

## **Suspension and variation of Standing Order rules in response to the Novel coronavirus COVID-19**

The following Standing Order Rules have been suspended or varied for the duration of the public response to the Novel coronavirus COVID-19

### [Chapter 2](#)

#### **Rule 2.7.1**

Rule 2.7.1 has been suspended and replaced with –

1. Subject to Rule 2.7.2 and 2.7.3, meetings of the Parliament shall be held either in the Debating Chamber of the Parliament, Holyrood, or remotely, by video conference in a virtual Debating Chamber hosted on such platform as may be provided by the Parliamentary corporation; and references in the Rules to ‘the Chamber’ are to be interpreted accordingly.

*This variation of this Rule was agreed by the Parliament on 21 April 2020, as appropriate, for meetings of the Parliament including meetings of committees or sub-committees established by the Parliament, for the duration of the of the public response to the Novel coronavirus COVID-19, this being the period up to and including 26 June 2020, and such further period or periods as are determined by the Presiding Officer from time to time following consultation with the Bureau and notified to the Parliament in the Business Bulletin.*

*A determination by the Presiding Officer was published in the Business Bulletin on 26 June 2020 indicating that, following consultation with the Bureau, the variation of this Rule would be extended until 9 October 2020. A further determination by the Presiding Officer was published in the Business Bulletin on 9 October 2020 indicating that, following consultation with the Bureau, the variation of this Rule would be extended until 24 December 2020. A determination by the Presiding Officer, following consultation of the Bureau, published in the Business Bulletin on 23 December 2020 extended the variation of this Rule to dissolution.*

### [Chapter 5](#)

#### **Rules 5.6.1(a), (b) and (c)**

Rules 5.6.1(a), (b) and (c) have been suspended.

*The suspension of these Rules was agreed by the Parliament on 17 March 2020. In accordance with Motion S5M-21508, these Rules have been suspended for the duration of the public health response to the Novel coronavirus COVID-19, this being the period from 17 March 2020 up to and including 26 June 2020, and such further period or periods as are determined by the Presiding Officer from time to time following consultation with the Bureau and notified to the Parliament in the Business Bulletin. In accordance with Motion S5M-21508, the suspension of these Rules shall*

*apply, as appropriate, to meetings of the Parliament, including meetings of committees or sub-committees established by the Parliament taking place during those periods.*

*A determination by the Presiding Officer was published in the Business Bulletin on 26 June 2020 indicating that, following consultation with the Bureau, the suspension of these Rules would be extended until 9 October 2020. A further determination by the Presiding Officer was published in the Business Bulletin on 9 October 2020 indicating that, following consultation with the Bureau, the suspension of these Rules would be extended until 24 December 2020. A determination by the Presiding Officer, following consultation of the Bureau, published in the Business Bulletin on 23 December 2020 extended the suspension of these Rules to dissolution.*

## [Chapter 6](#)

### **Rule 6.3A**

In Rule 6.3A.1 after “member” the words “or members” have been inserted.

Rule 6.3A.2 has been suspended.

In Rule 6.3A.4 the first sentence has been suspended.

In Rule 6.3A.5(d), the following has been inserted: “(e) a political party withdraws in writing to the Bureau that nomination of the member or members nominated for the purposes of the duration of the public response to the Novel coronavirus COVID-19.”

*The suspension and variation of these Rules was agreed by the Parliament on 17 March 2020. In accordance with Motion S5M-21508, these Rules have been suspended and varied for the duration of the public health response to the Novel coronavirus COVID-19, this being the period from 17 March 2020 up to and including 26 June 2020, and such further period or periods as are determined by the Presiding Officer from time to time following consultation with the Bureau and notified to the Parliament in the Business Bulletin. In accordance with Motion S5M-21508, the suspension and variations of these Rules shall apply, as appropriate, to meetings of the Parliament, including meetings of committees or sub-committees established by the Parliament taking place during those periods.*

*A determination by the Presiding Officer was published in the Business Bulletin on 26 June 2020 indicating that, following consultation with the Bureau, the suspension and variation of these Rules would be extended until 9 October 2020. A further determination by the Presiding Officer was published in the Business Bulletin on 9 October 2020 indicating that, following consultation with the Bureau, the variation and suspension of these Rules would be extended until 24 December 2020. A determination by the Presiding Officer, following consultation of the Bureau, published in the Business Bulletin on 23 December 2020 extended the variation and suspension of these Rules to dissolution.*

## Chapter 11

### **Rule 11.7.1**

In Rule 11.7.1 the words “the electronic voting system” have been suspended and replaced with the words “an electronic voting system”.

