



REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON STANDING ORDERS AND DÁIL REFORM

Amendments to Standing Orders relating to a Gender-Neutral Chair

Adopted by the Committee
3 March, 2021

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Introduction

At its meeting on Wednesday, 20th January, 2021, the Committee on Standing Orders and Dáil Reform agreed, in principle, to refer to a gender-neutral Chair throughout Standing Orders. There was consensus to use the term ‘Cathaoirleach’ in place of Chairman, Chairperson and Chair, etc.

Following a review of Standing Orders, the Committee agreed, on 3rd March, 2021, that the amendments to the Standing Orders of Dáil Éireann relative to Public Business as contained, in the **Appendix** to this report, be made.

APPENDIX: 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 immediate effect, the Standing Orders of Dáil Éireann relative to Public Business be amended as follows:

1. In Standing Order 5—
 - by the substitution of “Cathaoirleach of Dáil Éireann” for “Chairman of Dáil Éireann”, and
 - by the substitution of “Leas-Chathaoirleach” for “Deputy Chairman”.
2. In Standing Order 6, in paragraph (1), by the substitution of “Cathaoirleach” for “Chairman”.
3. In Standing Order 9, by the substitution of “Cathaoirleach” for “Chairman”.
4. In Standing Order 18, by the substitution of “temporary Cathaoirleach” for “temporary Chairman”.
5. In Standing Order 19, by the substitution of “temporary Cathaoirleach” for “temporary Chairman”.
6. In Standing Order 22—
 - in paragraph (1)(d), by the substitution of “Temporary Cathaoirligh” for “Temporary Chairmen”, and
 - in paragraph (2), by the substitution of “the Cathaoirleach” for “the Chair”.
7. In Standing Order 28—
 - in paragraph 2(a), by the substitution of “Cathaoirleach” for “Chair”,
 - in paragraph 2(d), by the substitution of “Cathaoirleach of the Working Group of Committee Cathaoirligh” for “Chairman of the Working Group of Committee Chairs”, and

- in the proviso to paragraph (2), by the substitution of “Cathaoirleach” for “Chair”.
8. In Standing Order 34, by the substitution of “Cathaoirleach posts” for “Committee Chair posts”.
9. In Standing Order 71–
- in paragraph 1, in the definition of “Chair”, by the substitution of “Cathaoirleach” for “Chair”, wherever it occurs,
 - in paragraph (3), by the substitution of “Cathaoirleach” for “Chair”, and
 - in paragraph (4)–
 - i. by the substitution of “Cathaoirleach” for “Chair”, and
 - ii. by the substitution of “Working Group on Committee Cathaoirligh” for “Working Group on Committee Chairs”.
10. In Standing Order 71A–
- in paragraph 1(a), by the substitution of “the response of the Cathaoirleach” for “the Chair’s response”, and
 - in paragraph 12–
 - i. by the substitution of “or Cathaoirleach of the relevant Committee” for “or Committee Chair”, and
 - ii. by the substitution of “the Ceann Comhairle or Cathaoirleach of the relevant Committee” for “the Ceann Comhairle or Chair”.
11. In Standing Order 71B, by the substitution of “Cathaoirleach of the relevant Committee” for “Committee Chair”.
12. In Standing Order 72–
- in paragraph (1), by the substitution of “ “Cathaoirleach” ” for “ “Chair” ”,
 - in paragraph (1)(a), by the substitution of “Cathaoirleach” for “Chair”,

- in paragraph (1)(b), by the substitution of “a Cathaoirleach, Leas-Chathaoirleach or a temporary Cathaoirleach” for “a Chair, vice-Chair or a temporary Chair”, and
- in paragraphs (2) and (3), by the substitution of “Cathaoirleach” for “Chair”.

13. In Standing Order 74, in paragraph (2)(b), by the substitution of “a Cathaoirleach of a Committee” for “a Committee Chair”.

14. In Standing Order 74A—

- in paragraph (2), by the substitution of “the Cathaoirleach of a Committee” for “the Chair of a Committee”, and
- in paragraph (4)(b), by the substitution of “the Cathaoirleach of the Committee” for “the Chair of the Committee”.

15. In Standing Order 77, in paragraph (12), by the substitution of “the Cathaoirleach” for “the Chairman”.

16. In Standing Order 78, by the substitution of “Cathaoirleach” for “Chairman”, wherever it occurs.

17. In Standing Order 90, by the substitution of “the Cathaoirleach” for “the Chair”.

18. In Standing Order 92, in paragraph (2), by the substitution of “The Cathaoirleach” for “The Chairman”.

19. In Standing Order 93, by the substitution of “the Cathaoirleach” for “the Chairman”, wherever it occurs.

20. In Standing Order 93B, in paragraph (1), by the substitution of “the Cathaoirleach” for “the Chair”.

21. In Standing Order 94, in paragraph (3), by the substitution of “a Cathaoirleach” for “a Chairman”.
22. In Standing Order 95, in paragraph (7), by the substitution of “Cathaoirleach” for “Chairman”, wherever it occurs.
23. In Standing Order 96, in the proviso to paragraph (10), by the substitution of “Working Group of Committee Cathaoirligh” for “Working Group of Committee Chairmen”.
24. In Standing Order 96A, in paragraph (1), by the substitution of “the Cathaoirleach” for “the Chair”.
25. In Standing Order 98, by the substitution of “Cathaoirleach” for “Chairman”, wherever it occurs.
26. In Standing Order 102—
- in paragraph (2), by the substitution of “The Cathaoirleach of the Committee” for “The Committee Chairman”, and
 - in the proviso to paragraph (4), in sub-paragraph (a)(i), by the substitution of “the Cathaoirleach of the Committee” for “the Chairman of the Committee”.
27. In Standing Order 104—
- in paragraph (1), by the substitution of “the Cathaoirleach” for “the Chairman”, and
 - in paragraph (2)—
 - i. by the substitution of “Cathaoirleach posts” for “Chairman posts”,
 - ii. by the substitution of “Cathaoirleach post” for “Chairman post”,
 - iii. by the substitution of “the post of Cathaoirleach of the Committee of Public Accounts” for “the Chairmanship of the Committee of Public Accounts”, and
 - iv. by the substitution of “each Cathaoirleach” for “all Chairmen”,
 - in paragraph (3)—

