

Amending Standing Orders:

Additional Deputy Presiding Officer

February 2026

In accordance with Standing Order 11.7(iv), the Business Committee is responsible for making recommendations on the general practice and procedures of the Senedd, including any proposals for the re-making or revision of Standing Orders.

This report recommends changes to Standing Orders in order to give effect to the provisions of the Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Act 2024, which allows for the election of an additional Deputy Presiding Officer by the Senedd.

The Senedd is invited to approve the proposal to revise Standing Orders as outlined at Annex A. The amended Standing Orders, if approved, are at Annex B.



Contents

1. Background	3
2. Changes required to Standing Order 6 (Presiding Officer and Deputy)	4
3. Other matters to note	7
4. Decision.....	8
Annex A: Proposed changes to Standing Orders and explanatory notes	9
Annex B: Standing Orders, as amended	29

1. Background

1. The Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Act 2024 (SCMEA) amends Section 25 (Presiding Officer etc.) of the Government of Wales Act 2006 (“the Act”) to make provision enabling the election of an additional Deputy Presiding Officer by the Senedd, in addition to the Deputy Presiding Officer already provided for under Section 25(1)(b) of the Act. These provisions will come into force at the start of the Seventh Senedd term in 2026.

Terminology

2. Current Standing Orders include references to “Deputy” and “Deputy Presiding Officer”, with the Interpretation section defining “Deputy” as the officer elected under Section 25(1)(b) of the Act. The Business Committee has considered how references to the Deputy Presiding Officer(s) should be addressed in Standing Orders, in light of the potential for a future Senedd to elect up to two office holders. The Committee proposes that no distinction should generally be made between the two office holders within the Senedd’s Standing Orders or guidance.

3. Amendments are required to the Interpretation section to account for the potential for there to be two Deputy Presiding Officers. This includes a new definition of “Deputies” to account for circumstances in which the Senedd has elected two Deputy Presiding Officers. The definition also specifies that “Deputies” should be interpreted to mean a single Deputy should there only be one Deputy Presiding Officer in post.

4. Where it is necessary to distinguish between the two offices in Standing Orders, notably in provisions that relate to the processes for election to the roles and the delegation of functions of the Presiding Officer, it is proposed that reference be made to a:

- “first Deputy”, defined as the (compulsory) Deputy Presiding Officer elected under section 25(1)(b) of the Act; and
- “second Deputy”, defined as the (optional) Deputy Presiding Officer elected under section 25(1A) of the Act.

5. The Business Committee proposes that these terms be defined in the Interpretation section. For clarity, this report also uses the terms “first Deputy” and “second Deputy” as defined above.

2. Changes required to Standing Order 6 (Presiding Officer and Deputy)

6. The Business Committee considered the implications of the legislative change at its meetings on 26 June 2025 and 9 July 2025, and concluded that a number of changes to the Senedd's Standing Orders are required to reflect the legislative changes brought by the SCMEA.

Decision to elect a second Deputy Presiding Officer

7. The SCMEA inserts a new subsection, Section 25(1A), into the Act, which provides that the Senedd may elect a second Deputy Presiding Officer from among its Members at any time. The legislation does not require the election of a second Deputy Presiding Officer, or specify the method by which the Senedd should decide whether to proceed with electing a second Deputy Presiding Officer.

8. Standing Orders will therefore need to make provision for the process by which a decision to elect a second Deputy Presiding Officer can be taken. The Business Committee proposes that the election of a second Deputy Presiding Officer should be optional and, if it takes place, should take place at a later time than the election of the Presiding Officer and first Deputy Presiding Officer, both of which are compulsory offices which must be filled at the first meeting following a Senedd election.

9. The Business Committee proposes that such a decision should be initiated by the Presiding Officer, by means of proposing a motion to the Senedd, following consultation with the Business Committee. It considers that this will provide the flexibility for future Seneddau to determine whether the extra capacity provided by a second Deputy Presiding Officer is required, and enable such decisions to be informed by the circumstances and demands of a particular Senedd. It will also allow for such decisions to be led by the Presiding Officer and informed by consultation with political groups, with the final decision taken by the Senedd itself.

Election of a second Deputy Presiding Officer

Election process

10. If the Senedd decides to elect a second Deputy Presiding Officer, the Business Committee proposes that the election should be conducted in accordance with the secret ballot process used for the election of the Presiding Officer and first Deputy Presiding Officer. This is set out in Standing Orders 6.6 to 6.10B.

Eligibility requirements

11. Section 25(7A) of the Act (inserted by the SCMEA) introduces new eligibility requirements in respect of the political group to which a second Deputy Presiding Officer may belong. These require that a second Deputy Presiding Officer must not belong to:

- the same political group as either the Presiding Officer or the first Deputy Presiding Officer; or
- a political group without an executive role if both the Presiding Officer and the first Deputy Presiding Officer belong to political groups without an executive role.

12. The Business Committee proposes that necessary amendments are made to Standing Orders 6.12 and 6.13 to reflect these requirements. The effect will be that a second Deputy Presiding Officer will not be able to belong to the same political group as either the Presiding Officer or the first Deputy Presiding Officer, and the holders of the three offices must between them represent political groups with and without executive roles.

13. These provisions are subject to disapplication by a two-thirds majority vote of the Senedd, under the existing mechanism set out in Section 25(9) of the Act, which already applies to the political group membership of the Presiding Officer and the first Deputy Presiding Officer.

Term of office

14. The SCMEA amends Section 25(4) of the Act to allow Standing Orders to make provision for a second Deputy Presiding Officer to hold office for a shorter period of time than the first Deputy Presiding Officer, who serves until dissolution.

15. The Business Committee proposes that the default position should be that a second Deputy Presiding Officer will hold office until the dissolution of that Senedd i.e. should have the same term of office as the first Deputy Presiding

Officer. However, to provide flexibility for the Senedd, the Business Committee also proposes that Standing Orders should enable the motion proposing the election of a second Deputy Presiding Officer to specify a shorter term of office for that office holder.

16. Standing Orders 6.26 and 6.27 currently provide for the removal by the Senedd of the Presiding Officer or first Deputy Presiding Officer from office. The amendments proposed to these Standing Orders will also enable the Senedd to resolve to remove the second Deputy Presiding Officer from office.

Voting during proceedings

17. Section 25(13) of the Act (as amended) permits Standing Orders to make provision regarding the participation (including voting) of the Presiding Officer and Deputy Presiding Officers in Senedd proceedings. Standing Order 6.20 currently provides that the Presiding Officer and Deputy Presiding Officer may only vote in proceedings when exercising a casting vote, other than where legislation requires a resolution or motion to be passed on a vote in which the number of Members voting in favour of it is not less than two-thirds of the total number of Senedd seats (Standing Order 6.21).

