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Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance Committee Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2017-18

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Session No. : 6

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB001

(Question Serial No. 2685)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Government established the Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Unit (GISOU) in May 2005 and has established the Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme ("Funding Scheme") to provide funding support to worthwhile community projects which aim at promoting equal opportunities on the ground of sexual orientation or gender identity, or seek to provide support services for the sexual minorities. In this connection, will the Bureau please advise on:

- (1) the existing establishment, staff cost and nature of work of the GISOU;
- (2) the GISOU's actual expenditure in the past year and estimated expenditure for this year;
- (3) the total amount of sponsorship granted to community organisations under the Funding Scheme in the past year, the details of the sponsored community projects, including the actual amount of sponsorship approved for each community organisation;
- (4) whether it has taken note of the concern relayed by some community organisations that some organisations have been granted sponsorship under the Funding Scheme despite having made discriminatory remarks against people of different sexual orientations/gender identities in public, contravening the original intention of the Funding Scheme, and the reasons for granting sponsorship to these organisations;
- (5) the estimated total amount of sponsorship to be granted under the Funding Scheme in the coming year and whether considerations may be given to allocating resources to sponsored organisations to meet the salary expense for at least one full-time staff given that some community organisations have relayed that the amount of sponsorship is not enough to cover salary expenses for at least one full-time staff, making it difficult for them to take forward the sponsored activities;

- (6) the GISOU's expenses on posters, pamphlets, Announcements in the Public Interest (APIs) on television and radio as well as mobile publicity in relation to elimination of discrimination against sexual minorities in the past year, including the promotion platforms (such as television, radio, light boxes at MTR stations and bus stops, newspaper advertisements, etc.), time slots (the months when the promotional messages were broadcast or published) and frequencies; and the manpower and resources involved in promotional work;
- (7) the manpower and production cost involved in the production of APIs on television in relation to elimination of discrimination against sexual minorities, whether the Government has evaluated the effectiveness of the relevant promotional items;
- (8) the estimated expenditure of the GISOU on promotional efforts in relation to elimination of discrimination against sexual minorities for the coming year;
- (9) set out in table form the number of enquiries and complaints received in the past year by the GISOU through the hotline which is set up for handling enquiries and complaints on issues relating to sexual orientation and gender identity, and advise on the number of cases being processed, followed up or have investigation completed, the number of confirmed cases of discrimination on the ground of gender identity or sexual orientation, the domains that the discrimination is said to have occurred (including workplace; education; provision of services and goods; premises; public services; religious sites; etc.) as well as the manpower and resources involved in manning of the hotline?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. 1)

Reply:

On eliminating discrimination against people of different sexual orientations/gender identities, the Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Unit (GISOU) of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau carries out education and promotion programmes, and handles relevant enquiries and complaints. The establishment of the GISOU comprises 1 Executive Officer I and 1 Executive Officer II. In 2016-17, the revised estimate of expenditure of the GISOU is \$3.68 million, including \$1.18 million for staff costs and \$2.5 million for publicity and promotion expenses. In 2017-18, the estimated expenditure of the GISOU is \$4.72 million, including \$1.19 million for staff costs and \$3.53 million for publicity and promotion expenses.

2. In 2017-18, the estimated provision for the Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme is \$1.25 million, and the amount of approved sponsorship will ultimately depend on the result of assessment of the applications. In assessing funding applications, the Assessment Committee of the Funding Scheme adopts a set of criteria encompassing multiple factors, including the objectives, content and feasibility of the proposed activities; financial considerations; experience and management capability of the applicants, etc. Only projects which tie in with the objective of the Funding Scheme will be considered for sponsorship. The sponsorship may be used to meet the cost of additional manpower recruited directly for the project on the condition that the sponsored amount covering staff cost incurred for administering/co-ordinating the project shall not exceed 15% of the total budget of the project.

3. In 2016-17, projects sponsored under the Funding Scheme are as follows:

Name of Applicant	Nature of Activities	Approved Sponsorship (\$)
Association of World Citizens Hong Kong China	Support group, workshops and counselling services	15,500
Bravo Theatre	Drama performances	127,200
Down to Earth	Speech therapy, employment support services and counselling services	66,140
Gender Empowerment	Support group, production of booklets, hotline and counselling services	22,550
Gay Harmony	Training for volunteers, workshops, production of leaflets and outreach activities	52,400
Gay Harmony	Training for volunteers, support group, outreach activities, hotline and counselling services	46,680
Post Gay Alliance	Production of booklets, support group, talks, sharing sessions and home visits	46,060
Hong Kong Sex Culture Society Limited	Talks	4,900
The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong Jockey Club South Kwai Chung Children and Youth Integrated Services Centre	Training for volunteers, sharing sessions and drama performances	73,450
AIDS Concern Foundation Limited	Talks, workshops and production of booklets	53,400
Transgender Resource Center	Workshops, production of publication and short videos, hotline and counselling services	87,510
Les Corner Empowerment Association	Training for volunteers, workshops and production of publication	40,930
GIA Theatre	Drama performances	92,100
Tung Wah Group of Hospitals CEASE Crisis Centre	Training for volunteers, workshops, production of leaflets and outreach activities	56,980
	Total	785,800

4. During the period from April 2016 to February 2017, Announcements in the Public Interest which promote the message "Eliminate Discrimination, Embrace Inclusion - Equal opportunities for people of different sexual orientations and transgender persons" were broadcast about 2 400 times on television and radio, and related promotional posters were displayed at places such as footbridges and subways, bus termini, lobbies of residential buildings, government premises, etc. in all districts. Our new promotional filmlet launched in 2016 were broadcast more than 4,830,000 times in the public transport network

(including broadcasts on more than 21 300 display screens in railway stations, train compartments, buses and ferries), in addition to broadcasts in more than 200 government premises; on the Internet and other new media, about 8,250,000 impressions were made. The Code of Practice against Discrimination in Employment on the Ground of Sexual Orientation was advertised on three websites on trade and industry and recruitment, and related outdoor advertisements were displayed at 138 locations in the railway network.

5. The GISOU received a total of 19 enquiries and 3 complaints in 2016. Amongst the complaint cases, one was concerned with the service of a commercial enterprise; one was concerned with the service of a public organisation; and one was concerned with the composition of a government working group. The handling of the 3 complaints has been completed and it was found that no discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation or gender identity was involved.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB002

(Question Serial No. 2721)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Advisory Group on Eliminating Discrimination against Sexual Minorities (the Advisory Group) was set up in June 2013 to advise the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs on matters relating to concerns about discrimination faced by sexual minorities in Hong Kong. The Advisory Group had completed its work and submitted its report to the Government in December 2015. The Government has indicated that it will continue to follow up on the recommendations put forward by the Advisory Group. In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee:

- (1) of the number of public and private sector organisations to which the Government had successfully promoted the Code of Practice against Discrimination in Employment on the Ground of Sexual Orientation (code of practice) in the past year and provide a list of organisations which have pledged to adopt the code of practice, the number of organisations which have newly adopted the code of practice; the estimated manpower and resources as well as expenditure for promoting the code of practice to public and private sector organisations in the coming year and the target number of organisations; the follow-up actions taken by the Government in case where an participating organisation is found to be in breach of the code of practice, or an employee of a participating organisation has lodged a complaint, and whether a mechanism will be put in place to punish the organisation in breach of the code of practice;
- (2) of personnel of which specific fields were provided training and resources in the past year, and set out in table form the dates of and manpower involved in the training, the participating departments or organisations, the number of participants and the effectiveness;
- (3) of the progress of work on implementing a charter on non-discrimination of sexual minorities in the past year, the details of the charter, including the domains (including workplace; education; provision of services and goods; premises; public services; religions sites; etc.) which will be brought under its regulation, whether a mechanism will be put in place to punish those who contravene the charter, and if

so, of the time the mechanism will be introduced; the estimated manpower and resources as well as expenditure for promoting the charter to public and private sector organisations in the coming year and the target number of organisations, and whether the organisations which have adopted the code of practice will automatically become the participating organisations of the charter;

- (4) in respect of the review and reinforcement of support services to address the specific needs of sexual minorities undertaken by the Government, of the progress of review in the past year, and the service areas where support to the sexual minorities need to be reinforced, including services for victims of domestic violence, service of refuge centres, psychological support, support from front-line social worker, etc.) and which government departments (those providing support services to the sexual minorities) were communicated for enhancing and improving the quality of service;
- (5) of the progress of work relating to the public consultation on legislating against discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity, the domains to be covered in the consultation, whether reference has been made to the legislation of different areas and the time when the public consultation on legislating against discrimination is expected to be launched;
- (6) in respect of the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC)'s Study on Legislation against Discrimination on the Grounds of Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Intersex Status commissioned to the Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies of the Chinese University of Hong Kong and the study report released earlier, whether the Government has examined in detail the findings of the Study and maintained close communication with the EOC on the subject of prohibition of discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status;
- (7) in respect of discussion initiated with the Legislative Council on those recommendations under the Discrimination Law Review which are considered by the EOC as priority items, whether the introduction of legislation against discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status will be covered in the discussion;
- (8) whether a new communication platform will be set up for community organisations to express further views on the elimination of discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity given that after the expiry of the terms of appointment of the Advisory Group, no platform has been provided for sexual minority groups to relay their views to and exchange views with the Government?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. 2)

Reply:

The Government has been promoting non-discrimination of people with different sexual orientations and transgender persons through various public education and publicity efforts, with a view to fostering in the community the culture and values of diversity, inclusiveness and mutual respect. We are actively taking forward the strategies and measures recommended by the Advisory Group on Eliminating Discrimination against Sexual Minorities, which include enhancing publicity, drawing up a charter on non-discrimination, reviewing support services, providing training for personnel in some

professions and sectors to raise their sensitivity towards sexual minorities, and conducting a further study on the experience of other jurisdictions in implementing anti-discrimination measures.

2. For drawing up a charter on non-discrimination of sexual minorities for voluntary adoption by relevant organisations and individuals, we are now studying the relevant legislation, codes of practice and guidelines in different jurisdictions in the domains of employment; education; provision of goods, facilities and services; and disposal and management of premises. We shall consult the stakeholders on the content of a draft charter within this year.

3. At present, near 200 public and private sector organisations which together engage about 470 000 employees locally have pledged to adopt the Code of Practice against Discrimination in Employment on the Ground of Sexual Orientation (code of practice). A list published on the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau's website (at http://www.cmab.gov.hk/doc/issues/Bilingual_List_of_Organisations.pdf) lists organisations which have pledged to adopt the code of practice and have agreed to be included in the list. We will continue to encourage more organisations to adopt the code of practice through various channels including talks, seminars, online and outdoor advertisements, etc. We are also preparing to issue appeal letters to over 2 000 public and private sector organisations. The code of practice is of a voluntary nature; no information about any breach of it has been received. When the charter on non-discrimination of sexual minorities has been drawn up, we will also invite the organisations which have adopted the code of practice to pledge to adopt the charter. The resources required for the above activities are absorbed in the recurrent expenditure of the Bureau; a separate breakdown of the expenditure is not available.

4. For the review of support services for sexual minorities, we are gathering from service providers (including Social Welfare Department, Hospital Authority, Department of Health, non-government organisations, etc.) as well as sexual minority users views on the support services, including views on the mode of service delivery. To provide training and resources for personnel in specific fields (including social work, education, health care, and human resources management), we have collected information on the content, delivery modes and target recipients of existing pre-service and in-service training in the relevant professions, and gathered the views of training providers on the content and delivery mode of the sensitivity training. The development of training resources is being undertaken by a psychologist with experience in designing and teaching related training programmes.

5. We are conducting a further study on the experience of other jurisdictions in tackling discrimination through legislative and non-legislative measures. The findings of the study would form the basis for public consultation on both legislative proposals and administrative measures to eliminate discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity. The study covers the following topics:

- (a) administrative measures adopted in other jurisdictions to tackle discrimination against the sexual minorities, and any empirical data on their implementation; and
- (b) legislative measures adopted in other jurisdictions to tackle discrimination against the sexual minorities, including empirical data on their implementation; definitions of "gender identity" and "sexual orientation" in the relevant legislation, and the threshold of evidence required to establish these grounds for claims; the evolving

case law, in particular the scope and application of exemptions in anti-discrimination legislation, and the criteria adopted by courts in balancing the rights and freedoms involved; comparative analyses of the different approaches of formulating anti-discrimination laws; stakeholders' views on the adequacy of protection and accessibility of remedies; the concerns of different parties such as the legislature, enforcement authorities and stakeholder groups and the relevant discourse, etc.

6. We will continue to listen to stakeholders' views on the relevant subjects expressed through different channels.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB003

(Question Serial No. 2831)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Secretary for Security

Question:

Under this programme, a number of offices have been set up in the Mainland and Taiwan to enhance liaison, communication, trade and commercial relations with as well as investment promotion in the Mainland and Taiwan, and to provide support and practical assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. In this connection, please provide the following information.

- (1) In respect of the Beijing Office, Tianjin Liaison Unit and Liaoning Liaison Unit; the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (ETO) in Shanghai and Shandong Liaison Unit in the east; the Guangdong ETO, Shenzhen Liaison Unit and Fujian Liaison Unit in the south; the Chengdu ETO and Chongqing Liaison Unit in the west; the Wuhan ETO, Hunan Liaison Unit and Henan Liaison Unit in the central region, and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan, set out in table form the respective operational expenses, numbers of staff, and the salaries, allowance, types and job nature of posts in the past year; as well as the respective estimated expenditures and types, numbers, salaries, allowances and job nature in respect of the posts in these offices for the coming year.
- (2) The Budget states that the Government has been actively expanding the network of offices in the Mainland. In particular, a total of 4 liaison units will be set up in Tianjin, Zhejiang, Guangxi and Shaanxi in the first half of this year. This will bring the total number of ETOs (including the Beijing Office) and liaison units in the Mainland from 7 in June 2012 to 16 in the near future, enabling a more even geographical spread throughout the entire Mainland. In respect of the 4 liaison units to be set up in the coming year, please set out the estimated expenditure of these units as well as their staff establishments, including the types, numbers, salaries, allowances and job nature in respect of the posts in the liaison units.
- (3) Set out in table form the number of requests for assistance “relating to immigration matters”, “relating to personal safety matters” and “other assistance cases” received

by the offices in the past year, and advise on the number of cases to be followed up, being processed and resolved.

- (4) Set out in table form the number of requests for assistance and enquiries received by the liaison units in the past year, and advise on the number of cases to be followed up, being processed and resolved.
- (5) Given that it is the responsibilities of the offices to promote the strengths of Hong Kong to the Mainland and Taiwan, please set out in table form the major promotional activities organised or co-organised by these offices in the past year as well as the dates, venues, events, manpower and expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. 17)

Reply:

The Mainland and Taiwan Offices (namely the Beijing Office (BJO) and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan, and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan (HKETCO)) serve as bridges between Hong Kong and the Mainland/Taiwan. Their major responsibilities include enhancing liaison and communication with the counterparts in the areas under their coverage; representing and promoting Hong Kong's trade and commercial interests; encouraging and attracting investments to Hong Kong; promoting Hong Kong's many advantages as an investment and business hub in Asia; promoting the strengths of Hong Kong through appropriate channels; providing assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland/Taiwan; and providing information and other appropriate support to Hong Kong residents.

2. The revised estimated expenditure of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices for 2016-17 and estimated expenditure for 2017-18 are set out in the table below:

Office	Revised estimated expenditure for 2016-17 (\$ million)	Estimated expenditure for 2017-18 (\$ million)
BJO	78.00	95.59
Guangdong ETO	55.66	69.58
Shanghai ETO	46.57	63.90
Chengdu ETO	39.71	54.50
Wuhan ETO	35.54	46.02
HKETCO	23.95	24.97

3. The establishment of the BJO in 2017-18 will comprise 3 directorate officers (namely 1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade A, 1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade B1 and 1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade C) and 19 non-directorate officers (namely 2 Senior Administrative Officers, 1 Chief Curator, 2 Principal Trade Officers, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer, 3 Immigration

Officers, 1 Chief Information Officer, 1 Information Officer, 1 Senior Executive Officer, 1 Executive Officer I and 1 Senior Personal Secretary). The estimated expenditure on salaries and allowances for the above posts in 2017-18 will be \$34 million. The above figures have included the manpower for, as well as salary and allowance expenditure of the Tianjin Liaison Unit which was set up in February this year.

4. The establishment of the Guangdong ETO in 2017-18 will comprise 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade B) and 17 non-directorate officers (namely 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Chief Executive Officer, 4 Principal Trade Officers, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer, 2 Immigration Officers, 1 Principal Information Officer and 2 Senior Executive Officers). The estimated expenditure on salaries and allowances for the above posts in 2017-18 will be \$27.56 million. The above figures have included the manpower for, as well as salary and allowance expenditure of a liaison unit to be set up in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

5. The establishment of the Shanghai ETO in 2017-18 will comprise 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade B) and 15 non-directorate officers (namely 2 Senior Administrative Officers, 1 Chief Executive Officer, 1 Principal Trade Officer, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer, 3 Immigration Officers, 1 Senior Information Officer and 1 Senior Executive Officer). The estimated expenditure on salaries and allowances for the above posts in 2017-18 will be \$20.95 million. The above figures have included the manpower for, as well as salary and allowance expenditure of a liaison unit to be set up in Zhejiang Province.

6. The establishment of the Chengdu ETO in 2017-18 will comprise 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade C) and 13 non-directorate officers (namely 2 Senior Administrative Officers, 1 Chief Executive Officer, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Senior Information Officer, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer, 2 Immigration Officers and 1 Senior Executive Officer). The estimated expenditure on salaries and allowances for the above posts in 2017-18 will be \$18.65 million. The above figures have included the manpower for, as well as salary and allowance expenditure of a liaison unit to be set up in Shaanxi Province.

7. The establishment of the Wuhan ETO in 2017-18 will comprise 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade C) and 10 non-directorate officers (namely 2 Senior Administrative Officers, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Principal Trade Officer, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Senior Information Officer and 1 Senior Executive Officer). The estimated expenditure on salaries and allowances for the above posts in 2017-18 will be \$14.72 million.

8. The establishment of the HKETCO in 2017-18 will comprise 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade B) and 7 non-directorate officers (namely 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Principal Trade Officer, 2 Trade Officers, 1 Senior Information Officer, 1 Executive Officer I and 1 Personal Secretary I). The estimated expenditure on salaries and allowances for the above posts in 2017-18 will be \$12.16 million.

9. We will set up before the middle of this year one liaison unit each in Zhejiang Province, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and Shaanxi Province under the Shanghai ETO, Guangdong ETO and Chengdu ETO respectively. In addition, the Tianjin Liaison Unit was set up under the BJO in February this year.

10. The establishment of the Tianjin Liaison Unit in 2017-18 will comprise 1 Principal Trade Officer and 1 Senior Executive Officer. In 2017-18, we have set aside \$6.52 million for meeting the recurrent expenditure of the Tianjin Liaison Unit.

11. The establishment of the liaison unit to be set up in Zhejiang Province in 2017-18 will comprise 1 Chief Executive Officer and 1 Senior Executive Officer. In 2017-18, we have set aside \$6.74 million for meeting the recurrent expenditure of this liaison unit.

12. The establishment of the liaison unit to be set up in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in 2017-18 will comprise 1 Chief Executive Officer and 1 Senior Executive Officer. In 2017-18, we have set aside \$6.35 million for meeting the recurrent expenditure of this liaison unit.

13. The establishment of the liaison unit to be set up in Shaanxi Province in 2017-18 will comprise 1 Chief Executive Officer and 1 Senior Executive Officer. In 2017-18, we have set aside \$6.37 million for meeting the recurrent expenditure of this liaison unit.

14. Staff of the above 4 liaison units will assist the BJO, the Shanghai ETO, the Guangdong ETO and the Chengdu ETO in liaising with the province/region/municipality under their coverage, including strengthening liaison and communication with provincial/regional/municipal government authorities, enhancing economic and trade relations, fostering co-operation between Hong Kong and the relevant province/region/municipality and promoting Hong Kong, and supporting Hong Kong residents and enterprises in the service area, etc.

15. The numbers of enquiries and requests for assistance received by the Mainland Offices (including the liaison units under their purview) in 2016 are set out in the table below:

Office	General enquiries handled (excluding those related to immigration matters)	Enquiries handled by the Immigration Divisions in the Mainland	Requests for assistance relating to immigration and personal safety matters	Other assistance cases
BJO	2 820	23 492	69	29
Guangdong ETO	4 448	2 370	185	74
Chengdu ETO	2 151	1 044	48	5
Shanghai ETO	1 466	931	17 ^{Note 2}	33
Wuhan ETO ^{Note 1}	158	Covered by the Immigration Division of BJO	Covered by the Immigration Division of BJO	6

Note1 We plan to set up an Immigration Division under Wuhan ETO before the end of 2017.

Note2 The Immigration Division of Shanghai ETO commenced operation on 25 October 2016.

16. As the nature and complexity of the cases vary, the Government cannot provide a breakdown on the different handling procedures or stages on each case.

17. In 2016-17, a number of initiatives have been taken forward by the Mainland and Taiwan Offices to promote Hong Kong's strengths in the Mainland and Taiwan. For example, the "Belt and Road Initiative – Joining Hands for Mutual Benefits" Thematic Exhibition, which was held as one of the events of the "Savouring Hong Kong•Liaoning 2016" by the Liaoning Liaison Unit under the BJO; the "China Food and Catering Expo 2016" held by the Hunan Liaison Unit under the Wuhan ETO; the "Seminar on Town Planning and Construction" held by the Chengdu ETO in Xi'an; the "2016 Workshop on Mainland's Tax and Customs Policies" organised by the Guangdong ETO in Guangzhou; the "Belt and Road, Together We Grow" investment promotion seminar held by the Shanghai ETO in Changzhou; and the "Innovation & Diverse – An Amazing Hong Kong" roving exhibition held by the HKETCO, etc. As the work of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices in promoting Hong Kong is an integral part of their roles and functions, the manpower and expenditure involved cannot be separately singled out and itemised.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB004

(Question Serial No. 2834)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please set out in table form enquiries and complaints relating to discrimination on grounds of (1) sexual orientation, (2) gender identity and (3) intersex status received by the Equal Opportunities Commission in the past 3 years. Given that Hong Kong has no legislation that prohibits all these types of discrimination, have resources been allocated to the Commission for it to work towards the elimination of discrimination in this respect?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. 18)

Reply:

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) enforces the Sex Discrimination Ordinance, Disability Discrimination Ordinance (DDO), Family Status Discrimination Ordinance and Race Discrimination Ordinance, and as provided under these ordinances, carries out publicity and public education programmes and enforcement work. The handling of discrimination against sexual orientation or intersex status falls outside the scope of the EOC's statutory responsibilities.

