

REV(1) REPORT OF THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

ARRANGEMENTS FOR BUSINESS AND BUSINESS SCHEDULE FOR

WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY, 20 - 21 MARCH 2024

Wednesday 20 March 2024 (2:00 p.m. - 10.08 p.m. ~~10:03 p.m.~~)

Leaders' Questions (<i>Sinn Féin, Social Democrats, People Before Profit-Solidarity, 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)
Bills for Introduction	3.04 p.m. - 3.09 p.m. (5 mins)
- Maternity Protection (Amendment) Bill 2024 (First Stage) (<i>Deputy Jim O'Callaghan</i>)	
Motion(s) without debate	3.09 3.04 p.m. - 3.10 3.05 p.m. (1 min)
- Motion <i>re</i> Ministerial Rota for Parliamentary Questions	
- Motion <i>re</i> Consideration of Estimates by Committee	
Taoiseach's Questions	3.10 3.05 p.m. - 3.55 3.50 p.m. (45 mins)
Government Business	3.55 3.50 p.m. - 7.18 7.13 p.m. (3 hrs 23 mins)
- Statements pre European Council meeting of 21st-22nd March, pursuant to Standing Order 124 (<i>not to exceed 1 hr 52 mins</i>)	
- Microenterprise Loan Fund (Amendment) Bill 2024 (Second Stage) (<i>if not previously concluded, to adjourn either at 7.10 p.m. or after 1 hr 31 mins, whichever is the later</i>) (<i>Dept of Enterprise, Trade and Employment</i>)	
Private Members' Business (<i>Sinn Féin</i>)	7.18 7.13 - 9.20 9.15 p.m. (2 hrs 2 mins)
- Motion <i>re</i> General Practice and Local Health Services	
Topical Issues	9.20 9.15 p.m. - 10.08 10.03 p.m. (48 mins)
Adjournment	10.08 10.03 p.m.

Thursday 21 March 2024 (9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.)

P.Q.s: Oral - Minister for Defence	9.00 a.m. - 10.30 a.m. (90 mins)
P.Q.s: Oral - Minister for Transport	10.30 a.m. - 12.00 p.m. (90 mins)
Leaders' Questions (<i>Sinn Féin, Labour Party, Regional Group, Rural 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)
SOS	1.04 p.m. - 1.44 p.m. (40 mins)
Government Business	1.44 p.m. - 4.10 p.m. (146 mins)
- Microenterprise Loan Fund (Amendment) Bill 2024 (Second Stage, resumed, if not previously concluded) (<i>if not previously concluded, to adjourn at 4.10 p.m. or after 2 hrs 26 mins, whichever is the later</i>)	
Private Members' Business (<i>Social Democrats</i>)	4.10 p.m. - 6.12 p.m. (122 mins)
- Motion <i>re</i> Accommodation for International Protection Applicants	
Topical Issues	6.12 p.m. - 7.00 p.m. (48 mins)
Adjournment	7.00 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) private members' business may be taken later than 6.12 p.m. and shall in any event be taken on the adjournment of proceedings on Second Stage of the Microenterprise Loan Fund (Amendment) Bill 2024, or where those proceedings conclude within the allotted time, on the conclusion thereof;
 - (ii) questions pursuant to Standing Order 46(1) to a Minister other than the Taoiseach shall not be taken; and
 - (iii) the Dáil shall adjourn on the conclusion of topical issues pursuant to Standing Order 37 which shall be taken on the conclusion of private members' business

Wednesday proposal no. 2 - Motion *re* Ministerial Rota for Parliamentary Questions

- The proceedings on the Motion *re* Ministerial Rota for Parliamentary Questions shall be taken without debate

Wednesday proposal no. 3 - Motion *re* Consideration of Estimates by Committee

- The proceedings on the Motion *re* Consideration of Estimates by Committee shall be taken without debate

Wednesday proposal no. 4 - Statements pre European Council meeting of 21st-22nd March, pursuant to Standing Order 124