18. The Business Committee proposes that the provision in Standing Orders 6.20 and 6.21 should also apply in full to any second Deputy Presiding Officer elected by the Senedd.

19. The Business Committee acknowledges that there is the potential for this restriction to act as a disincentive to a second Deputy Presiding Officer being elected. It considers this risk is outweighed by the benefits of maintaining the principle of the impartiality of the role, ensuring consistency between the restrictions applied to the two Deputy Presiding Officers, and avoiding creating a significant distinction between the roles.

20. The Business Committee also notes that the Senedd would, irrespective of whether a second Deputy Presiding Officer is elected, remain able to appoint an Acting Chair of Plenary Meetings (Standing Orders 6.23A - 6.23D) and Temporary Chairs (Standing Orders 6.22 - 6.23) to assist in meeting some of the additional demands relating to plenary business in a larger Senedd. The provision under Standing Order 6.24 that enables the Senedd to elect a Temporary Presiding Officer in the event that no office holder is able to act is also retained.

Functions that can be exercised by a Deputy Presiding Officer

21. The Business Committee envisages that the delegation of functions to the Deputy Presiding Officer(s) in a routine situation would be at the discretion of the Presiding Officer, in the same manner as at present.

22. Section 25(10) of the Act (as amended) provides that a Deputy Presiding Officer may exercise the functions of the Presiding Officer if the office is vacant or the Presiding Officer is unable to act, i.e. in a situation where it is not possible for delegation to be managed by the Presiding Officer. In this situation, Standing Orders need to provide clarity over which individual would exercise those functions.

23. The Business Committee proposes that a new Standing Order 6.18A is created to provide that the functions of the Presiding Officer would fall to the first Deputy Presiding Officer. If that office is also vacant, or if that Deputy Presiding Officer is unable to act, Standing Order 6.18B specifies that the functions would be exercised by the second Deputy Presiding Officer (should one have been elected by the Senedd). The Business Committee notes that these Standing Orders are intended to provide clarity in these specific circumstances and not to create a hierarchy between Deputy Presiding Officers.

24. Should a situation arise in which no Presiding Officer or Deputy Presiding Officer is able to act, the Senedd would retain the ability to appoint a Temporary Presiding Officer under Standing Order 6.24.

3. Other matters to note

25. In addition to the changes proposed to Standing Order 6, there are a small number of references to a Deputy Presiding Officer in Standing Orders 8, 11, 12, 18B and 26. Minor proposed changes to these Standing Orders are also outlined in Annex A.

26. As part of its consideration of these matters, the Business Committee considered Recommendation 5 of the Reform Bill Committee's Stage 1 report on SCMEA.¹ This suggested that the English titles used for the Presiding Officer and Deputy Presiding Officer be changed to "Speaker" and "Deputy Speaker" respectively.

¹ Reform Bill Committee, *Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill: Stage 1 Report*, January 2024

27. The Business Committee noted that Standing Orders currently use the statutory titles “Presiding Officer” and “Deputy Presiding Officer” in English, and “Llywydd” and “Dirprwy Lywydd” in Welsh. A majority of the Business Committee agreed not to propose any change to the titles used at the current time.

4. Decision

28. On 9 October 2025, the Business Committee formally agreed to propose changes to Standing Orders 6, 8, 11, 12, 18B and 26 outlined in this report. The Senedd is invited to approve the proposed new Standing Orders at Annex B.

Annex A: Proposed changes to Standing Orders and explanatory notes

INTERPRETATION	
<u>“a Deputy”</u> means the <u>a</u> Deputy Presiding Officer elected under <u>either</u> section 25(1)(b) or <u>section 25(1A)</u> of the Act;	Amend interpretation The proposed change specifies that references to “a Deputy” in Standing Orders refer to one Deputy Presiding Officer. Should there be two Deputy Presiding Officers in office at the time, delegation of specific functions operates at the discretion of the Presiding Officer.
<u>“Deputies”</u> means all current holders of the office of Deputy Presiding Officer elected under <u>either</u> section 25(1)(b) or <u>section 25(1A)</u> of the Act;	Add new interpretation The proposed change specifies that references to “Deputies” in Standing Orders relate to both Deputy Presiding Officers (if there are two Deputy Presiding Officers in office), or to the Deputy Presiding Officer (if there is one Deputy Presiding Officer in office).
<u>“first Deputy”</u> means the Deputy Presiding Officer elected under <u>section 25(1)(b)</u> of the Act;	Add new interpretation The proposed change specifies that references in Standing Orders to “first Deputy” relate only to the (compulsory) Deputy Presiding Officer elected under section 25(1)(b) of the Act.
<u>“second Deputy”</u> means the Deputy Presiding Officer elected under <u>section 25(1A)</u> of the Act;	Add new interpretation The proposed change specifies that references in Standing Orders to “second Deputy” relate only to the (optional) Deputy Presiding Officer elected under section 25(1A) of the Act.

STANDING ORDER 6 – Presiding Officer and <u>Deputy</u> Deputies	
Election of Presiding Officer and <u>first</u> Deputy	Amend heading The proposed change reflects that this section relates only to the election of the Presiding Officer and the Deputy Presiding Officer elected under section 25(1)(b) of the Act.
6.1. At its first meeting after a Senedd election, the Senedd must elect from its Members a Presiding Officer and a <u>first</u> Deputy.	Amend Standing Order The proposed change reflects that only the first Deputy Presiding Officer will be elected at the first meeting after a Senedd election.
6.2. If the office of the Presiding Officer or that of the <u>first</u> Deputy becomes vacant, the Senedd must, as soon as possible, elect a Member to fill the vacancy. The election of a Presiding Officer takes precedence over all other business.	Amend Standing Order The proposed change is required to specify that this Standing Order relates only to the Presiding Officer and the Deputy Presiding Officer elected under section 25(1)(b) of the Act.
6.3. Subject to Standing Order 6.4, the proceedings for the election of a Presiding Officer at the first meeting after a Senedd election are to be chaired by the Presiding Officer who held office immediately before the Senedd election (“the former Presiding Officer”).	Retain Standing Order

<p>6.4. If:</p> <p>(i) at the first meeting after a Senedd election the former Presiding Officer is unwilling or unable to act; or</p> <p>(ii) at any election of a Presiding Officer at any other time the no Deputies are Deputy is unwilling or unable to act, or there is no Deputy Deputies are in office,</p> <p>the proceedings for the election of a Presiding Officer are to be chaired by the Clerk.</p>	<p>Amend Standing Order</p> <p>The proposed change is required in order to account for the fact that, should there be more than one Deputy Presiding Officer in office at the relevant time, either would be able to preside over proceedings to elect a new Presiding Officer. should such proceedings take place at any time other than the first meeting after a Senedd election.</p>
<p>6.5. No Member who chairs proceedings for the election of a Presiding Officer may be nominated for election as Presiding Officer in those proceedings.</p>	<p>Retain Standing Order</p>
<p>6.6. At the election of a Presiding Officer or a Deputy, the chair must invite nominations. A nomination is, in the first instance, valid only if seconded by a Member who is not a member of the political group to which the nominating Member belongs.</p>	<p>Retain Standing Order</p>
<p>6.7. If it appears that no Member is likely to be nominated and seconded by Members who do not belong to the same group, the chair must adjourn the proceedings and may, on their resumption, accept nominations which are seconded by members of the same political group as the nominating Member.</p>	<p>Retain Standing Order</p>

