

REV(1) REPORT OF THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

ARRANGEMENTS FOR BUSINESS AND BUSINESS SCHEDULE FOR

TUESDAY TO THURSDAY, 27 - 29 FEBRUARY 2024

Tuesday 27 February 2024 (2:00 p.m. - ~~11.07 p.m.~~ ~~11:42 p.m.~~)

Leaders' Questions (*Sinn Féin, Social Democrats, Regional Group, Independent 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)

Bills for Introduction 3.04 p.m. - 3.14 p.m. (10 mins)

- Residential Tenancies (Amendment) Bill 2024 (*Deputies Mairead Farrell and Eoin Ó Broin*)

- Broadcasting (Oversight of RTÉ Accounts) (Amendment) Bill 2024 (*Deputies Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Imelda Munster, Brian Stanley, John Brady, Rose Conway-Walsh and Thomas Gould*)

Motion(s) without debate 3.14 ~~3.04~~ p.m. - 3.15 ~~3.05~~ p.m. (1 min)

- Motion *re* Amendment of Orders of Reference of the Committee on Assisted Dying (*Committee on Assisted Dying*)

- Motion *re* Nomination to Fill Casual Vacancy on the Legal Services Regulatory Authority (*Dept of Justice*)

- Motion *re* divisions in Select Committee on Housing, Local Government and Heritage

~~Taoiseach's Questions~~ 3.05 p.m. - 3.50 p.m. (45 mins)

Government Business 3.15 ~~3.50~~ - 6.47 ~~7.22~~ p.m. (3 hrs 32 mins)

- Statements on Recent Arson Attacks (*not to exceed 3 hrs 32 mins*) (*Dept of Justice*)

Private Members' Business (Sinn Féin) 6.47 ~~7.22~~ p.m. - 8.49 ~~9.24~~ p.m. (122 mins)

- Mental Health (Amendment) Bill 2023 (Second Stage) (*Deputies Mark Ward, David Cullinane*)

P.Q.s: Oral - Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science 8.49 ~~9.24~~ p.m. - 10.19 ~~10.54~~ p.m. (90 mins)

Topical Issues 10.19 ~~10.54~~ p.m. - 11.07 ~~11.42~~ p.m. (48 mins)

Adjournment 11.07 ~~11.42~~ p.m.

Wednesday 28 February 2024 (9:10 a.m. - ~~9.28 p.m.~~ ~~9:02 p.m.~~)

Topical Issues 9.10 a.m. - 9.58 a.m. (48 mins)

Private Members' Business (Independent Group) 9.58 a.m. - 12.00 p.m. (122 mins)

- Protection of Employees (Trade Union Subscriptions) Bill 2024 (Second Stage) (*Deputy Joan Collins*)

Leaders' Questions (*Sinn Féin, Social Democrats, Regional 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)

Bills for Introduction 1.04 p.m. - 1.09 p.m. (5 mins)

- Electoral (Home Addresses of Candidates) Bill 2024 (*Deputy Jennifer Whitmore*)

Taoiseach's Questions 1.09 ~~1.04~~ p.m. - 1.24 ~~1.19~~ p.m. (15 mins)

SOS

1.24 ~~1.19~~ p.m. – 2.24 ~~2.19~~ p.m. (60 mins)

Government Business

2.24 ~~2.19~~ p.m. – 8.58 ~~8.32~~ p.m. (6 hrs 34
~~13~~ mins)

- Statements on RTE (not to exceed 95 minutes) (Dept of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media)

- Motion re proposal for a Regulation establishing an EU Talent Pool (to conclude within 57 minutes) (Dept of Justice)

- ~~Forty-first Amendment of the Constitution (Agreement on a Unified Patent Court) Bill 2024 (Second Stage) (if not previously concluded, to adjourn either at 4.30 p.m. or after 1 hr 16 mins, whichever is the later) (Dept of Enterprise, Trade and Employment)~~

- Employment (Collective Redundancies and Miscellaneous Provisions) and Companies (Amendment) Bill 2023 (Report and Final Stages) (to commence no earlier than 4 p.m. and if not previously concluded, to adjourn after 60 mins) (Dept of Enterprise, Trade and Employment)

- Social Welfare and Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2023 (Amendments from the Seanad) [changed from Social Welfare (Liable Relatives and Child Maintenance) Bill 2023] (if not previously concluded, to adjourn after 60 mins) (Dept of Social Protection)

- Local Government (Mayor of Limerick) and Miscellaneous Provisions Bill 2023 (Amendments from the Seanad) [changed from Local Government (Mayor of Limerick) Bill 2023] (if not previously concluded, to adjourn either at 8.49swd p.m. or after 2 hrs, whichever is the later) (Dept of Housing, Local Government and Heritage)

Deferred Divisions

8.58 ~~8.32~~ p.m. – 9.28 ~~9.02~~ p.m. (30 mins)

Adjournment

9.28 ~~9.02~~ p.m.

