

**CARDIFF CONSTITUTION - 8 DECEMBER 2014
COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES (EXTRACT) RULES 16 AND 17**

16 QUESTIONS AND DEBATE ON REPORTS AND CABINET STATEMENTS

- (a) On Cabinet Member Statements presented to the Council:
- (i) A Member may ask the person presenting the report any question or otherwise comment on the subject matter of the statement without notice. Following the Cabinet Members response to such questions, the Member asking the original question shall be allowed to ask a supplementary question to clarify the response to the question.
 - (ii) One minute shall be allowed for each of the question, answer, supplementary question and supplementary answer.
- (b) On Reports presented to the Council
- (i) The person presenting the report shall have 6 minutes to introduce it. A maximum of 3 minutes will be allowed to each Member to speak in relation to the report. 3 minutes will be allowed for the presenter of the report to make their closing remarks in response to points raised by other Members.

17 ORAL AND WRITTEN QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

General

- (a) In accordance with this Rule 17, a Member may ask questions of:
- (i) the Leader or any Cabinet Member;
 - (ii) the chair of any committee or sub-committee; or
 - (iii) nominated members of the Fire Authority.

Submission of Questions

- (b) A Member wishing to ask a Written Question should provide the question by email to the Council's mailbox for the submission of questions (as specified by the Democratic Services Manager). In doing so the Member must specify the person to whom the question is addressed.
- (c) Oral Questions shall be submitted by (or on behalf of):
- (i) each of the spokespersons for each opposition political group recognised by the Council (or such other Member as the leader of that group may nominate); and
 - (ii) a backbench Member of the ruling group(s) nominated to the Democratic Services Manager for such purpose;

by email to the Council's mailbox for the submission of questions (as specified by the Democratic Services Manager). In doing so the Member must specify:

- (i) the name of the Member asking each question; and

- (ii) the order in which the group wishes to ask its questions.

Each such person shall be entitled to submit a maximum of the number of questions that are allocated to their political group calculated in accordance with the following rules:

- (i) Each political group recognised by the Council shall automatically be entitled to 3 Oral Questions; and
(ii) In addition, a further 15 Oral Questions shall be allocated amongst the political groups in proportion to their representation on the Council.

In addition any Members who are not members of any political group recognised by the Council shall be entitled to submit one Oral Question each. Unless those Members agree otherwise, the order in which they shall be entitled to submit questions shall be determined by rotation.

- (d) Questions will be dealt with in accordance with the following procedures.

Oral Questions

Oral Questions will be dealt with in accordance with the following procedure:

Day	Action
12.00 noon, 2 Working Days prior to Council Meeting	Deadline for the Submission of Oral Questions
At Council Meeting questions shall be made available in writing and online at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the meeting and dealt with as set out opposite.	<p>A maximum of 90 minutes shall be allowed for Oral Questions, any questions that are not dealt with in this time limit shall fall.</p> <p>Each Oral Question will be made available in writing and online at the start of the meeting and dealt with in the following order:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Oral Questions shall not be read orally, but will be dealt with in rounds. In the first three rounds each political group shall each be entitled to ask one question. In subsequent rounds, only political groups with remaining Oral Questions shall be entitled to ask questions. - In each round the questions ordering of the questions shall be determined by the size of each of the political groups (with the largest going first) except that the ruling group(s) shall go last. - Questions from Members who are not members of a political group recognised by the council shall be asked at the start of the fourth round. <p>Each question shall be answered orally by the Cabinet Member that the Cabinet deem most</p>

	<p>suitable to respond (or by the relevant chair of a committee or nominated member of the fire authority if the question was so addressed). A maximum of one minute shall be allowed for the answering of the question.</p> <p>The Member who submitted the question shall then be allowed one minute to ask a supplementary question.</p> <p>The person to whom the question is addressed shall have one minute to answer the supplementary question.</p> <p>One further supplementary question may be asked by another Member provided that the asker is not a member of the same political group as the Member who submitted the original question. The Member asking the further supplementary question shall be allowed one minute to ask it, and the response shall also be limited to one minute.</p>
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Urgent Oral Questions

- (e) At the end of the period allocated for Oral Questions the Chair may allow Members to ask further Oral Question for which notice under Rule (b) above has not been given if:
- (a) the Chair and the person to whom the question is addressed has been given at least two hours written notice of the question prior to the start of the meeting; and
 - (b) the Chair has confirmed to the Member asking the Question and the person to whom it is addressed that they are satisfied that the question is of urgent public importance and could not be better dealt with under any other Rule or other procedure of the Council.

Written Questions

- (f) Written Questions may be asked at any time and will be dealt with as set out below:

Day	Action/Comment
9.00am 9 Working Days prior to Council Meetings	<p>Deadline for the submission of Written Questions to ensure an answer is received at the next Council Meeting.</p> <p>If a question is submitted after this deadline it will be answered at the next Council Meeting.</p>
12.00 noon on the day of the Council Meeting	Deadline for all answers to Written Questions asked before the deadline referred to above to be circulated by email to all Members.

A full copy of each Written Question (together with the answers to them) submitted prior to the deadline referred to above will be attached to the minutes of the meeting.

Rejection of Questions

- (g) The Chair may reject an Oral Question, Urgent Oral Question or a Written Question if in their opinion it:-
- (ii) is not in relation to Relevant Business (as defined in Rule 35);
 - (iii) is in relation to Inappropriate Business (as defined in Rule 35);
 - (iv) is substantially the same as a question which has been put at a meeting of the Council in the past six months and there has been no material change in the answer which would be given; or
 - (v) is a statement or otherwise is not a genuine enquiry.

Withdrawal of questions

- (h) A question may not be withdrawn except with the consent of the person it is addressed to.
- (i) If the Chair or the Monitoring Officer considers that a response to a question could be provided by a senior officer prior to the relevant Council meeting, then the Monitoring Officer may contact the Member concerned to ascertain whether the Member agrees that the question could be withdrawn.

Written record of Oral Questions and Responses

- (j) A written record of Oral Questions and related supplementary questions that are put at the meeting together with the responses provided, will be circulated by or on behalf of the Democratic Services Manager to all Members and the media noted as having attended the meeting by no later than 5.00pm five Working Days following the day of the Council meeting.
- (k) Prior to issue the written note of a response to a supplementary question must be checked for accuracy by the responding person.
- (l) No written note of a response to a supplementary question will be provided to the media before being provided to Members.