

# Time limits for debate

**Note:** Not all proceedings have time limits, for example there are no time limits for the giving of notices, postponements, debate on personal explanations or government motions not related to bills. Time limits apply only when they have been set by the relevant standing order. Refer also to the Notice Paper and manuscript minutes for time remaining for orders of the day.

## Formalities/procedural motions

### Selection of Bills Committee Report (SO 141)

Debate:	30 mins
Speakers:	5 mins
Debate interrupted after 30 mins for the mover in reply:	
Mover in reply:	5 mins

### Consideration of a document after tabling (SO 59)

Debate:	60 mins
Chair/Mover:	15 mins
All other speakers:	10 mins
Debate interrupted after 60 minutes for the mover in reply:	
Mover in reply:	10 mins

### Ministerial statements (SO 50)

(timer counts up / halt / timer counts down)

Minister:	no time limit
Opposition:	equal time to respond

### Subsidiary motions (SO 95)

Debate:	30 mins
Speakers:	5 mins
Debate interrupted after 30 mins. All questions to be put.	

### Variation to SO 52 (SO 53)

Mover/Minister:	10 mins
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## Motions with precedence

### Urgency Motions (SO 207)

#### Question of urgency

Mover/Minister:	10 mins
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#### Debate

Mover/Minister/Lead Opposition*:	15 mins
All other speakers:	10 mins
Mover in reply:	10 mins

\*Only when motion moved by a Government member

### Matters of Public Importance (SO 206)

#### Question that the matter be discussed forthwith

Mover/Minister:	10 mins
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#### Debate

Debate:	90 mins
Mover/Minister/Lead Opposition*:	15 mins
All other speakers:	10 mins

Debate interrupted after 90 mins for the mover in reply:  
Mover in reply: 10 mins

\*Only when motion moved by a Government member

### Disallowance motions (SO 82)

Debate:	90 mins
Mover/Minister:	15 mins
All other speakers:	10 mins
Debate interrupted after 90 mins for the mover in reply:	
Mover in reply:	10 mins

### Suspension of standing orders (SO 204)

Debate:	30 mins
Speakers:	5 mins

#### SSO for SO 52 or SO 55

Mover/Minister only:	5 mins
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Debate interrupted after 30 mins. No provision for reply.

## Questions

### Question time (SO 64)\*

Question (or supplementary question):	1 min
Answer:	3 mins
Answer to supplementary:	2 mins

Note: A Minister may seek leave to extend the time for an answer by 1 min.

\*The clock must be stopped when a point of order is taken.

### Take note of Answers to Questions (SO 69)

Debate:	30 mins
Speakers/Minister in reply:	3 mins

Debate interrupted after 30 minutes to allow a Minister to speak, if desired, closing debate.

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## Bills

### Cut-off dates for Government bills (SO 145)

<u>Question of urgency</u>	
Minister/Opposition:	10 mins
2 Crossbench members	
from different parties:	5 mins

### Declaring Council bills urgent (SO 146)

<u>Question of urgency</u>	
Minister/Opposition:	10 mins
2 Crossbench members	
from different parties:	5 mins

### Government bills (SO 144)

<u>Second and third readings</u>	
Mover/Lead Opposition/ first crossbench speaker:	40 mins
All other speakers:	20 mins
Mover in reply:	20 mins

Note: A member may move to extend their time for debate by not more than 10 mins. Question is put without debate.

<u>Committee of the Whole</u>	
Speakers:	15 mins

Note: A speaker may seek leave to continue speaking in Committee for a period of no longer than 15 mins.

### Private members' bills (SO 193)

<u>Leave to bring in bill</u>	
Debate:	60 mins
Speakers:	10 mins

Debate interrupted 10 mins before end of debate (ie. after 50 mins) for the mover in reply:

Mover in reply:	10 mins
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<u>Second and third readings</u>	
Debate:	no overall time limit
Mover:	30 mins
All other speakers:	20 mins
Mover in reply:	20 mins

<u>Committee of the Whole</u>	
Speakers:	15 mins

### Instruction to COTW (SO 188)

Debate:	30 mins
Speakers:	5 mins

Note: No provision for reply.

## Private members' business

### Private members' motions (SO 192(1))

Debate:	30 mins
Mover:	5 mins
All other speakers:	3 mins
Debate interrupted after 30 mins for the mover in reply:	
Mover in reply:	3 mins

### Private members' long form motions (SO 192(2))

Debate:	120 mins
Mover:	20 mins
All other speakers:	15 mins
Debate interrupted after 120 mins for the mover in reply:	
Mover in reply:	5 mins

### Members' statements (SO 43(2))

Debate:	30 mins
Speakers:	3 mins

## Take note of committee reports

### Committee reports & government responses (SO 239)

Mover:	15 mins
All other speakers:	10 mins
Mover in reply:	10 mins

## Adjournment

### Adjournment of the House (SO 33)

Debate:	30 mins
Speakers:	5 mins

Note: A Minister may speak beyond the time for debate (untimed), closing debate.