6.8. If there is only one nomination, the chair must propose that the Member nominated be elected as Presiding Officer (or <u>as a</u> Deputy, as the case may be). If that is opposed, or if there are two or more nominations, the chair must make arrangements for the election to take place by secret ballot.	<p>Amend Standing Order The proposed change is required to reflect that the Standing Order may relate to the election process of either Deputy Presiding Officer.</p>
6.9. If two Members have been nominated, the chair must declare elected the Member who has secured the greater number of votes cast in the ballot.	<p>Retain Standing Order</p>
6.10. If more than two Members have been nominated and no Member receives more votes than the total number of votes cast for all the other candidates in a ballot, the candidate (or candidates) who has received the smallest number of votes is excluded and further secret ballots held until one candidate obtains more votes than the total number of votes cast for all the other candidates; and if there is an equality of votes between the two remaining candidates (or the only two candidates) a further secret ballot must take place.	<p>Retain Standing Order</p>
6.10A. A candidate may withdraw their candidature following any secret ballot held under Standing Order 6.10.	<p>Retain Standing Order</p>
6.10B. If, as a result of exclusions and withdrawals, there is one remaining candidate who has not secured more votes than the total number of votes cast for all the other candidates in any secret ballot, the chair must propose that the Member be elected as Presiding Officer (<u>or as a</u> Deputy, as the case may be). If that is opposed the chair must make arrangements for the vote to take place by secret ballot.	<p>Amend Standing Order The proposed change is required to account for this situation arising in the election of a Deputy Presiding Officer.</p>

6.11. The Member elected as Presiding Officer must immediately take the oath or make an affirmation if he or she has not already done so, and then take the chair.	Retain Standing Order
6.12. The Senedd must not elect a Presiding Officer and a <u>first</u> Deputy who belong to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the same political group; (ii) different political groups both of which have an executive role; or (iii) different political groups neither of which has an executive role. 	Amend Standing Order The proposed change specifies that these restrictions relate only to the Presiding Officer and first Deputy Presiding Officer. Restrictions relating to political groups for a second Deputy Presiding Officer are covered in the following section.
6.13. Standing Order 6.12 may be disapplied by a resolution of the Senedd (provided that, if the motion for the resolution is passed on a vote, it has no effect unless at least two-thirds of those voting support it); and any Member may, without notice, propose a motion for such a resolution immediately before the Senedd proceeds to the election of a Presiding Officer or <u>first</u> Deputy.	Amend Standing Order The proposed change specifies that this Standing Order relates to the Presiding Officer and first Deputy Presiding Officer only. An equivalent Standing Order for a second Deputy Presiding Officer is proposed in the following section.
6.14. If in the course of a Senedd, the Presiding Officer and <u>first</u> Deputy become members of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the same political group; (ii) different political groups both of which have an executive role; or (iii) different political groups neither of which has an executive role, and neither resigns from office, then any Member may, without notice, propose a motion at the next plenary meeting that the Presiding Officer and <u>first</u> Deputy may	Amend Standing Order The proposed change specifies that these provisions relate only to the Presiding Officer and first Deputy Presiding Officer. Equivalent provisions in relation to the second Deputy Presiding Officer are covered in the following section.

<p>remain in office. If no such motion is proposed, or the motion is not passed on a vote supported by at least two-thirds of those voting, then both the Presiding Officer and <u>first</u> Deputy must resign from office.</p>	
<p><u>Election of second Deputy</u></p>	Insert new heading
<p><u>6.14A. The Presiding Officer, having consulted the Business Committee, may propose by motion that the Senedd agrees to elect a second Deputy.</u></p>	<p>Insert new Standing Order</p> <p>The proposed Standing Order introduces an optional provision enabling the Presiding Officer at any time (following consultation with the Business Committee) to table a motion proposing that the Senedd agrees to elect a second Deputy Presiding Officer.</p>
<p><u>6.14B. A motion under Standing Order 6.14A may specify that the second Deputy holds office until such date as indicated within the motion. If a motion under Standing Order 6.14A does not specify a date, the second Deputy ceases to hold office on the dissolution of the Senedd.</u></p>	<p>Insert new Standing Order</p> <p>The proposed Standing Order makes provision for the motion proposing that the Senedd agrees to elect a second Deputy Presiding Officer to specify a date until which a second Deputy would hold office. It also specifies that the second Deputy holds office until dissolution if no date is specified within such a motion.</p>
<p><u>6.14C. If the Senedd agrees a motion under Standing Order 6.14A, the second Deputy must be elected in accordance with Standing Orders 6.6 – 6.10B.</u></p>	<p>Insert new Standing Order</p> <p>The proposed Standing Order specifies that the election process for a second Deputy must be conducted using the same process (nomination in Plenary and secret ballot) as is used to elect a Presiding Officer and first Deputy.</p>

<p>6.14D. The Senedd must not elect a second Deputy who belongs to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the same political group as either the Presiding Officer or first Deputy; (ii) a political group which has an executive role, if the Presiding Officer and first Deputy both belong to political groups which have an executive role; or (iii) a political group which does not have an executive role, if the Presiding Officer and first Deputy both belong to political groups which do not have an executive role. 	<p>Insert new Standing Order</p> <p>The proposed Standing Order introduces restrictions on the political groups from which a second Deputy is able to be elected, as required by section 25(7A) of the Act.</p>
<p>6.14E. Standing Order 6.14D may be disapplied by a resolution of the Senedd (provided that, if the motion for the resolution is passed on a vote, it has no effect unless at least two-thirds of those voting support it); and any Member may, without notice, propose a motion for such a resolution immediately before the Senedd proceeds to the election of a second Deputy.</p>	<p>Insert new Standing Order</p> <p>The proposed Standing Order provides equivalent provision for restrictions on the political groups from which a second Deputy is able to be elected as exists for the Presiding Officer and first Deputy to be disapplied, as provided for in section 25(9) of the Act.</p>
<p>6.14F. If in the course of a Senedd, the second Deputy and either the Presiding Officer or first Deputy become members of the same political group and neither resigns from office, then any Member may, without notice, propose a motion at the next plenary meeting that the relevant office holders may remain in office. If no such motion is proposed, or the motion is not passed on a vote supported by at least two-thirds of those voting, then the office holders who are members of the same political group must resign from office.</p>	<p>Insert new Standing Order</p> <p>The proposed Standing Order makes provision equivalent to Standing Order 6.14(i) in respect of a scenario where the second Deputy and either the Presiding Officer or first Deputy become members of the same political group during the course of a Senedd.</p> <p>If no motion is proposed or agreed, both officeholders who belong to the same group must resign, but the third is unaffected.</p>