2. The EOC currently handles enquiries and complaints related to discrimination on the ground of gender identity of a person under the DDO. In the past 3 years, the relevant enquiries and complaints received by the EOC are 15 cases (2014), 30 cases (2015) and 25 cases (2016) respectively. As advised by the EOC, its expenditure on enforcing the DDO in 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 are \$14.8 million, \$14.47 million and \$15.75 million (estimate) respectively. The enforcement of DDO, including the elimination of discrimination on grounds of gender identity, is an integral part of the EOC's daily work. Calculation of breakdown on the related expenditure cannot be made.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB005

(Question Serial No. 0096)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

What are the respective estimated provisions for the salary in respect of the political appointment positions of Director of Bureau, Deputy Director of Bureau and Political Assistant to Director of Bureau in the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau for the period from April to June 2017 and the end-of-contract gratuity receivable by these politically appointed officials upon expiry of the term of office on 30 June 2017?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. 309)

Reply:

For budgetary purposes, the provisions for the salary in respect of the positions of Director of Bureau, Deputy Director of Bureau and Political Assistant to Director of Bureau in the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau for the period from April to June 2017, on a pro-rata basis, are \$894,000, \$581,000 and \$492,000 respectively.

2. The remuneration package for politically appointed officials does not provide end-of-contract gratuity.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB006

(Question Serial No. 0097)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The new term Chief Executive (CE) will assume office on 1 July 2017. At present, none of the CE contenders has expressly stated that he/she will not restart the process of political reform during his/her tenure. In this connection, have resources been set aside in 2017-18 by the Bureau for the new CE to consider conducting a research study and public consultation on the restart of political reform process after assuming office? If yes, what is the relevant estimated expenditure? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. 310)

Reply:

The current term Government has openly stated that we will not “restart the process of political reform”. The policy priorities of the next Chief Executive and corresponding allocation of resources shall be determined by the Chief Executive at the time.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB007

(Question Serial No. 1189)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

As a measure to enhance the voter registration system, the Bureau has proposed to introduce legislative amendments to specify in law that the burden of proof rests on the objector and the objector has to appear at the hearing in person. This approach is significantly different from that adopted by other departments (such as the Independent Commission Against Corruption). Other than this measure, would the Bureau consider adopting other means to improve the system?

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (Member Question No. 17)

Reply:

In view of the concerns expressed by members of the public on matters relating to voter registration (VR) in the 2015 VR cycle, the Government conducted a public consultation on enhancement of VR system at the end of 2015. Having considered the views received, the Government published the Consultation Report on Enhancement of Voter Registration System in January 2016, putting forward proposed measures to enhance the VR system. Measures implemented subsequently in the 2016 VR cycle include, among other things, (a) advancing the statutory deadline for change of registration particulars and aligning it with the statutory deadline for new registrations; (b) changing to use surface mail for all inquiries and notifications; and (c) further strengthening verification of address information with other Government departments.

2. As for the longer-term measures which involve amendments to various electoral legislation, including reviewing the objection mechanism in relation the VR system, raising penalties on VR-related offences and requiring electors to provide address proofs, the Government is now drawing up the proposals and will submit the legislative proposals to the Legislative Council for consideration in due course.

3. In respect of the objection mechanism in relation to the VR system, the Government consulted members of the Legislative Council Panel on Constitutional Affairs at the meeting on 23 February 2017. The objection mechanism is a solemn procedure which has impact on the right of other persons to register as electors (i.e., electors already listed on provisional

register) or even the voting right that follows. Each application for objection must be determined by an independent Revising Officer upon hearing. We propose setting out in the law that the objector has the responsibility to provide sufficient information and grounds to substantiate his/her cases. We also propose specifying in the law that in case where an objector fails to appear at the hearing, the Revising Officer may dismiss the objection. Apart from the above two proposals, we also propose giving the REO appropriate authority to process indubitable objection cases, i.e. seeking the Revising Officer's determination of the case in writing without the need for hearing. All the above proposed measures aim at preventing the abuse of the objection mechanism, as well as streamlining and simplifying the process, so as to relieve the burden on the Revising Officer and reduce the nuisance caused to the electors concerned.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB008

(Question Serial No. 1191)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Bureau will promote public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law. What will be the Bureau's arrangements for promoting Articles 5 and 22 of the Basic Law?

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (Member Question No. 18)

Reply:

In 2017-18, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) will set aside about \$16 million for enabling the public to have a more comprehensive and thorough understanding of the "one country, two systems" principle and the Basic Law via different means, including sponsoring non-government organisations and community groups to organise activities, and organising various types of large-scale activities. We have been adopting the following strategies to promote the Basic Law:

- (a) using electronic media, such as Internet and smart-phone applications, to promote widely to different strata of the society;
- (b) enhancing awareness and understanding of the Basic Law by the general public and students through promotional activities at the district level, such as organising roving exhibitions and arranging the Basic Law mobile resource centre to pay visits to different districts and schools; and
- (c) providing sponsorship to non-government organisations or community organisations through the "Basic Law Promotion Sponsorship Scheme" for staging various Basic Law promotional activities, such as seminars, quizzes and debate competitions, in order to reach a wider audience through their extensive community networks.

2. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government has set up the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (BLPSC) under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary for Administration to provide views and steer on the overall strategy and key aspects for promoting the Basic Law. The CMAB provides secretariat support to the

BLPSC. Five working groups (namely Local Community; Teachers and Students; Civil Servants; Industrial, Commercial and Professional Sectors; and Overseas Community Working Groups) are set up under the BLPSC and are assisted by the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB), Education Bureau (EDB), Civil Service Bureau (CSB), Trade and Industry Department (TID) and Information Services Department (ISD) respectively in planning and organising various types of activities to promote the Basic Law on various fronts.

3. The year 2017 marks the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR. Riding on this opportunity, relevant policy bureaux/departments responsible for promoting the Basic Law will organise various types of activities this year to enable people from different walks of life to grasp the complete concept of “one country, two systems” in a correct and comprehensive manner and to deepen their understanding of the Basic Law. For example, the CMAB will organise a large-scale thematic seminar, set up an online database on Basic Law court cases; the EDB will organise “The 3rd Basic Law cum Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of Establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Territory-wide Inter-school Competition”; the HAB will organise the “Basic Law Quiz Competition” and related roving exhibitions and talks in collaboration with the Committee on the Promotion of Civil Education and Working Group on Local Community under BLPSC; the CSB will hold thematic talks for civil servants on the 20th anniversary of the implementation of the Basic Law; the TID will organise a series of thematic seminars on the Basic Law; and the ISD will publish supplements relating to the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR in major overseas Chinese newspapers and organise Basic Law online quiz.

4. Our publicity and promotional programmes have all along covered various provisions of the Basic Law with equal emphasis on “one country” and “two systems”, so as to enable the public to have a more comprehensive and thorough understanding of the “one country, two systems” principle and the Basic Law.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB009

(Question Serial No. 1062)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

One of the responsibilities of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau is to promote public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law. In this connection, please give a breakdown of the Bureau's actual expenditure on the promotion of the Basic Law in the past 3 years and the expenditure set aside for this purpose in 2017-18. Separately, what are the strategies for promoting the Basic Law this year? What are the results expected to be achieved?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher (Member Question No. 20)

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) has incurred an actual expenditure of about \$16 million in each of the past 3 financial years and will set aside about \$16 million for 2017-18 for enabling the public to have a more comprehensive and thorough understanding of the "one country, two systems" principle and the Basic Law via different means, including sponsoring non-government organisations and community groups to organise activities, and organising various types of large-scale activities. We have been adopting the following strategies to promote the Basic Law:

- (a) using electronic media, such as Internet and smart-phone applications, to promote widely to different strata of the society;
- (b) enhancing awareness and understanding of the Basic Law by the general public and students through promotional activities at the district level, such as organising roving exhibitions and arranging the Basic Law mobile resource centres to pay visits to different districts and schools; and
- (c) providing sponsorship to non-government organisations or community organisations through the "Basic Law Promotion Sponsorship Scheme" for staging various Basic Law promotional activities, such as seminars, quizzes and debate competitions, in order to reach a wider audience through their extensive community networks.

2. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government has set up the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (BLPSC) under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary for Administration to provide views and steer on the overall strategy and key aspects for promoting the Basic Law. The CMAB provides secretariat support to the BLPSC. Five working groups (namely Local Community; Teachers and Students; Civil Servants; Industrial, Commercial and Professional Sectors; and Overseas Community Working Groups) are set up under the BLPSC and are assisted by the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB), Education Bureau (EDB), Civil Service Bureau (CSB), Trade and Industry Department (TID) and Information Services Department (ISD) respectively in planning and organising various types of activities to promote the Basic Law on various fronts.

3. The year 2017 marks the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR. Riding on this opportunity, relevant policy bureaux/departments responsible for promoting the Basic Law will organise various types of activities this year to enable people from different walks of life to grasp the complete concept of “one country, two systems” in a correct and comprehensive manner and to deepen their understanding of the Basic Law. For example, the CMAB will organise a large-scale thematic seminar, set up an online database on Basic Law court cases; the EDB will organise “The 3rd Basic Law cum Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of Establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Territory-wide Inter-school Competition”; the HAB will organise the “Basic Law Quiz Competition” and related roving exhibitions and talks in collaboration with the Committee on the Promotion of Civil Education and Working Group on Local Community under BLPSC; the CSB will hold thematic talks for civil servants on the 20th anniversary of the implementation of the Basic Law; the TID will organise a series of thematic seminars on the Basic Law; and the ISD will publish supplements relating to the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR in major overseas Chinese newspapers and organise Basic Law online quiz.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB010****(Question Serial No. 1142)**

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In respect of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau, it is mentioned in the Estimates that one of the matters requiring special attention in 2017-18 is: (the Bureau will) continue to follow up and implement measures to enhance the voter registration system. In this connection:

1. Would the Government provide a breakdown of the actual expenses on publicising and promoting voter registration in the past 3 financial years? What is the provision set aside for meeting the publicity and promotion expenses this financial year? What are the respective expenses incurred in and expected to be incurred in promoting registration of electors for geographical and functional constituencies?
2. What are the Government's planned measures on publicising and promoting registration of electors for functional constituencies to encourage more eligible electors to registered as functional constituency electors to boost voter registration rate in functional constituencies?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher (Member Question No. 28)

Reply:

In previous voter registration (VR) cycles, the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) made use of various channels to appeal to eligible persons to register as electors. The publicity measures include various media and platforms, such as television, radio, newspapers, websites, mobile applications for smartphone, public transport system, as well as different kinds of community publicity activities and materials, etc. The publicity expenses for the 2014 to 2016 VR Campaigns are as follows:

Cycle	2014	2015	2016 #
Publicity expenses (\$ million)	5.1	13.79	17.24

Figures for the 2016 VR Campaign represent estimated expenses.

2. During the 2017 VR cycle, the Government will continue to adopt diversified means to appeal to persons of all ages and different backgrounds in order to encourage eligible persons to register as geographical constituency and functional constituency electors, remind electors to update their registration particulars in a timely manner while strengthening the public awareness and knowledge of VR. Publicity expenses for the 2017 VR Campaign are estimated to be about \$6 million which is similar to the publicity expenses in previous non-election years. At the meeting of the Legislative Council Panel on Constitutional Affairs on 23 February 2017, the Government consulted members on the 2017 VR Campaign. The REO has no breakdown of the expenses in respect of the publicity measures for geographical constituencies and functional constituencies respectively as the VR publicity measures are applicable to both of them.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB011

(Question Serial No. 1143)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In respect of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau, it is mentioned in the Estimates that one of the matters requiring special attention in 2017-18 is: activities will be organised in the Mainland to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR. How much provision has been earmarked for organising these activities? Where will the activities take place? What are the details of the activities? What are the results expected to be achieved?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher (Member Question No. 27)

Reply:

The year 2017 marks the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR). The HKSAR Government will organise a wide variety of celebration events during the year under the theme of "Together•Progress•Opportunity" to showcase the successful implementation of "one country, two systems", bring about social cohesion and unity, build up confidence, and seize opportunities.

2. In 2017-18, the Mainland Offices (namely the Beijing Office and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan) and the liaison units under their purview will organise a series of events in their respective service areas to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR. These events include exhibitions, cultural performances, gala dinners or receptions, youth or student programmes, film festivals, etc., which will be held in major cities in the Mainland from the second to the fourth quarter of this year. We have set aside a sum of \$40.93 million in 2017-18 to meet the expenditure of the events.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB012****(Question Serial No. 1042)**

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The estimated financial provision set aside for 2017-18 under Programme (3) "Mainland and Taiwan Offices" is 24.9% higher than the original estimate for 2016-17. In this connection:

1. please set out, in point form, the reasons for the increase in provision and the estimated expenditure involved;
2. please set out, in table form, the recurrent expenditure of the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office established in Taipei in the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon CHOW Ho-ding, Holden (Member Question No. 3)

Reply:

The provision for 2017-18 is \$75.2 million (26.9%) higher than the revised estimate for 2016-17. This is mainly due to the increased provision of \$25.19 million for setting up more liaison units to provide better operational support to the Mainland Offices; the increased provision of \$4.03 million for setting up an Immigration Division under the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Wuhan; and the increased provision of \$38.59 million for organising activities in the Mainland to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR. The remaining \$7.39 million is for meeting the increased expenditure for staff cost and other operational expenses of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices.

2. Expenditure of the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in the past 3 years is set out in the table below:

Financial year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2014-15	25.02
2015-16	24.61
2016-17 (revised estimate)	23.95

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB013****(Question Serial No. 1044)**

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In paragraph 115 of his Budget Speech, the Financial Secretary states that the current-term Government has been actively expanding the network of our offices in the Mainland and 4 liaison units will be set up in the first half of this year, bringing the total number of these units to 11. In this connection:

1. please set out, in table form, the actual provision allocated to the Mainland Offices and liaison units in the past 3 years;
2. please set out, in table form, the provision set aside for each of the 4 liaison units to be set up in 2017-18 for meeting their recurrent expenditure, the locations where these liaison units are to be set up and the reasons for selecting the locations.

Asked by: Hon CHOW Ho-ding, Holden (Member Question No. 2)

Reply:

The actual expenditures of the Mainland Offices (namely the Beijing Office (BJO) and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan) and the liaison units under their purview in 2014-15 and 2015-16, and the revised estimated expenditure for 2016-17 are set out in the table below:

Office	Actual expenditure in 2014-15 (\$ million)	Actual expenditure in 2015-16 (\$ million)	Revised estimated expenditure for 2016-17 (\$ million)
BJO and its liaison units*	69.86	73.30	78.00
Guangdong ETO and its liaison units[^]	54.83	53.76	55.66
Shanghai ETO and its liaison unit[#]	35.74	38.60	46.57
Chengdu ETO and its liaison unit[@]	36.87	40.05	39.71
Wuhan ETO and its liaison units^Ω	18.58	26.30	35.54

- * The BJO is supported by the Liaoning Liaison Unit and Tianjin Liaison Unit which were set up in December 2014 and February 2017 respectively.
- ^ The Guangdong ETO is supported by the Shenzhen Liaison Unit and Fujian Liaison Unit which were set up in August 2010 and February 2012 respectively.
- # The Shanghai ETO is supported by the Shandong ETO which was set up in April 2015.
- @ The Chengdu ETO is supported by the Chongqing Liaison Unit which was set up in January 2012.
- Ω The Wuhan ETO is supported by the Hunan Liaison Unit and Henan Liaison Unit which were set up in May and September 2016 respectively.

2. In February this year, we set up the Tianjin Liaison Unit under the BJO. We will set up before the middle of this year a liaison unit each in Zhejiang Province, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and Shaanxi Province under the ETOs in Shanghai, Guangdong and Chengdu respectively. The recurrent expenditures of these 4 liaison units for 2017-18, their locations and reasons for selecting the locations are set out in the table below:

Liaison Unit	Estimated recurrent expenditure for 2017-18 (\$ million)	Location and reasons for selection
Tianjin Liaison Unit	6.52	Tianjin Municipality is one of the 4 municipalities directly under the Central People's Government. Its per-capita GDP is at the forefront of the whole Country. It is also the largest port city in northern China.
Liaison Unit to be set up in Zhejiang Province	6.74	The GDP of Zhejiang Province is at the forefront of the whole Country. The development of private enterprises and e-commerce in Zhejiang is flourishing. Besides, the Country will set up a new pilot free trade zone in Zhejiang Province.
Liaison Unit to be set up in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region	6.35	Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, which is the only region in the 12 provinces/regions in western China that is situated along the coast and border, is the Country's bridgehead for promoting co-operation with ASEAN region.
Liaison Unit to be set up in Shaanxi Province	6.37	Shaanxi Province is a logistic and distribution hub in the central and western regions, with the first comprehensive bonded zone in the north-western region. The Country will also set up a new pilot free trade zone in Shaanxi Province.

In deciding the locations of the above 4 liaison units, we have taken into account relevant factors, including economic development situation and potential of the provinces/municipalities concerned, their economic and trade relations with Hong Kong and room for complementarities, and the number of Hong Kong residents and enterprises thereat. Setting up liaison units in Zhejiang Province, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, Shaanxi Province and Tianjin Municipality will facilitate Hong Kong people and enterprises to capitalise on the opportunities brought about by the development of the eastern, southern, western and northern regions.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB014

(Question Serial No. 1825)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In respect of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau, matters requiring special attention in 2017-18 under this programme include: activities will be organised in the Mainland to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR Government. Please advise this Committee of the specific details of the plan? Where will the activities take place? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan (Member Question No. 55)

Reply:

The year 2017 marks the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR). The HKSAR Government will organise a wide variety of celebration events during the year under the theme of "Together•Progress•Opportunity" to showcase the successful implementation of "one country, two systems", bring about social cohesion and unity, build up confidence, and seize opportunities.

2. In 2017-18, the Mainland Offices (namely the Beijing Office and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan) and the liaison units under their purview will organise a series of events in their respective service areas to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR. These events include exhibitions, cultural performances, gala dinners or receptions, youth or student programmes, film festivals, etc., which will be held in major cities in the Mainland from the second to the fourth quarter of this year. We have set aside a sum of \$40.93 million in 2017-18 to meet the expenditure of the events.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB015

(Question Serial No. 1831)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Under this programme, matters requiring special attention in 2017-18 include: the Mainland and Taiwan Offices will monitor and disseminate information to Hong Kong business sector on policies and regional development in the Mainland and Taiwan that have significant bearing on the business environment and opportunities to Hong Kong enterprises, and at the same time, promote the strengths of Hong Kong in the Mainland and Taiwan, strengthen economic and trade liaison with and enhance the investment promotion in the Mainland, etc. Would the Government advise this Committee of the specific work carried out in the past financial year, the effectiveness of the work done and the expenditure involved? What are the specific work plans and estimated expenditure for the 2017-18 financial year?

Asked by: Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan (Member Question No. 56)

Reply:

The Mainland and Taiwan Offices (namely the Beijing Office and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan, and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan) proactively serve as important bridges between Hong Kong and the Mainland/Taiwan, including enhancing liaison and communication with the counterparts in the areas under their coverage; representing and promoting Hong Kong's trade and commercial interests; encouraging and attracting investments to Hong Kong; promoting Hong Kong's many advantages as an investment and business hub in Asia; and gathering relevant information on new laws and regulations, policies and significant regional development, and disseminating such information to the Hong Kong business sector through various channels.

2. In 2016-17, a number of initiatives have been taken forward by the Mainland and Taiwan Offices to promote Hong Kong's advantages in the Mainland and Taiwan. For example, the "Belt and Road Initiative – Joining Hands for Mutual Benefits" Thematic Exhibition, which was held as one of the events of the "Savouring Hong Kong•Liaoning 2016" by the Liaoning Liaison Unit under the Beijing Office, was attended by about

50 000 participants; the “China Food and Catering Expo 2016” held by the Hunan Liaison Unit under the Wuhan ETO attracted an attendance of over 20 000; the “Seminar on Town Planning and Construction” held by the Chengdu ETO in Xi’an was attended by over 160 members of the professional sectors; the “2016 Workshop on Mainland’s Tax and Customs Policies” organised by the Guangdong ETO in Guangzhou was attended by about 150 Hong Kong-invested enterprises in the Guangdong Province; the “Belt and Road, Together We Grow” investment promotion seminar held by the Shanghai ETO in Changzhou attracted an attendance of nearly 70 enterprises; and the “Innovation & Diverse – An Amazing Hong Kong” roving exhibition held by the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan was attended by over 20 000 participants.

3. In 2017-18, the Mainland and Taiwan Offices will continue to adopt a multi-pronged approach in promoting Hong Kong through appropriate channels, including attending meetings, calling on counterparts; organising/participating in seminars, exhibitions and workshops; organising/participating in public relations, cultural exchange functions and events; visiting enterprises with potential and interest in investing in Hong Kong; giving public speeches, media interviews and briefings; and issuing information circulars, newsletters, press releases etc. to business associations and members of the trade.

