

Minutes – Business Committee

Meeting Venue:

Presiding Officer's office, 4th floor – Tŷ

Hywel

Meeting date: 17 September 2019

Meeting time: 08.30 – 09.15

Private

Attendance

Category	Names
Committee Members:	Elin Jones AM, Llywydd (Chair) Rebecca Evans AM Darren Millar AM Rhun ap Iorwerth AM Caroline Jones AM
Committee Staff:	Aled Elwyn Jones (Clerk)
Others in attendance	Ann Jones AM, Deputy Presiding Officer Manon Antoniazzi, Chief Executive & Clerk of the Assembly Siân Wilkins, Head of Chamber and Committee Service Gwion Evans, Head of the Llywydd's Private Office Elin Roberts, Policy Adviser to the Llywydd Helen Carey, Welsh Government



1 Introductions, apologies and substitutions

2 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes for the meeting were agreed by the Committee for publication.

3 Organisation of Business

3.1 This Week's Business

Tuesday

The Llywydd informed Business Managers that she intends to open up question four to the First Minister – on Operation Yellowhammer and Islwyn (Rhiannon Passmore) – to Members from across the Chamber, given the likely level of interest.

The Llywydd also informed Business Managers that, due to the importance of the debate, she will be flexible with the time on the debate on the General Principles of the Children (Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment) (Wales) Bill, in order to allow as many speakers as possible.

- Voting Time will take place as the last item of business.
- Plenary is unlikely to run past 7.10pm.

Wednesday

- All voting will take place before the Short Debate.
- Plenary is unlikely to run past 7.10pm.

3.2 Three Week Timetable of Government Business

The Trefnydd informed Business Managers that the First Minister will not be available for FMQs on 1 October, so she will be answering in his place.

3.3 Three Week Timetable of Assembly Business

Business Committee determined the organisation of Assembly business and agreed to schedule the following items of business:

Wednesday 9 October 2019 –

Subject to a motion to this effect being agreed by the Assembly on Wednesday, a Committee of the Whole Assembly, convened to consider Stage 2 of the Senedd and Elections (Wales) Bill, will take place after the Short Debate.

4 Plenary

4.1 Request to schedule a debate on NNDM7127

Business Managers considered the request and agreed to consult with their groups. They also asked for further legal advice to inform their consideration next week.

4.2 Letter from the Chair of Petitions Committee

Business Managers considered the request and agreed to schedule a debate.

5 Welsh Government Draft Budget 2020–21

5.1 Letter from the Minister for Finance

Business Managers considered the request and agreed to return to it at the next meeting, so that they could take the views of the Finance Committee into account.

6 Legislation

6.1 Order under Section 109 of the Government of Wales Act 2006 – Electoral Registration Officers

Business Managers confirmed their decision to refer the proposed Order to the CLA Committee with a deadline to report by 30 September 2019 at the latest.

7 Committees

7.1 Committee on Assembly Electoral Reform

Darren Millar informed Business Managers that the Conservative group would object to the establishment of the committee and would not be participating in it if established.

The Llywydd encouraged the Conservative group to continue to engage in discussions on the matter. Business Managers agreed to discuss issues on membership and chairing outside of the committee and return to them next week to make a decision.

7.2 Letter from the Chair of Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee

Business Managers discussed the letter and reiterated the need for Members to treat committees as a priority and to be punctual. They agreed that if the situation didn't improve they would look at publishing individual attendance figures. They also agreed that Chairs have a role in speaking to Members who don't attend or arrive late/leave early without explanation.