

# Amending Standing Orders: Standing Orders 11.10 and 12.6(i)

March 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 two amendments to Standing Orders, to remove restrictions on when the Senedd may normally meet. It recommends that these amendments are to take effect from the start of the Seventh Senedd, to maximise the flexibility available to the Seventh Senedd when it considers how best to organise its plenary and committee business.

The amendments are proposed following consideration of recommendations made by the Future Senedd Committee in its report *Parliamentary Business in the Seventh Senedd*.



## 1. Background

1. The Future Senedd Committee, in its report *Parliamentary Business in the Seventh Senedd*, recommended that:

*“To provide the Seventh Senedd with the flexibility to organise business in the way it determines to be best, we recommend that the Business Committee considers whether Standing Order 12.6(i) (relating to when plenary meetings should be held normally) should be deleted, before the end of the Sixth Senedd.”<sup>1</sup>*

2. The Future Senedd Committee also recommended that the Business Committee:

*“[...] considers whether Standing Order 11.10 (relating to the times within which business should be timetabled normally) should be amended before the end of the Sixth Senedd.”<sup>2</sup>*

## 2. The Business Committee’s consideration

3. The Business Committee considered the Future Senedd Committee’s recommendations, and options for addressing them, at its meeting on 16 October 2025.

4. Following this meeting, Business Managers consulted their political groups before returning to take decisions at a meeting on 13 November 2025.

## 3. Decision

5. In relation to Standing Order 11.10 (relating to the time-bandwidth for business) the Business Committee agreed to recommend amending this Standing Order to delete all text after “*arrangements*” (see Annex A for tracked changes).

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<sup>1</sup> Senedd Cymru, Future Senedd Committee, *Parliamentary Business in the Seventh Senedd*, May 2025 p.20

<sup>2</sup> Ibid pp. 37-38

- 6.** The Business Committee agreed to propose deleting Standing Order 12.6(i) (relating to the requirement for plenary meetings to be usually held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and start at 1:30pm).
- 7.** The aim of the proposed changes to Standing Orders is to maximise the flexibility available to the Seventh Senedd when it comes to determining its timetable for parliamentary business, whilst retaining the requirement for the timetable to have regard to family and constituency responsibilities of Members and their likely travel arrangements.
- 8.** On 13 November 2025, the Business Committee agreed to propose the changes to Standing Orders outlined in this report. The Senedd is invited to approve the proposed new Standing Orders at Annex B.

## 4. Timing

- 9.** As the proposed changes relate to the increase in the number of Members in the Seventh Senedd, the Business Committee agreed to propose that they should come into effect at the start of the Seventh Senedd.

## Annex A: Proposed changes to Standing Orders and explanatory notes

<b>STANDING ORDER 11 – Organisation of Business</b>		
<b>Senedd Timetable</b>		Retain sub-heading
11.10	Timetables under Standing Order 11.9 must have regard to the family and constituency responsibilities of Members and their likely travel arrangements; <del>and should normally seek to avoid timetabling business before 9.00am or after 6.00pm on any working day.</del>	<p><b>Amend Standing Order</b></p> <p>The proposed change would remove the requirement for the Business Committee to normally seek to avoid timetabling business before 9.00am or after 6.00pm on any working day.</p>
<b>STANDING ORDER 12 – Business in Plenary Meetings</b>		
<b>Plenary Meetings</b>		Retain sub-heading
12.6	<p>Plenary meetings must usually:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><del>(i) be held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and start at 1.30pm;</del></li> <li><del>(ii) take government business first.</del></li> </ul>	<p><b>Amend Standing Order</b></p> <p>The proposed change would remove the requirement for plenary meetings to be usually held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and start at 1.30pm.</p>

## Annex B: Standing Orders as amended

### **STANDING ORDER 11 – Organisation of Business**

#### Senedd Timetable

11.10 Timetables under Standing Order 11.9 must have regard to the family and constituency responsibilities of Members and their likely travel arrangements.

### **STANDING ORDER 12 – Business in Plenary Meetings**

#### Plenary Meetings

12.6 Plenary meetings must usually take government business first.