4. The Mainland and Taiwan Offices will also continue to work closely with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (TDC), which conducts thematic studies on investment environment in the Mainland and Taiwan. The related reports are available online at TDC’s website, which is hyperlinked to the websites of Mainland and Taiwan Offices for easy access by the business sector and the public. The Mainland and Taiwan Offices will also assist Hong Kong businessmen operating in the Mainland and Taiwan in liaising with the relevant local authorities if they wish to obtain more in-depth information about the investment potential of a particular city in the Mainland or Taiwan.

5. In promoting inward investment, the Investment Promotion Units of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices, working together with Invest Hong Kong, will continue to identify potential Mainland and Taiwan enterprises in the areas that they cover; proactively approach and visit the enterprises identified; provide one-stop information and consultation services; and assist in organising incoming visits to facilitate the Mainland and Taiwan enterprises to set up or expand their business operations in Hong Kong.

6. As commercial relations and investment promotion activities all aim to showcase and promote Hong Kong’s strengths, they complement each other. General promotion work conducted by the Investment Promotion Units also supports the Mainland and Taiwan Offices’ work on liaison and economic and trade affairs.

7. Invest Hong Kong has earmarked around \$7 million each in its revised estimated expenditure for 2016-17 and estimated expenditure for 2017-18 to promote investment in the Mainland and Taiwan through the Investment Promotion Units. The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau has set aside provision under Programme (3) for the Mainland and Taiwan Offices to enhance overall trade opportunities and promote the strengths of Hong Kong, which include investment promotion work; the provision earmarked in the Bureau’s revised estimated expenditure for 2016-17 and estimated expenditure for 2017-18 in this respect are \$240 million and \$307 million respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB016

(Question Serial No. 2655)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please give a breakdown of the actual expenditure on salaries, regularly-paid allowances, job-related allowances and non-accountable entertainment allowance payable to the Director of Bureau in 2016-17, as well as the estimate for salaries, regularly-paid allowances, job-related allowances and non-accountable entertainment allowance payable to the Director of Bureau in 2017-18.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 5)

Reply:

The provision for the salary in respect of the position of Director of Bureau in the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau in 2016-17 is \$3.58 million. The same provision of \$3.58 million was set aside for the salary in respect of this position in the 2017-18 estimates.

2. In 2016-17 and 2017-18, we do not have any expenditure or estimate of expenditure on regularly-paid allowances, job-related allowances and non-accountable entertainment allowance for the Director of Bureau.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB017

(Question Serial No. 2656)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please give a breakdown of the actual expenditure on salaries, regularly-paid allowances, job-related allowances and non-accountable entertainment allowance payable to the Deputy Director of Bureau in 2016-17, as well as the estimate for salaries, regularly-paid allowances, job-related allowances and non-accountable entertainment allowance payable to the Deputy Director of Bureau in 2017-18.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 6)

Reply:

The provision for the salary in respect of the position of Deputy Director of Bureau in the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau in 2016-17 is \$2.33 million. The same provision of \$2.33 million was set aside for the salary in respect of this position in the 2017-18 estimates.

2. In 2016-17 and 2017-18, we do not have any expenditure or estimate of expenditure on regularly-paid allowances, job-related allowances and non-accountable entertainment allowance for the Deputy Director of Bureau.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB018

(Question Serial No. 2660)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please give a breakdown of the actual expenditure on salaries, regularly-paid allowances, job-related allowances and non-accountable entertainment allowance payable to the Political Assistant in 2016-17, as well as the estimate for salaries, regularly-paid allowances, job-related allowances and non-accountable entertainment allowance payable to the Political Assistant in 2017-18.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 7)

Reply:

We do not have any expenditure on the salary in respect of the position of Political Assistant to Director of Bureau in the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau in 2016-17 (the position has been left vacant since 21 September 2015). A provision of \$1.97 million was set aside for the salary in respect of this position in the 2017-18 estimates.

2. In 2016-17 and 2017-18, we do not have any expenditure or estimate of expenditure on regularly-paid allowances, job-related allowances and non-accountable entertainment allowance for the Political Assistant to Director of Bureau.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB019

(Question Serial No. 0427)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In advocating education and employment opportunities and access to services for ethnic minorities and persons with disabilities, will the Government inform this Committee of:

1. the programmes/activities organised in the last financial year and to be organised in the next financial year; please list out the programmes/activities in chronological order;
2. the estimated expenditure and manpower arrangement for the above initiative;
3. the estimated number of beneficiaries of the initiative?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wai-keung (Member Question No. 16)

Reply:

The Government's measures and plans to support ethnic minorities and persons with disabilities in the fields of education and employment fall within the policy purview of the Education Bureau (EDB) and the Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB) respectively.

2. The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) enforces the Sex Discrimination Ordinance, Disability Discrimination Ordinance, Family Status Discrimination Ordinance and Race Discrimination Ordinance; and as provided under those ordinances, carries out publicity and public education programmes and enforcement work. As advised by the EOC, its expenditures on publicity and public education (including manpower expenditure) in 2016-17 and 2017-18 are \$24.01 million (revised estimate) and \$23.86 million respectively; about 25% of the aforementioned expenditures are used for the publicity and education programmes on race discrimination, another 25% are for the publicity and education programmes on disability discrimination. The EOC conducted a total of more than 600 training programmes and talks for 50 000 participants in 2016. During the same year, over 400 roving drama performances were staged in primary and secondary schools and were watched by over 70 000 students.

3. The EOC has set up the Ethnic Minorities Unit (the Unit) with 7 full-time staff members to promote equal opportunities in education and employment for ethnic minorities through advocacy, training and promotional efforts. On education for ethnic minorities, the EOC will continue to deliberate and gauge the views of stakeholders and education professionals on support measures for non-Chinese speaking students through focus group meetings. It will also relay issues identified to the Education Bureau and the Subcommittee on Rights of Ethnic Minorities of the Legislative Council and suggest follow-up actions. In addition, the EOC has published a guidance booklet titled “Promotion of Racial Integration and Prevention of Racial Discrimination in Schools” for schools and parents in order to promote fairness in admission of students and racial integration in schools. This booklet promotes the application of the RDO in school setting with particular emphasis on the language policy in admission of students and the building of an integrated learning environment. The Unit has distributed copies of the booklet to all primary schools, secondary schools and kindergartens in the territory, and has conducted briefing sessions for teachers and school administrators to ensure that they understand the content of the guidance booklet as well as the principles of application. In 2017-18, the Unit will enhance on-site training for schools and parents, and draw up a simple guide to further facilitate schools to formulate and implement policies and measures on equality and integration.

4. On employment of ethnic minorities, the EOC has all along been liaising with the Labour Department and the Employees Retraining Board and has put forward a series of recommendations in relation to employment support service and training. The Unit is following up on the implementation of the recommended measures and is planning to approach the Vocational Training Council, the Construction Industry Council and the Occupational Safety and Health Council to enhance support in the planning of courses for ethnic minority students and strengthen promotional efforts on occupational safety and labour protection. On the other hand, the EOC has been proactively promoting cultural diversity in the workplace for the commercial sector, encouraging local enterprises to employ ethnic minorities as an example to inspire small and medium enterprises to consider employing ethnic minorities as well. Last year, efforts were made by the Unit to liaise with employers (including airlines, bus companies, homes for the elderly, etc.) who intended to start engaging or employing more ethnic minorities. The Unit conducted briefing sessions for these employers so that they could brief ethnic minority youths and career masters/mistresses of secondary schools on the career prospects of the posts and businesses concerned. The EOC will encourage more employers of different businesses to follow suit and is planning to establish referral and matching platforms in collaboration with non-government organisations serving ethnic minorities.

5. On access to services by ethnic minorities, the EOC has gathered case examples from non-government organisations on the difficulties encountered by ethnic minorities in accessing public services. It has also reflected to the Housing Department, Labour Department, Social Welfare Department (SWD) and Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency on language barriers faced by ethnic minorities as well as the lack of cultural sensitivity on the part of the departments/agencies in handling such cases, and in this connection held meetings with the departments/agencies concerned to deliberate on improvement initiatives. After intervention, the departments/agencies concerned have introduced various improvement measures, including drawing up or updating guidelines for making referrals for interpretation services, translating some of the application forms into ethnic minority languages as samples, enhancing staff training and employing more ethnic

minorities. The Unit will continue to keep track of the progress and has since November last year held over 10 staff training sessions for these departments/agencies to enhance their awareness of non-discrimination and sensitivity to cultural diversity. The Unit will further approach other government departments and public organisations (such as the Hospital Authority and public bus companies, etc.) to encourage them to review their existing policies and initiatives, and strengthen the elements of respect for equal opportunities and cultural diversity. On the other hand, the EOC is concerned about the problems encountered by ethnic minorities in applying for banking services and renting flats. The EOC worked with the Hong Kong Institute of Bankers and Estate Agents Authority last year to organise training for banking practitioners and estate agents to enhance their awareness on non-discrimination. The Unit will continue its training efforts and is planning to further take forward promotion and education initiatives through different platforms (such as online platform).

6. Besides, the EOC has been advocating equal opportunities in education, employment and access to services for persons with disabilities as one of its priority work areas. The EOC has also been maintaining communication and discussion with the LWB and EDB on these subjects.

7. On the front of promotional education and training for persons with disabilities, efforts were made by the EOC in 2016-17 and will continue to be made in 2017-18 to promote awareness and understanding by the public and stakeholders of the rights of the persons with disabilities and their equal opportunities in education, employment and access to services through a series of programmes and activities, including contributing feature articles to a number of newspapers; the Community Participation Funding Programme on Equal Opportunities; radio programmes; roving drama performances in schools; the Equal Opportunities Drama Project; micro film competition and slogan design competition; short video production competition; photography competition; poster design competition and promotion activities on the EOC smartphone application; seminars and trainings for education institutions, non-government organisations and community organisations, etc.

8. The EOC released “A Guide for Law Enforcement Officers Communicating with Persons with Autism Spectrum Disorders” in November 2016 with the aim of enhancing the sensitivity of and providing reference for the police and other law enforcement officers in handling persons with autism spectrum disorders when performing their duties. The EOC has taken forward a series of initiatives, targeting at parents and carers of persons with disabilities, social workers, etc. in particular, to step up publicity on prevention of sexual harassment. These initiatives include, among other things, (1) organising seminars through the arrangement of the Hong Kong Council of Social Services to disseminate the message of preventing sexual harassment to social and welfare organisations in Hong Kong, and assisting these organisations in drawing up policies on prevention of sexual harassment and mastering skills in handling complaints; (2) holding talks for parents and carers of persons with intellectual disabilities and social workers to brief them on the rights and interests of persons with disabilities as well as to disseminate the message of sexual harassment prevention; (3) in 2017, disseminating the message of sexual harassment prevention to operators of private residential care homes for persons with disabilities, briefing them on their legal responsibilities, and assisting these care homes in drawing up policies on prevention of sexual harassment and mastering skills in handling complaints through the assistance of the SWD. In collaboration with an organisation engaged by the SWD to implement the Quality Improvement Project for residential care homes for the elderly, the

EOC has included a session in the training courses for health workers in residential care homes for the elderly in which staff of the EOC will brief trainees on equal opportunities legislation to enhance their awareness of the relevant laws.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB020****(Question Serial No. 3193)**

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The work undertaken by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) includes, among other things, receiving complaints, conducting investigations, encouraging conciliation between the parties in dispute and taking actions in accordance with the powers provided for in the concerned ordinances. In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee of:

1. the number of complaints lodged under the Race Discrimination Ordinance received by the EOC in the past 3 years and the nature of these cases;
2. the investigation results, in general, in the past 3 years;
3. the estimated expenditure and manpower arrangement for the above work in 2017-18?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wai-keung (Member Question No. 19)

Reply:

From 2014 to 2016, the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) received 283 complaints lodged under the Race Discrimination Ordinance (RDO). Among these 283 complaints, 54 were related to discrimination; 46 to harassment; 182 to vilification; and 1 to other matters. A breakdown of the outcome of the above complaints is as follows:

	Total (no. of cases)
Case completed	
Successful conciliation	25
Unsuccessful conciliation	12
Investigation discontinued	243
Investigation in progress	3
Total	283

2. The EOC is responsible for enforcing the four anti-discrimination ordinances, including the RDO. Complaints lodged are handled by the EOC's Complaint Services Division, which conducts investigations and encourages conciliation between the parties in dispute. The manpower or expenditure involved is not allocated specifically to each of the ordinances, hence there is no breakdown for the RDO. In 2017-18, the Complaint Services Division has 26 staff members in its establishment and its estimated expenditure is \$23.68 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB021

(Question Serial No. 0745)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In recent years, the SAR Government has been making strenuous effort to promote arbitration services which is one of the means that individuals and enterprises in the Mainland may choose to settle legal disputes. In this connection, will the Government advise this Committee:

- (1) whether efforts had been made by the Mainland Offices of the SAR Government to promote Hong Kong's arbitration services in the past year; if yes, of the timing and a description of such efforts; if no, of the reasons;
- (2) whether efforts will be made by the Mainland Offices of the SAR Government to promote Hong Kong's arbitration services in the coming year; if yes, of the timing and a description of such efforts; if no, of the reasons?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wing-hang, Dennis (Member Question No. 14)

Reply:

Promoting international arbitration and strengthening Hong Kong's status as an international arbitration centre in the Asia-Pacific region is one of the work priorities of the Department of Justice (DoJ). The Secretary for Justice (SJ) has led delegations comprising members of the Hong Kong legal profession to the Mainland on a number of occasions to exchange views as well as attend seminars and talks, etc. on arbitration. In this regard, the Mainland Offices (namely the Beijing Office and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan) have been working closely with the DoJ to actively assist the department in promoting Hong Kong's arbitration services in the Mainland.

2. In 2016-17, the Mainland Offices have organised and participated in various types of activities such as seminars, thematic fora, exhibitions, etc., in their respective service areas. Details are as follow:

City	Date (by month)	Description
Wuhan	April 2016	Organised “The Belt and Road Initiative”: Hong Kong Legal and Arbitration Services Seminar, with the presence of representatives of DoJ and relevant organisations from Hong Kong, to introduce Hong Kong’s legal and arbitration services and their strengths.
Fuzhou	May 2016	Organised the “Past, Present and Future - Fujian and Hong Kong, Wusi Road and Sino International Plaza” Exhibition to showcase Hong Kong’s strengths, including promoting Hong Kong as an international legal and dispute resolution services centre in the Asia-Pacific region.
Fuzhou	May 2016	Organised the “Hong Kong Exhibition” in the “21 st Maritime Silk Road Exposition and the 18 th Cross-Straits Fair for Economy and Trade” to introduce Hong Kong’s international legal and dispute resolution services.
Beijing	June 2016	Attended the “International Arbitration Without Frontiers” seminar and exchanged views with participants on the advantages of Hong Kong’s arbitration services.
Wuhan	June 2016	Organised “The Risks and Opportunities along the Belt and Road: International Engineering Construction and Financing Seminar” to, among other things, introduce and promote the strengths of Hong Kong’s legal and arbitration services.
Kunming	June 2016	Set up the Hong Kong Pavilion at the “4 th China-South Asia Expo” to showcase Hong Kong’s strengths, including promoting Hong Kong as an international legal and dispute resolution services centre in the Asia-Pacific region.
Wuhan	July 2016	Held an exhibition at the venue of the cocktail reception for the 19 th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR to showcase Hong Kong’s strengths, including promoting Hong Kong as an international legal and dispute resolution services centre in the Asia-Pacific region.

City	Date (by month)	Description
Guangzhou	August 2016	Held an exhibition at the venue of the cocktail reception for the 19 th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR to showcase Hong Kong's strengths, including promoting Hong Kong as an international legal and dispute resolution services centre in the Asia-Pacific region.
Shenzhen	August 2016	Provided support to facilitate the SJ's attendance at the seminar on co-operation in legal services between Hong Kong, Guangdong and Shanghai in Shenzhen, which further enhanced exchanges and co-operation between the legal services sector of Hong Kong and the Mainland.
Zhengzhou	August 2016	Accompanied the SJ to visit the Zhengzhou Municipal to promote Hong Kong's legal and dispute resolution services and enhance exchanges between the legal and dispute resolution services sectors of Hong Kong and the Henan Province.
Beijing	September 2016	Attended the "2016 China Arbitration Week", and together with Hong Kong's legal sectors, promoted Hong Kong's arbitration services and their strengths.
Guangzhou	October 2016	Held the "Hong Kong Exhibition" in the "13 th China International Small and Medium Enterprises Fair" to showcase Hong Kong's strengths, including promoting Hong Kong as an international legal and dispute resolution services centre in the Asia-Pacific region.
Dongguan	October 2016	Held the "Hong Kong Exhibition" in the "2016 Guangdong 21 st Century Maritime Silk Road International Expo" (Maritime Silk Road Expo) to showcase Hong Kong's strengths, including promoting Hong Kong as an international legal and dispute resolution services centre in the Asia-Pacific region.
Zhanjiang	November 2016	Set up the Hong Kong Exhibition in "China Maritime Economy Expo" to showcase Hong Kong's strengths, including promoting Hong Kong as an international legal and dispute resolution services centre in the Asia-Pacific region.

City	Date (by month)	Description
Nanjing	November 2016	Assisted the SJ in hosting the “4 th Hong Kong Legal Services Forum” to promote Hong Kong as a leading international legal and dispute resolution services centre in the Asia-Pacific region, and provided support to facilitate the attendance of the SJ and his delegation at the meeting.
Wuhan	November 2016	Held the “Belt and Road, Together We Grow” Wuhan CEO Seminar to introduce Hong Kong’s strengths in financial services, commerce and trade, transportation, legal services, etc.
Guangzhou	December 2016 to January 2017	Organised the “Hong Kong Exhibition” in the “Good Goods 2016 Guangzhou Expo” to showcase Hong Kong’s strengths, including promoting Hong Kong as an international legal and dispute resolution services centre in the Asia-Pacific region.

3. In 2017-18, the Mainland Offices will continue to work with the DoJ to promote Hong Kong’s legal and arbitration services in the Mainland.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB022

(Question Serial No. 2419)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau is responsible for, among other things, promoting public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law, and ensuring the development of the electoral systems in accordance with relevant provisions of the Basic Law. In 2017-18, what plan does the Bureau have to promote the Basic Law? Will additional resources be set aside for enhancing public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law?

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (Member Question No. 43)

Reply:

In 2017-18, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) will set aside about \$16 million for enabling the public to have a more comprehensive and thorough understanding of the “one country, two systems” principle and the Basic Law via different means, including sponsoring non-government organisations and community groups to organise activities, and organising various types of large-scale activities. We have been adopting the following strategies to promote the Basic Law:

- (a) using electronic media, such as Internet and smart-phone applications, to promote widely to different strata of the society;
- (b) enhancing awareness and understanding of the Basic Law by the general public and students through promotional activities at the district level, such as organising roving exhibitions and arranging the Basic Law mobile resource centre to pay visits to different districts and schools; and
- (c) providing sponsorship to non-government organisations or community organisations through the “Basic Law Promotion Sponsorship Scheme” for staging various Basic Law promotional activities, such as seminars, quizzes and debate competitions, in order to reach a wider audience through their extensive community networks.

2. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government has set up the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (BLPSC) under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary for Administration to provide views and steer on the overall strategy and key aspects for promoting the Basic Law. The CMAB provides secretariat support to the BLPSC. Five working groups (namely Local Community; Teachers and Students; Civil Servants; Industrial, Commercial and Professional Sectors; and Overseas Community Working Groups) are set up under the BLPSC and are assisted by the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB), Education Bureau (EDB), Civil Service Bureau (CSB), Trade and Industry Department (TID) and Information Services Department (ISD) respectively in planning and organising various types of activities to promote the Basic Law on various fronts.

3. The year 2017 marks the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR. Riding on this opportunity, relevant policy bureaux/departments responsible for promoting the Basic Law will organise various types of activities this year to enable people from different walks of life to grasp the complete concept of “one country, two systems” in a correct and comprehensive manner and to deepen their understanding of the Basic Law. For example, the CMAB will organise a large-scale thematic seminar, set up an online database on Basic Law court cases; the EDB will organise “The 3rd Basic Law cum Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of Establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Territory-wide Inter-school Competition”; the HAB will organise the “Basic Law Quiz Competition” and related roving exhibitions and talks in collaboration with the Committee on the Promotion of Civil Education and Working Group on Local Community under BLPSC; the CSB will hold thematic talks for civil servants on the 20th anniversary of the implementation of the Basic Law; the TID will organise a series of thematic seminars on the Basic Law; and the ISD will publish supplements relating to the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR in major overseas Chinese newspapers and organise Basic Law online quiz.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB023

(Question Serial No. 1034)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In respect of the “Study on Legislation against Discrimination on the Grounds of Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Intersex Status” and “Reports on the Discrimination Law Review” released by the Equal Opportunities Commission, would the Government please advise on:

the resources and manpower deployed for carrying out follow-up work; the timetable for such work (including consultation) and work targets for this financial year; and the plan to promote the rights and interests of sexual minorities and other minority groups prior to the completion of follow-up work?

Asked by: Hon LAW Kwun-chung, Nathan (Member Question No. 43)

Reply:

This Bureau is actively taking forward the strategies and measures recommended by the Advisory Group on Eliminating Discrimination against Sexual Minorities, which include enhancing publicity, drawing up a charter on non-discrimination, reviewing support services, providing training for personnel in specific professions and sectors to raise their sensitivity towards sexual minorities, and conducting a further study on the experience of other jurisdictions in implementing anti-discrimination measures. We have also initiated discussion with the Legislative Council on those recommendations under the Discrimination Law Review that are considered by the Equal Opportunities Commission as priority items.

2. For drawing up a charter on non-discrimination of sexual minorities for voluntary adoption by relevant organisations and individuals, we are now studying the relevant legislation, codes of practice and guidelines of different jurisdictions in the domains of employment; education; provision of goods, facilities and services; and disposal and management of premises. We shall consult stakeholders on the content of a draft charter within this year. At present, near 200 public and private sector organisations which together engage about 470 000 employees locally have pledged to adopt the Code of Practice against Discrimination in Employment on the Ground of Sexual Orientation (code of practice). We will continue to encourage more organisations to adopt the code of

practice through various channels including talks, seminars, online and outdoor advertisements, etc. We are also preparing to issue appeal letters to over 2 000 public and private sector organisations.

