

An Chartlann Náisiúnta
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29 NOV 1999

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29.11.99.

Fax

To Dermot Gallagher

From Tim O'Connor

~~Tadcaster~~

Mr Griffin
Not passed on to the Tadcaster - overtaken by events

29-11-99

Dermot

Revised [redacted] Standing Orders attached (relevant paras are Sections 6 - 11).

Tim.

cc PS/Sir P. Ramsbotham
Mr Leahy - Dublin
Mr Daultry
Mrs Wood
Caroline Ad[illegible]

H2.

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29 November 1999

INITIAL STANDING ORDER 14

ELECTION OF FIRST MINISTER AND DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER

(1)The First Minister and Deputy First Minister of the Assembly shall be jointly elected by the members.

(2)Any member, addressing the Presiding Officer, may propose candidates (members, whether or not present), to the Assembly for its First Minister and Deputy First Minister and move "That (x) be First Minister and (x) be Deputy First Minister of this Assembly", which motion will require to be seconded and to be followed by statements (which may be given orally or in writing) from the candidates proposed and seconded that they accept nomination.

(3)When a pair of candidates is proposed and seconded and has accepted nomination, the Presiding Officer shall then ask "is there any further proposal?" and:

(a)if there is no further proposal the Presiding Officer shall say "The time for proposals has expired" and a debate relevant to the election may then take place in which no member may speak more than once; or

(b)if more than one pair of candidates is proposed and seconded as First Minister and Deputy First Minister and have signified that they accept nomination, the Presiding Officer shall, after each proposal has been made and seconded and the nominations have been accepted, say "is there any further proposal?", and if there is no further proposal the Presiding Officer shall say "The time for proposals has expired" and, a debate relevant to the election may then take place.

(4)Upon the conclusion of the debate, or, if there is no debate, the Presiding Officer shall put the question "That [x and x] (being the only candidates proposed or the candidates first proposed) be the First Minister and Deputy First Minister of this Assembly".

(5)If the question be not carried, the Presiding Officer shall put a similar question in relation to the second pair of candidates proposed; whereupon, if resolved in the affirmative, those candidates shall be declared by the Presiding Officer to be elected and this shall be done in relation to each pair of candidates proposed as often as necessary until candidates are chosen to be First Minister and Deputy First Minister.

(6)The Presiding Officer shall immediately ask those members of the Assembly chosen to be First Minister and Deputy First Minister to affirm to the Assembly the Pledge of Office in Schedule 4 to the Northern Ireland Act. If they do not do so the election shall be void.

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(7)If no member is elected as aforesaid, the procedure for election shall be repeated after a period specified by the Presiding Officer (who may wish to consult with members of the Assembly, as he sees appropriate, in that period), until candidates are chosen to be First Minister and Deputy First Minister.

(8)Where the First Minister or the Deputy First Minister has offered his resignation from office, at its next meeting the Assembly may state notwithstanding the offer of resignation that it wishes the member to hold the office to which he had been elected.

(9) Where the Assembly approves a resolution in accordance with paragraph (8), the Presiding Officer shall ask the member who offered his resignation whether he assents to the wish of the Assembly.

(10) If the member concerned indicates his assent in accordance with paragraph (9), then the member shall hold the office to which he had been elected notwithstanding his offer to resign and the outcome of the last election to the office of First Minister and Deputy First Minister shall remain in effect.

(11) But if no such resolution is approved or the member does not indicate his assent, then a joint election shall be held at the next meeting of the Assembly to fill both offices in accordance with paragraphs (1) to (7).

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