

# REPORT OF THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

## ARRANGEMENTS FOR BUSINESS AND BUSINESS SCHEDULE FOR

WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY, 17 - 18 JANUARY 2024

(AS AGREED AT ITS MEETING ON 11 JANUARY 2024)

### Wednesday 17 January 2024 (2:00 p.m. - 10:56 p.m.)

Leaders' Questions (*Sinn Féin, Labour Party, People Before Profit-Solidarity, Regional Group*) 2.00 p.m. - 2.34 p.m. (34 mins)

Order of Business and Questions on Policy or Legislation 2.34 p.m. - 3.04 p.m. (30 mins)

**Government Business** 3.04 p.m. - 8.06 p.m. (5 hrs 2 mins)

- Thirty-ninth Amendment of the Constitution (The Family) Bill 2023 (Committee and remaining Stages) (*to conclude within 2 hrs 30 mins*) (*Dept of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth*)
- Motion *re* Statement for the Information of Voters in relation to the Thirty-ninth Amendment of the Constitution (The Family) Bill 2023 (*without debate and any division to be taken immediately*) (*Dept of Housing, Local Government and Heritage*)
- Fortieth Amendment of the Constitution (Care) Bill 2023 (Committee and remaining Stages) (*to conclude within 2 hrs 30 mins*) (*Dept of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth*)
- Motion *re* Statement for the Information of Voters in relation to the Fortieth Amendment of the Constitution (Care) Bill 2023 (*without debate and any division to be taken immediately*) (*Dept of Dept of Housing, Local Government and Heritage*)

**Private Members' Business (Sinn Féin)** 8.06 p.m. - 10.08 p.m. (122 mins)

- Motion *re* Housing (working title)

Topical Issues 10.08 p.m. - 10.56 p.m. (48 mins)

Adjournment 10.56 p.m.

### Thursday 18 January 2024 (9:00 a.m. - 8:05 p.m.)

P.Q.s: Oral - Minister for Health 9.00 a.m. - 10.30 a.m. (90 mins)

P.Q.s: Oral - Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science 10.30 a.m. - 12.00 p.m. (90 mins)

Leaders' Questions (*Sinn Féin, Social Democrats, Independent Group, Rural Independent Group*) 12.00 p.m. - 12.34 p.m. (34 mins)

Questions on Policy or Legislation 12.34 p.m. - 1.04 p.m. (30 mins)

SOS 1.04 p.m. - 1.44 p.m. (40 mins)

**Government Business** 1.44 p.m. - 5.15 p.m. (3 hrs 31 mins)

- Social Welfare (Liable Relatives and Child Maintenance) Bill 2023 (Second Stage) (*if not previously concluded, to adjourn either at 5.15 p.m. or after 3 hrs 30 mins, whichever is the later*) (*Dept of Social Protection*)

**Private Members' Business (Labour Party)** 5.15 p.m. - 7.17 p.m. (122 mins)

- Organisation of Working Time (Reproductive Health Related Leave) Bill 2021 [*Seanad*] (Second Stage)

Topical Issues 7.17 p.m. - 8.05 p.m. (48 mins)

Adjournment 8.05 p.m.

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

### **ARRANGEMENTS FOR BUSINESS**

#### **Wednesday proposal no. 1 – Arrangements for business**

- The ordinary routine of business as contained in Schedule 3 to Standing Orders shall be modified to the extent that, notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 34A(1)—
  - (i) the Dáil may sit later than 10.32 p.m. and shall adjourn on the conclusion of topical issues pursuant to Standing Order 37 which shall be taken on the conclusion of private members' business;
  - (ii) questions to the Taoiseach pursuant to Standing Order 46(1) shall not be taken, and Government business shall be taken at the time when such questions would normally be taken but in any event not earlier than 3.05 p.m.;
  - (iii) the Motion *re* Statement for the Information of Voters in relation to the Thirty-ninth Amendment of the Constitution (The Family) Bill 2023 shall be taken without debate immediately upon the conclusion of that Bill, and the Motion *re* Statement for the Information of Voters in relation to the Fortieth Amendment of the Constitution (Care) Bill 2023 shall be taken without debate immediately upon the conclusion of that Bill;
  - (iv) private members' business may be taken later than 6.12 p.m. and shall in any event be taken on the conclusion of Government business; and
  - (v) questions pursuant to Standing Order 46(1) to a Minister other than the Taoiseach shall not be taken