3. For the review of support services for sexual minorities, we are gathering from service providers (including Social Welfare Department, Hospital Authority, Department of Health, non-government organisations, etc.) as well as sexual minority users views on the support services, including views on the mode of service delivery. To provide training and resources for personnel in specific fields (including social work, education, health care, and human resources management), we have collected information on the content, delivery modes and target recipients of existing pre-service and in-service training in the relevant professions, and gathered the views of training providers on the content and delivery mode of the sensitivity training. The development of training resources is being undertaken by a psychologist with experience in designing and teaching related training programmes.

4. We are conducting a further study on the experience of other jurisdictions in tackling discrimination through legislative and non-legislative measures. The findings of the study would form the basis for public consultation on both legislative proposals and administrative measures to eliminate discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity. The study covers the following topics:

- (a) administrative measures adopted in other jurisdictions to tackle discrimination against the sexual minorities, and any empirical data on their implementation; and
- (b) legislative measures adopted in other jurisdictions to tackle discrimination against the sexual minorities, including empirical data on their implementation; definitions of “gender identity” and “sexual orientation” in the relevant legislation, and the threshold of evidence required to establish these grounds for claims; the evolving case law, in particular the scope and application of exemptions in anti-discrimination legislation, and the criteria adopted by courts in balancing the rights and freedoms involved; comparative analyses of the different approaches of formulating anti-discrimination laws; stakeholders’ views on the adequacy of protection and accessibility of remedies; the concerns of different parties such as the legislature, enforcement authorities and stakeholder groups and the relevant discourse, etc.

5. The resources required for the above undertakings are absorbed in the recurrent expenditure of the Bureau; a separate breakdown of the expenditure is not available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB024

(Question Serial No. 1035)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In respect of the 5 human rights conventions applicable to Hong Kong, will the Government inform this Committee of:

the respective dates for the submission of the next report under each of the 5 conventions and the respective timetables for the Government's proposed discussion at Legislative Council Panels; and

the Government's follow-up to the United Nation's observations and recommendations of the previous reports under the respective human rights conventions?

Asked by: Hon LAW Kwun-chung, Nathan (Member Question No. 44)

Reply:

In drafting the reports under the human rights treaties, relevant bureaux and departments provide responses to the concerns and recommendations raised in the Concluding Observations in respect of the previous report, and explain and update the progress of implementation of the recommendations and the relevant considerations and circumstances where applicable. The reports will also be made available for public inspection.

2. The HKSAR has been submitting its reports to the United Nations (UN) through the Central People's Government as specified by the relevant UN human rights treaties committees. In accordance with established practice, the HKSAR Government, in preparing for the reports, will conduct a public consultation to listen to the views of, among others, relevant Panels of the Legislative Council and stakeholder groups. The Government will also report to the relevant Panels after publication of the reports and upon attending the hearing of the relevant UN committees.

3. According to the documents of the UN committees, the dates for submission of the next report in respect of the 5 human right treaties for which the coordinating responsibilities fall under the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau are set out as follows:

	Treaty	Date for submission of next report (set by UN)
1.	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	31 March 2018
2.	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	30 May 2019
3.	Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	9 December 2019
4.	Convention on the Rights of the Child	31 March 2019
5.	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	Expected to be submitted within this year

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB025

(Question Serial No. 0236)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

There is an increase of 7.7% in the financial provision for the Equal Opportunities Commission for 2017-18. Does the provision cover all operating expenses (including rent) of the Commission as well as the salary costs for all staff in its establishment (including the Chief Operations Officer)? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEE Kok-long, Joseph (Member Question No. 24)

Reply:

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) is a statutory body set up under the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (SDO) (Cap. 480) to discharge functions and duties conferred on it under the SDO as well as three other pieces of anti-discrimination legislation, viz. the Disability Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 487), the Family Status Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 527) and the Race Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 602).

2. Each year, the Government provides a subvention in the form of lump sum allocation to the EOC for it to draw up its estimates of operating expenditures under the principles of prudent fiscal management and efficient and economical use of resources. The subvention covers expenditures on manpower and salaries, office accommodation expenses, and expenditures for implementing the anti-discrimination ordinances, etc. In 2017-18, the Government provides a subvention of \$115.5 million to the EOC. As compared with the revised estimate for 2016-17, the Government will provide in 2017-18 a one-off provision of \$9.5 million to support the EOC's proposed expenditure on office relocation and fitting-out work.

3. The EOC operates independently in discharging its statutory duties and functions, including the management of its resources and staff expenses, provided that it exercises good governance and adheres to the principle of prudent fiscal management.

4. We will continue to work with the EOC to ensure that it has adequate resources to discharge its functions and duties.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB026

(Question Serial No. 0237)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention that the Equal Opportunities Commission will advocate education and employment opportunities for ethnic minorities. What are the Government's plans in this respect in 2017-18? What are the resources involved? In addition, the Commission has also set up an office for this purpose. In this connection, has the provision for covering the relevant operating expenses (including rent) been worked out? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEE Kok-long, Joseph (Member Question No. 25)

Reply:

The Government's measures and plans to support ethnic minorities in education and employment fall within the policy purview of the Education Bureau and the Labour and Welfare Bureau respectively.

2. The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) enforces the Race Discrimination Ordinance (RDO) and implements outreach, publicity and public education programmes to promote public awareness of the RDO and racial equality. Starting from 2014-15, this Bureau has been providing a funding of \$4.69 million for enhancing the EOC's publicity and education programmes on the RDO. The EOC has since set up the Ethnic Minorities Unit (the Unit) with 7 full-time staff to promote equal opportunities in education and employment for ethnic minorities through advocacy, training and promotional efforts.

3. According to the information provided by the EOC, in promoting equal opportunities in education for ethnic minorities, the EOC will continue to deliberate and gauge the views of stakeholders and education professionals on support measures for non-Chinese speaking students through focus group meetings. It will also relay issues identified to the Education Bureau and the Subcommittee on Rights of Ethnic Minorities of the Legislative Council and suggest follow-up actions. Besides, to promote fairness in admission of students and racial integration in schools, the EOC has published a guidance booklet titled "Promotion of Racial Integration and Prevention of Racial Discrimination in

Schools” for schools and parents. This booklet promotes the application of the RDO in school setting with particular emphasis on the language policy in admission of students and the building of an integrated learning environment. The Unit has distributed copies of the booklet to all primary and secondary schools as well as kindergartens in the territory, and has conducted briefing sessions for teachers and school administrators to ensure that they understand the content of the guidance booklet as well as the principles of application. In 2017-18, the Unit will enhance on-site training for schools and parents, and draw up a simple guide to further facilitate schools to formulate and implement policies and measures on equality and integration.

4. In promoting equal opportunities in employment for ethnic minorities, the EOC has been maintaining liaison with the Labour Department and the Employees Retraining Board and has put forward a series of recommendations in relation to employment support service and training. The Unit is following up on the implementation of the recommended measures and is planning to approach the Vocational Training Council, the Construction Industry Council and the Occupational Safety and Health Council to enhance support in the planning of courses for ethnic minority students and strengthen promotional efforts on occupational safety and labour protection. On the other hand, the EOC has been proactively promoting cultural diversity in the workplace for the commercial sector, encouraging local enterprises to employ ethnic minorities as an example to inspire small and medium enterprises to consider employing ethnic minorities as well. Last year, efforts were made by the Unit to liaise with employers (including airlines, bus companies, homes for the elderly, etc.) who intended to start engaging or to employ more ethnic minority employees’. The Unit conducted briefing sessions for these employers so that they could brief ethnic minority youths and career masters/mistresses of secondary schools on the career prospects of the posts and businesses concerned. The EOC will encourage more employers of different businesses to follow suit and is planning to establish referral and matching platforms in collaboration with non-government organisations serving ethnic minorities.

5. Each year, the Government provides a subvention in the form of lump sum allocation to the EOC for it to draw up its estimates of operating expenditures under the principles of prudent fiscal management and efficient and economical use of resources. The subvention covers expenditures on manpower and salaries, office accommodation expenses, and expenditures for implementing the anti-discrimination ordinances, etc. In 2017-18, the Government provides a subvention of \$115.5 million to the EOC. We will continue to work with the EOC to ensure that it has adequate resources to discharge its functions and duties.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB027

(Question Serial No. 3224)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The number of complaints received has dropped from 573 (actual) in 2016 to 450 (estimate) in 2017. What are the reasons for that?

Asked by: Hon LEE Kok-long, Joseph (Member Question No. 63)

Reply:

The Equal Opportunities Commission received and handled a batch of complaints (174 cases) relating to a single incident lodged under the Race Discrimination Ordinance in the latter half of 2016. This was not a recurrent occurrence. The estimated number of complaints being handled in 2017 is projected in accordance with the usual calculation method.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB028

(Question Serial No. 3251)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The number of complaints handled has dropped from 722 (actual) in 2016 to 650 (estimate) in 2017. What are the reasons for that?

Asked by: Hon LEE Kok-long, Joseph (Member Question No. 64)

Reply:

The Equal Opportunities Commission received and handled a batch of complaints (174 cases) relating to a single incident lodged under the Race Discrimination Ordinance in the latter half of 2016. This was not a recurrent occurrence. The estimated number of complaints being handled in 2017 is projected in accordance with the usual calculation method.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB029

(Question Serial No. 0527)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Have this year's Basic Law promotional activities been strengthened to tie in with the 20th anniversary of the return of Hong Kong to the Motherland in 2017? What are the details of activities and estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (Member Question No. 49)

Reply:

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government has set up the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (BLPSC) under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary for Administration to provide views and steer on the overall strategy and key aspects for promoting the Basic Law. The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) provides secretariat support to the BLPSC. Five working groups (namely Local Community; Teachers and Students; Civil Servants; Industrial, Commercial and Professional Sectors; and Overseas Community Working Groups) are set up under the BLPSC and are assisted by the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB), Education Bureau (EDB), Civil Service Bureau (CSB), Trade and Industry Department (TID) and Information Services Department (ISD) respectively in planning and organising various types of activities to promote the Basic Law on various fronts.

2. The year 2017 marks the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR. Riding on this opportunity, relevant policy bureaux/departments responsible for promoting the Basic Law will organise various types of activities this year to enable people from different walks of life to grasp the complete concept of "one country, two systems" in a correct and comprehensive manner and to deepen their understanding of the Basic Law. For example, the CMAB will organise a large-scale thematic seminar, set up an online database on Basic Law court cases; the EDB will organise "The 3rd Basic Law cum Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of Establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Territory-wide Inter-school Competition"; the HAB will organise the "Basic Law Quiz Competition" and related roving exhibitions and talks in collaboration with the Committee on the Promotion of Civil Education and Working Group on Local

Community under BLPSC; the CSB will hold thematic talks for civil servants on the 20th anniversary of the implementation of the Basic Law; the TID will organise a series of thematic seminars on the Basic Law; and the ISD will publish supplements relating to the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR in major overseas Chinese newspapers and organise Basic Law online quiz.

3. In 2017-18, the CMAB will set aside about \$16 million for enabling the public to have a more comprehensive and thorough understanding of the “one country, two systems” principle and the Basic Law via various means, including sponsoring non-government organisations and community groups to organise activities, and organising various types of large-scale activities.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB030

(Question Serial No. 0528)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Provision for Director of Bureau's Office for 2017-18 is \$1.7 million (17.2%) higher than the revised estimate for 2016-17. This is mainly due to the increased provision for salary expenses. However, we do not see such an increase in salary expenses in respect of the provision for Director of Bureau's Office of other policy bureaux. In this connection, please give a breakdown of the above increased provision of \$1.7 million.

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (Member Question No. 1)

Reply:

Provision for 2017-18 is \$1.7 million (17.2%) higher than the revised estimate for 2016-17. This is mainly due to the provision required for filling the position of Political Assistant in 2017-18 which is vacant in 2016-17, and a slight upward adjustment in other staff costs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB031

(Question Serial No. 0530)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2017-18, the Government has not given an account of the conduct of Legislative Council (LegCo) geographical constituency by-election arising from the disqualification of 2 legislators-elect from assuming the office of a member of the LegCo by the court. In this connection, what is the estimated cost for conducting the LegCo by-election? Under which item will the relevant costs be funded?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (Member Question No. 2)

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) will work closely with the Electoral Affairs Commission (EAC) to assist the EAC and the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) in the necessary preparatory work for the Legislative Council (LegCo) by-election to ensure that the by-election will be conducted in an open, fair and honest manner. These tasks are CMAB's election-related work and are carried out by the staff in the existing establishment of the Bureau.

2. The EAC has the statutory responsibility for the conduct and supervision of elections. The REO will provide the EAC with the necessary support in conducting the LegCo by-election. The costs for conducting the LegCo by-election will be met by the REO.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB032

(Question Serial No. 0532)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The judicial review against the disqualification of 4 legislators from assuming the office of a member of the Legislative Council (LegCo) is being heard and there may be a need to conduct LegCo geographical constituency by-election following the court's judgment. Has provision been set aside to meet the related expenditure? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (Member Question No. 3)

Reply:

If there is a need to conduct Legislative Council (LegCo) by-election, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) will work closely with the Electoral Affairs Commission (EAC) to assist the EAC and the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) in the necessary preparatory work to ensure that the by-election will be conducted in an open, fair and honest manner. These tasks are CMAB's election-related work and are carried out by the staff in the existing establishment of the Bureau.

2. The EAC has the statutory responsibility for the conduct and supervision of elections. If there is a need to conduct LegCo by-election, the REO will provide the EAC with the necessary support in conducting the by-election. The costs for conducting the LegCo by-election will be met by the REO.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB033

(Question Serial No. 0534)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Under Programme (3), provision for 2017-18 is \$75.2 million (26.9%) higher than the revised estimate for 2016-17. According to the Government, the increased provision is for setting up more liaison units and organising activities in the Mainland to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR. In this connection, will the Government give detailed information on the following:

- i. the number of liaison units to be set up and the related recurrent and non-recurrent expenditures;
- ii. whether the number of activities such as seminars, exhibitions or other events to be organised will correspondingly increase after more liaison units are set up? If so, please provide the number of activities/events expected to be organised and the related expenditure;
- iii. the events organised in the Mainland to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR and the expenditures?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (Member Question No. 4)

Reply:

We will set up a liaison unit each in Zhejiang Province, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and Shaanxi Province under the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETO) in Shanghai, Guangdong and Chengdu respectively before the middle of this year. We have set aside a sum of \$19.46 million for meeting the recurrent expenditure of the above 3 liaison units.

2. Staff of the 3 liaison units mentioned above will assist the Shanghai ETO, the Guangdong ETO and the Chengdu ETO in liaising with the province/region under their coverage, and their main functions include strengthening liaison and communication with provincial/regional government authorities, enhancing economic and trade relations, fostering co-operation between Hong Kong and the relevant province/region and promoting

Hong Kong, and supporting Hong Kong residents and enterprises in the service area, etc. In performing the above functions, the 3 liaison units will organise various activities, including seminars, exhibitions, and workshops, etc. As organising activities is part of the work of the liaison units, the estimated expenditure involved cannot be separately singled out and itemised.

3. In 2017-18, the Mainland Offices (namely the Beijing Office and the ETOs in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan) and the liaison units under their purview will organise a series of events in their respective service areas to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR. These events include exhibitions, cultural performances, gala dinners or receptions, youth or student programmes, film festivals, etc., which will be held in major cities in the Mainland from the second to the fourth quarter of this year. We have set aside a sum of \$40.93 million in 2017-18 to meet the expenditure of the events.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB034

(Question Serial No. 0586)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Secretary for Security

Question:

There will be an increase of 7 posts in 2017-18. Please advise on the titles, duties and responsibilities of as well as related expenditure on emoluments for these posts.

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (Member Question No. 5)

Reply:

To enhance the service of the Mainland Offices, we will create a total of 7 new non-directorate civil service posts in 2017-18. Details are as follows:

- (a) 6 posts at the new liaison units to be set up. We will set up a liaison unit each in Zhejiang Province, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and Shaanxi Province under the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETO) in Shanghai, Guangdong and Chengdu respectively before the middle of this year. The setting up of these 3 liaison units involves creation of a total of 6 posts for Hong Kong-based staff, namely 3 Chief Executive Officer and 3 Senior Executive Officer posts; and
- (b) 1 Principal Immigration Officer post at the new Immigration Division to be set up under the Wuhan ETO.

The estimated expenditure on salaries and allowances for the above 7 posts in 2017-18 is \$9.83 million.

2. Staff of the liaison units mentioned in paragraph 1(a) above will assist the Shanghai ETO, Guangdong ETO and Chengdu ETO in liaising with the province/region under their coverage, and their main functions include strengthening liaison and communication with the provincial/regional government authorities, enhancing economic and trade relations, fostering co-operation between Hong Kong and the relevant province/region and promoting Hong Kong, and supporting Hong Kong residents and enterprises in the service area, etc.

Staff of the Immigration Division mentioned in paragraph 1(b) above will mainly be responsible for rendering assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in provinces under the coverage of the Wuhan ETO.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB035****(Question Serial No. 0587)**

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Secretary for Security

Question:

This year (2017), there is an increase of “unreferred” visa/entry permit applications for the Immigration Divisions of the Beijing Office and Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Shanghai over last year (2016), what are the reasons for that? Will the Government set out the respective numbers of unreferred visa and unreferred entry permit applications in 2016 and 2017 respectively? In addition, have the above applications been categorised by, say, reasons for applying for entry to Hong Kong and approved duration of stay? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (Member Question No. 6)

Reply:

The figure for 2016 reflects the number of cases actually processed by the Immigration Division of the Beijing Office in the whole year of 2016 (the Division also served the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (ETO) in Shanghai then), while the figure for 2017 is an estimated figure adjusted on the basis of the actual figure for 2016, plus the visa/entry permit application service provided by the Immigration Division of the Shanghai ETO with effect from 7 November 2016 after its commencement of operation on 25 October 2016. It is therefore estimated that there will be an increase in the total number of visa/entry permit applications to be processed by the 2 offices in the whole year of 2017, as compared to 2016.

2. The respective numbers of unreferred visa and entry permit applications actually processed in 2016 and the respective numbers of unreferred visa and entry permit applications anticipated to be processed in 2017 are set out below:

Year	Visa	Entry permit	Total
Actually processed in 2016	232	2 087	2 319
Anticipated to be processed in 2017	250	2 290	2 540

3. We only categorise visa or entry permit applications as unrefereed or referred applications and no other categorisation is adopted.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB036****(Question Serial No. 0588)**

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Secretary for Security

Question:

This year (2017), there is also an increase of “referred” visa/entry permit applications for the Immigration Divisions of the Beijing Office and Hong Kong and Economic and Trade Office in Shanghai over last year (2016), what are the reasons for that? Will the Government set out the respective numbers of referred visa and referred entry permit applications in 2016 and 2017 respectively? In addition, have the above applications been categorised by, say, reasons for applying for entry to Hong Kong and approved duration of stay? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (Member Question No. 7)

Reply:

The figure for 2016 reflects the number of cases actually processed by the Immigration Division of the Beijing Office in the whole year of 2016 (the Division also served the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (ETO) in Shanghai then), while the figure for 2017 is an estimated figure adjusted on the basis of the actual figure for 2016, plus the visa/entry permit application service provided by the Immigration Division of the Shanghai ETO with effect from 7 November 2016 after its commencement of operation on 25 October 2016. It is therefore estimated that there will be an increase in the total number of visa/entry permit applications to be processed by the 2 offices in the whole year of 2017, as compared to 2016.

2. The respective numbers of referred visa and entry permit applications actually processed in 2016 and the respective numbers of referred visa and entry permit applications anticipated to be processed in 2017 are set out below:

Year	Visa	Entry permit	Total
Actually processed in 2016	197	2 064	2 261
Anticipated to be processed in 2017	210	2 220	2 430

3. We only categorise visa or entry permit applications as unrefereed or referred applications and no other categorisation is adopted.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB037****(Question Serial No. 0589)**

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Secretary for Security

Question:

Please set out separately the estimated number of HKSAR passport replacement applications to be received and the estimated number of passports to be issued in this financial year, including the number of applications to be received and processed by the Beijing Office and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Guangdong, Shanghai and Chengdu respectively. What is the age distribution of the applicants? What is the number of officers involved in the relevant work?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (Member Question No. 9)

Reply:

Immigration Divisions of the Beijing Office (BJO) and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETO) in Guangdong, Shanghai and Chengdu provide HKSAR passport replacement service to Hong Kong residents in the Mainland with effect from 7 November 2016. The above offices have estimated the number of applications for the whole year of 2017 on the basis of the actual number of applications in November and December 2016:

	BJO	Guangdong ETO	Chengdu ETO	Shanghai ETO	Total
No. of applications received	400	580	60	950	1 990
No. of passports issued	400	580	60	950	1 990

Breakdown on the categorisation as stated in the question is not available.