Thursday 29 February 2024 (9:00 a.m. – 9.30 p.m. ~~8:30 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 Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth

10.30 a.m. – 12.00 p.m. (90 mins)

Leaders' Questions (Sinn Féin, Labour Party, People Before Profit-Solidarity, 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. – 7.27 ~~6.27~~ p.m. (4 hrs 43 mins)

- Forty-first Amendment of the Constitution (Agreement on a Unified Patent Court) Bill 2024 (Second Stage, ~~resumed, if not previously concluded~~) (if not previously concluded, to adjourn at 5 p.m. and any division claimed to be taken immediately prior to Committee Stage)

- Statements on Child and Youth Mental Health Services (not to exceed 2 hrs 27 mins) (Dept of Health)

Topical Issues

7.27 ~~6.27~~ p.m. – 8.15 ~~7.15~~ p.m. (48 mins)

Thursday evening business: Committee Report

8.15 ~~7.15~~ p.m. – 9.30 ~~8.30~~ p.m. (75 mins)

- Motion re Report entitled "Unfinished Democracy: Achieving Gender Equality" (Deputy Ivana Bacik)

Adjournment

9.30 ~~8.30~~ 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.;
 - (ii) in the event the Taoiseach is unable to attend for questions pursuant to Standing Order 46(1), Government business shall be taken at the time when Taoiseach's questions would normally be taken; and
 - (ii) the time allotted to Government business shall be extended in accordance with the arrangements for Statements on Recent Arson Attacks, 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 Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, and topical issues

Tuesday proposal no. 2 - Motion *re* Orders of Reference of the Committee on Assisted Dying – extension of reporting deadline

- The proceedings on the Motion *re* Orders of Reference of the Committee on Assisted Dying – extension of reporting deadline shall be taken without debate

Tuesday proposal no. 3 - Motion *re* Nomination to Fill Casual Vacancy on the Legal Services Regulatory Authority

- The proceedings on the Motion *re* Nomination to Fill Casual Vacancy on the Legal Services Regulatory Authority shall be taken without debate

Tuesday proposal no. 4 - Motion *re* divisions in Select Committee on Housing, Local Government and Heritage

- The proceedings on the Motion *re* divisions in Select Committee on Housing, Local Government and Heritage shall be taken without debate

Tuesday proposal no. 5 - Statements on Recent Arson Attacks

- The Statements on Recent Arson Attacks shall not exceed 3 hours and 32 minutes and the following arrangements shall apply thereto:
 - (i) the arrangements for the statements, not including the Ministerial response, shall be in accordance with the arrangements agreed by Order of the Dáil of 30th July,

2020, for 200 minutes, and the Resolution of the Dáil of 20th September, 2023, providing for two minutes for non-aligned members;

- (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

Tuesday proposal no. 6 - Mental Health (Amendment) Bill 2023

- Notwithstanding anything in Standing Order 170(2), the proceedings on Second Stage of the Mental Health (Amendment) Bill 2023 shall, if not previously concluded, be brought to a conclusion after two hours

Wednesday proposal no. 1 - Arrangements for business

- **In relation to Wednesday—**

- (i) pursuant to Standing Order 94(3), the Dáil shall waive its instruction that not more than two Select Committees shall meet to consider a Bill on any given day in the case of the proposed meetings of the Select Committee on Transport and Communications, the Select Committee on Housing, Local Government, and Heritage, and the Select Committee on Education, Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, to consider, respectively, the Road Traffic Bill 2024, the Planning and Development Bill 2023 and the Research and Development Bill 2024; and
- (ii) the ordinary routine of business as contained in Schedule 3 to Standing Orders shall be modified to the following extent:
 - (a) in the event the Taoiseach is unable to attend for questions pursuant to Standing Order 46(1), the SOS pursuant to Standing Order 25(1) may take place earlier than 1.49 p.m., with consequential effect on the commencement time for Government business; and
 - (b) the weekly division time may be taken ~~earlier~~ later than 8.45 p.m., and shall in any event be taken on the adjournment of proceedings on the amendments from the Seanad to the Local Government (Mayor of Limerick) and Miscellaneous Provisions Bill 2023 [*changed from* Local Government (Mayor of Limerick) Bill 2023], or where those proceedings conclude within the allotted time, on the conclusion thereof, with consequential effect on the time for the adjournment of the Dáil

Wednesday proposal no. 2 - Protection of Employees (Trade Union Subscriptions) Bill 2024

- Notwithstanding anything in Standing Order 170(2), the proceedings on Second Stage of the Protection of Employees (Trade Union Subscriptions) Bill 2024 shall, if not previously concluded, be brought to a conclusion after two hours

Wednesday proposal no. 3 – Statements on RTÉ

- The Statements on RTE shall not exceed 1 hour 37 minutes, and the following arrangements shall apply thereto:

(i) the order of speaking and allocation of time shall be as follows:-

- opening statement by Minister - 10 minutes;
- statements by representatives of Sinn Féin, the Labour Party, Social Democrats, People-Before-Profit-Solidarity, the Regional Group, the Rural Independent Group and the Independent Group - 10 minutes per party or group;
- statements by non-aligned members – 2 minutes; and
- a statement in response by the Minister – 15 minutes; and

(ii) members may share time

Wednesday proposal no. 4 - Motion re proposal for a Regulation establishing an EU Talent Pool