- i. by the substitution of “Leas-Chathaoirleach” for “vice-Chairman”,
wherever it occurs,
 - ii. by the substitution of “the Cathaoirleach” for “the Chairman”,
wherever it occurs,
- in paragraph (3A)—
 - i. by the substitution of “the Cathaoirleach and Leas-Chathaoirleach” for
“the Chair and vice-Chair”,
 - ii. in the declaration, by the substitution of “*Cathaoirleach*/[*Leas-Chathaoirleach*]” for “[*vice-*]Chair”,
- in paragraph (4)—
 - i. by the substitution of “Cathaoirleach of a Committee (and the Leas-Chathaoirleach,” for “Chairman of a Committee (and the vice-Chairman,” and
 - ii. by the substitution of “the Cathaoirleach by” for “the Chairman by”,
and
- in paragraph (5), by the substitution of “Cathaoirleach” for “Chairman”,
wherever it occurs.

28. In Standing Order 105—

- in paragraphs (1) to (3) inclusive, by the substitution of “Cathaoirleach” for
“Chair”, wherever it occurs, and
- in paragraph (4)—
 - i. by the substitution of “Cathaoirleach of the Committee” for
“Committee Chair”, and
 - ii. by the substitution of “the Cathaoirleach” for “the Chair”.

29. In Standing Order 110, in paragraph (1), by the substitution of “the Cathaoirleach”
for “the Chairman”.

30. In Standing Order 111, in paragraph (2), by the substitution of “the Cathaoirleach”
for “the Chairman”.

31. In Standing Order 112, in paragraph (2), by the substitution of “the Cathaoirleach” for “the Chairman”, wherever it occurs.

32. In Standing Order 113—

- in paragraph (1), by the substitution of “The Cathaoirleach” for “The Chair”,
 - in paragraph (2), by the substitution of “by the Cathaoirleach” for “by the Chair”, wherever it occurs,
 - in paragraph (3)—
 - i. by the substitution of “the Cathaoirleach” for “the Chair”, wherever it occurs,
 - ii. by the substitution of “The Cathaoirleach” for “The Chair”,
- and
- in paragraph (4), by the substitution of “A Cathaoirleach” for “A Chair”.

33. In Standing Order 114, by the substitution of “the Cathaoirleach” for “the Chairman”.

34. In Standing Order 118A, in paragraph (4), by the substitution of “Cathaoirleach” for “Chairman”, wherever it occurs.

35. In Standing Order 119—

- in sub-paragraph (2)(b)(v), by the substitution of “a Cathaoirleach” for “its Chair”, and
- in paragraph (4), by the substitution of “Cathaoirleach” for “Chair”, wherever it occurs.

36. In Standing Order 120—

- in paragraph (1), by the substitution of “Working Group of Committee Cathaoirligh” for “Working Group of Committee Chairmen”,
- in paragraph (2), by the substitution of “Cathaoirleach” for “Chairman”,
- in paragraph (3)(c), by the substitution of “Cathaoirligh” for “Committee Chairmen”, and
- in paragraph (8)—

- i. by the deletion of “Chairman” where it first occurs,
- ii. by the substitution of “Cathaoirligh” for “Chairmen”, and
- iii. by the substitution of “Cathaoirleach” for “Chairman”.

37. In Standing Order 123, in paragraph (4), by the substitution of “Cathaoirleach” for “Chairman”, wherever it occurs.

38. In Standing Order 125, by the substitution of “Cathaoirleach” for “Chairman”, wherever it occurs.

39. In Standing Order 132, in paragraph (3), by the substitution of “Cathaoirleach” for “Chairman”, wherever it occurs.

40. In Standing Order 133, in paragraph (3)(c) and the proviso thereto, by the substitution of “Cathaoirleach” for “Chairman”, wherever it occurs.

41. In Standing Order 134, in paragraph (2)(c), by the substitution of “Cathaoirleach” for “Chairman”.

42. In Standing Order 135, in paragraph (2)(c), by the substitution of “Cathaoirleach” for “Chairman”.

43. In Standing Order 144, by the substitution of “Cathaoirleach” for “Chairman”, wherever it occurs.

44. In Standing Order 152, in paragraph (3), by the substitution of “any temporary Cathaoirleach, the Cathaoirleach or Leas-Chathaoirleach of any Committee” for “any temporary Chairman, the Chairman or vice-Chairman of any Committee”.

45. In Standing Order 176, by the substitution of “Cathaoirleach or Leas-Chathaoirleach” for “Chairman or vice-Chairman”, wherever it occurs.

46. In Standing Order 182, in the first proviso, by the substitution of “the Cathaoirleach” for “the Chair”.
47. In Standing Order 183, by the substitution of “Cathaoirleach of the Committee” for “Committee Chairperson”.
48. In Standing Order 186, by the substitution of “the Cathaoirleach” for “the Chair”.
49. In Standing Order 219, in paragraph (2), by the substitution of “the Cathaoirleach” for “the Chairman”.
50. In Standing Order 221, by the substitution of “the Cathaoirleach of the Seanad” for “the Chairman of the Seanad”.