

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

ARRANGEMENTS FOR BUSINESS AND BUSINESS SCHEDULE FOR

TUESDAY TO THURSDAY, 23 - 25 JANUARY 2024

(AS AGREED AT ITS MEETING ON 18 JANUARY 2024)

Tuesday 23 January 2024 (2:00 p.m. - 10:35 p.m.)

Leaders' Questions (<i>Sinn Féin, Social Democrats, Regional Group, Rural Independent Group</i>)	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)
Taoiseach's Questions	3.04 p.m. - 3.49 p.m. (45 mins)
Government Business	3.49 p.m. - 6.15 p.m. (2 hr 26 mins)
- Charities (Amendment) Bill 2023 (Second Stage) (<i>if not previously concluded, to adjourn either at 6.15 p.m. or after 2 hrs 26 mins, whichever is the later</i>) (Dept of Rural and Community Development)	
Private Members' Business (Sinn Féin)	6.15 p.m. - 8.17 p.m. (2 hrs 2 mins)
- Motion <i>re</i> Housing and Taxation (working title)	
P.Q.s: Oral – Tánaiste and Minister for Defence	8.17 p.m. - 9.47 p.m. (90 mins)
Topical Issues	9.47 p.m. - 10.35 p.m. (48 mins)
Adjournment	10.35 p.m.

Wednesday 24 January 2024 (9:10 a.m. - 9:48 p.m.)

Topical Issues	9.10 a.m. - 9.58 a.m. (48 mins)
Private Members' Business (Social Democrats)	9.58 a.m. - 12.00 p.m. (122 mins)
- Motion <i>re</i> Genocide in Gaza	
Leaders' Questions (<i>Sinn Féin, Labour Party, People Before Profit-Solidarity, Independent Group</i>)	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)
Taoiseach's Questions	1.04 p.m. - 1.49 p.m. (45 mins)
Government Business	1.49 p.m. - 3.56 p.m. (2 hrs 7 mins)
- Statements and Q&A post European Council meeting of 14 th -15 th December, 2023, pursuant to Standing Order 124 (<i>statements for 102 mins, followed by 20 mins Q&A, followed by Ministerial response for 5 mins</i>)	
SOS	3.56 p.m. - 4.56 p.m. (60 mins)
Government Business	4.56 p.m. - 9.18 p.m. (4 hrs 22 mins)
- Motion <i>re</i> Tribunal of Inquiry into certain matters relating to the Complaints Processes in the Defence Forces (<i>to conclude within 112 mins</i>) (Dept of Defence)	
- Digital Services Bill 2023 (Report and Final Stages) (<i>to be taken no earlier than 6 p.m. and to conclude within 60 mins</i>) (Dept of Enterprise, Trade and Employment)	
- Gas (Amendment) Bill 2023 (Report and Final Stages) (<i>if not previously concluded, to adjourn either at 9.14 p.m. or after 1 hr 30 mins, whichever is the later</i>) (Dept of Environment, Climate and Communications)	

Deferred Divisions

9.18 p.m. - 9.48 p.m. (30 mins)

- Motion *re* Investment Funds Trading in the Residential Property Market (*deferred division on amendment to Ministerial amendment*)
- Organisation of Working Time (Reproductive Health Related Leave) Bill 2021 (Second Stage) [*Seanad*] (*deferred division on Ministerial amendment to second reading motion*)

Adjournment

9.48 p.m.

Thursday 25 January 2024 (9:00 a.m. - 7:05 p.m.)

P.Q.s: Oral - Minister for Foreign Affairs

9.00 a.m. - 10.30 a.m. (90 mins)

P.Q.s: Oral - Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications

10.30 a.m. - 12.00 p.m. (90 mins)

Leaders' Questions (*Sinn Féin, Social Democrats, Regional Group, 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. - 5.02 p.m. (3 hrs 18 mins)

- Statements on UK Import Controls (*not to exceed 112 mins*) (*Dept of Agriculture, Food and the Marine*)
- Charities (Amendment) Bill 2023 (Second Stage, resumed, if not previously concluded) (*if not previously concluded, to adjourn at 5 p.m. or after 1 hr 26 mins, whichever is the later*)

Topical Issues

5.02 p.m. - 5.50 p.m. (48 mins)

Thursday evening business: Private Member's Bill

5.50 p.m. - 7.05 p.m. (75 mins)

- Children and Family Relationships (Amendment) Bill 2023 (Second Stage) (*Deputy Ivana Bacik*)

Adjournment

7.05 p.m.

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

ARRANGEMENTS FOR BUSINESS**Tuesday 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) the Dáil may sit later than 10.32 p.m.; and
 - (ii) the time allotted to Government business shall be extended in accordance with the arrangements for Second Stage of the Charities (Amendment) Bill 2023, with consequential effect on the commencement times for the items following in the ordinary routine of business, namely, private members' business, Parliamentary Questions to the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence, and topical issues

Tuesday proposal no. 2 - Charities (Amendment) Bill 2023

- The proceedings on Second Stage of the Charities (Amendment) Bill 2023 shall, if not previously concluded, be interrupted and stand adjourned either at 6.15 p.m. or after 2 hours and 26 minutes, whichever is the later, and shall not be resumed on Tuesday

