

GENERAL SYNOD

FEBRUARY GROUP OF SESSIONS 2023

FIRST NOTICE PAPER

SIXTY-FIRST REPORT OF THE STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE (GS 2292)

Revd Canon Joyce Jones (Leeds) to move in respect of items 17 to 36 'That these amendments be made with effect from 10th February 2023.'

Notes:

1. The Business Committee has determined under Standing Order 40(5) that the proposed amendments to Standing Orders contained in items 18 to 20, 22 to 23 and 25 to 36 of this Notice Paper do not need to be debated.
2. Under Standing Order 40(5) those amendments will accordingly be deemed to have been approved by the Synod without amendment unless either:
 - notice is given by **not less than 5 members** by 5.30 p.m. on Monday 6th February that they wish a proposed amendment to be debated; or
 - notice is given by 5.30 p.m. on Friday 3rd February of an amendment to any proposed amendment.

Standing Order 11 (Length of notice: special cases)

17. In Standing Order 11, in paragraph (1)(d), after "Standing Orders" insert "under SO 127(6A) or (6B)".

***Explanatory statement:** this amendment is consequential on amendment 24 and would ensure that the rules on the period of notice for members to table*

amendments to the Standing Orders reflect the proposed amendments to SO 127.

Standing Order 59 (Revision following Revision Committee: amendments)

18. In Standing Order 59, in paragraph (5), omit “supports the amendment or that, although it does not support the amendment, it nevertheless”.

Explanatory statement: *this amendment would simplify the drafting so that SO 59(5) would begin “If the Steering Committee indicates that it wishes the debate to continue...”.*

19. In Standing Order 59, in paragraph (6), omit “supports the amendment or that it”.

Explanatory statement: *this amendment is consequential on amendment 18.*

Standing Order 106 (Annual reports)

20. In Standing Order 106, in paragraph (6), for the words from “a member” to the end substitute “at least five members of the Synod give due notice that they wish to debate the motion appended to the report; and each member must include in the notice details of the member’s points of concern.”

Explanatory statement: *this amendment would provide that the Synod is deemed to take note of the Archbishops’ Council’s annual report or the report of its Audit Committee unless at least five members give notice of their wish for a debate. Currently only one member has to give such notice.*

After Standing Order 107

21. After Standing Order 107 insert the following—

“107A Further motions

(1) This Standing Order applies to a motion under—

- (a) SO 105(5), (6) or (9) (further motions to ordinary reports),
- (b) SO 106(9) (further motions to annual reports),
or
- (c) SO 107(4)(b) or (5)(b) (further motions to presentations).

(2) The mover of a motion to which this Standing Order applies may speak for not more than five minutes; immediately after that, the relevant person may speak in reply.

(3) The “relevant person” is—

- (a) in the case of a motion referred to in paragraph (1)(a) or (b), the Chair or another member of the body that produced the report in question;
- (b) in the case of a motion referred to in paragraph (1)(c), a member of the Synod nominated by the Chair on account of that member’s involvement in the presentation or interest in its subject matter.

(4) If the relevant person indicates a wish for the debate to continue, the debate on the motion continues.

(5) If the relevant person does not indicate a wish for the debate to continue, the Chair must declare the motion to have lapsed unless at least 25 members indicate that they wish the debate to continue; and if at least 25 members stand in their places or, if unable to do so, indicate by

some other means that they wish the debate to continue, debate on the motion is resumed.

(6) When debate on the motion has come to an end (whether or not following a motion for the Closure) but before the motion is put to the vote, the mover of the motion may speak in reply for not more than three minutes.”

Explanatory statement: *this amendment would apply the 25-member rule to what are commonly referred to as ‘following motions’, namely further motions to a report or presentation. Debate on a further motion would continue only if the relevant member for the report or presentation agrees or at least 25 members wish the debate to go on.*

Standing Order 120A (Representatives of Anglican Communion)

22. In Standing Order 120A, in paragraph (2), omit “, by prior arrangement,”.

Explanatory statement: *this amendment would remove the condition that an Anglican Communion representative may speak in debate only by prior arrangement.*

Standing Order 121 (Representatives of other Churches)

23. In Standing Order 121, in paragraph (2), omit “, by prior arrangement,”.

Explanatory statement: *this amendment would remove the condition that a representative of another Church may speak in debate only by prior arrangement.*

Standing Order 127 (Standing Orders Committee)

24. In Standing Order 127, for paragraph (6) substitute—

“(6) The Committee must make a written report to the Synod on—

- (a) any amendments which it proposes, and
- (b) any proposal for amendment made by a member of the Synod in response to which the Committee does not propose an amendment.

(6A) A member of the Synod may give notice under SO 11(1)(d) of—

- (a) an amendment to an amendment proposed by the Committee, or
- (b) an amendment which relates to a proposal included in the Committee’s report under paragraph (6)(b).

(6B) A member of the Synod may give notice under SO 11(1)(d) of an amendment which does not come within paragraph (6A)(a) or (b); but the amendment may be moved only with the permission of the Chair.

