



HOUSE OF COMMONS

ADDENDUM  
TO  
STANDING  
ORDERS

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PUBLIC BUSINESS

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## AMENDMENTS TO STANDING ORDERS

*The text of the amended Standing Order No. 54 (Consideration of estimates) is as follows.<sup>1</sup>*

### **54. Consideration of estimates**

- (1) *Five<sup>2</sup> days*, other than Fridays, shall be allotted in each session for the consideration of estimates set down under the provisions of paragraph (3) of Standing Order No. 145 (Liaison Committee); and not more than one day so allotted may be taken in the form of two half days, not being Fridays.
- (2) On any such day—
  - (a) consideration of estimates or reports of the Liaison Committee relating thereto shall stand as first business; and
  - (b) other business may be taken before the moment of interruption only if the consideration of estimates has been concluded.

Provided that the foregoing provisions of this paragraph shall not apply on any day on which time has been allocated pursuant to paragraph (2)(b) of Standing Order No. 24 (Emergency debates).

- (3) On any such half day—
  - (a) proceedings on consideration of estimates or reports of the Liaison Committee relating thereto, standing as first business, shall be interrupted at seven o'clock on Monday, four o'clock on Tuesday or Wednesday or two o'clock on Thursday; or
  - (b) notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (2) of this order, consideration of estimates or reports of the Liaison

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<sup>1</sup> New text is shown in italics.

<sup>2</sup> This amendment is to have effect until the end of the 2017-19 Session.

Committee relating thereto may be set down for consideration at the hour specified in sub-paragraph (a) above and shall be entered upon at that time:

Provided that on days on which time has been allocated pursuant to paragraph (2)(b) of Standing Order No. 24 (Emergency debates) or the Chairman of Ways and Means has set down opposed private business under paragraph (5) of Standing Order No. 20 (Time for taking private business), proceedings under this sub-paragraph shall not be entered upon until the business in question has been disposed of and may then be proceeded with for three hours, notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order No. 9 (Sittings of the House).

- (4) On any day or half day allotted under this order, questions necessary to dispose of proceedings (other than a dilatory motion) on the estimates on which debate has been concluded shall be deferred until the day and hour prescribed under paragraph (6) of this order.
- (5) Any estimates on which questions have been deferred to another day in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs (4) and (6) of this order, together with any questions so deferred, and all other estimates appointed for consideration on any previous day or half day allotted under this order shall be set down for consideration on the day to which the questions have been deferred.
- (6) On the day to which the provisions of paragraph (2) or (3) of Standing Order No. 55 (Questions on voting of estimates, etc.) apply which falls after or on any day or half day allotted under this order, the Speaker shall, at the time prescribed in paragraph (1) of that order, put, successively, any questions deferred under paragraph (4) of this order on any previous day or half day allotted under this order, any questions deferred under paragraph (4) of this order on the day and any questions necessary to dispose of proceedings on all other estimates appointed for consideration on any day or half day allotted under this order.

*The text of the amended Standing Order No. 137A (Select committees: power to work with other committees) is as follows.<sup>1</sup>*

**137A. Select committees: power to work with other committees**

- (1) Any select committee or sub-committee with power to send for persons, papers and records shall have power—
  - (a) to communicate its evidence to any other select committee or sub-committee of either House of Parliament or to the Scottish Parliament, the National Assembly for Wales or the Northern Ireland Assembly or to any of their committees; provided that evidence from the National Audit Office shall first have been agreed between that Office and the government department or departments concerned;
  - (b) to meet concurrently with any committee or sub-committee of either House of Parliament for the purpose of deliberating or taking evidence;
  - (ba) to agree with any other select committee or sub-committee of this House on the exercise of any power which each of those committees, or sub-committees may separately have to appoint specialist advisers, to authorise witnesses to publish written evidence submitted by them, or to adjourn from place to place;
  - (c) to meet concurrently with any other select committee of this House for the purpose of considering a draft report; and
  - (d) to agree in the choice of a chair for any concurrent meetings.
  - (e) *to invite members of any other committee to which this order applies to attend any meeting and, at the discretion of the Chair, ask questions of witnesses or otherwise participate in its proceedings; but no member of another*

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<sup>1</sup> New text is shown in italics.

