



# REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON STANDING ORDERS AND DÁIL REFORM

*Schedule of Dáil sitting week until 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2020, and changes to  
the Standing Orders of Dáil Éireann relative to Public Business*

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Adopted by the Committee  
8<sup>th</sup> September, 2020

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## Recommendations of the Committee on Standing Orders and Dáil Reform

At its meeting on Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2020, the Committee on Standing Orders and Dáil Reform agreed to recommend to Dáil Éireann that—

- (a) notwithstanding anything in Standing Orders—
  - (i) the schedule for the Dáil sitting week as contained in **Appendix 1** to this report be adopted with effect until Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2020, when the schedule shall be reviewed by the Committee,
  - (ii) business on Thursday evenings pursuant to Standing Order 159(2) shall, until 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2020, conclude within 75 minutes, and
  - (iii) written Parliamentary Questions pursuant to Standing Order 50(2) shall continue to be answered on Wednesdays; and
- (b) the amendments to the Standing Orders of Dáil Éireann relative to Public Business as contained in **Appendix 2** to this report be made.

## APPENDIX 1: Layout of Dáil sitting week until Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2020

<b>TUESDAY [Leinster House]</b>	<b>Start 1.30 p.m.</b>
Leaders' Questions	1.30 p.m. – 2.04 p.m.
Order of Business	2.04 p.m. – 2.34 p.m.
PQs - Oral Taoiseach	2.34 p.m. – 3.19 p.m.
Sanitisation SOS	3.19 p.m. – 3.39 p.m.
Government Business	3.39 p.m. – 5.09 p.m.
PQs – Oral Minister	5.09 p.m. – 6.39 p.m.
Private Members' Business	6.39 p.m. – 8.39 p.m.
Sanitisation SOS	8.39 p.m. – 8.59 p.m.
Topical issues	8.59 p.m. – 9.47 p.m.
PQs – Oral Minister	9.47 p.m. – 11.17 p.m.
	<b>Dáil adjourns 11.17 p.m.</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY [Convention Centre Dublin]</b>	<b>Start 10 a.m.</b>
Private Members' Business	10 a.m. to 12 noon
Leaders' Questions	12 noon – 12.34 p.m.
Questions on Promised Legislation	12.34 p.m. – 1.04 p.m.
PQs - Oral Taoiseach	1.04 p.m. – 1.49 p.m.
SOS	1.49 p.m. – 2.49 p.m.
Topical Issues	2.49 p.m. – 3.37 p.m.
Government Business	3.37 p.m. – 9.30 p.m.
Voting Block	9.30 p.m. – 10.15 p.m.
	<b>Dáil adjourns 10.15 p.m.</b>
<b>THURSDAY [Leinster House]</b>	<b>Start 10.30 a.m.</b>
PQs – Oral Minister	10.30 a.m. – 12 noon
Leaders' Questions	12 noon – 12.34 p.m.
Sanitisation SOS	12.34 p.m. – 12.54 p.m.
Questions on Promised Legislation	12.54 p.m. – 1.24 p.m.
Government Business	1.24 p.m. – 5.12 p.m.
Sanitisation SOS	5.12 p.m. – 5.32 p.m.
Topical Issues	5.32 p.m. – 6.20 p.m.
Second Stage of Private Member's Bill or Committee report (alternating weekly)	6.20 p.m. – 7.35 p.m.
	<b>Dáil adjourns 7.35 p.m.</b>

## APPENDIX 2: Amendments to Standing Orders of Dáil Éireann relative to Public Business

That, in accordance with the recommendations, pursuant to Standing Order 118A(2)(a) of the Committee on Standing Orders and Dáil Reform, and with effect from 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2020, the Standing Orders of Dáil Éireann relative to Public Business be amended as follows:

- (a) in Standing Order 36, by the insertion of the following subparagraph after subparagraph (c):

‘(d) The sequence in which Leaders shall be called upon to put questions shall be in accordance with a rota approved by the Committee on Standing Orders and Dáil Reform, determined on the basis of the number of members in each group, and with questions for each group distributed across each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday that the Dáil sits: Provided that no group shall have more than one question each day. The rota as applied to particular dates shall be circulated periodically to members by the Journal Office.’;

- (b) in Standing Order 37(2)(c), by the substitution of ‘pursuant to Standing Order 54’ for ‘pursuant to Standing Order 54(7)’;

- (c) in Standing Order 94(3), by the substitution of ‘on motion made by a member of the Business Committee’ for ‘on motion made by the Taoiseach’;

- (d) in Standing Order 124(1)(b), by the substitution of ‘the member of the Business Committee announcing business’ for ‘the Member of the Government announcing business’;

- (e) by the deletion of Standing Order 161;

- (f) in Standing Order 170, by the substitution of the following for paragraph (4) and its proviso:

‘(4) The speech of a member proposing a motion to which any time limit applies shall not exceed 20 minutes, and the member proposing, or such other member who has not already spoken as he or she may authorise in that behalf, shall be entitled to not less than 10 minutes for a speech in reply; the

speech of any other member in the course of the debate shall not exceed 20 minutes.

Provided that the time limits and sequence of speakers on a motion proposed by a private member which is limited to two hours, save as otherwise provided for in these Standing Orders, shall be in accordance with the speaking slots contained in a sessional Order approved by the Committee on Standing Orders and Dáil Reform;

Provided further that where a group chooses not to avail of their Opposition time slot, they may agree with a recipient (i.e., another group or an individual member), that the recipient may use the time. Any such agreement to transfer time shall be notified to the Ceann Comhairle in advance of private members' time, and any additional time received under this proviso shall not give a member an entitlement to speak twice;

Provided further that a group which consists only of a single party shall have precedence over a technical group.';

- (g) in Standing Order 201, by the deletion of paragraph (2); and
- (h) in Standing Order 205, in paragraph (4), in subparagraph (a), by the substitution of 'as defined in Standing Orders 96(3) and 99' for 'as defined in Standing Order 99'.