

Committee on Standing Orders

CSO(2)-07-06 p9

Date: 3 July 2006

Venue: National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff Bay

Title: Standing Order 37 – Revision and Suspension of Standing Orders

1. Background

SO 37 sets out the procedures for revision and suspension of SOs.

2. New Standing Order

The attached annex sets out changes that Members might wish to consider to this SO. The Bill does not have any specific impact on this SO.

Once the committee has agreed what will need to be included in the new SO, the clerks will draft a new SO for the committee to agree.

3. Provisions in the Bill

Clause 31(7) makes provision for remaking or revising standing orders and states that any changes must be supported by at least two-thirds of the Assembly members voting.

4. Points to note

Revisions

SO 37 specifies that the First Minister, the Business Minister or at least six Members may submit to the Business Committee proposals for revisions to SOs. The Business Committee considers the proposed revisions and submits a report to the Assembly with its recommendations. Motions for revisions to SOs are tabled by a member of the Business Committee and adopted only if at least two-thirds of the Members voting support the motion. Recent practice has been for the Business Minister to table such motions.

In Scotland SOs are amended on a motion of the Procedures Committee, normally supported by a report of the Committee and require an absolute majority in plenary.

5. Action

To agree the principles to be included in this SO, as outlined in the attached annex.

Government of Wales Bill Procedures Unit

June 2006