



HOUSE OF COMMONS

**ORDERS  
RELATING TO  
HYBRID  
PROCEEDINGS**

ADDENDUM TO THE STANDING ORDERS

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PUBLIC BUSINESS

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23 April 2020

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21 and 22 April 2020*

## ORDERS OF THE HOUSE RELATING TO HYBRID PROCEEDINGS

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## ORDERS OF THE HOUSE RELATING TO HYBRID PROCEEDINGS

*The text of the temporary Orders (Hybrid proceedings) is as follows.*

### Hybrid proceedings

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*Orders of 21 April 2020<sup>1</sup>*

#### Scrutiny proceedings

[. . .]<sup>2</sup>

- (1) Scrutiny proceedings shall conclude not later than two hours after their commencement, save that the Speaker shall have discretion to extend the proceedings for a short additional period if it seems to him appropriate to do so.
- (2) Following the conclusion of scrutiny proceedings, the House shall proceed with business set down to be taken at the commencement of public business and then with the main business.
- (3) Scrutiny proceedings comprise:
  - (a) questions to Ministers;
  - (b) urgent questions;
  - (c) ministerial statements.
- (4) No question of which notice has been given under Standing Order No. 22(5) shall be taken more than one hour after the House sits, and scrutiny proceedings shall otherwise be taken

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<sup>1</sup> These orders will have effect until 12 May.

<sup>2</sup> Amended on 22 April (text omitted: "(1) The House shall meet at 2.30 pm on Mondays, and at 11.30 am on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and will first proceed with questions and statements under the orders (Hybrid scrutiny proceedings) of today.")

in the order determined by the Speaker who shall announce that order not later than the start of the sitting to which it relates.

[...]

- (5) Notice periods in respect of all scrutiny proceedings shall be set by the Speaker, provided that the latest date and time specified by the Speaker for questions to Ministers shall be such as to enable notices to be circulated at least two days (excluding Friday, Saturday and Sunday) before the question is to be answered.

### **Urgent questions**

- (1) In respect of any day to which the order (Scrutiny proceedings) applies, a Member may apply to the Speaker for leave to ask an urgent question under this order.
- (2) An urgent question is one which, in the Speaker's opinion, is of an urgent character and relates to a matter of public importance.

### **Supplementary provisions (scrutiny proceedings)**

- (1) No unopposed business, save motions for unopposed returns of which notice has been given, may be taken at the commencement of scrutiny proceedings.
- (2) Notices of private business may be set down to be taken at the commencement of public business after scrutiny proceedings, but, if opposed, shall not be proceeded with but shall be deferred to such time, other than a Friday, as the Chairman of Ways and Means shall appoint.
- (3) Standing Order No. 21 shall not have effect and the Speaker shall be required under paragraph (5) of Standing Order No. 22

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1 Amended 22 April (text omitted: "(6) Members may participate in scrutiny proceedings virtually, by electronic means approved by the Speaker, or by attending in the Chamber. The Speaker may limit the number of Members present in the Chamber at any one time.

(7) For the purposes of proceedings under this order, Members shall give notice by electronic means designated by the Speaker.")

to take account of the party balance while these orders are in force.

[. . .]<sup>1</sup>

### *Orders of 22 April 2020<sup>2</sup>*

#### **Hybrid proceedings**

- (1) The House shall sit at 2.30 pm on Mondays and 11.30 am on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and on each day the business of the House shall comprise only hybrid proceedings.
- (2) Hybrid proceedings comprise:
  - (a) scrutiny proceedings; and
  - (b) substantive proceedings.
- (3) Members may participate in hybrid proceedings virtually, by electronic means approved by the Speaker, or by attending in the Chamber. The Speaker may limit the number of Members present in the Chamber at any one time.
- (4) For the purposes of hybrid proceedings, Members shall give notice by electronic means designated by the Speaker.
- (5) At the conclusion of scrutiny and substantive proceedings, the Speaker shall adjourn the House without question put.

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<sup>1</sup> Amended 22 April (text omitted: "(4) In any case where the Speaker has ordered the withdrawal of a Member, or of several Members, under Standing Order No. 43 and is required to direct the Serjeant at Arms to give effect to the order, the Member or Members shall be suspended from the service of the House for the following sitting day.

(5) No motion to sit in private may be made during scrutiny proceedings.

(6) The Speaker may amend any provision of these orders, if he determines it is necessary to do so in order to ensure that the conduct of business is consistent with the Resolution of the House (Proceedings during the pandemic) of 21 April.

(7) Before exercising his power under paragraph (6), the Speaker shall satisfy himself that he has the agreement of the Leader of the House."

<sup>2</sup> These orders will have effect until 12 May.