(6C) The mover of an amendment under paragraph (6A) or (6B) may speak for not more than five minutes; immediately after that, a member of the Committee may speak in reply.

(6D) If the Committee indicates that it wishes the debate to continue, the debate on the amendment continues.

(6E) If the Committee does not indicate that it wishes the debate to continue, the Chair must declare the amendment to have lapsed unless at least 25 members indicate that they wish the debate to continue; and if at least 25 members stand in their places or, if unable to do so, indicate by some other means that they wish the

debate to continue, debate on the amendment is resumed.

(6F) Paragraphs (6C) to (6E) do not apply to an amendment which, in the opinion of the Chair, is consequential on an amendment already carried; and the Chair must inform the Synod of his or her ruling.

(6G) When debate on an amendment has come to an end (whether or not following a motion for the Closure) but before the amendment is put to the vote, the mover of the amendment may speak in reply for not more than three minutes.”

Explanatory statement: *this amendment would make detailed provision about the right of members to move amendments to the Standing Orders. An amendment from a member would either have to amend an amendment in the Standing Orders Committee’s report or have to relate to some other matter covered by the report. The Chair of the debate could also give a member permission to move an amendment which does not meet either of those criteria. The 25-member rule would apply to members’ amendments. Accordingly, a member’s amendment would be debated only if the Standing Orders Committee agrees or if at least 25 members wish it to be debated.*

Standing Order 128 (Committees: duration of membership)

25. In Standing Order 128, in paragraph (1), after “of a new Synod” insert “; but that is subject to paragraph (1A)”.

Explanatory statement: *this amendment is consequential on amendment 26.*

26. In Standing Order 128, after paragraph (1) insert—

“(1A) A member of a Committee referred to in paragraph (1), other than an ex officio member, may resign from the Committee by giving notice in writing to the Clerk and to the Chair of the Committee.”

Explanatory statement: *this amendment would give a member of the Legislative Committee, Business Committee, Appointments Committee or Standing Orders Committee the right to resign from that Committee without also having to resign from Synod. The member in question would instead continue to be a member of the Synod.*

27. In Standing Order 128, in paragraph (3)(b), after “a member of” insert “the Committee or of”.

Explanatory statement: *this amendment is consequential on amendment 26.*

Standing Order 140 (Crown Nominations Commission: duration of membership)

28. In Standing Order 140, in each of paragraphs (1) to (3), (5), (6)(a), (8) and (10) for “elected by” substitute “elected from”.

Explanatory statement: *this amendment and amendments 31 to 36 are consequential on or supplementary to the amendments made in July 2021 to provide a new system of electing pairs of central members of the Crown Nominations Commission. This amendment would acknowledge that the members in question are elected from (rather than by) the House of Clergy or the House of Laity.*

29. In Standing Order 140, after paragraph (1) insert—

“(1A) A member elected from the House of Clergy or the House of Laity may resign from the Commission by giving notice in writing to the Chair of the Commission.”

Explanatory statement: *this amendment would give a member of the Crown Nominations Commission the right to resign from the Commission without also resigning from Synod. The member concerned would continue as a member of Synod.*

30. In Standing Order 140, in paragraph (6)(b), after “a member of” insert “the Commission or of”.

Explanatory statement: *this amendment is consequential on amendment 29.*

31. In Standing Order 140, for paragraph (7) substitute—

“(7) A vacancy arising in respect of a member of a pair referred to in SO 137(3A) is to be filled only if and when there is a vacancy in respect of each member of the pair; and if those circumstances arise, the two vacancies are to be filled by the election of two members as a pair, with SO 134 to apply with whatever modifications are necessary for the election of a pair rather than an individual.”

Explanatory statement: *this amendment would clarify that a casual vacancy in a pairing of elected central members on the Crown Nominations Commission is to be filled only when both members have left the pairing – so, an election would only be held for a new pair and not to replace just one member of it.*

32. In Standing Order 140, omit paragraph (9).

Explanatory statement: this amendment would remove a provision that is now redundant in light of SO 137(3B) and (3C), which provide for the appointment of substitutes to a pairing.

33. In Standing Order 140, in paragraph (10), for “a member” substitute “each member of a pair”.

Explanatory statement: this amendment would adjust the process potentially leading to resignation which applies where an elected central member persistently fails to attend meetings of the Crown Nominations Commission. The process would instead apply where each member of an elected pair fails to attend the meetings.

34. In Standing Order 140, in paragraph (10), for “six months” substitute “twelve months from the last attendance of either member of the pair”.

Explanatory statement: this amendment would increase from six months to twelve months the duration of the period of non-attendance required before the process potentially leading to resignation applies.

35. In Standing Order 140, in paragraph (10)(a), for “the member” substitute “each member of the pair”.

Explanatory statement: this amendment is consequential on amendment 33.

36. In Standing Order 140, in paragraph (10)(b), for “the resignation” substitute “each resignation”.

Explanatory statement: this amendment is consequential on amendment 33.