conclude prior to 12 noon, the sitting shall stand suspended until 12 noon

**Thursday 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 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020

**Thursday proposal no. 5 – Statements and Q&A by the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth on Covid-19 and Childcare**

- Shall not exceed 100 minutes and the arrangements shall be in accordance with those agreed by Order of the Dáil of 30th July, 2020, for 100 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. 6 – Topical issues**

- Topical issues pursuant to Standing Order 37 shall be taken not later than 5.34 p.m.

**Thursday proposal no. 7 – Thursday evening business**

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

**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.

**MEMBERS DISSENTING**

Deputies Pádraig MacLochláinn, Cian O’Callaghan, Richard Boyd-Barrett, Denis Naughten, Mattie McGrath and Thomas Pringle expressed their dissent in relation to the Dáil not sitting on Friday to discuss the Covid-19 response.

Deputy Duncan Smith dissented to the lack of a standing slot to discuss the Covid-19 response.

Deputy Pádraig MacLochláinn dissented to the fact that private members’ time was only being taken for one slot in the week.

Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett expressed his dissent that Taoiseach’s oral parliamentary questions were not being taken, and also in relation to the speaking arrangements adopted by Order of the Dáil of 30th July, 2020.

Deputy Mattie McGrath has expressed his dissent in relation to not having topical issues on Wednesday.

**PRIVATE MEMBERS’ BUSINESS**

Wednesday from 10.00 a.m. – 12.00 noon

Sinn Féin – Motion re Fuel Poverty [*working title*]

**INDICATIVE BUSINESS FOR 10<sup>th</sup> AND 11<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY**

Statements and Q&A on transport and quarantine

Statements and Q&A on health and Covid-19

**DEFERRED DIVISIONS ON HAND RELATING TO 2<sup>ND</sup> STAGES OF BILLS**

Thirty-Seventh Amendment of the Constitution (Economic, Social and Cultural Rights) Bill 2018 — Second Stage (Deputy Thomas Pringle)

Motion re Proposed approval by Dáil Éireann of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 (Covid Restrictions Support Scheme) (Percentage Adjustment) Order 2021

**BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

*28 January 2021*