<p>6.14G. If in the course of a Senedd, the Presiding Officer and both Deputies all become members of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) different political groups all of which have an executive role; or(ii) different political groups all of which do not have an executive role, <p>and none resigns from office, then any Member may, without notice, propose a motion at the next plenary meeting that the Presiding Officer and both Deputies may remain in office. If no such motion is proposed, or the motion is not passed on a vote supported by at least two-thirds of those voting, then the Presiding Officer and both Deputies must resign from office.</p>	<p>Insert new Standing Order</p> <p>The proposed Standing Order makes provision equivalent to Standing Orders 6.14(ii) and 6.14(iii) in respect of a scenario in which the three office holders become Members of groups who either (a) all have an executive role, or (b) do not have an executive role.</p>
<p>Functions of Presiding Officer</p>	<p>Retain heading</p>
<p>6.15. The functions of the Presiding Officer are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) to chair plenary meetings;(ii) to determine questions as to the interpretation or application of Standing Orders;(iii) to represent the Senedd in exchanges with any other bodies, whether within or outside the United Kingdom, in relation to matters affecting the Senedd; and(iv) such other functions conferred by any enactment, by the Senedd or by these Standing Orders.	<p>Retain Standing Order</p>

6.16.	The Presiding Officer's determinations as to the interpretation or application of Standing Orders are final.	Retain Standing Order
6.17.	The Presiding Officer, having consulted the Business Committee, may issue written guidance to Members for the proper conduct of Senedd proceedings.	Retain Standing Order
6.18.	In the absence or at the request of the Presiding Officer, the <u>Deputy Deputies</u> must exercise the functions of the Presiding Officer, so far as permitted by the Act.	Amend Standing Order The proposed change is required to reflect that two Deputy Presiding Officers may be in office. It is intended that the Presiding Officer will delegate functions to the deputies at their discretion.
6.18A.	<u>In the event that the office of Presiding Officer is vacant, or if the Presiding Officer is unable to act, the first Deputy must exercise the functions of the Presiding Officer, so far as permitted by the Act.</u>	Insert new Standing Order The proposed Standing Order specifies that the first Deputy would exercise the functions of the Presiding Officer, should the office of Presiding Officer be vacant or the Presiding Officer be unable to act unexpectedly.
6.18B.	<u>In the event that the offices of Presiding Officer and first Deputy are both vacant, or if the Presiding Officer and first Deputy are both unable to act, the second Deputy (should one be in office) must exercise the functions of the Presiding Officer, so far as permitted by the Act.</u>	Insert new Standing Order The proposed Standing Order specifies that the second Deputy would exercise the functions of the Presiding Officer in the event that: the offices of Presiding Officer and first Deputy Presiding Officer are both vacant; both office holders are unable to act unexpectedly; or a combination of the two situations.

6.19.	In carrying out the functions of the Presiding Officer, the Presiding Officer and <u>Deputy Deputies</u> must demonstrate impartiality at all times.	Amend Standing Order The proposed change is required to reflect that two Deputy Presiding Officers may be in office.
6.20.	Subject to Standing Order 6.21, the Presiding Officer or <u>Deputy Deputies</u> may vote in plenary proceedings only when exercising a casting vote. Where there is an equality of votes a casting vote must be given: (i) in the affirmative where further discussion of the matter before the Senedd is possible; and (ii) in the negative where further discussion is not possible or where there is a vote on an amendment.	Amend Standing Order The proposed change is required to reflect that two Deputy Presiding Officers may be in office.
6.21.	The Presiding Officer and <u>Deputy Deputies</u> may vote in plenary proceedings where legislation requires a resolution or motion to be passed on a vote in which the number of Members voting in favour of it is not less than two-thirds of the total number of Senedd seats.	Amend Standing Order The proposed change is required to reflect that two Deputy Presiding Officers may be in office.
Temporary Chair of Plenary Meetings		Retain heading
6.22.	Any Member other than a member of the government may, at the request of the Presiding Officer or <u>a Deputy</u> when <u>either is they are</u> chairing a plenary meeting of the Senedd, temporarily chair.	Amend Standing Order The proposed change is required to reflect that two Deputy Presiding Officers may be in office.
6.23.	A Member acting as chair must not exercise any of the functions of the Presiding Officer except: (i) calling business in the order in which it appears on the agenda;	Amend Standing Order The proposed change is required to reflect that two Deputy Presiding Officers may be in office.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">(ii) making necessary arrangements to adjust the timetable for business in order to facilitate the effective conduct of business;(iii) at the end of proceedings on an item of business, inviting the Senedd to agree any questions necessary or deferring any questions necessary to dispose of the business in accordance with Standing Orders 12.36 and 12.37;(iv) proposing that motions or amendments be grouped in accordance with Standing Order 12.40;(v) in any circumstances where he or she thinks it appropriate to do so, adjourning proceedings or suspending proceedings for a specified time;(vi) those contained in Standing Order 13, except that if the Member believes that the conduct of a Member is such as to warrant his or her withdrawal, the Member must suspend the meeting until the Presiding Officer or <u>a</u> Deputy has returned.	
Acting Chair of Plenary Meetings	Retain heading
6.23A. The Senedd may elect an Acting Chair for the purposes of chairing plenary meetings.	Retain Standing Order

<p>6.23B. An Acting Chair elected under Standing Order 6.23A may only undertake the following functions of the Presiding Officer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) functions relating to business in plenary under Standing Order 12;(ii) functions relating to order in plenary under Standing Order 13;(iii) any other functions relating to plenary business.	<p>Retain Standing Order</p>
<p>6.23C. An Acting Chair may only undertake the functions specified under Standing Order 6.23B after the Clerk has notified the Senedd that both neither the Presiding Officer nor and the Deputy Deputy Presiding Officer are unable to chair plenary meetings.</p>	<p>Amend Standing Order The proposed change clarifies that the Senedd will only be able to elect an Acting Chair of Plenary meetings in the event that the Presiding Officer and all Deputy Presiding Officers are unable to chair plenary meetings, thus ensuring consistency with the existing provision and of language within Standing Orders.</p>
<p>6.23D. An Acting Chair ceases to exercise these functions when the Clerk notifies the Senedd that either the Presiding Officer or a Deputy Presiding Officer has become able to chair plenary meetings.</p>	<p>Amend Standing Order The proposed change ensures consistency with the existing provision, as above, and consistency of language within Standing Orders.</p>
<p>Temporary Presiding Officer</p>	<p>Retain heading</p>

