

Parliamentary Bureau – Scheduling of Members’ Business

Introduction

1. Standing Orders require that a period of up to 45 minutes is set aside at each meeting of the Parliament for Members’ Business. At its meeting on 26 May 2026, the Bureau agreed to schedule three Members Business Debates each week (on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday following DT).

Allocation

2. In previous years, Members’ business debates have been allocated using the d’Hondt formula and it has been the practice to follow 30 calculations of d’Hondt in a ten-week block before returning to the start again.
3. At its meeting on 26 May 2026 the Bureau agreed to follow this practice in Session 7 and agreed the following allocation for the first block of ten weeks based on the application of the d’Hondt formula. Where a split occurred, the unallocated party is included in brackets:

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Week 1 (8 June)	SNP	SNP	SNP
Week 2 (15 June)	LAB (or REF)	REF (or LAB)	GREEN
Week 3 (22 June)	SNP	CON	SNP
Week 4 (31 August)	LD	SNP	REF (or LAB)
Week 5 (7 Sept)	LAB (or REF)	SNP	GREEN
Week 6 (14 Sept)	SNP	SNP	CON
Week 7 (21 Sept)	SNP	LAB (or REF)	REF (or LAB)
Week 8 (28 Sept)	SNP	GREEN (or LD)	LD (or GREEN)
Week 9 (5 Oct)	SNP	SNP	REF (or LAB)
Week 10 (26 Oct)	LAB (or REF)	SNP	CON

4. At its meeting on 15 September, the Minister for Parliamentary Business suggested that the Bureau review the allocation of Members’ Business debates from November onwards, with a view to ensuring a fairer distribution of Thursday debate slots across the parties.
5. The Minister proposed changing the allocation by moving the Wednesday party allocation to the Tuesday, the Thursday allocation to the Wednesday and the Tuesday allocation to the Thursday for the next ten-week block. Then, a similar

approach would be taken for the third ten-week cycle to ensure an equitable approach across 30 weeks.

6. This table summarises that approach:

Allocation block	Approach
Block 1: Weeks 1-10 (8 June to 26 October)	Original d'Hondt allocation - agreed
Block 2: Weeks 11-20 (2 November to 18 January)	Allocations rotated one day to the left (Thurs → Wed, Wed → Tues, Tues → Thurs)
Block 3: Weeks 21-30 (25 January to 19 April)	Allocations rotated two days to the left from the original allocation.
Block 4 Weeks 31-40 (26 April to 30 August)	Revert to the original d'Hondt allocation

7. The original d'Hondt allocation for the remainder of the session is set out for information at Annexe A.
8. A proposal for allocations from November to the end of the Parliamentary year is set out for consideration at Annexe B.

Decision

9. **The Bureau is invited to consider and agree an approach to the allocation of Members' business debates from 2 November to 30 August, or to identify an alternative approach if preferred.**

Parliamentary Business Team
September 2026

Annexe A Original d'Hondt allocation

Week 1 (2 November)	SNP	SNP	SNP
Week 2 (9 November)	LAB	REF	GREEN
Week 3 (16 November)	SNP	CON	SNP
Week 4 (23 November)	LD	SNP	REF
Week 5 (30 November)	LAB	SNP	GREEN
Week 6 (7 December)	SNP	SNP	CON
Week 7 (14 December)	SNP	LAB	REF
Recess – 19 December 2026 to 2 January 2027			
Week 8 (4 January)	SNP	GREEN	LD
Week 9 (11 January)	SNP	SNP	REF
Week 10 (18 January)	LAB	SNP	CON
Week 1 (25 January)	SNP	SNP	SNP
Week 2 (1 February)	LAB	REF	GREEN
Week 3 (8 February)	SNP	CON	SNP
Recess – 13 to 21 February 2027			
Week 4 (22 February)	LD	SNP	REF
Week 5 (1 March)	LAB	SNP	GREEN
Week 6 (8 March)	SNP	SNP	CON
Week 7 (15 March)	SNP	LAB	REF
Week 8 (22 March)	SNP	GREEN	LD
Week 9 (29 March)	SNP	SNP	REF
Recess – 3 to 18 April 2027			
Week 10 (19 April)	LAB	SNP	CON
Week 1 (26 April)	SNP	SNP	SNP
Week 2 (3 May)	LAB	REF	GREEN
Week 3 (10 May)	SNP	CON	SNP

Week 4 (17 May)	LD	SNP	REF
Week 5 (24 May)	LAB	SNP	GREEN
Week 6 (31 May)	SNP	SNP	CON
Week 7 (7 June)	SNP	LAB	REF
Week 8 (14 June)	SNP	GREEN	LD
Week 9 (21 June)	SNP	SNP	REF
Week 10 (30 August)	LAB	SNP	CON

Annexe B Proposed allocation for consideration

Block 2 Weeks 11-20 (2 November to 18 January)

Allocations rotated one day to the left (Thurs → Wed, Wed → Tues, Tues → Thurs)

Week 1 (2 November)	SNP	SNP	SNP
Week 2 (9 November)	REF	GREEN	LAB
Week 3 (16 November)	CON	SNP	SNP
Week 4 (23 November)	SNP	REF	LD
Week 5 (30 November)	SNP	GREEN	LAB
Week 6 (7 December)	SNP	CON	SNP
Week 7 (14 December)	LAB	REF	SNP
Recess – 19 December 2026 to 2 January 2027			
Week 8 (4 January)	GREEN	LD	SNP
Week 9 (11 January)	SNP	REF	SNP
Week 10 (18 January)	SNP	CON	LAB

Block 3 Weeks 21-30 (25 January to 19 April)

Allocations rotated two days to the left from original allocation

Week 1 (25 January)	SNP	SNP	SNP
Week 2 (1 February)	GREEN	LAB	REF
Week 3 (8 February)	SNP	SNP	CON
Recess – 13 to 21 February 2027			
Week 4 (22 February)	REF	LD	SNP
Week 5 (1 March)	GREEN	LAB	SNP
Week 6 (8 March)	CON	SNP	SNP
Week 7 (15 March)	REF	SNP	LAB
Week 8 (22 March)	LD	SNP	GREEN
Week 9 (29 March)	REF	SNP	SNP
Recess – 3 to 18 April 2027			

Week 10 (19 April)	CON	LAB	SNP
--------------------	-----	-----	-----

Block 4 Weeks 31-39 (26 April to 30 August)

Revert to the original d'Hondt allocation

Week 1 (26 April)	SNP	SNP	SNP
Week 2 (3 May)	LAB	REF	GREEN
Week 3 (10 May)	SNP	CON	SNP
Week 4 (17 May)	LD	SNP	REF
Week 5 (24 May)	LAB	SNP	GREEN
Week 6 (31 May)	SNP	SNP	CON
Week 7 (7 June)	SNP	LAB	REF
Week 8 (14 June)	SNP	GREEN	LD
Week 9 (21 June)	SNP	SNP	REF
Week 10 (30 August)	LAB	SNP	CON