

Guidance on the proper conduct of Senedd business

Issued by the Llywydd under
Standing Order 6.17

June 2023

Additional guidance on the operation
of Plenary proceedings during the Co-
operation Agreement



The Welsh Parliament is the democratically elected body that represents the interests of Wales and its people. Commonly known as the Senedd, it makes laws for Wales, agrees Welsh taxes and holds the Welsh Government to account.

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The Co-operation Agreement

- 1.** The Co-operation Agreement ('the Agreement') between the Welsh Government and Plaid Cymru commenced on 1 December 2021. It contains a range of policy areas on which the Welsh Government and Plaid Cymru will work together for a period of three years as well as an agreement for Plaid Cymru to facilitate the passing of Welsh Government budgets during this period.
- 2.** As part of the Agreement, Plaid Cymru has appointed 'Designated Members' from amongst its Members of the Senedd. These Members have access to policy and legal advice from Welsh Government civil servants and participate in joint-decision making processes with Welsh Ministers relating to the areas covered by the Agreement. The Leader of Plaid Cymru has a similar role through his involvement in a Joint Oversight Board relating to the Agreement. The First Minister is also expected to appoint two Special Advisers nominated by Plaid Cymru.
- 3.** Plaid Cymru has committed to provide details of the names and remits of Designated Members, including as and when any changes are made to these. A list of current Designated Members and a demarcation of their responsibilities is included as an Annex to this guidance.
- 4.** The following additional guidance relating to the operation of Plenary business during the Agreement has been published by the Llywydd, following consultation with the Business Committee. It supplements the *Guidance on the Proper Conduct of Senedd Business issued in accordance with Standing Order 6.17.*

Plenary business

Oral Questions

- 5.** During Questions to the First Minister, the Leader of Plaid Cymru will continue to be called to ask questions without notice to the First Minister. Questions should focus on scrutiny and should not be used to promote any policy areas covered by the Agreement. The Leader of Plaid Cymru should limit questions during Ministerial question sessions (tabled or supplementary) to constituency or regional matters.
- 6.** Designated Members will not be called to ask Spokespeople's Questions to portfolio Ministers and should limit questions (tabled and supplementary) during Ministerial question sessions to constituency or regional matters.
- 7.** The number of questions without notice by Plaid Cymru spokespeople will be limited to two per Ministerial question session.

Oral Statements

- 8.** The Leader of Plaid Cymru and Designated Members will not be called to contribute to Ministerial oral statements on subjects other than in relation to constituency or regional matters. The Leader of Plaid Cymru may contribute to statements by the First Minister.

Debates

- 9.** The Leader of Plaid Cymru and Designated Members may contribute to debates, though they should exercise judgment on what might be appropriate and should declare any interests arising from their roles under the Agreement.
- 10.** Business Committee has agreed the ratio of opposition debate time allocated to Plaid Cymru will correspond to the number of Members of the Plaid Cymru group, minus the Leader of Plaid Cymru and the number of Designated Members. Additional time freed-up as a result of this will be reallocated to non-group activity such as Member debates.

Further consideration

11. Other practical impacts on the operation of Senedd business arising from the Agreement will also be kept under review. This guidance will be updated as required to reflect any further implications.

Annex: Designated Members (June 2023)

Sian Gwenllian MS	Cefin Campbell MS	Rhun ap Iorwerth MS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free school meals • Childcare • Second Homes • National Construction Company • Building Safety • Property and Fair Rents • Homelessness • Net Zero Energy Company • Flood Review • Net Zero • Flood Capital and Resilience • Biodiversity • Public Transport • Supply teaching and looked after children • School term dates • Reforming qualifications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural Pollution • Tree planting • Sustainable Farming Scheme • Community Food strategy • Arfor and the valleys • Review of regional partnership arrangements • National School of Government • Council tax reform • Future of Social Care • Local tourism levies • Prosiect 2050 • Welsh language Education • Welsh language Standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senedd reform • Constitution Commission

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tertiary education and research bill • Curriculum • Seren Network • Tackling poverty and inequality • Mental health • Disability • Race Equality Action Plan • LGBTQ+ • Culture Strategy • New revenue implications of sustainable public services • The budget 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welsh language Place Names • Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol and National Centre for Learning Welsh • Procurement • Broadcasting • Media Financial Support 	
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