

Health and Social Care (Wales)

Bill: Stage 2

13 October 2024

Purpose

1. To invite Members to consider issues relating to Stage 2 of the legislative process for the Health and Social Care (Wales) Bill.

Background

2. The Senedd agreed the general principles of the Bill on Tuesday 22 October 2024. In line with SO26.16 Stage 2 began on Wednesday 12 October 2024.

3. The role of the Committee at Stage 2 is to consider and dispose of amendments tabled to the Bill. In line with the deadline set by the Business Committee, the Committee must complete Stage 2 proceedings no later than Friday 13 December 2024.

4. The Committee will meet on Thursday 28 November 2024 for the purposes of Stage 2 proceedings. On this basis, the **deadline for tabling amendments will be 18:00 on Thursday 21 November 2024**.

5. The procedure for Stage 2 consideration of amendments is outlined in the annex.

Order of consideration

6. The 'order of consideration' is the order in which the sections (and schedules) of the Bill are arranged for the purpose of disposing of amendments.

7. Standing Orders provide for a default order of consideration. This is the order in which the sections and schedules appear in the Bill, unless the committee considering Stage 2 proceedings



has decided otherwise. It is open to the Committee to vary the order of consideration if it wishes to do so.

8. It is standard practice for committees to vary the order of consideration so that:

- any schedules are considered immediately after the sections which introduce them; and
- any overview sections are considered after the sections they relate to.

9. On this basis, the Committee is invited to agree to vary the order of consideration as follows:

- Sections 2-13
- Section 1 (overview of sections 2-13)
- Section 14-22
- Schedule 1 (introduced by section 22)
- Sections 24-25
- Schedule 2 (introduced by section 25)
- Section 26
- Section 23 (overview of sections 24-26)
- Sections 27-30
- Long title.

Action

10. Members are invited to:

- note the deadline for tabling amendments (paragraph 4);
- consider and agree the proposed order of consideration (paragraph 7);
- note the overview of Stage 2 procedures set out in the annex. The clerking team are happy to meet Members (and/or Members' staff) to provide further information or advice about Stage 2 procedures upon request).

Annex: Stage 2 procedures

Publication of amendments

1. Amendments are published daily in:
 - the Notice of Amendments (all amendments tabled on a particular day), and
 - the Marshalled List (all amendments tabled for a particular stage of a Bill, in the order of consideration).
2. All Notices of Amendments and the Marshalled List in respect of the Bill will be published on the [Bill page](#).

Grouping of amendments for debate

3. Amendments may be grouped for debate, although they will be disposed of in the order in which they appear on the Marshalled List. Groupings are determined by the Chair, following advice from the committee clerk. There will be one debate on each group of amendments. The Groupings List will be circulated to the Committee and published on the Bill page at least two days before proceedings.

Proceedings on amendments

4. The debate on each group of amendments will take the following form:
 - Chair calls proposer of lead amendment (first in the group) to move their amendment and speak to it and the other amendments in the group.
 - Chair invites proposers of other amendments in the group to speak to their amendment(s) and the others in the group – N.B these amendments are not moved at this stage, but will be called by the Chair when they are reached on the Marshalled List.
 - Chair invites other members of the Committee to speak to the amendments in the group.
 - Chair invites the Member in Charge of the legislation (the Minister for Children and Social Care) to speak (unless the Minister is the proposer of a lead amendment, in which case she will have been called first).
 - Chair invites the proposer of the lead amendment to respond to the debate.
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- 5.** The Chair will then “put the question” that the lead amendment be agreed. If no Member objects, the amendment is agreed to. If any Member objects, the Chair will call a vote.
- 6.** Where the Member with the lead amendment does not wish to press their amendment to a vote, they can seek the Committee’s agreement to withdraw their amendment.
- 7.** Once a group of amendments has been debated and the lead amendment has been agreed or not agreed, then depending on where in the Marshalled List has been reached, the Chair will either:
- If the next amendment on the Marshalled List has not yet been debated, move to a debate on the next group of amendments (in which case the proposer of the relevant lead amendment will be asked to move it); or
 - If the next amendment on the Marshalled List was included in a group that has already been debated, ask the proposer of the next amendment on the Marshalled List whether they wish to move their amendment to a vote (NB, even if the Member who proposed the amendment does not wish to move their amendment to the vote, any other member of the Committee may do so).
- 8.** Where there is no amendment tabled to a section or schedule of the Bill, there will be no debate on that section or schedule and it will be deemed agreed at the point it is reached in the order of consideration.

Voting

- 9.** Voting in committee is normally by show of hands, however should Stage 2 proceedings for this Bill take place in a hybrid or virtual committee meeting, voting will be taken by a roll call. The results of all votes on amendments, and the names of those voting, are recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
- 10.** If there is an equality of votes the Chair must exercise his casting vote in the negative in accordance with Standing Order 6.20(ii)).