*committee so invited may move any motion or amendment, vote or count towards the quorum.*

- (2) Where two or more select committees have agreed reports to the House in identical terms, those reports may be published as a joint report.
- (3) The Welsh Affairs Committee may invite members of any specified committee of the National Assembly for Wales to attend and participate in its proceedings (but not to vote).

*The text of the amended Standing Order No. 149 (Committee on Standards) is as follows.<sup>1</sup>*

#### **149. Committee on Standards**

- (1) There shall be a select committee, called the Committee on Standards—
  - (a) to oversee the work of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards; to examine the arrangements proposed by the Commissioner for the compilation, maintenance and accessibility of the Register of Members' Financial Interests and any other registers of interest established by the House; to review from time to time the form and content of those registers; and to consider any specific complaints made in relation to the registering or declaring of interests referred to it by the Commissioner; and
  - (b) to consider any matter relating to the conduct of Members, including specific complaints in relation to alleged breaches in any code of conduct to which the House has agreed and which have been drawn to the committee's attention by the Commissioner; and to recommend any modifications to such code of conduct as may from time to time appear to be necessary.

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<sup>1</sup> The most recently added text is shown in italics.

- (2) The committee shall consist of seven Members, and seven lay members.
- (3) Unless the House otherwise orders, each Member nominated to the committee shall continue to be a member of it for the remainder of the Parliament.
- (4) The committee shall have power to appoint sub-committees and to refer to such sub-committees any of the matters referred to the committee.
- (5) Lay members may take part in proceedings of the committee and of any sub-committee to which they are appointed and may ask questions of witnesses, [ . . .]<sup>1</sup> *may move motions and amendments to motions or draft reports, and may vote.*
- (6) The quorum of the committee shall be three members who are Members of this House and three lay members, and the quorum of any sub-committee shall be three, of whom at least one shall be a Member of this House and at least one a lay member.
- (7) The committee and any sub-committee shall have power—
  - (a) to send for persons, papers and records, to sit notwithstanding any adjournment of the House and to adjourn from place to place;
  - (b) subject to the provisions of paragraph (8) of this order, to report from time to time;

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<sup>1</sup> Text deleted:

*“but lay members may not move any motion or any amendment to any motion or draft report, and may not vote save as specified in paragraph (5A) of this Order.*

(5A) *It shall be an instruction to the Committee that before dividing on any motion, the Committee should hold an indicative vote of lay and elected members to ascertain the views on the motion of the Committee as a whole and of each member present; that such a vote should be conducted as if it were a formal division; that, as in a formal division, the Chair should not take part in the initial vote but should have a casting vote in the event of a tie; that after holding such a vote the results should be recorded in the Committee’s formal minutes, without question put; and that after holding such a vote the Committee may or may not proceed to a formal division of elected Members.”*

- (c) to appoint legal advisers, and to appoint specialist advisers either to supply information which is not readily available or to elucidate matters of complexity within the committee's order of reference.
- (8) Any lay member present at a meeting at which a report has been agreed shall have the right to submit a paper setting out that lay member's opinion on the report. The Committee shall not consider a motion that the Chair make a report to the House until it has ascertained whether any lay member present wishes to submit such a paper; and any such paper shall be appended to the report in question before it is made to the House.
- (9) The committee shall have power to order the attendance of any Member before the committee or any sub-committee and to require that specific documents or records in the possession of a Member relating to its inquiries, or to the inquiries of a sub-committee or of the Commissioner, be laid before the committee or any sub-committee.
- (10) The committee, or any sub-committee, shall have power to refer to unreported evidence of former Committees on Standards and Privileges and of former Committees on Standards and to any documents circulated to any such committee.
- (11) The committee shall have power to refuse to allow proceedings to which the public are admitted to be broadcast.
- (12) The Attorney General, the Advocate General and the Solicitor General, being Members of the House, may attend the committee or any sub-committee, may take part in deliberations, may receive committee or sub-committee papers and may give such other assistance to the committee or sub-committee as may be appropriate, but shall not vote or make any motion or move any amendment or be counted in the quorum.

