

Parliamentary Bureau – Scheduling of Members’ Business

Purpose

1. This paper invites the Bureau to agree a revised approach to the scheduling of Members’ Business debates. This was discussed at last week’s Bureau meeting.

Background

2. Members’ business debates are currently allocated using the d’Hondt method. While this provides a proportional allocation of debates, the resulting schedule can lead to some parties having a disproportionate number of debates on specific sitting days, particularly Thursdays.
3. To provide a more equitable distribution of Members’ Business debates across the sitting week, a rotational scheduling model is proposed.

Proposed approach

4. The proposed model operates on a rolling 30-week cycle comprising three 10-week blocks.
5. The first 10-week block reflects the original d’Hondt allocation. For the second 10-week block, allocations would rotate across the sitting week, with Tuesday allocations moving to Thursday, Wednesday allocations moving to Tuesday and Thursday allocations moving to Wednesday.
6. The same principle would be applied in the third 10-week block ensuring that over the course of a 30 week cycle each party’s allocations are distributed more evenly.
7. At the conclusion of each 30-week cycle, the original d’Hondt allocation would form the first block of a new cycle which would then repeat on the same basis for the remainder of Session 7.
8. A schedule illustrating the operation of the proposed rotation is attached at Annexe A.

Decision

9. **The Bureau is invited to agree the introduction of a rolling 30-week rotation model for the scheduling of Members’ business debates for the remainder of Session 7.**

Parliamentary Business Team
September 2026

Annexe A 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)

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
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

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
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

Revert to Block 1 (original d'Hondt) Weeks 31-39 (26 April to 30 August)

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
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