- The Statements pre European Council meeting of 21st-22nd March, pursuant to Standing Order 124, shall not exceed 1 hour and 52 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 100 minutes, and 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

Wednesday proposal no. 5 - Microenterprise Loan Fund (Amendment) Bill 2024

- The proceedings on Second Stage of the Microenterprise Loan Fund (Amendment) Bill 2024 shall, if not previously concluded, be interrupted and stand adjourned either at 7.10 p.m. or after 1 hour and 31 minutes, whichever is the later, and shall not be resumed on Wednesday

Thursday proposal no. 1 - Arrangements for business

- In relation to Thursday's arrangements:
 - (i) the ordinary routine of business as contained in Schedule 3 to Standing Orders shall be modified to the following extent:
 - (a) no motion for a Committee report pursuant to Standing Order 102 or private member's Bill pursuant to Standing Order 160 shall be taken;
 - (b) private members' business pursuant to Standing Order 159(1) and Standing Order 169 shall be taken for 2 hours and 2 minutes on the adjournment of the resumed Second Stage proceedings on the Microenterprise Loan Fund (Amendment) Bill 2024, or where Second Stage of that Bill concludes within its allotted time, on the conclusion thereof: Provided that if Second Stage of that Bill concludes before Thursday, private members' business on Thursday shall be taken on the conclusion of the SOS; and
 - (c) topical issues shall be taken on the conclusion of private members' business, and the Dáil shall adjourn on the conclusion of topical issues; and
 - (ii) the Dáil on its rising shall adjourn until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, 9th April, 2024

Thursday proposal no. 2 - Microenterprise Loan Fund (Amendment) Bill 2024

- Any resumed proceedings on Second Stage of the Microenterprise Loan Fund (Amendment) Bill 2024 shall, if not previously concluded, be interrupted and stand adjourned at 4.10 p.m. or after 2 hours 26 minutes, whichever is the later, and the Bill shall not be resumed on Thursday

MEMBERS DISSENTING

Deputies Pádraig MacLochlainn, Cian O' Callaghan and Paul Murphy dissented in relation to the lack of statements and Q&A with the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media on RTÉ.

WAIVER REQUEST ON ILLEGAL ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS DIVESTMENT BILL 2023

- The Bill was read a second time on 17 February 2024, the requisite nine months having elapsed since the agreement of a Government amendment to defer the second reading of the Bill.
- On 28 February 2024, the Business Committee received a request from the Bill's sponsor, Deputy John Brady, for a waiver of pre-Committee Stage scrutiny. On 29 February, the Business Committee received correspondence from the relevant Committee (namely the Committee on Finance and Public Expenditure and Reform, and Taoiseach) in support of the waiver request.
- On 4 March, correspondence was received from the Minister for Finance setting out his views that the Bill warranted pre-Committee Stage scrutiny by the relevant Committee.
- The Business Committee considered the above correspondence at its meeting on 8 March 2024. Consensus not having been reached on Deputy Brady's request, the waiver was not granted. Accordingly, pre-Committee Stage scrutiny must be completed before the Order for Committee can be made [Standing Orders 178 and 180].
- Deputies Pádraig Mac Lochlainn, Duncan Smith, Cian O'Callaghan, Richard Boyd Barrett, Denis Naughten and Thomas Pringle dissented from the decision to refuse the waiver, on the basis that the established practice of the Business Committee is to accept the recommendation of the relevant Committee in relation to requests for waivers.

INDICATIVE BUSINESS FOR SITTING WEEK BEGINNING 9 APRIL 2024

- Post-European Council Statements
- Gambling Regulation Bill 2022 – Report and Final Stages

UPCOMING THURSDAY EVENING BUSINESS

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*)

2nd May 2024: Neighbour Disputes (Vegetation) Bill 2017 (Second Stage) (*Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh*)

16th May 2024: Motion *re* Report entitled Mental Health Supports in Schools and Tertiary Education (*Committee on Education, Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science*)

BUSINESS COMMITTEE

19 March 2024