*The text of the amended Standing Order No. 150 (Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards) is as follows.<sup>1</sup>*

### **150. Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards**

- (1) There shall be an Officer of this House, called the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, who shall be appointed by the House.
- (2) The principal duties of the Commissioner shall be—
  - (a) to maintain the Register of Members' Financial Interests and any other registers of interest established by the House, and to make such arrangements for the compilation, maintenance and accessibility of those registers as are approved by the Committee on Standards or an appropriate sub-committee thereof;
  - (b) to provide advice confidentially to Members and other persons or bodies subject to registration on matters relating to the registration of individual interests;
  - (c) to advise the Committee on Standards, its sub-committees and individual Members on the interpretation of any code of conduct to which the House has agreed and on questions of propriety;
  - (d) to monitor the operation of such code and registers, and to make recommendations thereon to the Committee on Standards or an appropriate sub-committee thereof;
  - (e) to investigate, if he thinks fit, specific matters which have come to his attention relating to the conduct of Members and to report to the Committee on Standards or to an appropriate sub-committee thereof, unless the provisions of paragraph (4) apply; and
  - (f) *to consider cases arising from the Independent Complaints and Grievance Scheme.*

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<sup>1</sup> New text is shown in italics.

- (3) In determining whether to investigate a specific matter relating to the conduct of a Member the Commissioner shall have regard to whether in his view there is sufficient evidence that the Code of Conduct or the rules relating to registration or declaration of interests may have been breached to justify taking the matter further.
- (4) No report shall be made by the Commissioner—
  - (a) in any case where the Member concerned has agreed that he has failed to register or declare an interest, if it is the Commissioner's opinion that the interest involved is minor, or the failure was inadvertent, and the Member concerned has taken such action by way of rectification as the Commissioner may have required within any procedure approved by the Committee for this purpose;
  - (b) in any case involving parliamentary allowances, or the use of facilities or services, if the Commissioner has with the agreement of the Member concerned referred the matter to the relevant Officer of the House for the purpose of securing appropriate financial reimbursement, and the Member has made such reimbursement within such period of time as the Commissioner considers reasonable; and
  - (c) *in any case arising from the Independent Complaints and Grievance Scheme where the Commissioner has proposed remedial action within any procedure approved by the Committee with which the Member concerned has complied or, if the remedy is prospective, undertaken to comply.*
- (5) The Commissioner may at any time in the course of investigating a complaint, and if so requested by the Committee on Standards shall, appoint an Investigatory Panel to assist him in establishing the facts relevant to the investigation.

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- (6) An Investigatory Panel shall—
    - (a) consist of the Commissioner, who shall be Chair of the Panel, and two assessors, one of whom shall be a legally qualified person appointed by the Commissioner and the other shall be a Member, who shall not be a member of the Committee on Standards, appointed by the Speaker; and
    - (b) meet in private.
  - (7) The Commissioner—
    - (a) shall determine the procedures of the Panel, subject to the provisions of this order; and
    - (b) may appoint counsel for the purpose of assisting the Panel.
  - (8) Any report that the Commissioner may have made to the Committee on Standards in relation to the complaint before the appointment of the Panel shall be made available to the Panel by the Committee.
  - (9) Any Member who is the subject of the complaint under investigation shall, if he so requests, be heard by the Panel; may call witnesses; and may examine other witnesses.
  - (10) When the Panel has completed its proceedings—
    - (a) the Commissioner shall report as in paragraph (2)(e);
    - (b) the legal assessor shall report to the Committee on Standards his opinion as to the extent to which its proceedings have been consistent with the principles of natural justice; and
    - (c) the Member assessor may report to the Committee on Standards his opinion as to the extent to which its proceedings have had regard to the customs and practice of the House and its Members.
  - (11) The Commissioner shall report each year to the House on the exercise by him of his functions.

