

# SEANAD ÉIREANN

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24<sup>th</sup> SEANAD

SEVENTH REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON PROCEDURE AND PRIVILEGES

ON

STANDING ORDERS 70A, 71 & 119 AND  
THE ADOPTION OF NEW STANDING ORDERS 113A & 137A

## REPORT

### Amendments to Standing Orders 70A, 71 & 119 and the adoption of New Standing Orders 113A & 137A

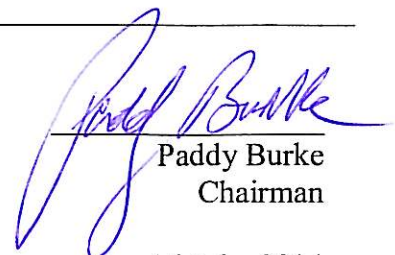
In pursuance of its functions under Standing Order 90 of considering matters of procedure generally, the Committee on Procedure and Privileges, until further notice, recommends the amendments to Standing Orders 70A, 71 and 119 and the adoption of Standing Order 113A and 137A set out in the Schedule hereunder.

The proposed amendments make provision for—

- (i) Post-enactment reports by Ministers on the implementation of Acts and the consideration of such reports by Committees; and
- (ii) Pre-legislative consideration by Committees of the draft heads of Bills and additional speaking arrangements at Second Stage where pre-legislative consideration has taken place.

SCHEDULE	
Establishment of Committees	<p>In Standing Order 70A, paragraph (3), the insertion of the following after subparagraph (e):</p> <p>“(ea) reports under Standing Order 137A by members of the Government or Ministers of State on Bills which have been enacted in the previous 12 months.”.</p>
Powers of Select Committees	<p>In Standing Order 71, the insertion of the following after paragraph (6A):</p> <p>“(6B) power to require that a member of the Government or Minister of State who is officially responsible for the implementation of an Act shall attend before the Select Committee in relation to consideration of a report under Standing Order 137A;”.</p>
Pre-legislative consideration	<p>The following new Standing Order is hereby adopted:</p> <p>“113A. Prior to its presentation or introduction to the Seanad, the general scheme or draft heads of a Bill shall, save in exceptional circumstances [see also S.O. 119], be given by a member of the Government or Minister of State to the Committee empowered under Standing Order 70A to consider the general scheme or draft heads of any Bill published by the Minister.”.</p>
Procedure on Second Stage	<p>In Standing Order 119—</p> <p>(a) the addition of the following paragraph:</p> <p>“(1A)(i) Where the Bill has been the subject of pre-legislative consideration under Standing Order 113A, a member of the Committee appointed to consider the general scheme or draft</p>

	<p>heads of any Bill published by the Minister and who has been nominated by the Committee for the purpose may speak in relation to that Committee's pre-legislative consideration of the Bill: provided that such contribution shall not preclude a further contribution in a personal capacity by that member in the course of the debate.</p> <p>(ii) In the event the pre-legislative consideration under Standing Order 113A has not taken place, the member of the Government or Minister of State in charge of the Bill shall give the reason therefor during his or her opening remarks.”,</p> <p>and</p> <p>(b) the addition of the following paragraph:</p> <p>“(1B) The Seanad may order that, after the speech in reply by the member of the Government or Minister of State in charge of the Bill, an additional 45 minutes be allocated during which members shall be entitled to make second speeches, with the following time limits and sequence of speakers:</p> <p>(i) the speeches of the spokespersons and the nominated member of the Committee appointed to consider the general scheme or draft heads of any Bill published by the Minister shall not exceed three minutes in each case;</p> <p>(ii) the speech of each other member called upon shall not exceed three minutes; and</p> <p>(iii) the member of the Government or Minister of State in charge of the Bill, or such other member as he or she may authorise in that behalf, shall be entitled to speak for the final three minutes.”.</p>
<p>Post-enactment consideration</p>	<p>The following new Standing Order is hereby adopted:</p> <p>“137A. Twelve months following the enactment of a Bill, save in the case of the Finance Bill and the Appropriation Bill, the member of the Government or Minister of State who is officially responsible for implementation of the Act shall provide a report which shall review the functioning of the Act and which shall be laid in the Parliamentary Library.”.</p>



Paddy Burke  
Chairman

16 July, 2014