*The variation of this Rule was agreed by the Parliament on 21 April 2020, as appropriate, for meetings of the Parliament including meetings of committees or sub-committees established by the Parliament, for the duration of the of the public response to the Novel coronavirus COVID-19, this being the period up to and including 26 June 2020, and such further period or periods as are determined by the Presiding Officer from time to time following consultation with the Bureau and notified to the Parliament in the Business Bulletin.*

*A determination by the Presiding Officer was published in the Business Bulletin on 26 June 2020 indicating that, following consultation with the Bureau, the variation of this Rule would be extended until 9 October 2020. A further determination by the Presiding Officer was published in the Business Bulletin on 9 October 2020 indicating that, following consultation with the Bureau, the variation of this Rule would be extended until 24 December 2020. A determination by the Presiding Officer, following consultation of the Bureau, published in the Business Bulletin on 23 December 2020 extended the variation of this Rule to dissolution.*

### **Rule 11.8.3**

Rule 11.8.3 has been suspended and replaced with-

“3. Except as provided in any direction given to a committee by the Parliament, members of a committee (other than a Committee of the Whole Parliament) or sub-committee shall vote either by show of hands, or by means of a roll call vote as described in Rule 11.7.4, or by an electronic voting system. The convener shall determine at the start of each meeting which of those methods of voting the convener considers it appropriate, in all the circumstances of the meeting, to use for that meeting.”

*The variation of this Rule was agreed by the Parliament on 12 May 2020 for meetings of committees or sub-committees established by the Parliament for the duration of the of the public response to the Novel coronavirus COVID-19, this being the period up to and including 26 June 2020, and such further period or periods as are determined by the Presiding Officer from time to time following consultation with the Bureau and notified to the Parliament in the Business Bulletin.*

*A determination by the Presiding Officer was published in the Business Bulletin on 26 June 2020 indicating that, following consultation with the Bureau, the variation of this Rule would be extended until 9 October 2020. A further determination by the Presiding Officer was published in the Business Bulletin on 9 October 2020*

*indicating that, following consultation with the Bureau, the variation of this Rule would be extended until 24 December 2020. A determination by the Presiding Officer, following consultation of the Bureau, published in the Business Bulletin on 23 December 2020 extended the variation of this Rule to dissolution.*

#### **Rules 11.9.4, 11.9.5, 11.9.13 and 11.9.16**

Rules 11.9.4, 11.9.5, 11.9.13 and 11.9.16 have been suspended.

*The suspension of these Rules was agreed by the Parliament on 17 March 2020. In accordance with Motion S5M-21508, these Rules have been suspended for the duration of the public health response to the Novel coronavirus COVID-19, this being the period from 17 March 2020 up to and including 26 June 2020, and such further period or periods as are determined by the Presiding Officer from time to time following consultation with the Bureau and notified to the Parliament in the Business Bulletin. In accordance with Motion S5M-21508, the suspension of these Rules shall apply, as appropriate, to meetings of the Parliament, including meetings of committees or sub-committees established by the Parliament taking place during those periods.*

*A determination by the Presiding Officer was published in the Business Bulletin on 26 June 2020 indicating that, following consultation with the Bureau, the suspension of these Rules would be extended until 9 October 2020. A further determination by the Presiding Officer was published in the Business Bulletin on 9 October 2020 indicating that, following consultation with the Bureau, the suspension of these Rules would be extended until 24 December 2020. A determination by the Presiding Officer, following consultation of the Bureau, published in the Business Bulletin on 23 December 2020 extended the suspension of these Rules to dissolution.*

## [Chapter 12](#)

### **Rule 12.1.15**

In Rule 12.1.15 the words “(other than a committee substitute)” have been omitted in both instances where they occur.

