

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE
PROPOSAL TO CHANGE STANDING ORDERS

Introduction

On 15 October 2002 the Business Committee considered a proposal for revisions to Standing Orders arising from recommendations in the Assembly Review of Procedures.

The following proposal agreed by Members of the Business Committee is now recommended for approval by the Assembly. The detailed changes are outlined in the attached motion.

Background

On 18 July 2002 the Assembly debated and rejected a motion to adopt a package of Standing Order changes arising from the Assembly Review of Procedures report. As Assembly Members' objections focused on the proposals to amend the timings of Plenary Sessions the Business Committee agreed that these changes should be reconsidered by the Assembly under a separate motion.

Proposal

Following the debate on 14 February, the Assembly agreed the recommendations of the Assembly Review of Procedures group, that standing order should be revised to allow for Tuesday plenary sessions to be extended until 7 pm on a motion tabled 7 working days and approved 5 working days in advance.

Deputy Presiding Officer
October 2002

MOTION

That the National Assembly, acting under section 46(6) of the Government of Wales Act 1998, and Standing Order No. 34:

i. considers the report of the Business Committee laid in the Table Office on 28 October 2002;

ii. approves the revisions to the Standing Orders listed in the document laid in the Table Office on 28 October 2002 .

Timing of plenary sessions

ARP Recommendation

Para 3.5 That Tuesday plenary sessions normally end at 6.00pm.

That there should be flexibility for Tuesday afternoon plenary sessions to continue until 7.00pm, on a motion tabled 7 working days and approved 5 working days in advance.

5.2 Motions under paragraph 5.1 shall be tabled having regard to any advice offered by the Business Committee under paragraph 13.1(i). Wherever possible, motions shall be framed having regard to the family and constituency or electoral region responsibilities of Members, and their likely travel arrangements; and in any event shall seek to avoid programming business before 9.00am or (subject to paragraph 6.2) after 5.30pm on any working day.

6.2 The Assembly shall meet in plenary in accordance with decisions made under paragraph 5.4. Meetings on Tuesdays shall conclude by 5.55pm (except that sittings may be extended until 7pm by resolution of the Assembly, provided that (a) the resolution is passed not later than five working days, and (b) the motion for the resolution was tabled at least seven working days, before the day when it is proposed that the sitting is to be extended).