<p>6.24. On each occasion that both neither the Presiding Officer nor and the Deputies Deputy Presiding Officer are unable to act (other than under Standing Order 6.22), the Clerk must take the chair solely in order to arrange for the election of a Member to act as temporary Presiding Officer and a Member so elected must exercise the functions of the Presiding Officer until either the Presiding Officer or <u>a</u> Deputy becomes able to act.</p>	<p>Amend Standing Order The proposed change clarifies that the Senedd will only be able to elect a Temporary Presiding Officer in the event that the Presiding Officer and all Deputy Presiding Officers are unable to act, thus ensuring consistency with the existing provision.</p>
<p>Resignation or Removal from Office of Presiding Officer or a Deputy</p>	<p>Amend heading The proposed change is required to reflect that two Deputy Presiding Officers may be in office.</p>
<p>6.25. The Presiding Officer or the a Deputy may resign by giving notice in writing to the Clerk.</p>	<p>Amend Standing Order The proposed change clarifies that any Deputy Presiding Officer is able to resign.</p>
<p>6.26. If a motion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) that the Presiding Officer be removed from office; or (ii) that the a Deputy be removed from office, <p>is tabled by at least six Members, time must be made available as soon as possible for the motion to be debated; and in any event such a debate must take place within five working days of the motion having been tabled.</p>	<p>Amend Standing Order The proposed changes clarifies that any Deputy Presiding Officer may be subject to a motion proposing that they be removed from office.</p> <p><i>Note: The Business Committee intends to propose separately that the threshold contained within this Standing Order is increased from six to ten Members.</i></p>

6.27. If the Senedd resolves that the Presiding Officer or a Deputy be removed from office, the office of Presiding Officer or <u>first or second</u> Deputy, as the case may be, is immediately vacant.	<p>Amend Standing Order</p> <p>The proposed changes are need to clarify which office becomes vacant in the event that a Deputy Presiding Officer is removed from office.</p> <p>Note: If the office of First Deputy Presiding Officer becomes vacant, Standing Order 6.2 requires that the post be filled. No such requirement would exist should the office of Second Deputy Presiding Officer become vacant.</p>
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STANDING ORDER 8 – Welsh Ministers and Deputy Welsh Ministers

Nomination of First Minister	Retain heading
8.1. Subject to section 47(3) of the Act, the Senedd must, within 28 days of an event specified in section 47(2) of the Act, nominate a Member for appointment as First Minister (“the nominee”).	Retain Standing Order Standing Order included for information only
8.2. The Presiding Officer must invite nominations. If only one nomination is made, the Presiding Officer must declare that Member to be the nominee. If more than one nomination is made, the Presiding Officer must, by roll call in alphabetical order of the membership, invite each Member present to vote for a candidate (except that neither the Presiding Officer nor the <u>Deputy Deputies</u> may vote). If two Members have been nominated, the Presiding Officer must declare the candidate who	Amend Standing Order The proposed change clarifies that no Deputy Presiding Officer elected by the Senedd would be able to vote in proceedings to elect a First Minister. This provides consistency with the existing provision and with the position that a Deputy Presiding Officer is unable to vote in Senedd proceedings (except for when exercising a casting vote or in plenary proceedings where legislation requires a

received the greater number of votes cast to be the nominee. If there is an equality of votes between the two candidates a further vote by roll call must take place.	resolution or motion to be passed on a vote in which the number of Members voting in favour of it is not less than two-thirds of the total number of Senedd seats).
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STANDING ORDER 11 – Organisation of Business

Business Committee	Retain heading
11.1. There is to be a Business Committee, to facilitate the effective organisation of Senedd proceedings.	Retain Standing Order Standing Order included for information only.
11.2. Standing Orders 17.2A to 17.6 do not apply to the Business Committee.	Retain Standing Order Standing Order included for information only.
11.3. As soon as possible after a Senedd election, the Minister with responsibility for government business must table a motion to appoint as members of the Committee, the Presiding Officer, one Member nominated by each political group represented in the Senedd and (if any three or more Members who are not members of a political group decide to form a grouping for the purposes of Standing Order 11) a Member nominated by each grouping of Members. No amendments may be tabled to a motion under Standing Order 11.3.	Retain Standing Order Standing Order included for information only.

11.4.	A motion under Standing Order 11.3 cannot be passed (if the motion for it is passed on a vote) unless at least two-thirds of the Members voting support it.	Retain Standing Order Standing Order included for information only.
11.5.	If a motion under Standing Order 11.3 is passed: (i) the Committee must be chaired by the Presiding Officer (who may vote only in the exercise of a casting vote, subject to Standing Order 11.5(iii)); (ii) each other member of the Committee carries one vote for each member of the political group (or grouping, as the case may be) which he or she represents (including himself or herself and the Presiding Officer and Deputy <u>Deputies</u> if they are members of his or her political group or grouping); (iii) where the number of Members who are not members of a political group is such that it is (for that reason only) not possible for them to form a political group or grouping, each such Member is entitled to attend proceedings of the Committee and may vote; (iv) in undertaking the functions under Standing Order 11.7(ii) or 11.7(iii), a member of the Committee representing a political group with an executive role may use the votes he or she carries under Standing Order 11.5(ii), but it shall be reduced by the number equivalent to the number of Members in his or her political group who are also members of the government; (v) Standing Orders 17.21, 17.22 and 17.37 to 17.39 do not apply to the Committee.	Amend Standing Order The proposed change reflects that more than one Deputy Presiding Officer may be in office.