*This suspension of this Rule was agreed by the Parliament on 17 March 2020. In accordance with Motion S5M-21508, this Rule has been varied for the duration of the public health response to the Novel coronavirus COVID-19, this being the period from 17 March 2020 up to and including 26 June 2020, and such further period or periods as are determined by the Presiding Officer from time to time following consultation with the Bureau and notified to the Parliament in the Business Bulletin. In accordance with Motion S5M-21508, the suspension of this Rule also applies, as*

*appropriate, to meetings of the Parliament, including meetings of committees or sub-committees established by the Parliament taking place during those periods.*

*A determination by the Presiding Officer was published in the Business Bulletin on 26 June 2020 indicating that, following consultation with the Bureau, the suspension of this Rule would be extended until 9 October 2020. A further determination by the Presiding Officer was published in the Business Bulletin on 9 October 2020 indicating that, following consultation with the Bureau, the suspension of this Rule would be extended until 24 December 2020. A determination by the Presiding Officer, following consultation of the Bureau, published in the Business Bulletin on 23 December 2020 extended the suspension of this Rule to dissolution.*

### **Rule 12.3.2**

Rule 12.3.2 has been suspended and replaced with –

“2. A committee shall meet-

(a) in Scotland at such place as it may decide, with the approval of the Parliamentary Bureau and the Conveners Group, or

(b) remotely by video conference hosted on such platform as may be provided by the Parliamentary corporation.

2A. A decision under Rule 12.3.2 shall, in the event of any disagreement between the Parliamentary Bureau and the Conveners Group, be referred to the Parliamentary corporation for a determination. The Parliamentary Bureau may require the Conveners Group to make a decision under Rule 12.3.2 within a specified period. If the Conveners Group does not make a decision within that period, the decision on the approval shall be made by the Parliamentary Bureau.”

*The variation of this Rule was agreed by the Parliament on 21 April 2020, as appropriate, for meetings of the Parliament including meetings of committees or sub-committees established by the Parliament, for the duration of the of the public response to the Novel coronavirus COVID-19, this being the period up to and including 26 June 2020, and such further period or periods as are determined by the Presiding Officer from time to time following consultation with the Bureau and notified to the Parliament in the Business Bulletin.*

*A determination by the Presiding Officer was published in the Business Bulletin on 26 June 2020 indicating that, following consultation with the Bureau, the variation of this Rule would be extended until 9 October 2020. A further determination by the Presiding Officer was published in the Business Bulletin on 9 October 2020 indicating that, following consultation with the Bureau, the variation of this Rule would be extended until 24 December 2020. A determination by the Presiding Officer, following consultation of the Bureau, published in the Business Bulletin on 23 December 2020 extended the variation of this Rule to dissolution.*

The above variation of Rule 12.3.2 has been further varied so as now to provide as follows—

“2. A committee shall meet—

(a) in Scotland at such place as it may decide, with the approval of the Parliamentary Bureau and the Conveners Group (all members meeting collectively at such place, or in part remotely by video conference hosted on such platform as may be provided by the Parliamentary corporation) or

(b) wholly remotely, by video conference hosted on such platform as may be provided by the Parliamentary corporation.

2A. A decision under Rule 12.3.2 shall, in the event of any disagreement between the Parliamentary Bureau and the Conveners Group, be referred to the Parliamentary corporation for a determination. The Parliamentary Bureau may require the Conveners Group to make a decision under Rule 12.3.2 within a specified period. If the Conveners Group does not make a decision within that period, the decision on the approval shall be made by the Parliamentary Bureau.”

*The variation of this Rule was agreed by the Parliament on 1 September 2020, as appropriate, for meetings of the Parliament including meetings of committees or sub-committees established by the Parliament, for the duration of the of the public response to the Novel coronavirus COVID-19, this being the period up to and including 9 October 2020, and such further period or periods as are determined by the Presiding Officer from time to time following consultation with the Bureau and notified to the Parliament in the Business Bulletin. A further determination by the Presiding Officer was published in the Business Bulletin on 9 October 2020 indicating that, following consultation with the Bureau, the variation of this Rule would be extended until 24 December 2020. A determination by the Presiding Officer, following consultation of the Bureau, published in the Business Bulletin on 23 December 2020 extended the variation of this Rule to dissolution.*