**Substantive proceedings**

- (1) Substantive proceedings comprise:
  - (a) motions in the name of a Minister of the Crown;
  - (b) presentation of bills;
  - (c) subsequent proceedings on public bills introduced by a Minister of the Crown;
  - (d) private business;
  - (e) ministerial statements made with the permission of the Speaker;
  - (f) personal statements;
  - (g) motions in the name of the chair or another member of the Committee of Selection;
  - (h) business which would otherwise be taken:
    - (i) immediately after prayers (except motions for unopposed returns); or
    - (ii) at the commencement of public business.
- (2) The question on any motion made by a Minister of the Crown to add one or more categories of business to the list in paragraph (1) shall be put forthwith.
- (3) Except as provided in these orders, substantive hybrid proceedings shall be governed by the practice and standing orders of the House.
- (4) If, on any day on which hybrid substantive proceedings are to be taken, a motion of which notice has been given relating to the allocation of time to, and the conduct of, business for that day, in the names of a Minister of the Crown, a Member representing the official opposition and a Member representing the second largest opposition party, is moved at the commencement of public business by a Minister of the Crown, the Speaker shall declare the question to be agreed to.

- (5) A motion under paragraph (4) may include provision (a) to make designations under paragraph (1) of temporary standing order (Remote divisions) and (b) to amend the arrangements for remote voting under temporary standing order (Conduct of remote divisions).
- (6) Rules relating to the giving and receiving of notices of motions and to the periods of notice required for different categories shall apply as if:
  - (a) Thursdays were a sitting day on which the House rose at 5.00 pm;
  - (b) the House rose no earlier than 7.00 pm on Mondays and 6.00 pm on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.
- (7) Save as provided in paragraph (6) notice periods in respect of all substantive proceedings shall be set by the Speaker.

### **Presentation of bills**

A public bill, of whose presentation notice has been given and whose title has been read by the Clerk, shall be deemed to have been read the first time and to have been ordered to have been read a second time on such day as the Member in whose name the notice stands shall have appointed and shall be ordered to be printed.

### **Supplementary provisions**

- (1) Standing Orders Nos. 7, 8, 9, 23, paragraph (5) of Standing Order No. 47 and Standing Orders Nos. 83J to 83X shall not have effect.
- (2) In any case where the Speaker has ordered the withdrawal of a Member, or of several Members, under Standing Order No. 43 and is required to direct the Serjeant at Arms to give effect to the order, the Member or Members shall be suspended from the service of the House for the following sitting day.
- (3) No motion to sit in private may be made during hybrid proceedings.

- (4) The Speaker may make such alterations to the practices of the House regarding the conduct of debate as are appropriate to facilitate the effective conduct of hybrid proceedings.
- (5) The Speaker may amend any provision of the temporary orders relating to hybrid proceedings, if he determines it is necessary to do so in order to ensure that the conduct of business is consistent with the Resolution of the House (Proceedings during the pandemic) of 21 April.
- (6) Before exercising his power under paragraph (5), the Speaker shall satisfy himself that he has the agreement of the Leader of the House.

#### **Remote divisions**

- (1) A remote division may be held only in respect of business taken in hybrid substantive proceedings.
- (2) With the leave of the Speaker, the Member in charge of an item of business may designate it as subject to decision by a remote division and if so whether that divisions should be a deferred remote division.
- (3) The Speaker shall determine whether a remote division is required and may announce that determination before putting the question.
- (4) Standing Orders Nos. 38, 40 and 41A (save as provided in temporary standing order (Conduct of remote divisions)) shall not apply to proceedings relating to remote divisions.
- (5) If, when the question is put on an item of business which has not been designated to be decided by a remote division, the Speaker's opinion as to the decision on the question is challenged, the question shall not be decided and the House shall move to the next business.

**Conduct of remote divisions**

- (1) Members shall participate in a remote division or a remote deferred division through arrangements authorised by the Speaker.
- (2) A remote division shall be initiated when the Speaker puts the question and announces that it will be decided by a remote division.
- (3) No tellers shall be appointed for a remote division.
- (4) Members may record their vote in a remote division for a period of fifteen minutes from its initiation.
- (5) The Speaker may interrupt and suspend a remote division if notified of a technical problem.
- (6) The result of a remote division shall be declared from the Chair.
- (7) The House may proceed to its next business before the result of a remote division is declared and the Speaker may interrupt subsequent proceedings in order to announce the result.
- (8) A remote deferred division shall be held in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (5) of Standing Order No. 41A and this order.
- (9) If, after the result of a remote division or a remote deferred division has been announced, it is reported to the Speaker that problems in the conduct of the division occurred which might have affected the result, the Speaker may declare the division to be null and void and may make arrangements for it to be re-run.