STANDING ORDER 12 – Business in Plenary Meetings	
Emergency Questions	Retain heading
12.67. At such a time as the Presiding Officer may determine, the Presiding Officer may call a Member to ask a question for which notice under Standing Order 12.59 has not been given if: (i) the Presiding Officer and the member of the government concerned, or the Commission, as the case may be, have been given prior notice of at least two hours before the question is to be asked; and (ii) the Presiding Officer is satisfied that the question is of urgent national significance.	Retain Standing Order Standing Order included for information only.
12.68. Where the Presiding Officer has been given prior notice that a request for an emergency question under Standing Order 12.67 relates to the functions of the Commission, the function assigned to the Presiding Officer in Standing Order 12.67(ii) shall be assigned to the <u>a</u> Deputy Presiding Officer.	Amend Standing Order The proposed changes enable any Deputy Presiding Officer to determine whether an Emergency Question that relates to the functions of the Commission may be asked in plenary, and ensure consistency of language within Standing Orders.
Urgent Debates	Retain heading

<p>12.69. At any plenary meeting, a Member may move in a speech lasting no longer than three minutes that the Senedd should consider a particular matter, provided that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) the Member has notified the Presiding Officer of his or her wish to do so, and of the matter, at least one hour before the beginning of the meeting;(ii) where the matter does not relate to the functions of the Commission, if a Member other than a member of the government has given the notification, the Presiding Officer has given a member of the government an opportunity to comment in private to him or her on the matter;(iii) where the matter relates to the functions of the Commission, if a Member other than a member of the Commission has given the notification, the a Deputy Presiding Officer has given the Commission an opportunity to comment in private to him or her on the matter; and(iv) the Presiding Officer (or a Deputy Presiding Officer if the debate falls under Standing Order 12.69(iii)) is satisfied that the matter is of urgent public importance and has informed the Member (and, if necessary, the member of the government or the Commission, as appropriate) accordingly.	<p>Amend Standing Order</p> <p>The proposed change to Standing Order 12.69(iii) clarifies that any Deputy Presiding Officer may carry out the function of giving the Commission an opportunity to comment in private on a matter subject to a proposal for an Urgent Debate. The proposed changes to Standing Order 12.69(iv) clarify that any Deputy Presiding Officer may determine that a proposal for an Urgent Debate on a matter relating to the functions of the Commission can be made in plenary, and ensure consistency of language within Standing Orders.</p>
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STANDING ORDER 18B - Oversight of the Electoral Commission	
Membership of the Llywydd's Committee	Retain heading
18B.3. The Committee must be chaired by the Presiding Officer or <u>a Deputy Presiding Officer</u> , who may vote only in the exercise of a casting vote in accordance with Standing Order 6.20.	Amend Standing Order The proposed change reflects that more than one Deputy Presiding Officer may be in office and ensures consistency of language within Standing Orders.
18B.3A. In the absence of the chair at a meeting, the Committee may appoint the chair of the responsible committee under Standing Order 19 as a temporary chair for the duration of that meeting.	Retain Standing Order
18B.4. The motion tabled by the Business Committee to agree the membership of the Committee must propose as members of the Committee: (i) either the Presiding Officer or <u>a Deputy Presiding Officer</u> as chair of the Committee; (ii) the chair of the responsible committee under Standing Order 19; and (iii) one member of each political group represented in the Senedd.	Amend Standing Order The proposed change clarifies that any Deputy Presiding Officer may be proposed as chair of the Llywydd's Committee, and to ensure consistency of language within Standing Orders.

STANDING ORDER 26 – Acts of the Senedd	
Stage 2: Detailed Consideration by Committee	Retain heading
26.17. At Stage 2, the Business Committee must: (i) refer the Bill back to the responsible committee for Stage 2 proceedings; (ii) refer the Bill to a responsible committee for Stage 2 proceedings if the Business Committee agreed under Standing Order 26.9 not to refer consideration of the general principles to a responsible committee; or (iii) by motion in plenary propose that Stage 2 proceedings be considered by a Committee of the Whole Senedd, to be chaired by the Presiding Officer. The Presiding Officer or <u>Deputy Deputies</u> may vote in such proceedings only when exercising a casting vote in accordance with Standing Order 6.20.	Amend Standing Order The proposed change specifies that any Deputy Presiding Officer elected by the Senedd would only be able to vote in proceedings of a Committee of the Whole Senedd when exercising a casting vote.
Government Emergency Bills	Retain heading
26.103. Stage 2 must be considered by a Committee of the Whole Senedd, to be chaired by the Presiding Officer. The Presiding Officer or <u>Deputy Deputies</u> may vote in such proceedings only when exercising a casting vote in accordance with Standing Order 6.20.	

Annex B: Standing Orders, as amended

INTERPRETATION

- “**a Deputy**” means a Deputy Presiding Officer elected under either section 25(1)(b) or section 25(1A) of the Act;
- “**Deputies**” means all current holders of the office of Deputy Presiding Officer elected under either section 25(1)(b) or section 25(1A) of the Act;
- “**first Deputy**” means the Deputy Presiding Officer elected under section 25(1)(b) of the Act;
- “**second Deputy**” means the Deputy Presiding Officer elected under section 25(1A) of the Act;

STANDING ORDER 6 – Presiding Officer and Deputies

Election of Presiding Officer and first Deputy

- 6.1. At its first meeting after a Senedd election, the Senedd must elect from its Members a Presiding Officer and a first Deputy.
- 6.2. If the office of the Presiding Officer or that of the first Deputy becomes vacant, the Senedd must, as soon as possible, elect a Member to fill the vacancy. The election of a Presiding Officer takes precedence over all other business.
- 6.3. Subject to Standing Order 6.4, the proceedings for the election of a Presiding Officer at the first meeting after a Senedd election are to be chaired by the Presiding Officer who held office immediately before the Senedd election (“the former Presiding Officer”).

6.4. If:

- (i) at the first meeting after a Senedd election the former Presiding Officer is unwilling or unable to act; or
- (ii) at any election of a Presiding Officer at any other time no Deputies are willing or able to act, or no Deputies are in office, the proceedings for the election of a Presiding Officer are to be chaired by the Clerk.

- 6.5. No Member who chairs proceedings for the election of a Presiding Officer may be nominated for election as Presiding Officer in those proceedings.
- 6.6. At the election of a Presiding Officer or a Deputy, the chair must invite nominations. A nomination is, in the first instance, valid only if seconded by a Member who is not a member of the political group to which the nominating Member belongs.
- 6.7. If it appears that no Member is likely to be nominated and seconded by Members who do not belong to the same group, the chair must adjourn the proceedings and may, on their resumption, accept nominations which are seconded by members of the same political group as the nominating Member.
- 6.8. If there is only one nomination, the chair must propose that the Member nominated be elected as Presiding Officer (or as a Deputy, as the case may be). If that is opposed, or if there are two or more nominations, the chair must make arrangements for the election to take place by secret ballot.
- 6.9. If two Members have been nominated, the chair must declare elected the Member who has secured the greater number of votes cast in the ballot.
- 6.10. If more than two Members have been nominated and no Member receives more votes than the total number of votes cast for all the other candidates in a ballot, the candidate (or candidates) who has received the smallest number of votes is excluded and further secret ballots held until one candidate obtains more votes than the total number of votes cast for all the other candidates; and if there is an equality of votes between the two remaining candidates (or the only two candidates) a further secret ballot must take place.

6.10A. A candidate may withdraw their candidature following any secret ballot held under Standing Order 6.10.

6.10B. If, as a result of exclusions and withdrawals, there is one remaining candidate who has not secured more votes than the total number of votes cast for all the other candidates in any secret ballot, the chair must propose that the Member be elected as Presiding Officer (or as a Deputy, as the case may be). If that is opposed the chair must make arrangements for the vote to take place by secret ballot.