2. There are a total of 4 Principal Immigration Officers, 4 Chief Immigration Officers and 10 Immigration Officers in the BJO, Guangdong ETO, Shanghai ETO and Chengdu ETO. Application for replacement of HKSAR passports in the Mainland to facilitate Hong Kong residents is an integral part of the duties and functions of the Immigration Divisions of Mainland Offices. The manpower involved cannot be separately singled out and itemised.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB038

(Question Serial No. 0590)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Secretary for Security

Question:

Paragraph 115 of the Budget states that: “[t]he current-term Government has been actively expanding the network of our offices in the Mainland. In particular, a total of four liaison units will be set up in Tianjin, Zhejiang, Guangxi and Shaanxi in the first half of this year. This will bring the total number of Economic and Trade Offices (including the Beijing Office) and liaison units in the Mainland from 7 in June 2012 to 16 in the near future, enabling a more even geographical spread throughout the entire Mainland.” Discounting visa/entry permit applications, what are the respective total numbers of requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland or requests related to commercial disputes received by these offices/units in each of the past 3 years? What are the nature of these cases and the normal response time?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (Member Question No. 10)

Reply:

The number of requests for assistance received by each Mainland Office (including liaison unit(s) under their purview) in the past 3 years, with breakdown by nature of cases, is set out in the table below:

Year	Office	Requests for assistance relating to immigration and personal safety matters	Other assistance cases
2014	Beijing Office (BJO)	136	24
	Guangdong Economic and Trade Office (ETO)	166	79
	Chengdu ETO	38	7
	Shanghai ETO	Covered by the Immigration Division of BJO	20
	Wuhan ETO ^{Note 1}		14
2015	BJO	154	32
	Guangdong ETO	211	50
	Chengdu ETO	42	11
	Shanghai ETO	Covered by the Immigration Division of BJO	13
	Wuhan ETO		7
2016	BJO	69	29
	Guangdong ETO	185	74
	Chengdu ETO	48	5
	Shanghai ETO	17 ^{Note 2}	33
	Wuhan ETO	Covered by the Immigration Division of BJO	6

Note 1 The Wuhan ETO commenced operation on 1 April 2014 with no Immigration Division. We plan to set up an Immigration Division under this ETO before the end of 2017.

Note 2 The Immigration Division of Shanghai ETO commenced operation on 25 October 2016.

2. In respect of requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland, Immigration Divisions of the Mainland Offices will generally provide assistance within the same day upon request. As regards other assistance cases, the Mainland Offices will generally give a reply within 10 days after receipt of the request, or for complicated cases, an interim reply within 10 days to acknowledge receipt of the request, to be followed by a substantive reply within 30 days after receipt of the request.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB039

(Question Serial No. 0591)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please provide the estimated expenditure and detailed work plan of the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan for 2017-18. How does the expenditure compare with that of the past 3 years?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (Member Question No. 11)

Reply:

In 2017-18, the estimated expenditure of the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan (HKETCO) is about \$24.97 million. The HKETCO will continue to leverage on its local presence to enhance liaison and provide services through organising and joining various activities to introduce to the Taiwan community the latest economic and trade as well as cultural development of Hong Kong. The office will also strive to liaise with Hong Kong people in Taiwan. Specifically, the HKETCO will:

- (a) organise roving exhibitions to introduce the latest development of Hong Kong;
- (b) organise investment promotion and trade seminars to promote the various advantages of Hong Kong, and encourage Taiwan enterprises to invest in Hong Kong;
- (c) organise cultural activities to showcase Hong Kong's unique culture as well as promote cultural exchanges between the two places;
- (d) facilitate the Hong Kong-Taiwan Cultural Co-operation Committee to organise the annual "Hong Kong Week" activities to showcase Hong Kong's unique arts and culture to the Taiwan community;
- (e) partner with the Taiwan offices of the Hong Kong Tourism Board and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council to organise activities for strengthening liaison with different sectors in Taiwan; and

(f) maintain close liaison with Hong Kong people in Taiwan, and provide appropriate support as necessary.

2. The expenditures incurred by the HKETCO in the past 3 years are set out in the table below:

Financial year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2014-15	25.02
2015-16	24.61
2016-17 (revised estimate)	23.95

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB040

(Question Serial No. 0593)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Secretary for Security

Question:

In respect of the HKSAR passport replacement service, the estimated numbers of applications to be received and passports to be issued this year (2017) are significantly higher than the numbers of last year (2016). What are the reasons for that?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (Member Question No. 8)

Reply:

Immigration Divisions of the Beijing Office and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Shanghai, Guangdong and Chengdu provide HKSAR passport replacement service to Hong Kong residents in the Mainland with effect from 7 November 2016. The figure for 2016 only covers the applications received during the period 7 November 2016 to 31 December 2016, while the figure for the whole year of 2017 is estimated on the basis of actual number of applications in 2016. We therefore estimated that there will be an increase of number of applications when compared to 2016.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB041****(Question Serial No. 2703)**Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs BureauSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan OfficesControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

Please provide information on the operation of each Economic and Trade Office in the Mainland as per following table:

Location of Office	Establishment in 2016-17	Operational expenses in 2016-17 (by items)	Establishment in 2017-18	Operational expenses in 2017-18 (by items)	Work undertaken in 2016-17	Work plan for 2017-18

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Kenneth (Member Question No. 1.12)Reply:

The 2016-17 revised estimated expenditure and 2017-18 estimated expenditure of the Mainland Offices (namely the Beijing Office (BJO) and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETO) in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan) are set out in the table below:

Office	Revised estimated expenditure for 2016-17 (\$ million)	Estimated expenditure for 2017-18 (\$ million)
BJO	78.00	95.59
Guangdong ETO	55.66	69.58
Shanghai ETO	46.57	63.90
Chengdu ETO	39.71	54.50
Wuhan ETO	35.54	46.02

2. The BJO is located in Beijing. The establishment of the BJO in 2016-17 and 2017-18 each comprise 3 directorate officers (namely 1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade A, 1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade B1 and 1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade C) and 19 non-directorate officers (namely 2 Senior Administrative Officers, 1 Chief Curator, 2 Principal Trade Officers, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer, 3 Immigration Officers, 1 Chief Information Officer, 1 Information Officer, 1 Senior Executive Officer, 1 Executive Officer I and 1 Senior Personal Secretary).

3. The Guangdong ETO is located in Guangzhou of Guangdong Province. The establishment of the Guangdong ETO in 2016-17 comprised 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade B) and 15 non-directorate officers (namely 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 4 Principal Trade Officers, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer, 2 Immigration Officers and 1 Principal Information Officer and 1 Senior Executive Officer). In 2017-18, there will be an increase of 2 non-directorate officers (namely 1 Chief Executive Officer and 1 Senior Executive Officer) in the office.

4. The Shanghai ETO is located in Shanghai. The establishment of the Shanghai ETO in 2016-17 comprised 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade B) and 13 non-directorate officers (namely 2 Senior Administrative Officers, 1 Principal Trade Officer, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer, 3 Immigration Officers and 1 Senior Information Officer). In 2017-18, there will be an increase of 2 non-directorate officers (namely 1 Chief Executive Officer and 1 Senior Executive Officer) in the office.

5. The Chengdu ETO is located in Chengdu of Sichuan Province. The establishment of the Chengdu ETO in 2016-17 comprised 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade C) and 11 non-directorate officers (namely 2 Senior Administrative Officers, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Senior Information Officer, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer and 2 Immigration Officers). In 2017-18, there will be an increase of 2 non-directorate officers (namely 1 Chief Executive Officer and 1 Senior Executive Officer) in the office.

6. The Wuhan ETO is located in Wuhan of Hubei Province. The establishment of the Wuhan ETO in 2016-17 comprised 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade C) and 9 non-directorate officers (namely 2 Senior Administrative Officers, 1 Principal Trade Officer, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Senior Executive Officer and 1 Senior Information Officer). In 2017-18, there will be an increase of 1 non-directorate officer (1 Principal Immigration Officer) in the office.

7. The Mainland Offices serve as an important bridge between Hong Kong and the Mainland. The major responsibilities include enhancing liaison and communication with the counterparts in the areas under their coverage; representing and promoting Hong Kong's trade and commercial interests; encouraging and attracting investments to Hong Kong; promoting Hong Kong's many advantages as an investment and business hub in Asia; promoting the strengths of Hong Kong through appropriate channels; providing assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland; and providing information and other appropriate support to Hong Kong residents. In 2016-17, the Mainland Offices discharged the above duties through different types of activities, including attending meetings and calling on counterparts in the Mainland; organising/participating in seminars, exhibitions and workshops; organising/participating in public relations, cultural exchange functions and

events; visiting enterprises with potential and interest in investing in Hong Kong; giving public speeches, media interviews and briefings; and issuing information circulars, newsletters and press releases, etc. The Mainland Offices will continue to discharge the above duties in 2017-18.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB042

(Question Serial No. 2643)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
Programme: Not specified
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please advise this Committee, in tabular form, of the information on the establishment, ranks, salaries and relevant allowances and staff-related expenses in respect of the directorate staff of the following units in the Estimates of Expenditure 2017-18:

1. Office of the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs;
2. Permanent Secretary and Deputy Secretaries;
3. Division 1 of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB);
4. Division 2 of CMAB;
5. Division 3 of CMAB;
6. The Office of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in Beijing;
7. Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (ETO) in Guangdong;
8. Hong Kong ETO in Shanghai;
9. Hong Kong ETO in Chengdu; and
10. Hong Kong ETO in Wuhan.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung (Member Question No. 41)

Reply:

The directorate establishment of the following units in 2017-18 is as follows:

	Directorate rank
1. Office of the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs	1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade C
2. Permanent Secretary and Deputy Secretaries	1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade A1 1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade B1 2 Administrative Officer Staff Grade B
3. Division 1 of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB)	4 Administrative Officer Staff Grade C
4. Division 2 of CMAB	2 Administrative Officer Staff Grade C
5. Division 3 of CMAB	2 Administrative Officer Staff Grade C
6. The Office of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in Beijing	1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade A 1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade B1 1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade C
7. Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (ETO) in Guangdong	1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade B
8. Hong Kong ETO in Shanghai	1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade B
9. Hong Kong ETO in Chengdu	1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade C
10. Hong Kong ETO in Wuhan	1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade C

2. The estimated expenditure on personal emoluments and personnel related expenses for the above directorate establishment in 2017-18 is around \$51.72 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB043****(Question Serial No. 3066)**

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

What is the existing establishment of the Director of Bureau's Office in the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau? What is the respective estimated provision for salaries for each member of the Office (including Director of Bureau, Deputy Director of Bureau and Political Assistant, if any) for this financial year (i.e. 2017-18)?

Post / Rank	No. of members	Estimated salary expenditure (each member)	Note

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung (Member Question No. 47)

Reply:

For 2017-18, in addition to the Director of Bureau, Deputy Director of Bureau and Political Assistant to Director of Bureau, the establishment of the Director of Bureau's Office in the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau under Programme (1) comprises 5 civil servants (an Administrative Officer Staff Grade C, a Personal Assistant, a Senior Personal Secretary, a Personal Secretary I and a Personal Chauffeur) providing support to the office.

2. In the 2017-18 estimates, the provisions for the salary in respect of the positions of Director of Bureau, Deputy Director of Bureau and Political Assistant to Director of Bureau are \$3.58 million, \$2.33 million and \$1.97 million respectively. The provisions for the salaries, allowances and related expenses for their supporting civil servants amount to around \$3.70 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB044****(Question Serial No. 3068)**

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Will the Government advise this Committee of the following:

- (1) Education or promotion activities in respect of children, people with disabilities, sexual minorities, ethnic minorities and fundamental human rights that have been organised. Please set out the activities in table form.
- (2) The estimated expenditure on the above 5 types of education or promotion activities for this financial year. Please give a breakdown as per following table:

Education/promotion activities	Estimated expenditure for 2017-18
Children	
People with disabilities	
Sexual minorities	
Ethnic minorities	
Fundamental human rights	

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung (Member Question No. 50)

Reply:

Education and promotion activities in respect of children, sexual minorities, ethnic minorities and fundamental human rights organised by this Bureau in 2016-17 are detailed at the Annex.

2. This Bureau has the following breakdowns of expenditure:

- (a) Under Programme (4), the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) is committed to increasing the community's awareness of, respect for and protection of rights of the individual; the estimated expenditure for 2017-18 is \$27.2 million. Relevant initiatives include continuing to promote children's rights through, inter alia, the Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme and the Children's Rights Forum; eliminating discrimination against sexual minorities by sponsoring worthwhile community projects through the Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme, organising various publicity and promotion programmes, encouraging public and private sector organisations to adopt the Code of Practice against Discrimination in Employment on the Ground of Sexual Orientation, and following up on the recommendations put forward by the Advisory Group on Eliminating Discrimination against Sexual Minorities in December 2015.
- (b) Under Programme (5), the CMAB has set aside provision for the Equal Opportunities Commission and the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data to carry out promotion and education programmes and law enforcement work within their statutory framework to promote rights of the individual with respect to personal data privacy, promote equal opportunities and eliminate discrimination; the estimated expenditure for 2017-18 is \$191.6 million.

3. The Government's public education and promotion activities on human rights are taken forward by a number of policy bureaux, including the CMAB, the Education Bureau, the Home Affairs Bureau and the Labour and Welfare Bureau. As education and promotion activities of various bureaux and departments are an integral part of their daily work, this Bureau is unable to provide separate breakdowns of expenditure for the work involved.

Education or Promotion Activities in respect of Children, Sexual Minorities, Ethnic Minorities and Fundamental Human Rights taken forward by the CMAB (in 2016-17)

Activities	Responsible organisation(s)	Target
<i>Children</i>		
Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme	Sponsored organisations	Members of the public, in particular children
<i>Sexual minorities</i>		
Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme	Sponsored organisations	Members of the public
Various publicity measures such as API, advertisement, seminar and briefing session to promote equal opportunities for sexual minorities (including promotion of Code of Practice against Discrimination in Employment on the Ground of Sexual Orientation)	CMAB	Members of the public
<i>Ethnic minorities</i>		
Co-operation with RTHK to produce a TV series on integration with ethnic minorities and organise a media education programme for primary and secondary school students under the theme of "racial integration"	CMAB and RTHK	Members of the public
<i>Fundamental human rights</i>		
Forums, e.g. Human Rights Forum and Children's Rights Forum	CMAB	Interested non-government organisations mainly, also open to interested members of the public
Various publicity measures such as API and advertisement to promote the Code on Access to Information	CMAB	Members of the public

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB045

(Question Serial No. 2308)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The “Outline of the 13th Five-Year Plan for the National Economic and Social Development of the People’s Republic of China” expresses support in expediting development of co-operation platforms among Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, such as Qianhai, Nansha and Hengqin, while Qianhai will mainly focus on the development of a Hong Kong/Guangdong modern service industry innovation and co-operation exemplary zone. In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee:

1. of the resources put in the Qianhai service zone;
2. whether support has been provided to small and medium enterprises; if yes, of the details; if no, of the reasons;
3. of the provision of legal support in Qianhai?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (Member Question No. 7)

Reply:

Policy matters on furthering co-operation between Hong Kong and Guangdong Province (including Qianhai in Shenzhen) in the context of deepening regional co-operation with the Mainland under Programme (2) “Constitutional and Mainland Affairs” are mainly handled by 1 division of staff in the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB). In addition, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong (Guangdong ETO) under Programme (3) “Mainland and Taiwan Offices” plays an on-site facilitation role in fostering multi-faceted co-operation between Guangdong and Hong Kong on various fronts. As the work on furthering Guangdong-Hong Kong co-operation is an integral part of the duties and functions of the officers concerned in the CMAB and the Guangdong ETO, the provision required cannot be separately singled out and itemised.

2. The HKSAR Government has been making use of the established communication mechanism with the Shenzhen Municipal Government to strive for more preferential policies and measures in Qianhai for Hong Kong people and enterprises, with a view to bringing along greater development opportunities for Hong Kong people and enterprises. For example, Qianhai has offered a 15% tax rate for qualified enterprises, and set up a special innovation and entrepreneurship development support fund for eligible Hong Kong enterprises. In addition, the Guangdong ETO and its Shenzhen Liaison Unit have been maintaining close liaison with the Qianhai Management Authority to keep abreast of the latest development of Qianhai and disseminate the latest updates on Qianhai's policies and development to Hong Kong industries in a timely manner through the publication of Guangdong ETO Newsletter and the organization of seminars and exchange sessions. The Guangdong ETO and Shenzhen Liaison Unit have also provided assistance to Hong Kong people and enterprises that wish to visit Qianhai and meet with the Qianhai Management Authority.

3. In respect of the development of legal services in Qianhai, the Department of Justice has been working in collaboration with the Shenzhen Municipal Government and relevant stakeholders to foster co-operation in the development of legal and dispute resolution services in Qianhai. For example, law firms in the two places have been allowed to set up associations in the form of partnership in Qianhai, Nansha and Hengqin on a pilot basis since September 2014. This allows the legal profession in the two places to adopt a closer business co-operation model, so as to meet the demand for cross-boundary legal services. The pilot areas have been extended to cover the entire three municipalities of Shenzhen, Guangzhou and Zhuhai since 1 June 2016. At present, 10 law firms have been approved to operate in association in the form of partnership, of which seven are operating in Qianhai. On arbitration services, the Shenzhen Court of International Arbitration, which is located in Qianhai, issued new guidelines in October 2016, stating that Hong Kong would be a default place of arbitration where the parties have not agreed on the place of arbitration, unless otherwise determined by the arbitral tribunal. This measure contributes positively to promoting Hong Kong as a place of arbitration for foreign-related arbitration cases. It is conducive to further encouraging more Hong Kong professionals to engage in the business of Shenzhen Court of International Arbitration as arbitrators, counsel or expert witnesses, thereby strengthening co-operation in arbitration services between the two places.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB046

(Question Serial No. 1455)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2017-18 include the review of the number of elected seats for the sixth term District Councils. The Bureau expects the findings of the review will be available in the middle of this year. In respect of the review, what are the specific arrangements, estimated expenditure and manpower arrangement?

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (Member Question No. 40)

Reply:

The established practice is that before a District Council (DC) ordinary election, the electoral arrangements will be reviewed, including the number of elected seats, taking into consideration, among other things, the population changes in the whole territory and each district. For the review to be conducted for the 2019 DC ordinary election, the work involved will be absorbed within the existing resources and manpower.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB047

(Question Serial No. 1456)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

To follow up on the Consultation Report on Enhancement of Voter Registration System, the Policy Address states that the Government is now drawing up proposals. What are the Bureau's planned work schedule, estimated expenditure and manpower arrangement?

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (Member Question No. 41)

Reply:

In view of the concerns expressed by members of the public on matters relating to voter registration (VR) in the 2015 VR cycle, the Government conducted a public consultation on enhancement of VR system at the end of 2015. Having considered the views received, the Government published the Consultation Report on Enhancement of Voter Registration System in January 2016, putting forward proposed measures to enhance the VR system. Measures implemented subsequently in the 2016 VR cycle include, among other things, (a) advancing the statutory deadline for change of registration particulars and aligning it with the statutory deadline for new registrations; (b) changing to use surface mail for all inquiries and notifications; and (c) further strengthening verification of address information with other Government departments.

2. As for the longer-term measures which involve amendments to various electoral legislation, including reviewing the objection mechanism in relation to the VR system, raising penalties on VR-related offences and requiring electors to provide address proofs, the Government is now drawing up the proposals and will submit the legislative proposals to the Legislative Council for consideration in due course. In respect of reviewing the objection mechanism in relation to the VR system, the Government consulted members of the Legislative Council Panel on Constitutional Affairs at the meeting on 23 February 2017.

3. In 2017-18, VR work will be carried out by a team in the Registration and Electoral Office comprising 104 civil servants (including a time-limited civil-service post) and around 50 non-civil service contract staff. The expenditure on staff remuneration and related operational expenses are estimated to be around \$51 million. The relevant work will continue to be carried in the 2017 and 2018 VR cycles.

4. The Government will review the manpower and resources requirements in the light of the relevant measures to be implemented to enhance the VR system in future.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB048

(Question Serial No. 2189)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

With respect to the Government's continuous effort to promote the rights of children as stated in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2017-18, would the Government advise this Committee:

1. of the nature of work for promoting the rights of children;
2. of the estimated expenditure and manpower arrangement for promotional work in 2017-18;
3. whether consideration has been given to step up promotion of the importance of children's rights; if yes, of the promotional efforts; if no, of the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LUK Chung-hung (Member Question No. 14)

Reply:

The Government has all along attached great importance to enhancing public awareness of the rights of children as enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In 2017-18, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau will continue to promote children's rights through implementing the Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme, organising the Children's Rights Forum, as well as publicity and public education programmes. Since the above work is performed as part of the daily duties of our staff, the manpower involved cannot be singled out or separately quantified. The estimated expenditure for these efforts is about \$1.1 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB049

(Question Serial No. 2205)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Secretary for Security

Question:

In respect of cases of entry visa and HKSAR passport replacement processed by the Mainland and Taiwan Offices, would the Government advise this Committee:

1. of the number of entry visa applications of foreign nationals processed by the Offices in the past 3 years and the nationality of the applicants;
2. of the manpower arrangement of each local office in 2017-18; whether there is adequate manpower for processing the applications effectively;
3. whether a unified mechanism has been put in place for each local office to assess the applications given the seriousness of the abuse of mechanism for non-refoulement claims; if yes, of the mechanism; if no, of the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LUK Chung-hung (Member Question No. 39)

Reply:

Immigration Divisions of the Beijing Office (BJO) and Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Shanghai (Shanghai ETO)^{Note 1} accept and process applications of foreign nationals in the Mainland for entry visas to Hong Kong. In the past 3 years, applications for entry visa (including referred applications and unreferred applications) received by the above 2 Immigration Divisions broken down by nationality of the applicants are set out in the table below^{Note 2}:

Note 1 : The Immigration Division of Shanghai ETO commenced operation on 25 October 2016 and provides visa application service with effect from 7 November 2016.

Note 2 : As the Immigration Division of the Shanghai ETO provides visa application service since 7 November 2016, the figure before 7 November 2016 reflects the number of applications received by the BJO (the Immigration Division of which also served the Shanghai ETO then).

Nationality	2014	2015	2016	Sub-total
Pakistani	19	45	41	105
Belarusian	16	22	25	63
Armenian	13	25	19	57
Burmese	26	23	8	57
Yemeni	6	24	27	57
Others	256	318	309	883
Total				1 222

2. There are a total of 2 Principal Immigration Officers, 2 Chief Immigration Officers and 6 Immigration Officers in the Immigration Divisions of BJO and Shanghai ETO. These 2 Divisions have been maintaining communication with the Hong Kong Immigration Department, monitoring closely the effectiveness in processing applications and reviewing the work procedures in a timely manner, in order to ensure that the staff of the Divisions is able to process each and every application effectively.