- (12) The Commissioner shall have leave to publish from time to time—
- (a) information and papers relating to—
    - (i) matters resolved in accordance with paragraph (4) of this order; and
    - (ii) complaints not upheld;and
  - (b) *statistical* information about complaints received [...].<sup>1</sup>
- (13) The Commissioner may be dismissed only following a resolution of the House, moved for by a Member of the House of Commons Commission, after the Committee on Standards has reported to the House that it is satisfied that the Commissioner is unfit to hold his office or unable to carry out his functions; and any such report shall include a statement of the Committee's reasons for its conclusion.

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<sup>1</sup> Text deleted: "and matters under investigation".

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## ORDERS AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE HOUSE

*The text of the amended Order (Liaison Committee (Membership)) is as follows.<sup>1</sup>*

### **Liaison Committee (Membership)**

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*Order of 10 September 2015 (amended 11 October 2016, 6 November 2017 and 16 July 2018)*

*Ordered, That, with effect for the current Parliament, notwithstanding Standing Order No. 121 (Nomination of select committees), the chair for the time being of each of the following select committees shall be a member of the Liaison Committee:*

*Administration; Backbench Business; Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy; Defence; Digital, Culture, Media and Sport; Education; Environmental Audit; Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; European Scrutiny; *European Statutory Instruments*; Exiting the European Union; Finance; Foreign Affairs; Health and Social Care; Home Affairs; Housing, Communities and Local Government; Joint Committee on Human Rights (the chair being a Member of this House); International Development; International Trade; Justice; Northern Ireland Affairs; Petitions; Privileges (the chair not being the chair of the Committee on Standards); Procedure; Public Accounts; Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs; Regulatory Reform; Science and Technology; Scottish Affairs; Selection; Standards; Statutory Instruments; Transport; Treasury; Welsh Affairs; Women and Equalities, and Work and Pensions.*

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<sup>1</sup> New text is shown in italics.

*The text of the amended Order (Positions for which additional salaries are payable for the purposes of Section 4A(2) of the Parliamentary Standards Act 2009) is as follows.<sup>1</sup>*

### **Positions for which additional salaries are payable for the purposes of Section 4A(2) of the Parliamentary Standards Act 2009**

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*Order of 19 March 2013 (amended 26 March 2015, 11 October 2016, 4 July and 12 September 2017, 30 January 2018 and 16 July 2018)*

Ordered, That—

- (1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), the following offices or positions are specified for the purposes of section 4A(2) of the Parliamentary Standards Act 2009, with effect from 1 April 2013—
  - (a) the Chair of a select committee appointed under Standing Order No. 152 (Select committees related to government departments), the Administration Committee, the Backbench Business Committee, the Environmental Audit Committee, the European Scrutiny Committee, *the European Statutory Instruments Committee*, the Committee on Exiting the European Union, the Finance Committee, the Liaison Committee, the Petitions Committee, the Select Committee on the High Speed Rail (West Midlands - Crewe) Bill, the Select Committee on Procedure, the Committee of Public Accounts, the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee, the Regulatory Reform Committee, the Selection Committee, the Committee on Standards, the Joint Committee on Human Rights or the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments; and

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<sup>1</sup> New text is shown in italics.

- (b) a member of the Panel of Chairs appointed under Standing Order No. 4 (Panel of Chairs), other than a member who is the Chair of a committee specified in subparagraph (a) or a member who is entitled to an additional salary by virtue of any provision of the Ministerial and other Salaries Act 1975.
- (2) If a Member already holds an office or position referred to in paragraph (1)(a), then any other office or position referred to in paragraph (1)(a) is not specified for the purposes of section 4A(2) of the Parliamentary Standards Act 2009 in respect of any period for which that other post or position is held by that Member.
- (3) Any office or position referred to in paragraph (1)(a) for the purposes of section 4A(2) of the Parliamentary Standards Act 2009 is not specified for the purposes of that section in respect of any period in which it is held by a Member who is also entitled to an additional salary by virtue of any provision of the Ministerial and other Salaries Act 1975.
- (4) Any reference to any committee in paragraph (1)(a) shall, if the name of the committee is changed, be taken to be a reference to the committee by its new name.