6.11. The Member elected as Presiding Officer must immediately take the oath or make an affirmation if he or she has not already done so, and then take the chair.

6.12. The Senedd must not elect a Presiding Officer and a first Deputy who belong to:

- (i) the same political group;
- (ii) different political groups both of which have an executive role;
or
- (iii) different political groups neither of which has an executive role.

6.13. Standing Order 6.12 may be disapplied by a resolution of the Senedd (provided that, if the motion for the resolution is passed on a vote, it has no effect unless at least two-thirds of those voting support it); and any Member may, without notice, propose a motion for such a resolution immediately before the Senedd proceeds to the election of a Presiding Officer or first Deputy.

6.14. If in the course of a Senedd, the Presiding Officer and first Deputy become members of:

- (i) the same political group;
- (ii) different political groups both of which have an executive role;
or
- (iii) different political groups neither of which has an executive role,
and neither resigns from office, then any Member may, without notice, propose a motion at the next plenary meeting that the Presiding Officer and first Deputy may remain in office. If no such motion is proposed, or the motion is not passed on a vote supported

by at least two-thirds of those voting, then both the Presiding Officer and first Deputy must resign from office.

Election of second Deputy

6.14A. The Presiding Officer, having consulted the Business Committee, may propose by motion that the Senedd agrees to elect a second Deputy.

6.14B. A motion under Standing Order 6.14A may specify that the second Deputy holds office until such date as indicated within the motion. If a motion under Standing Order 6.14A does not specify a date, the second Deputy ceases to hold office on the dissolution of the Senedd.

6.14C. If the Senedd agrees a motion under Standing Order 6.14A, the second Deputy must be elected in accordance with Standing Orders 6.6 – 6.10B.

6.14D. The Senedd must not elect a second Deputy who belongs to:

- (i) the same political group as either the Presiding Officer or first Deputy;
- (ii) a political group which has an executive role, if the Presiding Officer and first Deputy both belong to political groups which have an executive role; or
- (iii) a political group which does not have an executive role, if the Presiding Officer and first Deputy both belong to political groups which do not have an executive role.

6.14E. Standing Order 6.14D may be disapplied by a resolution of the Senedd (provided that, if the motion for the resolution is passed on a vote, it has no effect unless at least two-thirds of those voting support it); and any Member may, without notice, propose a motion for such a resolution immediately before the Senedd proceeds to the election of a second Deputy.

6.14F. If in the course of a Senedd, the second Deputy and either the Presiding Officer or first Deputy become members of the same political group and neither resigns from office, then any Member may, without notice, propose a motion at the next plenary meeting that the relevant office holders may remain in office. If no such motion is proposed, or the motion is not passed on a vote supported by at least

two-thirds of those voting, then the office holders who are members of the same political group must resign from office.

6.14G. If in the course of a Senedd, the Presiding Officer and both Deputies all become members of:

- (i) different political groups all of which have an executive role; or
- (ii) different political groups all of which do not have an executive role,

and none resigns from office, then any Member may, without notice, propose a motion at the next plenary meeting that the Presiding Officer and both Deputies may remain in office. If no such motion is proposed, or the motion is not passed on a vote supported by at least two-thirds of those voting, then the Presiding Officer and both Deputies must resign from office.

Functions of Presiding Officer

6.15. The functions of the Presiding Officer are:

- (i) to chair plenary meetings;
- (ii) to determine questions as to the interpretation or application of Standing Orders;
- (iii) to represent the Senedd in exchanges with any other bodies, whether within or outside the United Kingdom, in relation to matters affecting the Senedd; and
- (iv) such other functions conferred by any enactment, by the Senedd or by these Standing Orders.

6.16. The Presiding Officer's determinations as to the interpretation or application of Standing Orders are final.

6.17. The Presiding Officer, having consulted the Business Committee, may issue written guidance to Members for the proper conduct of Senedd proceedings.

6.18. In the absence or at the request of the Presiding Officer, the Deputies must exercise the functions of the Presiding Officer, so far as permitted by the Act.

6.18A. In the event that the office of Presiding Officer is vacant, or if the Presiding Officer is unable to act, the first Deputy must exercise the functions of the Presiding Officer, so far as permitted by the Act.

6.18B. In the event that the offices of Presiding Officer and first Deputy are both vacant, or if the Presiding Officer and first Deputy are both unable to act, the second Deputy (should one be in office) must exercise the functions of the Presiding Officer, so far as permitted by the Act.

6.19. In carrying out the functions of the Presiding Officer, the Presiding Officer and Deputies must demonstrate impartiality at all times.

6.20. Subject to Standing Order 6.21, the Presiding Officer or Deputies may vote in plenary proceedings only when exercising a casting vote. Where there is an equality of votes a casting vote must be given:

- (i) in the affirmative where further discussion of the matter before the Senedd is possible; and
- (ii) in the negative where further discussion is not possible or where there is a vote on an amendment.

6.21. The Presiding Officer and Deputies may vote in plenary proceedings where legislation requires a resolution or motion to be passed on a vote in which the number of Members voting in favour of it is not less than two-thirds of the total number of Senedd seats.

Temporary Chair of Plenary Meetings

6.22. Any Member other than a member of the government may, at the request of the Presiding Officer or a Deputy when they are chairing a plenary meeting of the Senedd, temporarily chair.

6.23. A Member acting as chair must not exercise any of the functions of the Presiding Officer except:

- (i) calling business in the order in which it appears on the agenda;
- (ii) making necessary arrangements to adjust the timetable for business in order to facilitate the effective conduct of business;
- (iii) at the end of proceedings on an item of business, inviting the Senedd to agree any questions necessary or deferring any questions necessary

to dispose of the business in accordance with Standing Orders 12.36 and 12.37;

- (iv) proposing that motions or amendments be grouped in accordance with Standing Order 12.40;
- (v) in any circumstances where he or she thinks it appropriate to do so, adjourning proceedings or suspending proceedings for a specified time;
- (vi) those contained in Standing Order 13, except that if the Member believes that the conduct of a Member is such as to warrant his or her withdrawal, the Member must suspend the meeting until the Presiding Officer or a Deputy has returned.

Acting Chair of Plenary Meetings

6.23A. The Senedd may elect an Acting Chair for the purposes of chairing plenary meetings.

6.23B. An Acting Chair elected under Standing Order 6.23A 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;
- (iii) any other functions relating to plenary business.

6.23C. An Acting Chair may only undertake the functions specified under Standing Order 6.23B after the Clerk has notified the Senedd that neither the Presiding Officer nor the Deputies are able to chair plenary meetings.

6.23D. An Acting Chair ceases to exercise these functions when the Clerk notifies the Senedd that either the Presiding Officer or a Deputy has become able to chair plenary meetings.

