



# REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON STANDING ORDERS AND DÁIL REFORM

*Addition of two minutes for non-aligned members to fixed-time  
debates and private members' business*

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Adopted by the Committee  
21 July 2023

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## Recommendation of Committee on Standing Orders and Dáil Reform

Having agreed the matter at its meeting of 12 July 2023, the Committee on Standing Orders and Dáil Reform recommends to Dáil Éireann, pursuant to Standing Order 118A(2)(a) and (c), that, until further notice in the 33<sup>rd</sup> Dáil—

- (a) the Standing Orders of Dáil Éireann relative to Public Business are amended—
  - (i) in paragraph (1) of Standing Order 159, by the substitution of ‘two hours and 2 minutes’ for ‘two hours’;
  - (ii) in Standing Order 170—
    - (I) in paragraph (1), by the substitution of the following for all words from ‘The time allowed’ down to and including ‘in the aggregate’:

‘The time allowed for the debate on a motion proposed by a private member, other than a motion relating to any stage of a Bill, shall not exceed a period of two hours and two minutes in the aggregate’; and
    - (II) in the proviso, by the substitution of ‘two hours and 2 minutes’ for ‘two hours’; and
  - (iii) by the substitution of the version of the ordinary routine of business contained in the appendix to this report for the version as set out in Schedule 3 to the Standing Orders; and
- (b) in relation to the allocation of speaking time to non-aligned members—
  - (i) where an Order of the Dáil is made on the Order of Business or in a ‘Sittings and Business’ motion to provide for a fixed amount of time for any debate on a motion, statements or Second Stage of a Bill (with the exception of any Order made for business to be taken pursuant to Standing Order 159(2))—
    - (I) subject to subparagraph (II), a single speaking slot of two minutes shall be afforded for use by non-aligned members immediately following the last of all other speaking slots as set out in the arrangement, and
    - (II) any Ministerial response provided for shall take place immediately following the two minutes as provided for in subparagraph (I); and
  - (ii) the Order of the Dáil of 9<sup>th</sup> July, 2020, in relation to speaking arrangements for private members’ time shall be amended by the insertion of ‘Non-aligned members – 2 minutes’ immediately before the second occurrence in paragraphs (i) and (ii) of ‘Government – 10 minutes’.

## APPENDIX

### Ordinary routine of business

<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>Start 2 p.m.</b>
Leaders' Questions	2.00 p.m. – 2.34 p.m.
Order of Business	2.34 p.m. – 3.04 p.m.
Any motions for introduction of Bills pursuant to Standing Order 174	<i>Up to 5 minutes of speeches per Bill</i>
Any motions listed on the report of the Business Committee under 'Motion(s) without debate'	
Any motions for referral of Bills to Select Committee pursuant to Standing Order 180(2)	
PQs - Oral Taoiseach	3.04 p.m. – 3.49 p.m. <i>approx.</i>
Government Business	3.49 p.m. – 6.12 p.m. <i>approx.</i>
Private notice questions (if allowed)	<i>No set time</i>
Private Members' Business	6.12 p.m. – 8.14 p.m. <i>approx.</i>
PQs – Oral Minister (1)	8.14 p.m. – 9.44 p.m. <i>approx.</i>
Topical issues	9.44 p.m. – 10.32 p.m. <i>approx.</i>
	<b>Dáil adjourns 10.32 p.m. approx.</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>Start 9.10 a.m.</b>
Topical Issues	9.10 a.m. – 9.58 a.m.
Private Members' Business	9.58 a.m. – 12 noon
Leaders' Questions	12 noon – 12.34 p.m.
Questions on Policy or Legislation	12.34 p.m. – 1.04 p.m.
Any motions for introduction of Bills pursuant to Standing Order 174	<i>Up to 5 minutes of speeches per Bill</i>
Any motions listed on the report of the Business Committee under 'Motion(s) without debate'	
Any motions for referral of Bills to Select Committee pursuant to Standing Order 180(2)	
PQs - Oral Taoiseach	1.04 p.m. – 1.49 p.m. <i>approx.</i>
SOS for 60 minutes	1.49 p.m. – 2.49 p.m. <i>approx.</i>
Government Business	2.49 p.m. – 8.45 p.m. <i>approx.</i>
Private notice questions (if allowed)	<i>No set time</i>
Voting block	8.45 p.m. – 9.30 p.m. <i>approx.</i>
	<b>Dáil adjourns 9.30 p.m. approx.</b>

<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>Start 9 a.m.</b>
PQs – Oral Minister (2)	9.00 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.
PQs – Oral Minister (3)	10.30 a.m. – 12 noon
Leaders’ Questions	12 noon – 12.34 p.m.
Questions on Policy or Legislation	12.34 p.m. – 1.04 p.m.
Any motions for introduction of Bills pursuant to Standing Order 174	<i>Up to 5 minutes of speeches per Bill</i>
Any motions listed on the report of the Business Committee under ‘Motion(s) without debate’	
Any motions for referral of Bills to Select Committee pursuant to Standing Order 180(2)	
SOS for 40 minutes	1.04 p.m. – 1.44 p.m. <i>approx.</i>
Government Business	1.44 p.m. – 7.24 p.m. <i>approx.</i>
Private notice questions (if allowed)	<i>No set time</i>
Topical Issues	7.24 p.m. – 8.12 p.m. <i>approx.</i>
Second Stage of Private Member’s Bill or Committee report (alternating weekly)	8.12 p.m. – 9.27 p.m. <i>approx.</i>
	<b>Dáil adjourns 9.27 p.m. approx.</b>