3. As advised by the Security Bureau, the United Nations Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol have never been applied to Hong Kong. The Government maintains a firm policy of not granting asylum to or determining the refugee status of anyone. Offices of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government outside Hong Kong will not process any asylum claims. As regards visa application, officers in the Immigration Divisions of the BJO and Shanghai ETO will carefully examine each and every application in accordance with the prevailing entry policy and internal guidelines issued by the Hong Kong Immigration Department and make reference to the latest trend of illegal immigration and overstaying, so as to facilitate the entry of genuine visitors while maintaining effective immigration control.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB050

(Question Serial No. 3197)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. In recent years, conflicts between the people of Hong Kong and the Mainland have occurred from time to time, for instance, there were a number of incidents targeting Mainland tourists over the past few years. Has the Government commissioned academic institutions to conduct studies to continuously assess the impression of Hong Kong among the people in the Mainland?
2. What are the Government's plans to tackle the issue to reduce the misunderstanding and conflicts between the people of the two places in 2017-18? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (Member Question No. 79)

Reply:

Hong Kong is a multi-cultural international city and a harmonious community with heterogeneous diversity. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government attaches great importance to promoting social and racial harmony among different groups of people in the city, and is committed to promoting the core values, such as mutual respect for people from different backgrounds in the community and equality for all, through its public education efforts. On the other hand, the HKSAR Government has been promoting Hong Kong in the Mainland, through the Information Services Department and with the assistance of the Mainland Offices, by introducing the latest developments of Hong Kong and the co-operation with the Mainland in various aspects so as to demonstrate the strong bond between the people of the two places and deepen the understanding of people of the Mainland towards Hong Kong.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB051

(Question Serial No. 2280)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The current-term Government has attached great importance to “homeland relationship” and government officials at different ranks and public officers have made frequent visits to the Mainland. Please provide a list of gifts purchased with public funds for presentation to Mainland officials or authorities during the above visits in the past year with the cost of the gifts. Has the Government drawn up an estimate of expenditure on the above item for 2017-18? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (Member Question No. 21)

Reply:

In line with the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government's green policy, public officers have as far as possible refrained from bestowing gifts/souvenirs to others during the conduct of official activities. According to the existing guidelines, where bestowal of gifts/souvenirs is necessary or unavoidable due to operational, protocol or other reasons, the gift/souvenir items should not be lavish or extravagant and the number should be kept to a minimum. Also, the exchange of gifts/souvenirs should only be made on an organisation-to-organisation basis. No expenses were incurred or are expected to be incurred by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau on purchasing of gifts for Mainland officials or departments in 2016-17 and 2017-18.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB052

(Question Serial No. 2658)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

(a) Please provide in the table below the number of complaints on discrimination lodged under the Race Discrimination Ordinance received by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC).

	No. of complaints on racial discrimination received	No. of complaints on racial discrimination handled	No. of complaints on racial discrimination substantiated	No. of cases successfully convicted
2014				
2015				
2016				
2017 (as at March)				

(b) Regarding complaints on racial discrimination, please provide information as per following table.

	No. of complaints on racial discrimination against public sector organisations	No. of complaints on racial discrimination against private sector organisations	No. of complaints on racial discrimination against actions of individuals	Others (please specify)
2014				
2015				
2016				
2017 (as at March)				

(c) What are the EOC's publicity and educational measures in relation to racial discrimination taken in the past 3 years and the expenditure involved? What is the estimated expenditure on publicity and educational efforts in 2017-18?

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (Member Question No. 24)

Reply:

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) enforces the Race Discrimination Ordinance (RDO) and implements publicity and public education programmes to promote public awareness of the RDO and racial equality. The number of complaints received by the EOC under the RDO is set out as follows:

	No. of complaints on racial discrimination received	No. of complaints on racial discrimination handled (Note 1)	Outcome of complaint cases handled (Note 2)		No. of cases successfully convicted
2014	39	42	Conciliation attempted	20	0
			Investigation discontinued	19	
2015	42	54	Conciliation attempted	11	0
			Investigation discontinued	29	
			Investigation in progress	2	
2016	202	213	Conciliation attempted	6	0
			Investigation discontinued	195	
			Investigation in progress	1	
2017 (as at 5 March)	1	8	Conciliation attempted	1	0
			Investigation discontinued	0	

2. The number of complaints on racial discrimination against public and private sector organisations and actions of individuals received under the RDO is set out below:

	No. of complaints on racial discrimination against public sector organisations (Note 3)	No. of complaints on racial discrimination against private sector organisations	No. of complaints on racial discrimination against actions of individuals	Others (please specify)
2014	4	18	17	0
2015	3	28	11	0
2016	2	20	180	0
2017 (as at 5 March)	0	0	1	0

Note 1: The number of cases handled includes the cases received in that year and those brought forward from the previous year.

Note 2: Cases which have been handled by the EOC are categorised as “Conciliation attempted” and “Investigation discontinued”; the figures provided reflect the complaint cases received in that year by category.

Note 3: Public sector organisations include government departments.

3. Over the past 3 years, the EOC’s major publicity and public education programmes relating to the elimination of racial discrimination included sponsoring non-profit-making organisations to organise programmes to promote racial integration through the Community Participation Funding Programme on Equal Opportunities; contributing articles to a number of newspapers; radio programmes; roving drama performances in schools; youth mentorship programmes; outreaching programmes for ethnic minorities; online publicity; the Equal Opportunities Drama Project; outdoor advertisements; roving exhibitions; micro film competition; slogan design competition; short video production competition; photography competition; poster design competition; promotional activities on the EOC smartphone application; annual EOC Forums; and seminars and trainings for employers, employees, education institutions, non-government organisations and community groups, etc. As advised by the EOC, its expenditures on publicity and public education (including manpower expenditure) in 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 are \$20.72 million, \$23.89 million and \$24.01 million (revised estimate) respectively, and the estimated expenditure for 2017-18 is \$23.86 million; about 25% of the aforementioned expenditures are used for the publicity and public education programmes on racial discrimination. Separately, starting from 2014-15, the Government has been providing a funding of \$4.69 million each year to the EOC for enhancing publicity and public education on the RDO. To this end, the EOC has set up an Ethnic Minorities Unit to promote equal opportunities in education and employment for ethnic minorities through advocacy, training and promotional efforts. Besides, the Government also provided an additional funding of \$2 million to the EOC in 2014-15 for promoting the RDO.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB053

(Question Serial No. 2090)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

The relevant offices will promote the strengths of Hong Kong in the Mainland and Taiwan in 2017-18. What are the estimated expenditure and manpower involved in this respect? How do they compare with those of 2016-17? What are the specific promotional efforts? In respect of facilitating the industrial and commercial sectors to tap into the Mainland and Taiwan markets, bringing in more business opportunities, what are the specific measures taken by the Government?

Separately, in respect of the indicators on promotion of strengths of Hong Kong in this financial year's Estimates, the one for public relations/cultural functions/events organised is lower than that for 2016, what are the reasons for that? The indicator on new investment promotion projects generated, however, is higher than that for 2016, what are the specific details of the projects?

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy (Member Question No. 17)

Reply:

The Mainland and Taiwan Offices (namely the Beijing Office and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan, and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan) proactively serve as important bridges between Hong Kong and the Mainland/Taiwan, including enhancing liaison and communication with the counterparts in the areas under their coverage; representing and promoting Hong Kong's trade and commercial interests; encouraging and attracting investments to Hong Kong; promoting Hong Kong's many advantages as an investment and business hub in Asia; and gathering relevant information on new laws and regulations, policies and significant regional development, and disseminating such information to the Hong Kong business sector through various channels.

2. In 2016-17, a number of initiatives have been taken forward by the Mainland and Taiwan Offices to promote Hong Kong's advantages in the Mainland and Taiwan. For example, the "Belt and Road Initiative – Joining Hands for Mutual Benefits" Thematic Exhibition, which was held as one of the events of the "Savouring Hong Kong•Liaoning 2016" by the Liaoning Liaison Unit under the Beijing Office, was attended by about 50 000 participants; the "China Food and Catering Expo 2016" held by the Hunan Liaison Unit under the Wuhan ETO attracted an attendance of over 20 000; the "Seminar on Town Planning and Construction" held by the Chengdu ETO in Xi'an was attended by over 160 members of the professional sectors; the "2016 Workshop on Mainland's Tax and Customs Policies" organised by the Guangdong ETO in Guangzhou was attended by about 150 Hong Kong-invested enterprises in the Guangdong Province; the "Belt and Road, Together We Grow" investment promotion seminar held by the Shanghai ETO in Changzhou attracted an attendance of nearly 70 enterprises; and the "Innovation & Diverse – An Amazing Hong Kong" roving exhibition held by the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan was attended by over 20 000 participants.

3. In 2017-18, the Mainland and Taiwan Offices will continue to adopt a multi-pronged approach in promoting Hong Kong through appropriate channels, including attending meetings, calling on counterparts; organising/participating in seminars, exhibitions and workshops; organising/participating in public relations, cultural exchange functions and events; visiting enterprises with potential and interest in investing in Hong Kong; giving public speeches, media interviews and briefings; and issuing information circulars, newsletters and press releases, etc. to business associations and members of the trade.

4. The Mainland and Taiwan Offices will also continue to work closely with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (TDC), which conducts thematic studies on investment environment in the Mainland and Taiwan. The related reports are available online at TDC's website, which is hyperlinked to the websites of Mainland and Taiwan Offices for easy access by the business sector and the public. The Mainland and Taiwan Offices will also assist Hong Kong businessmen operating in the Mainland and Taiwan in liaising with the relevant local authorities if they wish to obtain more in-depth information about the investment potential of a particular city in the Mainland or Taiwan.

5. In promoting inward investment, the Investment Promotion Units of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices, working together with Invest Hong Kong, will continue to identify potential Mainland and Taiwan enterprises in the areas that they cover; proactively approach and visit the enterprises identified; provide one-stop information and consultation services; and assist in organising incoming visits to facilitate the Mainland and Taiwan enterprises to set up or expand their business operations in Hong Kong.

6. As commercial relations and investment promotion activities all aim to showcase and promote Hong Kong's strengths, they complement each other. General promotion work conducted by the Investment Promotion Units also supports the Mainland and Taiwan Offices' work on liaison and economic and trade affairs.

7. Invest Hong Kong has earmarked around \$7 million each in its revised estimated expenditure for 2016-17 and estimated expenditure for 2017-18 to promote investment in the Mainland and Taiwan through the Investment Promotion Units. The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau has set aside provisions under Programme (3) for the Mainland and Taiwan Offices to enhance overall trade opportunities and promote the strengths of Hong Kong, which include investment promotion work; the provisions

earmarked in the Bureau's revised estimated expenditure for 2016-17 and estimated expenditure for 2017-18 in this respect are \$240 million and \$307 million respectively. We will set up a liaison unit each in Zhejiang Province, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and Shaanxi Province under the Shanghai ETO, Guangdong ETO and Chengdu ETO respectively before the middle of this year. The setting up of these 3 liaison units involves creation of a total of 6 new non-directorate civil service posts, namely 3 Chief Executive Officer and 3 Senior Executive Officer posts. Promoting Hong Kong's strengths is one of the duties and responsibilities of the staff of the liaison units.

8. In 2017-18, the Mainland Offices will consolidate their efforts on public relations/cultural functions/events to complement the initiative of organising more large-scale and diversified activities in the Mainland to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR. As for the indicator on new investment promotion projects generated, the increase in the 2017 indicator as compared to 2016 is mainly due to the expected increase in the number of enterprises intending to set up or expand their business operations in Hong Kong given the implementation of the policy in the Mainland to encourage enterprises to "go global" and opportunities presented by the Belt and Road Initiative.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB054

(Question Serial No. 2108)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Under Programme (3) "Mainland and Taiwan Offices", matters requiring special attention in 2017-18 include the relevant Offices' continuous efforts to improve the network of the Mainland Offices by setting up more liaison units. The Government has indicated more than once that to tie in with the Country's Belt and Road Initiative, the SAR Government will strive to deepen regional co-operation with the Mainland and tap more business and career development opportunities for Hong Kong enterprises and residents through various regional co-operation mechanisms. Please advise this Committee of the Government's plan and specific arrangements for setting up liaison units in the Mainland. With the implementation of the national strategy of Belt and Road Initiative, do the Mainland Offices and Liaison Units have any corresponding plans to complement the Belt and Road Initiative? If yes, what are the details?

Under this programme, the estimated provision for 2017-18 is \$75.2 million (26.9%) higher than the revised estimate for 2016-17. The estimated provision for 2017-18 is for, among other things, creation of 7 posts in 2017-18. Please advise this Committee of the ranks of and emoluments for these posts.

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy (Member Question No. 35)

Reply:

The Belt and Road Initiative is an important national development strategy which brings about enormous opportunities for development of both the Mainland and Hong Kong. The Mainland Offices and their liaison units have been complementing the efforts of the relevant bureaux, the Belt and Road Office and the departments concerned in this regard and have been keeping a close watch on the Country's strategies and plans for implementing the Belt and Road Initiative and the latest developments at the central, regional cooperation platform and district levels, as well as enhancing government-to-government liaison and communication to provide timely update of the latest situation to the relevant bureaux, the Belt and Road Office and the departments concerned,

and also disseminating the information to relevant industries of Hong Kong. In addition, the Mainland Offices and their liaison units also support the efforts of relevant bureaux and departments in promoting the strengths of various industries of Hong Kong in the Mainland through different means (such as seminars, exhibitions and workshops), and assist various industries in grasping the development opportunities presented by the Belt and Road Initiative.

2. The provision for 2017-18 is \$75.2 million (26.9%) higher than the revised estimate for 2016-17. This is mainly due to the increased provision of \$25.19 million for setting up more liaison units to provide better operational support to the Mainland Offices; the increased provision of \$4.03 million for setting up an Immigration Division under the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Wuhan; and the increased provision of \$38.59 million for organising activities to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR. The remaining \$7.39 million is for meeting the increased expenditure for staff cost and other operational expenses of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices. At the same time, we will create a total of 7 non-directorate civil service posts in 2017-18. Details are as follows:

- (a) 6 posts at the new liaison units to be set up. We will set up before the middle of this year one liaison unit each in Zhejiang Province, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and Shaanxi Province under the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETO) in Shanghai, Guangdong and Chengdu respectively. The setting up of these 3 liaison units involves creation of a total of 6 posts for Hong Kong-based staff, namely 3 Chief Executive Officer and 3 Senior Executive Officer posts; and
- (b) 1 Principal Immigration Officer post at the new Immigration Division to be set up under the Wuhan ETO.

The estimated expenditure on salaries and allowances for the above 7 new posts in 2017-18 is \$9.83 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB055****(Question Serial No. 2109)**Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs BureauSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal DataControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (CHANG King-yiu)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

Under Programme (5) "Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data", cases of warning notice issued by the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data in 2016 rose by 19 (111.8%) as compared to 2015. What are the issues involved in such cases?

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy (Member Question No. 36)Reply:

According to the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD), PCPD issued warning notices to complainers in a total of 36 complaint cases in 2016. All of these cases involved the breaching of data protection principles laid down in the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance, and complainers had immediately ceased the breaches and taken improvement measures after being briefed by PCPD officers on the relevant requirements. The warning notices are categorised by the breaches involved as follows:

Category of breaches	Number of cases
Collection of personal data	2
Accuracy of personal data	1
Retention of personal data	1
Use of personal data	9
Security of personal data	8
Data access request	15
Total	36

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB056

(Question Serial No. 2975)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Estimates mentions the enhancement of liaison, communication, trade and commercial relations as well as investment promotion in the Mainland and Taiwan.

Please advise on:

1. the number of new offices established in the Mainland in the past 3 years and the cities in which they are located;
2. the number of offices planned to be set up this year and the cities in which they will be located, as well as the provision set aside for taking forward the relevant work.

Asked by: Hon OR Chong-shing, Wilson (Member Question No. 36)

Reply:

We set up in Wuhan City of Hubei Province the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (ETO) in Wuhan in April 2014. Following the establishment of the Wuhan ETO, the HKSAR Government has a comprehensive network of offices in the Mainland, with the Shanghai ETO in the east, the Guangdong ETO in the south, the Chengdu ETO in the west, the Beijing Office (BJO) in the north and the Wuhan ETO in the central region.

2. Moreover, we have established 5 more liaison units for the Mainland Offices since 2014, including a liaison unit in Shenyang City of Liaoning Province under the BJO and another one in Jinan City of Shandong Province under the Shanghai ETO in December 2014 and April 2015 respectively, a liaison unit each in Changsha City of Hunan Province and Zhengzhou City of Hubei Province under Wuhan ETO in May and September 2016 respectively, and another one in Tianjin Municipality under the BJO in February this year.

3. To improve the network of the Mainland Offices, we will set up before the middle of this year one liaison unit each in Hangzhou City of Zhejiang Province, Nanning City of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and Xi'an City of Shaanxi Province under the ETOs

in Shanghai, Guangdong and Chengdu respectively. In 2017-18, we have set aside \$19.46 million under Programme (3) “Mainland and Taiwan Offices” for meeting recurrent expenditure of the above 3 liaison units.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB057

(Question Serial No. 2977)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Secretary for Security

Question:

The Estimates mentions “the provision of practical assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland”.

Please advise on: how many requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents in the Mainland were received in the past 5 years? Of these, how many cases were resolved through direct assistance of the Government?

Asked by: Hon OR Chong-shing, Wilson (Member Question No. 37)

Reply:

Immigration Divisions are currently set up under the Beijing Office and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Guangdong, Chengdu and Shanghai to provide practical assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland.

2. In 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016, a total of 362, 353, 340, 407 and 319 requests for assistance were received respectively from Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. The Immigration Divisions had rendered practical assistance in the light of actual circumstances.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB058

(Question Serial No. 1925)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

With respect to the continuous effort to deepen regional co-operation with the Mainland, targeting in particular at Guangdong, Beijing, Shanghai, Fujian and other provinces and regions in the Pan-Pearl River Delta Region, please advise this Committee of:

- (a) the measures to be taken to deepen co-operation with the target provinces/municipalities/regions and the areas of co-operation;
- (b) the estimated provisions set aside for each of these provinces/municipalities/regions, the specific exchange activities to be organised and the expected results in table form.

Asked by: Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael (Member Question No. 38)

Reply:

Policy matters on deepening regional co-operation with the Mainland under Programme (2) "Constitutional and Mainland Affairs" are mainly handled by 2 divisions of staff in the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB). In addition, the Beijing Office and the 4 Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan (Mainland Offices) respectively under Programme (3) "Mainland and Taiwan Offices" play a facilitating and co-ordinating role in fostering closer ties and co-operation with the Mainland at various levels. The goal of the work to deepen regional co-operation with the Mainland is to facilitate relevant policy bureaux and departments in strengthening regional co-operation with the Mainland in various areas including economic and trade, financial services, innovation and technology, professional services, tourism, culture, education, engineering, environmental protection, food safety, youth exchanges, etc. Specific measures for taking forward the initiative may include organising high-level regional co-operation conferences and co-operation fora on a regular and need basis; and organising or co-organising thematic seminars, exhibitions and workshops, etc. to promote Hong Kong's strengths as well as trade and commercial interests through various effective means at the government-to-government, government-to-business and other levels.

2. As the work on deepening regional co-operation is an integral part of the duties and functions of the officers concerned in the CMAB and the Mainland Offices, the provision required cannot be separately singled out and itemised. Generally speaking, an estimated financial provision of about \$171 million (excluding staff cost) under the 2 said Programmes is for the CMAB and the Mainland Offices to take forward the work to deepen regional co-operation with the Mainland in 2017-18.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB059****(Question Serial No. 1353)**

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Secretary for Security

Question:

1. Would the Government advise the number of requests for assistance received in the past 3 years, with breakdown by nature of assistance rendered to Hong Kong residents in the 2 places given that one of the responsibilities of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices is to provide information and other appropriate support to Hong Kong residents in the Mainland and Taiwan?
2. What are the expenditure incurred and manpower arrangement for the above work?
3. How would the offices handle the requests if the assistance required goes beyond the scope of support services of the offices; whether the requests would be referred to other authorities for following up; if yes, of the number of the requests referred, with breakdown by authorities and nature of assistance?

Asked by: Hon WONG Kwok-kin (Member Question No. 11)

Reply:

The number of requests for assistance received by the Mainland Offices in the past 3 years, with breakdown by nature of cases, is set out in the table below:

Year	Requests for assistance relating to immigration and personal safety matters	Other assistance cases*
2014	340	144
2015	407	113
2016	319	147

* Excluding general enquiries

2. Upon receipt of requests for assistance, the Mainland Offices will assist in relaying the opinions and requests of Hong Kong residents in the Mainland to the Mainland authorities for following up in the light of circumstances. As the nature and complexity of the cases vary, the Mainland Offices cannot provide a breakdown by authorities to which the requests were referred.

3. In the past 3 years, the number of requests for assistance (excluding general enquiries) by Hong Kong residents received by the Hong Kong Economic Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan (HKETCO) are as follows:

2014: 35

2015: 32

2016: 47

Those who requested assistance included Hong Kong tourists and Hong Kong residents staying or settling in Taiwan. Generally speaking, the requests for assistance are related to loss of personal documentation, requests for legal assistance in Taiwan or injuries/deaths due to accidents. The HKETCO maintains close liaison with the Hong Kong Immigration Department and offers possible assistance in the light of circumstances, including providing advice on such matters as local administrative procedures, and how to liaise with the relevant organisations or seek legal advice.