#### **Wednesday proposal no. 2 - Thirty-ninth Amendment of the Constitution (The Family) Bill 2023**

- The proceedings on Committee and remaining Stages of the Thirty-Ninth Amendment of the Constitution (The Family) Bill 2023 shall, if not previously concluded, be brought to a conclusion after 2 hours and 30 minutes by one question which shall be put from the Chair and which shall, in relation to amendments, include only those set down or accepted by the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth

#### **Wednesday proposal no. 3 - Motion *re* Statement for the Information of Voters in relation to the Thirty-ninth Amendment of the Constitution (The Family) Bill 2023**

- Any division claimed on the proceedings on the Motion *re* Statement for the Information of Voters in relation to the Thirty-ninth Amendment of the Constitution (The Family) Bill 2023 shall be taken immediately

#### **Wednesday proposal no. 4 - Fortieth Amendment of the Constitution (Care) Bill 2023**

- The proceedings on Committee and remaining Stages of the Fortieth Amendment of the Constitution (Care) Bill 2023 shall, if not previously concluded, be brought to a conclusion after 2 hours and 30 minutes by one question which shall be put from the Chair and which shall, in relation to amendments, include only those set down or accepted by the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth

#### **Wednesday proposal no. 5 - Motion *re* Statement for the Information of Voters in relation to the Fortieth Amendment of the Constitution (Care) Bill 2023**

- Any division claimed on the proceedings on the Motion *re* Statement for the Information of Voters in relation to the Fortieth Amendment of the Constitution (Care) Bill 2023 shall be taken immediately

#### **Thursday proposal no. 1 – Arrangements for business**

- The ordinary routine of business as contained in Schedule 3 to Standing Orders shall be modified to the following extent:
  - (i) no motion for a Committee report pursuant to Standing Order 102 or private member's Bill pursuant to Standing Order 160 shall be taken, and private members' business pursuant to Standing Order 159(1) and Standing Order 169 shall be taken for 122 minutes on the adjournment of Second Stage of the Social Welfare (Liable Relatives and Child Maintenance) Bill 2023, or where Second Stage of that Bill concludes within its allotted time, on the conclusion thereof; and
  - (ii) topical issues shall be taken on the conclusion of private members' business, and the Dáil shall adjourn on the conclusion thereof

#### **Thursday proposal no. 2 - Social Welfare (Liable Relatives and Child Maintenance) Bill 2023**

- The proceedings on Second Stage of the Social Welfare (Liable Relatives and Child Maintenance) Bill 2023 shall, if not previously concluded, be interrupted and stand adjourned either at 5.15 p.m. or after 3 hours and 30 minutes, whichever is the later, and shall not be resumed on Thursday

#### **Thursday proposal no. 3 - Organisation of Working Time (Reproductive Health Related Leave) Bill 2021 [*Seanad*]**

- Notwithstanding anything in Standing Order 170(2), the proceedings on Second Stage of the Organisation of Working Time (Reproductive Health Related Leave) Bill 2021 [*Seanad*] shall, if not previously concluded, be brought to a conclusion after two hours

## MEMBERS DISSENTING

Deputies Pádraig Mac Lochlainn, Duncan Smith, Cian O’Callaghan, Thomas Pringle and Mattie McGrath dissented in relation to the time scheduled for the 39<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the Constitution Bills and the use of the guillotine on those Bills and also dissented in relation to the lack of a debate on Gaza and the International Criminal Court case.

## INDICATIVE BUSINESS

- Post-European Council Statements
- Gas (Amendment) Bill 2023 – Report and Final Stages

## UPCOMING THURSDAY EVENING BUSINESS

**25<sup>th</sup> January 2024:** Children and Family Relationships (Amendment) Bill 2023 (Second Stage) *(Deputy Ivana Bacik)*

**1<sup>st</sup> February 2024:** Motion *re* Report on the progress on the Sustainable Development Goals 2023 *(Committee on Social Protection, Community and Rural Development and the Islands)*

**8<sup>th</sup> February 2024:** Commissions of Investigation (Amendment) Bill 2023 (Second Stage) *(Deputy Kathleen Funchion)*

**15<sup>th</sup> February 2024:** Broadcasting (Amendment) Bill 2023 (Second Stage) *(Deputy Patrick Costello)*

**22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024:** Motion *re* Report entitled Unfinished Democracy: Achieving Gender Equality *(Deputy Ivana Bacik)*

## BUSINESS COMMITTEE

***12 January 2024***