*The text of the Order (Presentation of documents under paragraph 3(3)(b) or 17(3)(b) of Schedule 7 to the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018) is as follows.*

**Presentation of documents under paragraph 3(3)(b) or 17(3)(b) of Schedule 7 to the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018**

*Order of 16 July 2018*

*Ordered, That where, under paragraph 3(3)(b) or 17(3)(b) of Schedule 7 to the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018, any*

document is to be laid before this House, the delivery of a copy of the document to the Votes and Proceedings Office on any day during the existence of a Parliament shall be deemed to be for all purposes the laying of it before the House; and the proviso to Standing Order No. 159 (Presentation of statutory instruments) shall not apply to any document laid in accordance with this Order.

*The text of the Resolution (Proxy Voting (Implementation)) is as follows.*

### **Proxy Voting (Implementation)**

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*Resolution of 28 January 2019*

*Resolved, That this House:—*

- (1) reaffirms its resolution of 1 February 2018 on baby leave for Members of Parliament;
- (2) endorses the Fifth Report of the Procedure Committee, HC 825, on Proxy voting and parental absence;
- (3) accordingly directs the Speaker to prepare a pilot scheme governing the operation of proxy voting for Members absent from the House by reason of childbirth or care of an infant or newly adopted child, pursuant to the recommendations in the Committee's report, this resolution and the temporary Standing Order (Voting by proxy for parental absence);
- (4) directs that a scheme prepared in accordance with this resolution and the temporary Standing Order (Voting by proxy for parental absence) shall be signed by the Speaker and the leaders of the three largest parties in the House before it is published, and that it shall enter into effect for a period of 12 months when the Speaker takes the chair on the sitting day after the day of publication;

- (5) directs that any amendment of a scheme in effect by virtue of paragraph (4) above shall take effect when the Speaker takes the Chair on the sitting day after a proposal signed by the Speaker and the leaders of the three largest parties in the House is published; and
- (6) directs the Procedure Committee to review proxy voting arrangements within 12 months of the commencement of a scheme established by virtue of this order.

## TEMPORARY STANDING ORDERS

*The text of the temporary Standing Order (European Statutory Instruments Committee) is as follows.*

### **European Statutory Instruments Committee**

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*Order of 16 July 2018<sup>1</sup>*

- (1) There shall be a select committee, called the European Statutory Instruments Committee, to examine and report on—
  - (a) any of the following documents laid before the House of Commons in accordance with paragraph 3(3)(b) or 17(3)(b) of Schedule 7 to the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018—
    - (i) a draft of an instrument; and
    - (ii) a memorandum setting out both a statement made by a Minister of the Crown to the effect that in the Minister's opinion the instrument should be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either

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<sup>1</sup> This order is to have effect until the end of the 2017 Parliament.

House of Parliament (the negative procedure) and the reasons for that opinion, and

- (b) any matter arising from its consideration of such documents.
- (2) In its consideration of a document referred to in paragraph (1)(a) the committee shall include, in addition to such other matters as it deems appropriate, whether the draft instrument—
- (a) contains any provision of the type specified in paragraph 1(2) or 10(2) of Schedule 7 to the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 in relation to which the Act requires that a draft of the instrument must be laid before, and approved by a resolution of, each House of Parliament (the affirmative procedure);
  - (b) otherwise appears to make an inappropriate use of the negative procedure;
- and shall report to the House its recommendation of the procedure which should apply.
- (3) The committee shall have regard to the reasons offered by the Minister in support of the Minister's opinion that the instrument should be subject to the negative procedure.
- (4) Before reporting on any document, the committee shall provide to the government department concerned an opportunity to provide orally or in writing to it or any sub-committee appointed by it such further explanations as the committee may require except to the extent that the committee considers that it is not reasonably practicable to do so within the period provided by the Act.
- (5) It shall be an instruction to the committee that it shall report any recommendation that the affirmative procedure should apply within the period specified by the Act.
- (6) The committee shall consist of sixteen Members, of whom at least seven shall be women and at least seven shall be men.