Wednesday proposal no. 1 – Arrangements for business

- The ordinary routine of business as contained in Schedule 3 to Standing Orders shall be modified to extent that:
 - (i) the Dáil may sit later than 9.30 p.m., but shall in any event adjourn on the conclusion of the weekly division time;
 - (ii) the first item of Government business, namely, the Statements post European Council meeting of 14th-15th December, 2023, pursuant to Standing Order 124, shall be taken at the time when the SOS pursuant to Standing Order 25(1) would normally be taken, and the SOS shall be taken immediately following the statements; and
 - (iii) the weekly division time may be taken later than 8.45 p.m., and shall in any event be taken on the interruption or conclusion of proceedings on the Gas (Amendment) Bill 2023

Wednesday proposal no. 2 - Statements and Q&A post European Council meeting of 14-15 December, pursuant to Standing Order 124

- The Statements and Q&A post European Council meeting of 14th-15th December, 2023, pursuant to Standing Order 124, shall not exceed 127 minutes, and the following arrangements shall apply thereto:
 - (i) the statements shall not exceed 102 minutes, with speaking arrangements in accordance with those agreed by the Order of the Dáil of 30th July, 2020, and the Resolution of the Dáil of 20th September 2023;
 - (ii) following the statements, questions and answers shall be taken for 20 minutes;
 - (iii) on the conclusion of the questions and answers, a Minister or Minister of State shall be called upon to make a statement in reply which shall not exceed five minutes; and
 - (iv) members may share time

Wednesday proposal no. 3 - Motion *re* Tribunal of Inquiry into certain matters relating to the Complaints Processes in the Defence Forces

- The following arrangements shall apply in relation to the Motion to establish a Tribunal of Inquiry to examine the effectiveness of the complaints processes in the Defence Forces in relation to Complaints of Abuse and Complaints of Hazardous Chemicals:
 - (i) the proceedings shall, if not previously concluded, be brought to a conclusion after 1 hour and 52 minutes;
 - (ii) the speeches shall not exceed 102 minutes, and the arrangements for that time shall be in accordance with the Order of the Dáil of 30th July, 2020, and the Resolution of the Dáil of 20th September, 2023;
 - (iii) following the speeches, a Minister or Minister of State shall be called upon to make a speech in reply which shall not exceed 10 minutes; and
 - (iv) members may share time

Wednesday proposal no. 4 - Digital Services Bill 2023

- The proceedings on the Report and Final Stages of the Digital Services Bill 2023 shall, if not previously concluded, be brought to a conclusion after one hour 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 Enterprise, Trade and Employment

Wednesday proposal no. 5 - Gas (Amendment) Bill 2023

- The proceedings on the Report and Final Stages of the Gas (Amendment) Bill 2023 shall, if not previously concluded, be interrupted and stand adjourned either at 9.14 p.m. or after 1 hour and 30 minutes, whichever is the later, and shall not be resumed on Wednesday

Thursday proposal no. 1 - Time for topical issues and Thursday evening business

- The ordinary routine of business as contained in Schedule 3 to Standing Orders shall be modified to the extent that topical issues may be taken earlier than 7.24 p.m. and shall in any event be taken on the interruption or conclusion of Government business, with consequential effect on the commencement time for Second Stage of the Children and Family Relationships (Amendment) Bill 2023, and on the time for the adjournment of the Dáil

Thursday proposal no. 2 - Statements on UK Import Controls

- The following arrangements shall apply in relation to the Statements on UK Import Controls:
 - (i) the statements shall not exceed 102 minutes, and the arrangements for that time shall be in accordance with the Order of the Dáil of 30th July, 2020, and the Resolution of the Dáil of 20th September, 2023;
 - (ii) following the statements, a Minister or Minister of State shall be called upon to make a statement in reply which shall not exceed 10 minutes; and
 - (iii) members may share time

Thursday proposal no. 3 - Charities (Amendment) Bill 2023

- Any resumed proceedings on Second Stage of the Charities (Amendment) Bill 2023 shall, if not previously concluded, be interrupted and stand adjourned either at 5 p.m. or after 1 hour and 26 minutes, whichever is the later, and the Bill shall not be resumed on Thursday

MEMBERS DISSENTING

Deputies Pádraig MacLochlainn, Duncan Smith, Cian O’Callaghan, Richard Boyd Barrett and Mattie McGrath dissented in relation to Government time not being provided for a debate on the situation in Gaza (pending a response from Government).

INDICATIVE BUSINESS

- Research and Innovation Bill 2024 (Second Stage)
- Employment Permits Bill 2022 (Report and Final Stages)
- Private Members’ Business selected by People Before Profit-Solidarity: Misuse of Drugs (Cannabis Regulation) Bill 2022 (Second Stage)

UPCOMING THURSDAY EVENING BUSINESS

1 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 February 2024: Commissions of Investigation (Amendment) Bill 2023 (Second Stage) (*Deputy Kathleen Funchion*)

15 February 2024: Broadcasting (Amendment) Bill 2023 (Second Stage) (*Deputy Patrick Costello*)

22 February 2024: Motion *re* Report entitled Unfinished Democracy: Achieving Gender Equality (*Deputy Ivana Bacik*)

29 February 2024: Motion *re* Final Report on the Joint Committee on Autism (*Joint Committee on Autism*)

BUSINESS COMMITTEE

19 January 2024