



Government of Wales Act 2006

2006 CHAPTER 32

PART 1

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES

Proceedings etc.

31 Standing orders

- (1) Assembly proceedings are to be regulated by standing orders (referred to in this Act as “the standing orders”).
- (2) The standing orders must include provision for preserving order in Assembly proceedings, including provision for—
 - (a) preventing conduct which would constitute a criminal offence or contempt of court, and
 - (b) a sub judice rule.
- (3) The standing orders may include provision for excluding an Assembly member from Assembly proceedings.
- (4) The standing orders may include provision for withdrawing from an Assembly member any or all of the rights and privileges of membership of the Assembly.
- (5) The standing orders—
 - (a) must include provision requiring the proceedings of the Assembly to be held in public, and for proceedings of a committee of the Assembly or a sub-committee of such a committee to be held in public except in circumstances provided for in the standing orders, and
 - (b) may include provision as to the conditions to be complied with by members of the public attending the proceedings (including provision for excluding any member of the public who does not comply with the conditions).
- (6) The standing orders must include provision—

Status: Point in time view as at 18/12/2019.

Changes to legislation: Government of Wales Act 2006, Cross Heading: Proceedings etc. is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 15 July 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

- (a) for reporting the proceedings of the Assembly, and for reporting proceedings of committees of the Assembly and sub-committees of such committees which are held in public, and
 - (b) for publishing the reports of proceedings as soon as reasonably practicable after the proceedings take place.
- (7) The Assembly may by resolution remake or revise the standing orders; but if the motion for a resolution to remake or revise the standing orders is passed on a vote, it has no effect unless at least two-thirds of the Assembly members voting support it.
- (8) The Clerk must from time to time publish the standing orders.

Commencement Information

II Ss. 1-94, 97-106 in force immediately after "the 2007 election" by s. 161(1) (subject to s. 161(4)(5))

F132 Participation by UK Ministers etc.

.....

Textual Amendments

F1 S. 32 omitted (31.3.2017) by virtue of [Wales Act 2017 \(c. 4\)](#), **ss. 15(a)**, 71(2)(b) (with [Sch. 7 paras. 1, 6](#))

F233 Consultation about UK Government's legislative programme

.....

Textual Amendments

F2 S. 33 omitted (31.3.2017) by virtue of [Wales Act 2017 \(c. 4\)](#), **ss. 15(b)**, 71(2)(b) (with [Sch. 7 paras. 1, 6](#))

34 Participation by Counsel General

- (1) If not an Assembly member the Counsel General may participate in Assembly proceedings to the extent permitted by the standing orders, but may not vote.
- (2) And the standing orders may in other respects provide that they are to apply to the Counsel General if not an Assembly member as to an Assembly member.
- (3) The Counsel General may, in any Assembly proceedings, decline to answer any question or produce any document concerning the operation of the system of criminal prosecution in any particular case if considering that answering the question or producing the document—
 - (a) might prejudice criminal proceedings in the case, or
 - (b) would otherwise be contrary to the public interest.

Status: Point in time view as at 18/12/2019.

Changes to legislation: Government of Wales Act 2006, Cross Heading: Proceedings etc. is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 15 July 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

Commencement Information

I2 Ss. 1-94, 97-106 in force immediately after "the 2007 election" by s. 161(1) (subject to s. 161(4)(5))

35 Equality of treatment

[^{F3}(1) The Assembly must, in the conduct of Assembly proceedings, give effect, so far as is both appropriate in the circumstances and reasonably practicable, to the principle that the English and Welsh languages should be treated on a basis of equality.]

[^{F3}(1) The official languages of the Assembly are English and Welsh.

(1A) The official languages must, in the conduct of Assembly proceedings, be treated on a basis of equality.

(1B) All persons have the right to use either official language when participating in Assembly proceedings.

(1C) Reports of Assembly proceedings must, in the case of proceedings which fall within section 1(5)(a) (proceedings of the Assembly), contain a record of what was said, in the official language in which it was said, and also a full translation into the other official language.

(1D) Paragraph 8 of Schedule 2 makes provision about how the Assembly Commission must enable effect to be given to subsections (1) to (1C).]

(2) The Assembly must make appropriate arrangements with a view to securing that Assembly proceedings are conducted with due regard to the principle that there should be equality of opportunity for all people.

Textual Amendments

F3 S. 35(1)-(1D) substituted for s. 35(1) (13.11.2012) by [National Assembly for Wales \(Official Languages\) Act 2012 \(anaw 1\), ss. 1, 3\(b\)](#)

Commencement Information

I3 Ss. 1-94, 97-106 in force immediately after "the 2007 election" by s. 161(1) (subject to s. 161(4)(5))

36 Integrity

(1) The standing orders must include provision—

- (a) for a register of interests of Assembly members, and
- (b) for the register to be published and made available for public inspection.

(2) The standing orders must require Assembly members to register in the register of interests registrable interests, as defined for the purposes of this subsection.

(3) The standing orders must require any Assembly member who has—

- (a) a financial interest, as defined for the purposes of this subsection, or
- (b) any other interest, or an interest of any other kind, as so defined,

in any matter to declare that interest before taking part in Assembly proceedings relating to that matter.

Status: Point in time view as at 18/12/2019.

Changes to legislation: Government of Wales Act 2006, Cross Heading: Proceedings etc. is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 15 July 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

- (4) The standing orders may include provision for preventing or restricting the participation in any Assembly proceedings of an Assembly member who has an interest within subsection (2) or (3) in any matter to which the proceedings relate.
- (5) The standing orders must include provision prohibiting an Assembly member from—
- (a) advocating or initiating any cause or matter on behalf of any person, by any means specified in the standing orders, in consideration of any payment or benefit in kind of a description so specified, or
 - (b) urging, in consideration of any such payment or benefit in kind, any other Assembly member to advocate or initiate any cause or matter on behalf of any person by any such means.
- (6) The standing orders must include provision about (or for the making of a code or protocol about) the different roles and responsibilities of Assembly constituency members and Assembly regional members; and—
- (a) Assembly constituency members must not describe themselves in a manner which suggests that they are Assembly regional members, and
 - (b) Assembly regional members must not describe themselves in a manner which suggests that they are Assembly constituency members.
- (7) An Assembly member who—
- (a) takes part in Assembly proceedings without having complied with, or in contravention of, any provision included in the standing orders in pursuance of subsections (2) to (4), or
 - (b) contravenes any provision included in the standing orders in pursuance of subsection (5),
- commits an offence.
- (8) A person guilty of an offence under subsection (7) is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale.
- (9) A prosecution for an offence under subsection (7) cannot be instituted except by or with the consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions.
- (10) The validity of any Assembly proceedings is not affected by any contravention or failure to comply with any provision included in the standing orders in pursuance of this section.
- (11) In this section—
- (a) references to an Assembly member (apart from those in subsection (6)) include the Counsel General, if not an Assembly member, and
 - (b) “financial interest” includes a benefit in kind.

Commencement Information

I4 Ss. 1-94, 97-106 in force immediately after "the 2007 election" by s. 161(1) (subject to s. 161(4)(5))

Status:

Point in time view as at 18/12/2019.

Changes to legislation:

Government of Wales Act 2006, Cross Heading: Proceedings etc. is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 15 July 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.