

## 6. MOTION TO SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS

### Representation of the People (Amendment) (No 2) Bill 2015 – Standing Order 4.13(2) suspended to permit Council amendment to be taken at this sitting

The Hon. Member for Douglas South to move:

*That Standing Orders, and in particular Standing Order 4.13(2), be suspended to permit Council amendment of the Representation of the People (Amendment) (No 2) Bill 2015 to be taken at this sitting.*

**The Speaker:** Item 6, motion to suspend Standing Orders. I call the Hon. Member for Douglas South, Mr Malarkey.

**Mr Malarkey:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Before I move the suspension of Standing Orders, it would be helpful to the House to explain why. I thank the House for my small Bill of changing 'West' back to 'South' sailing through this House extremely quickly and through Council.

We recall on 8th December in this House, the Hon. Mr Watterson tried to put a clause on to the Bill, and this House agreed to change the long title of the Bill, but did not agree with the clause. We then ended up with the Bill going in to Council where the title did not actually relate to what was in the Bill.

Council have kindly reverted that back to its original title, but of course, because it is an amendment by Council, it has to come back here for approval.

Under normal circumstances, this would be three-week wait. I am asking, as only two weeks have gone past, for the motion to suspend Standing Orders in order that we can do that final amendment approval today, so that we can progress with any paperwork that needs to be done for the up and coming election.

So with that, I would like to move that Standing Orders, and in particular Standing Order 4.13(2), be suspended to permit Council amendment of the Representation of the People (Amendment) (No 2) Bill 2015 to be taken at this sitting.

**The Speaker:** Mr Watterson.

**Mr Watterson:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

I am delighted to second the suspension of Standing Orders.

I am sure that Hon. Members will understand that the amendment to the long title that I did was done with the best of intentions, thinking this was something that would have got the will of the House. Whilst the House was willing to support up to a point, it was felt that by the time we had got down to the clause in detail, it was not something that the majority of the House would support.

Needless to say, I am disappointed about that. However, the House has had its settled will and I do not see that that is a good reason to hold up this Bill.

Whilst it might seem somewhat nit-picking to have to go back and change the long title, this is something that is the subject of clear advice, and it would be strange for the House to keep a Bill with a long title in it that did not match the objectives of the Bill as drafted.

So I am delighted to support not only the suspension of Standing Orders, because this is a short and simple Bill, but also the amendment as put in front of everybody today.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Hon. Members, I put the motion that Standing Orders be suspended as set out in Item 6. Those in favour, say aye; against, no. The ayes have it. The ayes have it.