- The proceedings on the Motion re proposal for a Regulation establishing an EU Talent Pool shall, if not previously concluded, be brought to a conclusion after 57 minutes, and the following arrangements shall apply thereto:

(ii) the order of speaking and allocation of time shall be as follows:-

- opening speech by a Minister or Minister of State - 10 minutes;
- speech by representative of Sinn Féin - 10 minutes;
- speeches by representatives of the Labour Party, Social Democrats, People-Before-Profit-Solidarity, the Regional Group, the Rural Independent Group and the Independent Group - 5 minutes per party or group;
- speeches by non-aligned members – 2 minutes; and
- a speech in response by the Minister – 5 minutes; and

(iii) members may share time

~~Wednesday proposal no. 4 – Forty-first Amendment of the Constitution (Agreement on a Unified Patent Court) Bill 2024~~

- ~~• The proceedings on Second Stage of the Forty-first Amendment of the Constitution (Agreement on a Unified Patent Court) Bill 2024 shall, if not previously concluded, be interrupted and stand adjourned either at 4.30 p.m. or after 1 hour and 16 minutes, whichever is the later, and shall not be resumed on Wednesday~~

Wednesday proposal no. 5 - Employment (Collective Redundancies and Miscellaneous Provisions) and Companies (Amendment) Bill 2023

- The proceedings on Report and Final Stages of the Employment (Collective Redundancies and Miscellaneous Provisions) and Companies (Amendment) Bill 2023 shall commence no earlier than 4.00 p.m. and shall, if not previously concluded, be interrupted and stand adjourned after 1 hour, and shall not be resumed on Wednesday

Wednesday proposal no. 6 - Social Welfare and Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2023 [*changed from* Social Welfare (Liable Relatives and Child Maintenance) Bill 2023]

- The proceedings on the amendments from the Seanad to the Social Welfare and Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2023 [*changed from* Social Welfare (Liable Relatives and Child Maintenance) Bill 2023] shall, if not previously concluded, be interrupted and stand adjourned after 1 hour, and shall not be resumed on Wednesday

Wednesday proposal no. 7 - Local Government (Mayor of Limerick) and Miscellaneous Provisions Bill 2023 [*changed from* Local Government (Mayor of Limerick) Bill 2023]

- The proceedings on the amendments from the Seanad to the Local Government (Mayor of Limerick) and Miscellaneous Provisions Bill 2023 [*changed from* Local Government (Mayor of Limerick) Bill 2023] shall, if not previously concluded, be interrupted and stand adjourned either at ~~8.30~~ 8.49 p.m. or after 2 hours, whichever is the later, and shall not be resumed on Wednesday

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 extent that topical issues may be taken ~~earlier~~ later than 7.24 p.m. and shall in any event be taken on the conclusion of Statements on Child and Youth Mental Health Services, with consequential effect on the commencement time for the Motion *re* Report entitled “Unfinished Democracy: Achieving Gender Equality”, and on the time for the adjournment of the Dáil

Thursday proposal no. 2 - Forty-first Amendment of the Constitution (Agreement on a Unified Patent Court) Bill 2024

- Any resumed proceedings on Second Stage of the Forty-first Amendment of the Constitution (Agreement on a Unified Patent Court) Bill 2024 shall, if not previously concluded, be interrupted and stand adjourned at 5 p.m. and the Bill shall not be resumed on Thursday: Provided that any division claimed on the Second Stage proceedings shall be taken immediately prior to Committee Stage

Thursday proposal no. 3 - Statements on Child and Youth Mental Health Services

- The Statements on Child and Youth Mental Health Services shall not exceed 2 hours and 27 minutes and the following arrangements shall apply thereto:
 - (i) the arrangements for the statements, not including the Ministerial response, shall be in accordance with the arrangements agreed by Order of the Dáil of 30th July, 2020, for 135 minutes, and the Resolution of the Dáil of 20th September, 2023, providing for two minutes for non-aligned members;
 - (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

MEMBERS DISSENTING

Deputies Thomas Pringle, Richard Boyd Barrett, and Padraig MacLochlainn dissented in relation to changes to this week's schedule. Deputies Richard Boyd Barrett and Padraig MacLochalinn dissented in relation to the arrangement for Statements on RTE.

INDICATIVE BUSINESS

- 41st Amendment of the Constitution (Agreement on a Unified Patent Court) Bill 2024 (Committee and remaining Stages)
- Statements on the Irish Language

UPCOMING THURSDAY EVENING BUSINESS

7th March 2024: Motion *re* Report entitled "Final Report on the Joint Committee on Autism" (*Committee on Autism*)

11th April 2024: Motion *re* Report entitled "Report on the examination of the recommendations of the Citizens' Assembly's Report on biodiversity loss" (*Committee on Environment and Climate Action*)

18th April 2024: Motion *re* Report on Offshore Renewable Energy (*Committee on Enterprise, Trade and Employment*)

25th April 2024: Motion *re* Report on Politically Exposed Persons (*Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform, and Taoiseach*)

BUSINESS COMMITTEE

27 February 2024