## [Chapter 15](#)

### **Rule 15.2.1**

Rule 15.2.1 has been suspended

*This suspension of this Rule was agreed by the Parliament on 17 March 2020. In accordance with Motion S5M-21508, Rule 15.2.1 is suspended for the duration of the public health response to the Novel coronavirus COVID-19, this being the period from 17 March 2020 up to and including 26 June 2020, and such further period or periods as are determined by the Presiding Officer from time to time following consultation with the Bureau and notified to the Parliament in the Business Bulletin. In accordance with Motion S5M-21508, the suspension of this Rule shall apply, as*

*appropriate, to meetings of the Parliament, including meetings of committees or sub-committees established by the Parliament taking place during those periods.*

*A determination by the Presiding Officer was published in the Business Bulletin on 26 June 2020 indicating that, following consultation with the Bureau, the suspension of this Rule would be extended until 9 October 2020. A further determination by the Presiding Officer was published in the Business Bulletin on 9 October 2020 indicating that, following consultation with the Bureau, the suspension of this Rule would be extended until 24 December 2020. A determination by the Presiding Officer, following consultation of the Bureau, published in the Business Bulletin on 23 December 2020 extended the suspension of this Rule to dissolution.*

## **Annexe – Motions agreed by the Parliament varying or suspending Standing Orders**

### **Motion S5M-21507: Graeme Dey, Angus South, Scottish National Party, On Behalf of Parliamentary Bureau, Date Lodged: 21/04/2020**

#### Suspension and Variation of Standing Orders

That the Parliament agrees that, as appropriate, for meetings of the Parliament including meetings of committees or sub-committees established by the Parliament, for the duration of the public response to the Novel coronavirus COVID-19, this being the period up to and including 26 June 2020, and such further period or periods as are determined by the Presiding Officer from time to time following consultation with the Bureau and notified to the Parliament in the Business Bulletin—

(a) Rule 2.7.1 be suspended and replaced with –

“1. Subject to Rule 2.7.2 and 2.7.3, meetings of the Parliament shall be held either in the Debating Chamber of the Parliament, Holyrood, or remotely, by video conference in a virtual Debating Chamber hosted on such platform as may be provided by the Parliamentary corporation; and references in the Rules to ‘the Chamber’ are to be interpreted accordingly.”

(b) In Rule 11.7.1 the words “the electronic voting system” be suspended and replaced with the words “an electronic voting system”.

(c) Rule 12.3.2 be suspended and replaced with –

“2. A committee shall meet--

(a) in Scotland at such place as it may decide, with the approval of the Parliamentary Bureau and the Conveners Group, or

(b) remotely by video conference hosted on such platform as may be provided by the Parliamentary corporation.

2A. A decision under Rule 12.3.2 shall, in the event of any disagreement between the Parliamentary Bureau and the Conveners Group, be referred to the Parliamentary corporation for a determination. The Parliamentary Bureau may require the Conveners Group to make a decision under Rule 12.3.2 within a specified period. If the Conveners Group does not make a decision within that period, the decision on the approval shall be made by the Parliamentary Bureau.”

Taken in the Chamber on 21/04/2020

### **Motion S5M-21508: Graeme Dey, Angus South, Scottish National Party, On Behalf of Parliamentary Bureau, Date Lodged: 21/04/2020**

#### Suspension and Variation of Standing Orders

That the Parliament agrees that in regard to motions S5M-21283, S5M-21284, S5M-21285 and S5M-21286—

(1) the references to “the duration of the public response to the Novel coronavirus COVID-19” be read as references to (a) the period from 17 March 2020 up to and



including 26 June 2020 and (b) such further period or periods as are determined by the Presiding Officer from time to time following consultation with the Bureau and notified to the Parliament in the Business Bulletin, and

(2) they shall apply, as appropriate, to meetings of the Parliament, including meetings of committees or sub-committees established by the Parliament taking place during those periods.

Taken in the Chamber on 21/04/2020

**Motion S5M-21286: Graeme Dey, Angus South, Scottish National Party, On Behalf of Parliamentary Bureau, Date Lodged: 17/03/2020**

Suspension and Variation of Standing Orders

That the Parliament agrees that Rule 15.2.1 of the Standing Orders be suspended for the duration of the public response to the Novel coronavirus COVID-19.

