

National Assembly for Wales

[Business Committee](#)

March 2018

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



Amending Standing Orders: Standing Order 20 – Statement on the Draft Budget Proposals

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 an amendment to Standing Order 20 to formalise a procedure for the statement on the Government's Draft Budget to be debated. Such a statement may be made in plenary as soon as possible after the outline budget proposals are laid, in accordance with Standing Order 20.8. The change agreed by Business Committee is found in Annex A, and the proposal for new Standing Orders is at Annex B.

Background

3. On 13 February 2018, Business Managers considered a paper on the Welsh Government's Legislative Programme and Statement on the Draft Budget, and agreed a proposed amendment to Standing Order 20 to formalise a procedure trialled on 3 October 2016, for a debate on the statement introducing the Government's draft budget proposals.
4. The format allows for a statement to be made and debated immediately. It allows for longer contributions from other Members than was previously been the case, and there remains an opportunity for a Plenary vote on the draft budget in Plenary after committee scrutiny is completed.
5. When reviewing Plenary reforms, Business Managers agreed that they wished to amend Standing Order 20 so that this format can be followed annually.

Action

6. The Business Committee formally agreed the change to Standing Order 20 on 6 March 2018 and the Assembly is invited to approve the proposal at Annex B.

Annex A

STANDING ORDER 20 – Finance Procedures		
	Draft Budget Proposals	No change
20.7	In accordance with Standing Order 20.2 (or Standing Order 20.6), a Welsh Minister must lay before the Assembly outline budget proposals setting out financing plans, and the amounts of resources and cash which the government proposes to use for the following financial year and provisional amounts for the subsequent two years or for such other period as the Minister considers appropriate.	No change
20.7A	At the same time as a Welsh Minister lays before the Assembly outline budget proposals under Standing Order 20.7 they must also lay such accompanying information as is specified in the protocol agreed under Standing Order 20.1A.	No change
20.7B	In accordance with Standing Order 20.2 (or Standing Order 20.6), a Welsh Minister must lay before the Assembly detailed	No change

	budget proposals, including the proposed budget allocations within each Ministerial portfolio.	
20.8	A Welsh Minister may make a statement in plenary on the draft budget as soon as possible after the outline budget proposals are laid in accordance with Standing Order 20.7. <u>The statement may be debated.</u>	<p>Amend Standing Order</p> <p>The proposed change allows the Welsh Minister’s statement on the draft budget to be debated, rather than subject to questions as is usual for statements under Standing Order 12.51. The change also enables the Assembly to debate a statement rather than a motion, as would normally be the case.</p>
20.9	<p>No motion may be moved in plenary in respect of the draft budget for the government until after both the following dates have passed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) the deadline by which the responsible committee is required to report on the outline budget proposals under Standing Order 20.4(ii) (or Standing Order 20.6); and ii) the deadline by which consideration of the detailed budget proposals by other committees must be completed under Standing Order 20.4(iii) (or Standing 	<p>No change</p>

	Order 20.6).	
20.10	<i>[Standing Order removed by resolution in Plenary on 21 June 2017]</i>	
20.11	<p>The responsible committee's report may recommend changes to the amounts proposed in the outline budget proposals provided that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) the net effect of those changes would not increase or decrease the aggregate amounts proposed in the outline budget proposals for the government; or ii) any recommendation to increase the total spend proposed is accompanied by a proposal for a commensurate increase in the level of financing; or iii) any recommendation to decrease the level of financing should include how the reduction is to be balanced by a reduction in the total spending proposed. 	No change
20.12	In accordance with the timetable established and published by the Business Committee under Standing Order 20.4 or Standing Order 20.6, the Assembly must consider a motion tabled by a Welsh Minister that the Assembly takes note of the draft budget for the government. Any amendment to such a motion	No change

may only be tabled provided that:

- i) the net effect of any changes would not increase or decrease the aggregate amounts of resources or cash proposed in the draft budget for the government; or
- ii) any proposal to increase the total spend is accompanied by a proposal for a commensurate increase in the level of financing; or
- iii) any proposal to decrease the level of financing includes how the reduction is to be balanced by a reduction in the total spending proposed.

Annex B

STANDING ORDER 20 – Finance Procedures

Draft Budget Proposals

- 20.7 In accordance with Standing Order 20.2 (or Standing Order 20.6), a Welsh Minister must lay before the Assembly outline budget proposals setting out financing plans, and the amounts of resources and cash which the government proposes to use for the following financial year and provisional amounts for the subsequent two years or for such other period as the Minister considers appropriate.
- 20.7A At the same time as a Welsh Minister lays before the Assembly outline budget proposals under Standing Order 20.7 they must also lay such accompanying information as is specified in the protocol agreed under Standing Order 20.1A.
- 20.7B In accordance with Standing Order 20.2 (or Standing Order 20.6), a Welsh Minister must lay before the Assembly detailed budget proposals, including the proposed budget allocations within each Ministerial portfolio.
- 20.8 A Welsh Minister may make a statement in plenary on the draft budget as soon as possible after the outline budget proposals are laid in accordance with Standing Order 20.7. The statement may be debated.
- 20.9 No motion may be moved in plenary in respect of the draft budget for the government until after both the following dates have passed:
- i) the deadline by which the responsible committee is required to report on the outline budget proposals under Standing Order 20.4(ii) (or Standing Order 20.6); and
 - ii) the deadline by which consideration of the detailed budget proposals by other committees must be completed under Standing Order 20.4(iii) (or Standing Order 20.6).

20.10 *[Standing Order removed by resolution in Plenary on 21 June 2017]*

20.11 The responsible committee's report may recommend changes to the amounts proposed in the outline budget proposals provided that:

- i) the net effect of those changes would not increase or decrease the aggregate amounts proposed in the outline budget proposals for the government; or
- ii) any recommendation to increase the total spend proposed is accompanied by a proposal for a commensurate increase in the level of financing; or
- iii) any recommendation to decrease the level of financing should include how the reduction is to be balanced by a reduction in the total spending proposed.

20.12 In accordance with the timetable established and published by the Business Committee under Standing Order 20.4 or Standing Order 20.6, the Assembly must consider a motion tabled by a Welsh Minister that the Assembly takes note of the draft budget for the government. Any amendment to such a motion may only be tabled provided that:

- i) the net effect of any changes would not increase or decrease the aggregate amounts of resources or cash proposed in the draft budget for the government; or
- ii) any proposal to increase the total spend is accompanied by a proposal for a commensurate increase in the level of financing; or
- iii) any proposal to decrease the level of financing includes how the reduction is to be balanced by a reduction in the total spending proposed.