

EXPLANATORY NOTE

[This is not part of the motion]

The motion asks the Assembly to approve three changes.

Resources for 2000-2001

The first change is to the level of resources allocated to the Assembly Costs and Central Administration Main Expenditure Groups for 2000-2001. The arrangements for greater independence for the Office of the Presiding Officer require the transfer of budgets from Assembly Costs to Central Administration and vice versa. Following the transfers, the Assembly Costs Main Expenditure Group will only include budgets for which the Clerk to the Assembly will be accountable. These budgets relate directly or primarily to services provided to Assembly Members, committees and proceedings.

The change to the level of resources relates primarily to the appropriate transfer of budgets to reflect this. There is also a net additional allocation of resources to the Assembly Costs MEG (only). This reflects the increased requirement in running costs and capital costs associated with not only greater independence but also additional functions assumed by the Office of the Presiding Officer.

The changes are set out in Table 1 attached to the Motion.

Resources for 2001-2002, 2002-2003 and 2003-2004

The second change is to the level of resources allocated to the Assembly Costs Main Expenditure Group for the financial years 2001-2002 to 2003-2004 inclusive. In accordance with proposed revised Standing Order 19 (to be debated on 10th October 2000), the budget for the Office of the Presiding Officer must be debated no later than 10th October and, if carried, the budget for 2001-2002 and provisional allocations for 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 must be incorporated in the draft and final budgets.

The budgets are set out in Table 2 attached to the Motion. The budget for the Central Administration Main Expenditure Group are included only to show the future years' effect of the changes in 2000-2001. The budget for the Central Administration Main Expenditure Group for 2001-2002 to 2003-2004 inclusive will be considered as part of the forthcoming budget planning round.

Re-naming the Main Expenditure Group

The third change is to the name of the Main Expenditure Group. To reflect the greater independence and budgets contained in the Main Expenditure Group, the proposal is to change the name from "Assembly Costs" to "Office of the Presiding Officer".