4. As regards other appropriate support, the Mainland and Taiwan Offices collect practical information including medical care, education, legal services etc., and disseminate such information through production of information booklets and the offices' websites to assist Hong Kong residents to adapt to living in the area. The Mainland and Taiwan Offices have published booklets on living in Beijing, Tianjin, Shenyang, Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu, Chongqing, Xi'an, Hangzhou, Guiyang, Wuhan, Changsha and Taiwan. The Mainland and Taiwan Offices also maintain close liaison with organisations of Hong Kong residents, business associations, enterprises and student groups to better understand the situations of Hong Kong residents working, studying and living in the Mainland/Taiwan, and to provide appropriate assistance when necessary. Examples of such assistance include organising events for Hong Kong residents there to share their experiences in daily lives, holding career talks and providing information on further study and job opportunities in Hong Kong, etc. to address the needs of Hong Kong students. Besides, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong has commissioned an organisation to provide free legal advisory service to Hong Kong residents in need through a telephone hotline or by arranging Mainland duty lawyers to meet the assistance seekers to provide preliminary opinions on Mainland-related legal matters.

5. As providing information and other appropriate support to Hong Kong residents in the Mainland and Taiwan is an integral part of the duties and functions of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices, the estimated expenditure and manpower involved cannot be separately singled out and itemised.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB060

(Question Serial No. 1354)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In respect of engaging the Taiwan-Hong Kong Economic and Cultural Co-operation Council (THEC) to take forward various priority areas of co-operation agreed between the Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic and Cultural Co-operation and Promotion Council and THEC, would the Government advise this Committee of:

1. the areas of co-operation in detail;
2. the estimated expenditure and manpower required;
3. the timetable for taking forward the areas of co-operation concerned?

Asked by: Hon WONG Kwok-kin (Member Question No. 12)

Reply:

The Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic and Cultural Cooperation Promotion Council (ECCPC) and Taiwan-Hong Kong Economic and Cultural Co-operation Council (THEC) have, since their establishment in 2010, agreed to pursue co-operation on various priority areas covering different public policy matters, including transportation, financial regulation, healthcare, food safety, cultural and creative industries, tourism, economic and trade, law, education, environmental protection, heritage conservation, consumer goods safety, testing and certification, meteorological services, responses to natural disasters, nature conservation, intellectual property, urban renewal, promotion of water saving, etc.

2. As the secretariat to the ECCPC, this Bureau co-ordinates the participation of bureaux and departments in the matters pursued on the ECCPC-THEC platform. As such work is an integral part of our duties in supporting Hong Kong-Taiwan co-operation, the manpower expenditure involved cannot be separately singled out and itemised. With the ECCPC-THEC platform, the communication mechanism between Hong Kong and Taiwan has been institutionalised. Both sides will continue to promote exchanges and co-operation on public policy matters in the spirit of pragmatism and mutual benefit.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB061

(Question Serial No. 1356)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In respect of the continuous effort to set up more liaison units to improve the network of Mainland Offices, will the Government advise this Committee of the locations where these units are to be set up as well as the timetable, provision set aside and manpower arrangement for setting up these units?

Asked by: Hon WONG Kwok-kin (Member Question No. 14)

Reply:

To improve the network of Mainland Offices, we will set up before the middle of this year one liaison unit each in Zhejiang Province, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and Shaanxi Province under the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Shanghai, Guangdong and Chengdu respectively. In 2017-18, we have set aside \$19.46 million for meeting the recurrent expenditure of the above 3 liaison units. The setting up of these 3 liaison units involves creation of a total of 6 posts for Hong Kong-based staff, namely 3 Chief Executive Officer and 3 Senior Executive Officer posts.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB062****(Question Serial No. 2413)**

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

What are the actual, revised and estimated expenditures incurred/to be incurred on visits to Mainland/Taiwan authorities and trade organisations in 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 respectively?

Asked by: Hon WONG Pik-wan, Helena (Member Question No. 20)

Reply:

One of the responsibilities of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices (namely the Beijing Office and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan, and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan) is to enhance trade opportunities in the Mainland and Taiwan. The actual number of visits of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices to these authorities and trade organisations in 2015 and 2016, and the estimated number of visits in 2017 are tabulated as follows:

	2015 (Actual)	2016 (Actual)	2017 (Estimate)
Number of visits to Mainland/Taiwan authorities and trade organisations	800	856	900

2. Visits to Mainland/Taiwan authorities and trade organisations are an integral part of the work of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices. The expenditure involved cannot be separately singled out and itemised.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB063

(Question Serial No. 2424)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Secretary for Security

Question:

1. Please provide the numbers of cases where practical assistance was provided to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland by the Beijing Office (BJO) and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan in the past 3 years and the nature of such cases.
2. Please provide the numbers of cases where information and other appropriate support were provided to Hong Kong residents in the Mainland and Taiwan by the BJO, the ETOs in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan, and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan in each of the past 3 years.
3. In respect of other appropriate support, what does the support refer to?
4. Had the Government reviewed the functions and effectiveness of performance of the Mainland Offices or Liaison Units in the past 3 years?

Asked by: Hon WONG Pik-wan, Helena (Member Question No. 19)

Reply:

Immigration Divisions are currently set up under the Beijing Office (BJO) and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Guangdong, Chengdu and Shanghai to provide assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. In 2014, 2015 and 2016, these Immigration Divisions received 340, 407 and 319 cases of request for assistance from Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland respectively. The requests were related to loss of travel documents or money; persons involved in accidents, injuries or other incidents.

2. As regards other appropriate support, the Mainland and Taiwan Offices collect and update practical information including medical care, education, legal services etc., and disseminate such information through production of information booklets and the offices' websites to assist Hong Kong residents to adapt to living in the area. In 2014, 2015 and

2016, the Mainland and Taiwan Offices published booklets on living in Beijing, Tianjin, Shenyang, Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu, Chongqing, Xi'an, Hangzhou, Guiyang, Wuhan, Changsha and Taiwan. The Mainland and Taiwan Offices also maintain close liaison with organisations of Hong Kong residents, business associations, enterprises and student groups to better understand the situations of Hong Kong residents working, studying and living in the Mainland/Taiwan, and to provide appropriate assistance when necessary. Examples of such assistance include organising events for Hong Kong residents there to share their experiences in daily lives, holding career talks and providing information on further study and job opportunities in Hong Kong, etc. to address the needs of Hong Kong students.

3. Besides, the Mainland Offices will relay the opinions and requests of Hong Kong residents in the Mainland to the Mainland authorities for follow-up. The Guangdong ETO has also commissioned an organisation to provide free legal advisory service to Hong Kong residents in need through a telephone hotline or by arranging Mainland duty lawyers to meet the assistance seekers to provide preliminary opinions on Mainland-related legal matters. In 2014, 2015 and 2016, 2 264, 2 251 and 1 993 requests for free legal advisory service were received respectively.

4. We review the functions of the Mainland Offices and their liaison units from time to time to provide better support to Hong Kong residents and enterprises in the Mainland. Since 2013, we have enhanced the functions of the Mainland Offices, including strengthening liaison with Hong Kong people and groups in the Mainland and providing them with information and assistance; conducting researches on national policies and disseminating related findings to facilitate Hong Kong residents and enterprises to seize development opportunities; enhancing communication and publicity (including holding roving exhibitions, cultural performances and producing programmes in collaboration with local media, etc.) targeted at different sectors in the Mainland to promote the strengths of Hong Kong and foster mutual understanding and respect between Hong Kong and the Mainland; setting up an Immigration Division each under the Chengdu ETO and Shanghai ETO in 2013 and 2016 respectively and planning to set up another Immigration Division under the Wuhan ETO before the end of this year so that each Mainland Office will have its own Immigration Division to provide more timely assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland; and creating the post of Head (Cultural Exchange) under BJO in 2016 to enhance promotion of cultural and arts exchanges and co-operation between Hong Kong and the Mainland.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB064

(Question Serial No. 2505)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. Please list out the locations in the Mainland where the liaison units are to be set up in 2017 as well as the rent, staffing establishment and estimated set-up costs (excluding rent) of these units.
2. What are the detailed work plans of these liaison units in 2017?

Asked by: Hon WONG Pik-wan, Helena (Member Question No. 23)

Reply:

To improve the network of Mainland Offices, we will set up before the middle of this year one liaison unit each in Zhejiang Province, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and Shaanxi Province under the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Shanghai, Guangdong and Chengdu respectively. In 2017-18, we have set aside \$19.46 million for meeting the recurrent expenditure of the above 3 liaison units. The setting up of these 3 liaison units involves creation of a total of 6 posts for Hong Kong-based staff, namely 3 Chief Executive Officer and 3 Senior Executive Officer posts. As the fixed office accommodation of the 3 new liaison units has yet to be confirmed, information on rental expense is not available at the moment.

2. The above 3 liaison units will assist their respective Economic and Trade Offices in liaising with the province/region under their coverage, including strengthening liaison and communication with provincial/regional government authorities, enhancing economic and trade relations, fostering co-operation between Hong Kong and the relevant province/region and promoting Hong Kong, and supporting Hong Kong residents and enterprises in the service area, etc.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB065

(Question Serial No. 2755)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. In respect of promotion and co-ordination of co-operation with the Mainland, the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR) and Taiwan, what is the number of occasions where advice is offered to bureaux and departments in each of the past 3 years?
2. What are the respective numbers of formal meetings with Mainland, MSAR and Taiwan officials held in the past 3 years? Please provide a list of authorities with which the Bureau met in each of these years and set out the actual, revised and estimated expenditures incurred/to be incurred in 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18.

Asked by: Hon WONG Pik-wan, Helena (Member Question No. 14)

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) is responsible for the overall co-ordination of efforts of the HKSAR Government in promoting co-operation with the Mainland, Macao and Taiwan. We also assist relevant policy bureaux and departments to initiate and take forward specific co-operation projects under their purview. In this regard, we advise the bureaux and departments from time to time on related matters and meet with officials of relevant authorities in the Mainland, Macao or Taiwan as necessary to exchange views or discuss matters of mutual concern. As the relevant work is an integral part of the regular duties of the officers concerned in the CMAB, we do not maintain records of the number of occasions where advice is offered to bureaux and departments or the number of meetings with officials of relevant authorities in the Mainland, Macao and Taiwan. Accordingly, the expenditure required cannot be separately singled out and itemised.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB066

(Question Serial No. 2766)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

On organisation of activities in the Mainland to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR, please set out the venues, numbers, contents, expected numbers of participants and estimated expenditure of the Mainland events.

Asked by: Hon WONG Pik-wan, Helena (Member Question No. 22)

Reply:

The year 2017 marks the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR). The HKSAR Government will organise a wide variety of celebration events during the year under the theme of “Together•Progress•Opportunity” to showcase the successful implementation of “one country, two systems”, bring about social cohesion and unity, build up confidence, and seize opportunities.

2. In 2017-18, the Mainland Offices (namely the Beijing Office and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan) and the liaison units under their purview will organise a series of events in their respective service areas to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR. These events include exhibitions, cultural performances, gala dinners or receptions, youth or student programmes, film festivals, etc., which will be held in major cities in the Mainland from the second to the fourth quarter of this year. We have set aside a sum of \$40.93 million in 2017-18 to meet the expenditure of the events. The number of participants may vary depending on the nature of the events, and is estimated to range from several dozens (youth or student programmes) to tens of thousands (exhibitions).

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB067

(Question Serial No. 2768)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. What are the existing eligibility criteria for drawing the disturbance allowance?
2. Please set out the number of staff eligible for receiving the allowance in 2015, 2016 and 2017.

Asked by: Hon WONG Pik-wan, Helena (Member Question No. 26)

Reply:

A one-off disturbance allowance is paid to officers when they are posted in the Mainland and Taiwan Offices and when they return to Hong Kong on completion of their tour in compensation for the miscellaneous expenses consequential upon the outside-Hong Kong postings and changes in daily life. The amount of the disturbance allowance paid to each officer varies depending on the salary drawn, the number of accompanying immediate family members and the duration of the posting. The actual numbers of officers who had drawn the allowance in 2015-16 and 2016-17 are both 55, while the number of officers eligible for drawing the allowance in 2017-18 is estimated to be 57.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB068

(Question Serial No. 2774)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. What are the measures taken to continue to deepen regional co-operation with the Mainland?
2. In engaging the Taiwan-Hong Kong Economic and Cultural Co-operation Council (THEC) to take forward various priority co-operation areas agreed between the Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic and Cultural Cooperation and Promotion Council and THEC, what are the co-operation areas agreed?

Asked by: Hon WONG Pik-wan, Helena (Member Question No. 15)

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) handles policy matters on deepening regional co-operation with the Mainland. In addition, the Beijing Office and the 4 Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan play a facilitating and co-ordinating role in fostering closer ties and co-operation with the Mainland at various levels. The goal of the work to deepen regional co-operation with the Mainland is to facilitate relevant policy bureaux and departments in strengthening regional co-operation with the Mainland in various areas including economic and trade, financial services, innovation and technology, professional services, tourism, culture, education, engineering, environmental protection, food safety, youth exchanges, etc. Specific measures for taking forward the initiative may include organising high-level regional co-operation conferences and co-operation fora on a regular and need basis; and organising or co-organising thematic seminars, exhibitions and workshops, etc. to promote Hong Kong's strengths as well as trade and commercial interests through various effective means at the government-to-government, government-to-business and other levels.

2. The Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic and Cultural Cooperation Promotion Council and Taiwan-Hong Kong Economic and Cultural Co-operation Council have, since their establishment in 2010, agreed to pursue co-operation on various priority areas covering different public policy matters, including transportation, financial regulation, healthcare,

food safety, cultural and creative industries, tourism, economic and trade, law, education, environmental protection, heritage conservation, consumer goods safety, testing and certification, meteorological services, responses to natural disasters, nature conservation, intellectual property, urban renewal, promotion of water saving, etc.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB069

(Question Serial No. 0684)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Please set out the numbers and nature of enquires, requests for assistance and complaints made to the Mainland Offices by Hong Kong enterprises and investors in the Mainland in the past year, the outcome of the cases, as well as the financial resources and manpower involved.

Asked by: Hon WONG Ting-kwong (Member Question No. 17)

Reply:

In 2016, the Mainland Offices (namely the Beijing Office and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan) received a total of 11 043 enquiries, which included those from Hong Kong enterprises and investors in the Mainland. Besides, the Mainland Offices received 147 assistance cases and complaints which were not related to immigration and personal safety matters. As the nature and complexity of the cases vary, the Mainland Offices cannot provide a breakdown on the different handling stages on each case.

2. As providing assistance to Hong Kong enterprises and investors in the Mainland is an integral part of the duties and functions of the Mainland Offices, the estimated expenditure and manpower involved cannot be separately singled out and itemised.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB070

(Question Serial No. 3252)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please set out the respective numbers of staff members in and establishments of various offices in the Mainland, the grades to which these staff members belong, the percentages of civil servants and non-civil servants as well as Hong Kong residents and Mainland residents against the total number of staff members, and the operating expenses of various offices.

Asked by: Hon WONG Ting-kwong (Member Question No. 18)

Reply:

The establishment of the Beijing Office (BJO) for 2017-18 will comprise 3 directorate officers (namely 1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade A, 1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade B1 and 1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade C) and 19 non-directorate officers (namely 2 Senior Administrative Officers, 1 Chief Curator, 2 Principal Trade Officers, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer, 3 Immigration Officers, 1 Chief Information Officer, 1 Information Officer, 1 Senior Executive Officer, 1 Executive Officer I and 1 Senior Personal Secretary). In addition, there will be 34 supporting personnel engaged locally.

2. The establishment of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (ETO) in Guangdong for 2017-18 will comprise 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade B) and 17 non-directorate officers (namely 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Chief Executive Officer, 4 Principal Trade Officers, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer, 2 Immigration Officers, 1 Principal Information Officer and 2 Senior Executive Officers). In addition, there will be 30 supporting personnel engaged locally.

3. The establishment of the Shanghai ETO for 2017-18 will comprise 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade B) and 15 non-directorate officers (namely 2 Senior Administrative Officers, 1 Chief Executive Officer, 1 Principal Trade Officer, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer, 3 Immigration Officers, 1 Senior Information Officer and 1 Senior Executive Officer). In addition, there will be 20 supporting personnel engaged locally.

4. The establishment of the Chengdu ETO for 2017-18 will comprise 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade C) and 13 non-directorate officers (namely 2 Senior Administrative Officers, 1 Chief Executive Officer, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Senior Information Officer, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer, 2 Immigration Officers and 1 Senior Executive Officer). In addition, there will be 18 supporting personnel engaged locally.

5. The establishment of the Wuhan ETO for 2017-18 will comprise 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade C) and 10 non-directorate officers (namely 2 Senior Administrative Officers, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Principal Trade Officer, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Senior Information Officer and 1 Senior Executive Officer). In addition, there will be 20 supporting personnel engaged locally.

6. The estimated expenditure of the BJO, Guangdong ETO, Shanghai ETO, Chengdu ETO and Wuhan ETO for 2017-18 is provided below:

Office	Estimated expenditure for 2017-18 (\$ million)
BJO	95.59
Guangdong ETO	69.58
Shanghai ETO	63.90
Chengdu ETO	54.50
Wuhan ETO	46.02

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB071

(Question Serial No. 2626)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development
Secretary for Security

Question:

What is the expenditure incurred in maintaining contacts with the departments of the Central People's Government and foreign diplomatic organisations in Beijing in the past 3 years? What is the manpower involved? What are the estimated expenditure in 2017-18 and the manpower involved?

Asked by: Hon YIU Chung-yim (Member Question No. 26)

Reply:

Various policy bureaux and departments of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government have been maintaining contact with the departments of the Central People's Government (CPG) on operational needs to ensure effective mutual exchanges. For the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB), it is responsible for coordinating liaison between the HKSAR Government and the relevant authorities of the CPG, such as following up on the "Outline of the Thirteenth Five-Year Plan for the National Economic and Social Development", as well as promoting regional co-operation initiatives between Hong Kong and the Mainland, facilitating relevant bureaux and departments to initiate and take forward specific co-operation initiatives under their respective policy purviews (including preparing for high-level regional co-operation conferences and co-operation fora which are held on a regular and need basis; and organising or co-organising thematic workshops, exhibitions and seminars, etc., to promote Hong Kong's strengths as well as trade and commercial interests through various effective means at the government-to-government, government to business sector, and other levels). In this connection, the CMAB has liaised with officials of relevant authorities of the CPG from time to time on operational needs to exchange views or deliberate on matters of mutual concern. Besides, the Beijing Office also liaises with foreign diplomatic organisations in Beijing on operational needs as appropriate. As the above work is an integral part of the overall responsibilities and duties of the officers concerned, we do not keep a separate

account to capture related expenditure, and the expenditure required cannot be separately singled out and itemised.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB072

(Question Serial No. 2628)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

For projects sponsored under the Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme in the past 3 years, please list out the sponsored organisations, the amount of sponsorship, names of projects, brief description of the activities, numbers of participants aged 18 and above and those aged under 18.

Asked by: Hon YIU Chung-yim (Member Question No. 27)

Reply:

Information on projects sponsored under the Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme from 2014-15 to 2016-17 is set out at the Annex.