Temporary Presiding Officer

6.24. On each occasion that neither the Presiding Officer nor the Deputies are able to act (other than under Standing Order 6.22), the Clerk must take the chair solely in order to arrange for the election of a Member to act as temporary Presiding Officer and a Member so elected must

exercise the functions of the Presiding Officer until either the Presiding Officer or a Deputy becomes able to act.

Resignation or Removal from Office of Presiding Officer or a Deputy

6.25. The Presiding Officer or a Deputy may resign by giving notice in writing to the Clerk.

6.26. If a motion:

(i) that the Presiding Officer be removed from office; or

(ii) that a Deputy be removed from office,

is tabled by at least six Members, time must be made available as soon as possible for the motion to be debated; and in any event such a debate must take place within five working days of the motion having been tabled.

6.27. If the Senedd resolves that the Presiding Officer or a Deputy be removed from office, the office of Presiding Officer or first or second Deputy, as the case may be, is immediately vacant.

STANDING ORDER 8 – Welsh Ministers and Deputy Welsh Ministers

Nomination of First Minister

8.1. Subject to section 47(3) of the Act, the Senedd must, within 28 days of an event specified in section 47(2) of the Act, nominate a Member for appointment as First Minister (“the nominee”).

8.2. The Presiding Officer must invite nominations. If only one nomination is made, the Presiding Officer must declare that Member to be the nominee. If more than one nomination is made, the Presiding Officer must, by roll call in alphabetical order of the membership, invite each Member present to vote for a candidate (except that neither the Presiding Officer nor the Deputies may vote). If two Members have been nominated, the Presiding Officer must declare the candidate who received the greater number of votes cast to be the nominee. If there is an equality of votes between the two candidates a further vote by roll call must take place.

STANDING ORDER 11 – Organisation of Business

Business Committee

- 11.1. There is to be a Business Committee, to facilitate the effective organisation of Senedd proceedings.
- 11.2. Standing Orders 17.2A to 17.6 do not apply to the Business Committee.
- 11.3. As soon as possible after a Senedd election, the Minister with responsibility for government business must table a motion to appoint as members of the Committee, the Presiding Officer, one Member nominated by each political group represented in the Senedd and (if any three or more Members who are not members of a political group decide to form a grouping for the purposes of Standing Order 11) a Member nominated by each grouping of Members. No amendments may be tabled to a motion under Standing Order 11.3.
- 11.4. A motion under Standing Order 11.3 cannot be passed (if the motion for it is passed on a vote) unless at least two-thirds of the Members voting support it.

11.5. If a motion under Standing Order 11.3 is passed:

- (i) the Committee must be chaired by the Presiding Officer (who may vote only in the exercise of a casting vote, subject to Standing Order 11.5(iii));
- (ii) each other member of the Committee carries one vote for each member of the political group (or grouping, as the case may be) which he or she represents (including himself or herself and the Presiding Officer and Deputies if they are members of his or her political group or grouping);
- (iii) where the number of Members who are not members of a political group is such that it is (for that reason only) not possible for them to form a political group or grouping, each such Member is entitled to attend proceedings of the Committee and may vote;
- (iv) in undertaking the functions under Standing Order 11.7(ii) or 11.7(iii), a member of the Committee representing a political group with an executive role may use the votes he or she carries under Standing Order 11.5(ii), but it shall be reduced by the number equivalent to the number of Members in his or her political group who are also members of the government;
- (v) Standing Orders 17.21, 17.22 and 17.37 to 17.39 do not apply to the Committee.

STANDING ORDER 12 – Business in Plenary Meetings

Emergency Questions

12.67. At such a time as the Presiding Officer may determine, the Presiding Officer may call a Member to ask a question for which notice under Standing Order 12.59 has not been given if:

- (i) the Presiding Officer and the member of the government concerned, or the Commission, as the case may be, have been given prior notice of at least two hours before the question is to be asked; and

(ii) the Presiding Officer is satisfied that the question is of urgent national significance.

12.68. Where the Presiding Officer has been given prior notice that a request for an emergency question under Standing Order 12.67 relates to the functions of the Commission, the function assigned to the Presiding Officer in Standing Order 12.67(ii) shall be assigned to a Deputy.

Urgent Debates

12.69. At any plenary meeting, a Member may move in a speech lasting no longer than three minutes that the Senedd should consider a particular matter, provided that:

- (i) the Member has notified the Presiding Officer of his or her wish to do so, and of the matter, at least one hour before the beginning of the meeting;
- (ii) where the matter does not relate to the functions of the Commission, if a Member other than a member of the government has given the notification, the Presiding Officer has given a member of the government an opportunity to comment in private to him or her on the matter;
- (iii) where the matter relates to the functions of the Commission, if a Member other than a member of the Commission has given the notification, a Deputy has given the Commission an opportunity to comment in private to him or her on the matter; and
- (iv) the Presiding Officer (or a Deputy if the debate falls under Standing Order 12.69(iii)) is satisfied that the matter is of urgent public importance and has informed the Member (and, if necessary, the member of the government or the Commission, as appropriate) accordingly.

STANDING ORDER 18B - Oversight of the Electoral Commission

Membership of the Llywydd's Committee

18B.3. The Committee must be chaired by the Presiding Officer or a Deputy, who may vote only in the exercise of a casting vote in accordance with Standing Order 6.20.

18B.3A. In the absence of the chair at a meeting, the Committee may appoint the chair of the responsible committee under Standing Order 19 as a temporary chair for the duration of that meeting.

18B.4. The motion tabled by the Business Committee to agree the membership of the Committee must propose as members of the Committee:

- (i) the Presiding Officer or a Deputy as chair of the Committee;
- (ii) the chair of the responsible committee under Standing Order 19; and
- (iii) one member of each political group represented in the Senedd.

STANDING ORDER 26 – Acts of the Senedd

Stage 2: Detailed Consideration by Committee

26.17. At Stage 2, the Business Committee must:

- (i) refer the Bill back to the responsible committee for Stage 2 proceedings;
- (ii) refer the Bill to a responsible committee for Stage 2 proceedings if the Business Committee agreed under Standing Order 26.9 not to refer consideration of the general principles to a responsible committee; or
- (iii) by motion in plenary propose that Stage 2 proceedings be considered by a Committee of the Whole Senedd, to be chaired by the Presiding Officer. The Presiding Officer or Deputies may vote in such proceedings only when exercising a casting vote in accordance with Standing Order 6.20.

Government Emergency Bills

26.103. Stage 2 must be considered by a Committee of the Whole Senedd, to be chaired by the Presiding Officer. The Presiding Officer or Deputies may vote in such proceedings only when exercising a casting vote in accordance with Standing Order 6.20.