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- (7) The committee and any sub-committees appointed by it shall have the assistance of the Counsel to the Speaker.
  - (8) The committee shall have power to appoint specialist advisers either to supply information which is not readily available or to elucidate matters of complexity within the committee's order of reference.
  - (9) The committee shall have power to send for persons, papers and records, to sit notwithstanding any adjournment of the House, to adjourn from place to place, and to report from time to time.
  - (10) The committee shall have power to appoint sub-committees and to refer to such sub-committees any of the matters referred to the committee.
  - (11) Each such sub-committee shall have power to send for persons, papers and records, to sit notwithstanding any adjournment of the House, to adjourn from place to place, and to report to the committee from time to time.
  - (12) The committee shall have power to report from time to time the evidence taken before such sub-committees, and the formal minutes of sub-committees.
  - (13) The quorum of each such sub-committee shall be two.
  - (14) The committee shall have power to seek from any committee of the House, including any committee appointed to meet with a committee of the Lords as a joint committee, its opinion on any document within its remit, and to require a reply to such a request within such time as it may specify.
  - (15) Unless the House otherwise orders each Member nominated to the committee shall continue to be a member of it for the remainder of the Parliament, or until this Standing Order lapses, whichever occurs sooner.
  - (16) This Standing Order, to the extent that it relates to a regulation-making power provided to the Government under sections 8, 9 or 23(1) of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act

2018, shall lapse upon the expiry of the power to make new regulations under those sections and shall lapse entirely upon expiry of the last such remaining power.

*The text of the temporary Standing Order (Voting by proxy for parental absence) is as follows.*

### **Voting by proxy for parental absence**

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*Order of 28 January 2019<sup>1</sup>*

- (1) A Member may, by reason of absence from the precincts of the House for childbirth or care of an infant or newly adopted child, arrange for their vote to be cast in accordance with this order by another Member acting as a proxy (a proxy vote).
- (2) A proxy vote may be cast:
  - (a) in a division in the House, in Committee of the whole House, or in any legislative grand committee, in relation to the business specified in paragraph (3) below;
  - (b) on business specified in paragraph (3) below recorded in a division under Standing Order No. 41A (Deferred divisions), and
  - (c) in a ballot cast in an election under Standing Order No. 1B (Election of Speaker by secret ballot), Standing Order No. 2A (Election of the Deputy Speakers) and Standing Order No. 122B (Election of select committee chairs).
- (3) Subject to paragraph (4) below, a proxy vote may be cast on all public and private business of the House.

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<sup>1</sup> This order is to have effect until 28 January 2020.

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- (4) No proxy vote shall be cast in a division on any motion in the form specified in section 2(2) of the Fixed-term Parliaments Act 2011.
  - (5) No proxy vote shall be reckoned in the numbers participating in a division for the purposes of (a) Standing Order No. 41(1) (Quorum), and (b) Standing Order No. 37 (Majority for closure or for proposal of question).
  - (6) A proxy vote may be cast only if the Speaker has certified that the Member for whom the vote is to be cast is eligible under the terms of this order and the Resolution of the House of Monday 28 January and if that certificate, including the name of the Member nominated as a proxy, has been published in the Votes and Proceedings.
  - (7) A vote cast by a proxy shall be clearly indicated as such in the division lists published under the authority of the House.
  - (8) The Speaker may also make provision for the exercise of a proxy vote for Members who have suffered a miscarriage.
  - (9) This Standing Order shall lapse upon the expiry of the proxy voting scheme established under the terms of this order and the Resolution of the House of Monday 28 January.