

4. MOTION

4.1. Amendment to Standing Orders – Motion carried

The Hon. Member for Douglas North (Mr Ashford) to move:

That Standing Orders be amended to include the following Standing Order 3.11A (Speaking on behalf of another Member): No member may move a motion which stands in another Member's name or answer a Question on behalf of another Member, unless the Speaker is of the opinion that it is in the public interest to do so and the House gives leave.

The Speaker: Item 4 on our Order Paper, Hon. Members, is a motion in the name of the Standing Orders Committee.

I call on the Hon. Member for Douglas North to move. Mr Ashford.

Mr Ashford: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

I rise to move this motion on behalf of the House of Keys Standing Orders Committee.

It has come to light that we have a procedural issue with the Standing Orders of this Hon. House in relation to the moving of Bills through the Branch. Keys Standing Order 4.6 says:

At a subsequent sitting of the House, the Member in charge of the Bill shall move 'That the Bill be now read the second time'.

This means it is necessary to suspend Standing Orders if another Member is to take a Bill in the absence of the named Member. This is potentially erecting an unnecessary barrier to the proper transaction of business because there are various references in Standing Orders to the Member in charge and the name of the Member is printed on the Bill.

Change to cover this point requires an amendment to Standing Orders. It would be useful for the House to adopt a Standing Order to mirror the recently adopted Tynwald Standing Order 3.23A, which reads:

No member may move a motion which stands in another Member's name or answer a Question on behalf of another Member, unless the President is of the opinion that it is in the public interest to do so and the Court gives leave.

This would have the merit of pursuing the policy of making the Branches' Standing Orders match as closely as possible with the Standing Orders of Tynwald and would also allow the flexibility which the House needs so that an absent Member could resume control on their return or otherwise allow another Member to proceed, if the House agreed. Clearly illness or other circumstances should not get in the way of the ordinary pursuit of the business of the Branches. If the House does not give leave, then obviously the business will not proceed in that way anyway.

I therefore wish to move the following amendment to Standing Orders, namely:

That Standing Orders be amended to include the following Standing Order 3.11A (Speaking on behalf of another Member): No member may move a motion which stands in another Member's name or answer a Question on behalf of another Member, unless the Speaker is of the opinion that it is in the public interest to do so and the House gives leave.

I beg to move, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Hon. Member for Ramsey, Mr Hooper.

Mr Hooper: Thank you –

The Speaker: My apologies – Mr Harmer.

Mr Harmer: I beg to second and reserve my remarks.

The Speaker: Does anyone wish to speak to the substance of the motion?

Okay, in which case I will put the question that the motion as printed at 4.1., that we include new Standing Order 3.11A as outlined, be agreed. Those in favour, please say aye; those against, no. The ayes have it. The ayes have it.