

# Minutes – Business Committee

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Meeting Venue:

Video Conference via Zoom

Meeting date: 4 May 2020

Meeting time: 12.30 – 13.26

**Private**

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## Attendance

Category	Names
Committee Members:	Elin Jones MS, Llywydd (Chair) Rebecca Evans MS Darren Millar MS Siân Gwenllian MS Caroline Jones MS
Committee Staff:	Aled Elwyn Jones (Clerk)
Others in attendance	Ann Jones MS, Deputy Presiding Officer Manon Antoniazzi, Chief Executive & Clerk of the Senedd Siwan Davies, Director of Senedd Business 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 Bethan Garwood, Deputy Clerk



## **1 Introductions, apologies and substitutions**

## **2 Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed for publication.

## **3 Organisation of Business**

### **3.1 This Week's Business**

#### **Feedback from last week's plenary meeting**

Business Managers agreed that the pace of the meeting was much improved, due to the new time limits for contributions on statements.

Business Managers agreed to increase the number of Plaid Cymru Members to 5 to give a better reflection of the relative size of groups. Otherwise, Business Managers agreed to follow the same format and procedures for this week's meeting.

In response to a request from Sian Gwenllian, the Llywydd agreed to give consideration to whether to alternate who went first in calling Members to ask questions on statements. Darren Millar noted that he was opposed to any change.

#### **Topical Questions**

The Llywydd informed Business Managers that she will make a decision on any topical questions submitted this week as soon as possible after the deadline at 6pm, and that Members and the government will be notified that evening.

Business Managers agreed to take Topical Questions after the First Minister's statement. Any Ministers attending solely to answer topical questions will be additional to the usual Labour/government allocation.

Business Managers agreed to continue with the practice of there not being any questions on the BSA.

The Business Committee asked officials for a paper on options for developing Plenary business over the next few weeks.

### **3.2 Three Week Timetable of Government Business**

The Trefnydd drew Business Managers' attention to the fact that two sets of regulations had been added to the 3 Week Timetable of Government Business:

#### **Wednesday 20 May 2020**

- The Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) (Wales) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2020 (30 mins)
- The Direct Payments to Farmers (Crop Diversification Derogation) (Wales) Regulations 2020 (15 mins)

The Committee agreed to schedule Topical Questions every week for the foreseeable future.

## **4 Plenary**

### **4.1 Request to schedule a debate on NNDM7321**

Business Managers considered the motion and agreed that the Business Committee is the appropriate forum to evaluate the most effective ways of continuing scrutiny in the current situation. They also concluded that plenary time is best used for scrutiny on Covid-19 matters at the moment. They would therefore not schedule the motion for debate.

## **5 Legislation**

### **5.1 Legislative Consent Memoranda on the Fire Safety Bill and the Non-Domestic Rating (Lists) Bill**

Business Managers agreed to refer the LCM on the Non-Domestic Rating (Lists) Bill to the Economy, Infrastructure and Skills and the Legislation, Justice; and Constitution Committees, and to agree a reporting deadline at a later date.

Business Managers agreed to refer the LCM on the Fire Safety Bill to the Equality, Local Government and Communities; and the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committees with a reporting deadline of 18 June 2020.

### **5.2 Letter from the First Minister**

Business Managers agreed to set a reporting deadline of Thursday 14 May for the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee to report on the Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) (Wales) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2020

### **5.3 Letter from the Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs**

Business Managers agreed to set a reporting deadline of Thursday 14 May for the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee to report on the Direct Payments to Farmers (Crop Diversification Derogation) (Wales) Regulations 2020.

## **6 Committees**

### **6.1 Committee Timetable**

Business Managers considered and agreed the draft timetable.

### **Any Other Business**

#### **Written Questions**

Darren Millar raised the issue of continued delays in getting government responses to written questions, though there had been some improvement in the substance of the responses.

## **Name Change**

The Llywydd informed Business Managers that, given the circumstances, communication will be low key and that a written statement will be published on Wednesday morning.