Taken in the Chamber on 17/03/2020

**Motion S5M-21285: Graeme Dey, Angus South, Scottish National Party, On Behalf of Parliamentary Bureau, Date Lodged: 17/03/2020**

Suspension and Variation of Standing Orders

That the Parliament agrees that, for the purposes of committee meetings for the duration of the public response to the Novel coronavirus COVID-19—

(a) in Rule 6.3A.1 after “member” the words “or members” be inserted

(b) Rule 6.3A.2 be suspended

(c) in Rule 6.3A.4 the first sentence be suspended

(d) after Rule 6.3A.5(d) be inserted “(e) a political party withdraws in writing to the Bureau that nomination of the member or members nominated for the purposes of the duration of the public response to the Novel coronavirus COVID-19.”

(e) in Rule 12.1.15 the words “(other than a committee substitute)” be omitted in both instances where they occur.

Taken in the Chamber on 17/03/2020

**Motion S5M-21284: Graeme Dey, Angus South, Scottish National Party, On Behalf of Parliamentary Bureau, Date Lodged: 17/03/2020**

### Suspension and Variation of Standing Orders

That the Parliament agrees that, for the purposes of electing an additional deputy Presiding Officer for the duration of the public response to the Novel coronavirus COVID-19, Rules 11.9.4, 11.9.5, 11.9.13 and 11.9.16 of the Standing Orders be suspended.

Taken in the Chamber on 17/03/2020

### **Motion S5M-21283: Graeme Dey, Angus South, Scottish National Party, On Behalf of Parliamentary Bureau, Date Lodged: 17/03/2020**

#### Suspension and Variation of Standing Orders

That the Parliament agrees that Rules 5.6(a), (b) and (c) of the Standing Orders be suspended for the duration of the public response to the Novel coronavirus COVID-19.

Taken in the Chamber on 17/03/2020

### **Motion S5M-21721: Graeme Dey, Angus South, Scottish National Party, On Behalf of Parliamentary Bureau, Date Lodged: 12/05/2020**

#### Suspension and Variation of Standing Orders

That the Parliament agrees that for meetings of committees or sub-committees established by the Parliament, for the duration of the public response to the Novel coronavirus, COVID-19, this being the period up to and including 26 June 2020, and such further period or periods as are determined by the Presiding Officer from time to time following consultation with the Bureau and notified to the Parliament in the Business Bulletin:

Rule 11.8.3 be suspended and replaced with-

“3. Except as provided in any direction given to a committee by the Parliament, members of a committee (other than a Committee of the Whole Parliament) or sub-committee shall vote either by show of hands, or by means of a roll call vote as described in Rule 11.7.4, or by an electronic voting system. The convener shall determine at the start of each meeting which of those methods of voting the convener considers it appropriate, in all the circumstances of the meeting, to use for that meeting.”

Taken in the Chamber on 12/05/2020

**Motion S5M-22597: Graeme Dey, Angus South, Scottish National Party, Date Lodged: 01/09/2020**

That the Parliament agrees that, as appropriate, for meetings of committees or sub-committees established by the Parliament, for the duration of the public response to the **novel** coronavirus, COVID-19, this being the period up to and including 9 October 2020, and such further period or periods as are determined by the Presiding Officer from time to time following consultation with the Bureau and notified to the Parliament in the Business Bulletin:

Rule 12.3.2, which was suspended and replaced by means of motion S5M-21507, be further varied so as now to provide as follows—

“2. A committee shall meet—

(a) in Scotland at such place as it may decide, with the approval of the Parliamentary Bureau and the Conveners Group (all members meeting collectively at such place, or in part remotely by video conference hosted on such platform as may be provided by the Parliamentary corporation) or

(b) wholly remotely, by video conference hosted on such platform as may be provided by the Parliamentary corporation.

2A. A decision under Rule 12.3.2 shall, in the event of any disagreement between the Parliamentary Bureau and the Conveners Group, be referred to the Parliamentary corporation for a determination. The Parliamentary Bureau may require the Conveners Group to make a decision under Rule 12.3.2 within a specified period. If the Conveners Group does not make a decision within that period, the decision on the approval shall be made by the Parliamentary Bureau.”

Taken in the Chamber on 01/09/2020