

National Assembly for Wales

[Business Committee](#)

March 2020

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



Amending Standing Orders: Assembly Business and Extraordinary Circumstances

Purpose

1. In accordance with Standing Order 11.7(iv), the Business Committee is responsible for making recommendations on the general practice and procedures of the Assembly, including any proposals for the re-making or revision of Standing Orders.
2. The report recommends amendments to Standing Orders 6 and 12. The proposals for new Standing Orders are at Annex A.

Background

3. The Business Committee, having considered the potential impact of the Covid-19 outbreak on the Assembly's business, has agreed the proposed amendments to Standing Orders at Annex A.

Action

4. The Business Committee formally agreed the changes to Standing Orders on 18 March 2020 and the Assembly is invited to approve the proposals at Annex A.

Annex A

STANDING ORDER 6 – Presiding Officer and Deputy

Designated Temporary Presiding Officer

6.24A Where it considers it appropriate, the Assembly may elect a Member as a designated Temporary Presiding Officer to exercise the Presiding Officer's functions.

6.24B The designated Temporary Presiding Officer must undertake the Presiding Officer's functions only after the Clerk has notified the Assembly that both the Presiding Officer and the Deputy Presiding Officer are unable to act.

6.24C The Temporary Presiding Officer ceases to exercise these functions when the Clerk notifies the Assembly that either the Presiding Officer or Deputy Presiding Officer become able to act.

Acting Chair of Plenary Meetings

6.24D The Assembly may elect an Acting Chair for the purposes of chairing plenary meetings.

6.24E An Acting Chair elected under Standing Order 6.24D may only undertake the following functions of the Presiding Officer:

- (i) functions relating to business in Plenary under Standing Order 12;
- (ii) functions relating to order in plenary, under Standing Order 13;
- (ii) any other functions relating to Plenary business.

6.24F An Acting Chair may only undertake the functions specified under Standing Order 6.24E after the Clerk has notified the Assembly that both the Presiding Officer and the Deputy Presiding Officer are unable to chair plenary meetings.

6.24G An Acting Chair ceases to exercise these functions when the Clerk notifies the Assembly that either the Presiding Officer or Deputy Presiding Officer become able to chair plenary meetings.

6.24H Standing Orders 6.24A – 6.24H will cease to have effect on the dissolution of the Assembly.

STANDING ORDER 12

Plenary Meetings

12.1 Plenary meetings of the Assembly must take place in public and broadcasting access must be permitted in accordance with such arrangements as the Commission may agree.

12.1A The Llywydd may exclude the public from attending plenary meetings where this is required in order to protect public health. In that event, broadcasting access must continue to be permitted.

12.1B The requirement in Standing Order 12.1A to continue to permit broadcasting access does not apply where the Commission determines that it is impractical for the proceedings to be broadcast.

12.1C Standing Orders 12.1A – 12.1C will cease to have effect on the dissolution of the Assembly.