**2014-15 Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme
List of Sponsored Projects**

Sponsored organisation	Name of project	Activity	Amount of sponsorship (HK\$)	Date of activity	No. of participants (aged 18 and above)	No. of participants (aged under 18)
St. Charles School	童體驗童權*	Activities include visit, competition and fun fair	6,400	May to September	1 500	1 500
The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong Jockey Club Cheung Hang Children and Youth Integrated Services Centre	「權利【童】學會」兒童權利推廣計劃*	Activities include ambassador training, workshop, camp site activities, exhibition and fun fair	28,000	May to October	300	755
Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong Hin Keng Centre	Children's Rights 2014	Activities include children councillor training, workshop, visit, drama, exhibition, mock debate and briefing session	52,990	February to September	2 000	6 132
Pentecostal Church of Hong Kong Nam Cheong Nursery School	Small eyes look at Hong Kong	Activities include workshop, community visit, performance, exhibition and fun fair	18,680	March to June	404	414
The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong Jockey Club Yau Tong Children and Youth Integrated Services Centre	Shall We Play	Activities include workshop, camp site activities, drama, exhibition and fun fair	17,840	January to October	0	1 035

Sponsored organisation	Name of project	Activity	Amount of sponsorship (HK\$)	Date of activity	No. of participants (aged 18 and above)	No. of participants (aged under 18)
Hong Kong Association of the Deaf	Family Day Camp: Understanding United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child	Activities include day camp and group activities	15,100	July	70	50
Hong Kong Association of the Deaf	Deaf Children's Rights Leadership Scheme and Sign Language Promotion of the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child	Activities include workshop and sharing session	9,900	March to October	0	30
Jockey Club Wah Ming Lutheran Integrated Service Centre	Children's rights in our community	Activities include competition, community exhibition promotion and fun fair	14,955	April to August	100	1 200
St. Stephen's Girls' College	CHILDREAM	Activities include school exhibition promotion and fun fair	12,585	July	500	1 500
Hong Kong Children & Youth Services Jockey Club Fanling Integrated Children & Youth Services Centre	童聲X G30高峰之旅*	Activities include camp site activities, community study and sharing session	21,680	May to October	240	28
Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong Shek Kip Mei Centre	"Participation and Development" Children's Rights Ambassadors	Activities include workshop, competition and community promotion	16,300	May to October	0	2 440

Sponsored organisation	Name of project	Activity	Amount of sponsorship (HK\$)	Date of activity	No. of participants (aged 18 and above)	No. of participants (aged under 18)
Hong Kong New Arrivals Services Foundation Limited	小眼睛，大世界—兒童權利推廣計劃*	Activities include children councillor training, camp site activities, community study competition, community promotion and briefing session	31,430	February to December	52	250
New Home Association New Territories East Service Centre	To be a Legislative Councillor	Activities include children councillor training, workshop, exhibition, talk and mock conference	25,650	March to October	300	500
Holy Cross Lutheran School	A Scheme of Little Author	Activities include workshop, classroom activities and exhibition	25,700	March to October	0	300
The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong Jockey Club Sau Mau Ping Children and Youth Integrated Services Centre	「童」看權利—「童」攜手齊發「聲」計劃*	Activities include workshop, questionnaire survey, exhibition, community promotion and briefing session	4,300	March to August	80	130
ELCHK Tai Wo Integrated Youth Service Centre	“Children's Stories” Children's Rights Education Project	Activities include children ambassador training, workshop, competition, talk and fun fair	35,200	March to October	345	3 240
Yan Oi Tong Community Centre	兒童動「喜」來*	Activities include workshop, camp site activities and production of large drawing	14,310	July to December	1 992	135

Sponsored organisation	Name of project	Activity	Amount of sponsorship (HK\$)	Date of activity	No. of participants (aged 18 and above)	No. of participants (aged under 18)
Hong Kong - Macao Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Shan King Integrated Children and Youth Services Centre of Seventh-day Adventists	Different points of view from children	Activities include workshop, visit, mock debate, production of publication and sharing session	5,500	July to December	60	164
Hong Kong Women Development Association Limited	“Children’s Rights Uprising” Children’s Rights Education Project	Activities include workshop, exhibition and fun fair cum commendation ceremony	25,170	July to December	150	190
Hong Kong Christian Service Central Nursery School	“Care who we are, Hear what we deliver.” Project of children rights in society involvement activity	Activities include workshop, talk day camp, visit, community study, exhibition and sharing session	28,800	February to September	700	300
Sham Ching Youth Association Limited	「深。愛」兒童權利推廣計劃*	Activities include workshop and fun fair	10,200	July to September	220	180
The Hong Kong Institute of Education Alumni Association	「童心童真」兒童權利創意明信片設計比賽*	Activities include competition, exhibition of works and production of publication	25,550	April to October	50	150
Neighbourhood & Worker’s Education Centre Tin Shui Wai Women Integrated Service Centre	Drawing Rainbow - Child’s Rights Creative Project	Activities include workshop, exhibition of works and pamphlet production	10,680	April to September	360	40

Sponsored organisation	Name of project	Activity	Amount of sponsorship (HK\$)	Date of activity	No. of participants (aged 18 and above)	No. of participants (aged under 18)
Chai Wan Kok Catholic Primary School	〈兒童要有 SAY!〉兒童權利推廣計劃*	Activities include drama performance, competition, school exhibition promotion and seminar	5,300	March to November	1 000	1 000
Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service	Children Voice and Creation - Children's Rights Project 2014	Activities include day camp, social service, workshop, photo exhibition and sharing session	31,300	April to September	5 060	5 265
Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong Tuen Mun Centre	Children First	Activities include children councillor training, group activities, camp site activities, competition and fun fair	39,600	March to August	250	400
Asbury Methodist Social Service	"Share the Happiness" Children's Rights Promotion Scheme	Activities include workshop, visit, interview, community visit, competition and fun fair	23,100	March to October	160	2 590
The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong Jockey Club Ma On Shan Children and Youth Integrated Services Centre	Seize the Rights, Make the Fun	Activities include workshop, community exhibition and fun fair	24,466	May to September	2 075	2 006
Hong Kong Evangelical Church Yan Lam Community Centre	Child in my Heart	Activities include talk, community exhibition promotion, workshop and social service	26,500	April to October	180	1 400

Sponsored organisation	Name of project	Activity	Amount of sponsorship (HK\$)	Date of activity	No. of participants (aged 18 and above)	No. of participants (aged under 18)
Against Child Abuse Limited	Children's Council 2014	Activities include children councillor training, workshop, camp site activities, community study, mock conference and production of publication	258,900	May to December	1 000	1 000
The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong	Junior Chief Executive	Activities include children ambassador training, workshop, camp site activities, mock conference, production of publication and short film, briefing session	138,390	February to December	85	200
Roundtable Community Limited	"WE SAY YES!" 2014 Children Leadership Training Program: Hong Kong Children's Rights Summit	Activities include workshop, camp site activities and mock conference	96,120	October to December	20	150
The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong Jockey Club South Kwai Chung Children and Youth Integrated Services Centre	Children District Councilors	Activities include children councilor training, workshop, camp site activities, interview, competition, community promotion, prize presentation ceremony and production of publication	59,500	June to January next year	375	1 245

Sponsored organisation	Name of project	Activity	Amount of sponsorship (HK\$)	Date of activity	No. of participants (aged 18 and above)	No. of participants (aged under 18)
Kowloon Federation of Associations Youth Volunteer Group	Child · Fun Campaign	Activities include children ambassador training, camp site activities, community exhibition promotion, and sharing session cum fun fair	113,100	February to December	3 000	11 000
Hong Kong Young Women's Christian Association	Potential Advancement Training Project	Activities include visit, workshop, camp site activities and fun fair	23,920	July to August	82	180
Total					22 710	47 099

* The project does not have an English name

**2015-16 Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme
List of Sponsored Projects**

Sponsored organisation	Name of project	Activity	Amount of sponsorship (HK\$)	Date of activity	No. of participants (aged 18 and above)	No. of participants (aged under 18)
St. Charles School	童遊戲・童參與・童享樂*	Activities include class activities, competition and fun fair	7,750	January to September	1 500	1 500
The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong Jockey Club Yau Tong Children and Youth Integrated Services Centre	安樂窩?*	Activities include workshop, camp site activities, community visit and interview and short film production	8,570	July to September	100	216
Hong Kong Women Development Association Limited	"Children's Rights Uprising of 2015" Children's Rights Education Project	Activities include group activities, short film production and exhibition cum fun fair	39,570	July to August	150	190
Pentecostal Church of Hong Kong Tseung Kwan O Nursery School	Children's Rights & Obligations	Activities include children ambassador training, workshop, social service, talk and commendation ceremony	40,800	January to August	280	220
Hong Kong Young Women's Christian Association	"What are my Rights?" Training Project	Activities include workshop, camp site activities, visit and fun fair	30,080	July to August	80	200
The Church of United Brethren in Christ Yuen Long Social Service Centre	Children dream to see the world	Activities include competition, community panel promotion, camp site activities and visit	23,610	April to August	530	1 630

Sponsored organisation	Name of project	Activity	Amount of sponsorship (HK\$)	Date of activity	No. of participants (aged 18 and above)	No. of participants (aged under 18)
The Girls' Brigade Hong Kong	BaBe Project	Activities include workshop, visit, sharing session and pamphlet production	15,040	April to August	70	470
Lok Sin Tong Leung Wong Wai Fong Memorial School	Duties and Rights for Freedom	Activities include workshop, visit, community study, competition, sharing session and pamphlet production	19,150	January to July	30	1 187
Special Educational Needs & Parents Association Limited	Children's Rights Artbook Workshop	Activities include workshop, competition, exhibition of works and production of publication	26,390	February to September	1 400	418
Hong Kong Association of the Deaf	Family Night Camp: Learning how to apply United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child into the families	Activities include camp site and group activities	21,750	July	30	30
Hong Kong Association of the Deaf	To be a Quality Councillor: Sign Language Promotion of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child	Activities include children ambassador training, workshop, mock forum and short film production	10,000	April to September	75	25
Jockey Club Wah Ming Lutheran Integrated Service Centre	Children's Voices on Children's Rights	Activities include camp site activities, community promotion and fun fair	18,220	February to September	0	1 314
ELCHK Tai Wo Integrated Youth Service Centre	"Children's World" Children's Rights Education Project	Activities include workshop, drama performance and story-telling competition	15,290	January to May	280	210

Sponsored organisation	Name of project	Activity	Amount of sponsorship (HK\$)	Date of activity	No. of participants (aged 18 and above)	No. of participants (aged under 18)
Urdu Neighbour Centre Limited	Understanding the Children's Rights	Activities include children ambassador training, workshop, sharing session and fun fair	32,250	January to July	400	600
Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong Hin Keng Centre	Silence • Sound	Activities include workshop, visit, short film production and sharing session	20,950	April to September	2 000	286
KELY Support Group Limited	"Know It, Say It" Project for Ethnic Minority Youth	Activities include workshop activities, visit, sharing session and school promotion	47,100	January to September	520	30
New Home Association Legal Advice and Service Centre	Child Steps in the Legal World	Activities include children ambassador training, workshop, community study, mock court debate, community exhibition promotion and sharing session	59,700	January to July	250	580
Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong Shek Kip Mei Centre	"Love, Participation and Development" Children's Rights Ambassadors Project	Activities include workshop, competition, community and school promotion	16,850	April to September	800	460
Hong Kong - Macao Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Shan King Integrated Children and Youth Services Centre of Seventh-day Adventists	Know more about children	Activities include workshop, mock forum, short film production and sharing session	5,650	April to September	20	120

Sponsored organisation	Name of project	Activity	Amount of sponsorship (HK\$)	Date of activity	No. of participants (aged 18 and above)	No. of participants (aged under 18)
Yan Oi Tong Community Centre	「童」・成長*	Activities include debate competition	20,950	October to December	1 000	50
Kowloon Federation of Associations Youth Volunteer Group	"Playright" Children's Development Program	Activities include workshop, camp site activities, competition, exhibition cum fun fair	110,900	February to November	2 000	12 000
The Hong Kong Committee on Children's Rights Limited	Children's Council 2015	Activities include children ambassador training, workshop, camp site activities, mock conference and production of publication	240,260	March to December	1 000	1 000
Hong Kong U-Rounders	"Have Fun • We Share" 2015 Children Leadership Training Program: Hong Kong Children's Rights Summit	Activities include workshop, school promotion and mock conference	155,850	October to December	1 400	100
New Home Association New Territories East Service Centre	To be a Legislative Councillor	Activities include workshop, camp site activities, interview, community study, mock conference and fun fair	77,550	March to November	500	1 000
The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups Tsuen King Youth SPOT	Give me rights in my life	Activities include workshop, exhibition of works, short film production and fun fair	69,250	January to August	460	790
Total					14 875	24 626

* The project does not have an English name

**2016-17 Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme
List of Sponsored Projects**

Sponsored organisation	Name of project	Activity	Amount of sponsorship (HK\$)	Date of activity	No. of participants (aged 18 and above)	No. of participants (aged under 18)
Hong Kong Women Development Association Limited	Reporter of Children's Rights of 2016-Children's Rights Education Project	Activities include group training and fun fair cum commendation ceremony	34,070	July to August	400	440
Jockey Club Wah Ming Lutheran Integrated Service Centre	The Child's Rights without Wall	Activities include ambassador training, group activities, camp site activities and community promotion	8,434	March to August	0	1 024
St. Charles School	童樂學*	Activities include intra-school competition and prize presentation ceremony cum experience day	6,650	January to September	1 500	1 500
Toi Shan Association Primary School	Child's voice and feeling creative reading program	Activities include intra-school competition, exhibition and sharing session on achievements	13,030	February to September	0	500
Neighbourhood & Worker's Education Centre Limited	Kids in Community-Children's Right in Community Scheme	Activities include ambassador training, workshop and talk cum exhibition of works	21,000	February to September	255	95
The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong Jockey Club Cheung Hang Children and Youth Integrated Services Centre	Children Voice from the Puppet	Activities include workshop, camping, school promotion and fun fair	40,092	February to September	406	1 640

Sponsored organisation	Name of project	Activity	Amount of sponsorship (HK\$)	Date of activity	No. of participants (aged 18 and above)	No. of participants (aged under 18)
Urdu Neighbour Centre Limited	Know Your Rights	Activities include ambassador training, workshop and fun fair	26,818	January to July	200	400
The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong	"Kong" Kids' Speaking	Activities include group activities, workshop, camp site activities and exhibition briefing session	38,570	January to August	1 200	280
The Girls' Brigade Hong Kong	Not for Sale	Activities include day camp, experience activities, seminar and briefing session on teaching kit	24,770	January to September	200	800
New Home Association Kowloon East Service Centre	"童權創新天"-兒童公約社區計劃*	Activities include group activities, education camp, intra-school competition and community games day	30,162	January to August	461	1 161
Pentecostal Church of Hong Kong Tseung Kwan O Nursery School	Read & Write with Children's Right	Activities include ambassador training, group activities and commendation ceremony cum games day	28,500	April to August	141	289
Pentecostal Church of Hong Kong Tai Wo Nursery School	Child Right, act right now!	Activities include workshop, intra-school competition and exhibition of entries cum commendation ceremony	16,650	February to August	280	360
Christian & Missionary Alliance Kwun Tong Church Family Service Centre	SAY & PLAY Education Project	Activities include fun fair, workshop, education camp, pamphlet production and community promotion	42,350	April to September	920	1 024

Sponsored organisation	Name of project	Activity	Amount of sponsorship (HK\$)	Date of activity	No. of participants (aged 18 and above)	No. of participants (aged under 18)
Ma On Shan Ling Liang Primary School	S.T.E.P. Children's Rights Education Scheme	Activities include ambassador training, group activities, camp site activities, intra-school competition and commendation ceremony cum fun fair	68,400	January to December	1 500	1 500
Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong Hin Keng Centre	CHILDREN'S RIGHTS 2016	Activities include children councillor group training, interview with district councillor, mock electioneering activities, school exhibition promotion and drama training and performance	48,540	February to September	325	6 605
Hong Kong - Macao Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Shan King Integrated Children and Youth Services Centre of Seventh-day Adventists	Children's Rights Post	Activities include group activities, camp site activities, community visit, production of publication, community exhibition and sharing session	14,567	April to August	29	121
Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong Shek Kip Mei Centre	"Love, Joy and Development" Children's Rights Ambassadors Project	Activities include children ambassador workshop, school/ community promotion and competition	14,510	April to September	800	460
Neighbourhood & Worker's Education Centre Tin Shui Wai Women Integrated Service Centre	Understanding Children's Rights: Community Concern For Youths Project	Activities include workshop, community visit, talk, pamphlet production and sharing session	13,634	February to September	0	939

Sponsored organisation	Name of project	Activity	Amount of sponsorship (HK\$)	Date of activity	No. of participants (aged 18 and above)	No. of participants (aged under 18)
Special Educational Needs & Parents Association Limited	Children's Rights@ Community: Art & Promotion Project	Activities include workshop, exhibition of works, talk, pamphlet production and sharing session	23,060	February to September	250	564
Hong Kong Association of the Deaf	"Live in the same society": Sign Language Promotion of the United Nations on the Rights of the Child	Activities include workshop and sharing session	7,100	May to August	25	25
Hong Kong Association of the Deaf	"We Are Family"-the night camp to learn how to apply United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in family	Activities include camp site activities and talk	19,450	July	30	30
Hong Kong Young Women's Christian Association	「Shine」伴我成長計劃*	Activities include workshop, camping and fun fair	11,050	July to August	70	200
Amazing Room For Stories	Children's voice of Children's Rights and Their Daily Life	Activities include school promotion and pamphlet production	44,650	February to November	0	500
Amazing Room For Stories	"We deserve to grow up safely and healthy" Children's Rights Show & Tell Competition	Activities include inter-school speech contest and prize presentation ceremony	21,590	January to August	200	1 000

Sponsored organisation	Name of project	Activity	Amount of sponsorship (HK\$)	Date of activity	No. of participants (aged 18 and above)	No. of participants (aged under 18)
The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong	Hong Kong Junior Chief Executives: the Right of Play	Activities include camp site activities, workshop, design competition, dissemination of work cum games day	96,100	February to October	1 308	1 660
W Workshop (Hong Kong) Limited	"Happy Children"-Children's Rights Education Program	Activities include workshop and fun fair	63,150	March to August	300	720
New Home Association New Territories East Service Centre	Happy child to be Councillor	Activities include talk, workshop, community study and visit, children councillor training, pamphlet production and community fun fair	46,300	March to August	300	400
The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups Tsuen King Youth SPOT	「玩」創市集—兒童權利推廣計劃*	Activities include workshop and community fun fair	31,050	March to August	962	2 335
Hong Kong Society for the Protection of Children Sham Mong District Children & Family Services Centre	「童心」找樂園*	Activities include camp site activities, workshop, community exploration and fun fair	28,950	January to December	400	800
Yan Oi Tong Community Centre	I dream my dream	Activities include workshop, community exploration and fun fair	24,840	July to November	906	434

Sponsored organisation	Name of project	Activity	Amount of sponsorship (HK\$)	Date of activity	No. of participants (aged 18 and above)	No. of participants (aged under 18)
Kowloon Federation of Associations Youth Volunteer Group	Little Director Training Project	Activities include workshop, children ambassador training, school promotion, sharing session on short film production and fun fair	116,200	February to October	0	1 040
The C&M Alliance Wah Kee Neighbourhood Centre	"Voice & Act" Children's Drama Training Program	Activities include group activities, drama training and performance	34,100	March to December	540	60
Hong Kong U-Rounders	2016 Children Leadership Training Program: Hong Kong Children's Rights Summit	Activities include workshop, community study, mock debate conference and community promotion	57,575	March to October	0	100
Total					13 908	29 006

* The project does not have an English name

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB073****(Question Serial No. 2630)**

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Of the projects organised or sponsored by the Bureau in the past 3 years, how many are related to promotion of children's rights to education institutions (such as schools)? What types of institutions are involved? What are the respective numbers of projects organised/sponsored and the respective numbers of participants in respect of each type of institutions?

Asked by: Hon YIU Chung-yim (Member Question No. 28)

Reply:

The Government is committed to promoting public awareness of and respect for the rights of children enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In the past 3 years, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) has been promoting children's rights through implementing the Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme, organising the Children's Rights Forum as well as publicity and public education programmes.

2. From 2014-15 to 2016-17, through implementing the Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme, the CMAB has provided funding support to a total of 14 schools to organise children's rights promotion projects. The respective numbers of participants of these projects are set out in the table below.

Financial year	Name of project	Responsible organisation	No. of participants
2014-15	童體驗童權*	St. Charles School	3 000
2014-15	Small eyes look at Hong Kong	Pentecostal Church of Hong Kong Nam Cheong Nursery School	818
2014-15	CHILDREAM	St. Stephen's Girls' College	2 000
2014-15	A Scheme of Little Author	Holy Cross Lutheran School	300

Financial year	Name of project	Responsible organisation	No. of participants
2014-15	“Care who we are, Hear what we deliver.” Project of children rights in society involvement activity	Hong Kong Christian Service Central Nursery School	1 000
2014-15	〈兒童要有SAY!〉兒童權利推廣計劃*	Chai Wan Kok Catholic Primary School	2 000
2015-16	童遊戲・童參與・童享樂*	St. Charles School	3 000
2015-16	Children's Rights & Obligations	Pentecostal Church of Hong Kong Tseung Kwan O Nursery School	500
2015-16	Duties and Rights for Freedom	Lok Sin Tong Leung Wong Wai Fong Memorial School	1 217
2016-17	童樂學*	St. Charles School	3 000
2016-17	Child's voice and feeling creative reading program	Toi Shan Association Primary School	500
2016-17	Read & Write with Children's Right	Pentecostal Church of Hong Kong Tseung Kwan O Nursery School	430
2016-17	Child Right, act right now!	Pentecostal Church of Hong Kong Tai Wo Nursery School	640
2016-17	S.T.E.P. Children's Rights Education Scheme	Ma On Shan Ling Liang Primary School	3 000
Total			21 405

* The project does not have an English name

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB074****(Question Serial No. 2647)**

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

What is the expenditure incurred by the Bureau in promoting equal opportunities for people of different sexual orientations and gender identities in the past 3 years? Please give a breakdown of the amount by expenditure items. What is the number of staff involved? What are the estimated expenditure and manpower involved in 2017-18?

Asked by: Hon YIU Chung-yim (Member Question No. 35)

Reply:

On eliminating discrimination against people of different sexual orientations/gender identities, the Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Unit (GISOU) of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau is responsible for organising education and promotion programmes, and handling relevant enquiries and complaints. The establishment of the GISOU comprises 1 Executive Officer I and 1 Executive Officer II. Expenditure on its work is as follows:

Programme	Actual expenditure in 2014-15	Actual expenditure in 2015-16	Revised estimate of expenditure in 2016-17	Estimated expenditure in 2017-18
Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme	\$0.91 million	\$0.87 million	\$0.79 million	\$1.25 million

Promotion and publicity through Announcements in the Public Interest, advertisements, etc. regarding equal opportunities for sexual minorities (including promotion of the Code of Practice against Discrimination in Employment on the Ground of Sexual Orientation)	\$3.79 million (including \$0.9 million for the staff cost of the GISOU)	\$3.21 million (including \$0.87 million for the staff cost of the GISOU)	\$3.68 million (including \$1.18 million for the staff cost of the GISOU)	\$4.72 million (including \$1.19 million for the staff cost of the GISOU)
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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB075

(Question Serial No. 3129)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC)'s handling and investigation of complaints as well as provision of legal assistance in the past 3 years, will the Government advise, by year: (a) of the respective numbers of complaints received and cases where the applicants had applied for legal assistance after conciliation (please provide a breakdown of cases where applications were approved, refused and withdrawn by applicants); (b) in respect of the assistance cases, of the respective numbers of cases settled out of court and taken to court; (c) in respect of the cases taken to court, of the respective numbers of cases where legal proceedings were handled by EOC's in-house lawyers and external lawyers, and the respective expenditures involved in engaging external lawyers to handle legal proceedings; (d) whether the EOC had sought legal advice from external lawyers; if so, of the respective numbers of times legal advice was sought from external lawyers and the respective expenditures involved; (e) of the respective figures on establishment and strength in respect of the Counsel grade in EOC's Legal Service Division and the respective expenditures involved?

Asked by: Hon YIU Chung-yim (Member Question No. 56)

Reply:

According to the information provided by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC):

- (a) In the past 3 years, the respective numbers of complaints received by the EOC are 522 (2014-15), 385 (2015-16) and 558 (2016-March 2017) respectively.

The respective numbers of applications for legal assistance are as follows:

Financial year	2014-15	2015-16	1.4.2016-5.3.2017
No. of legal assistance applications	30	32	40 ^{Note}
Applications approved	23	16	16
Applications rejected	7	16	18
Applications withdrawn by applicants	0	0	0

Note: In 2016-17, 6 applications are still being processed.

- (b) In the past 3 years, of the cases with legal assistance approved, the respective numbers of cases settled out of court and taken to court are as follows:

Financial year	2014-15	2015-16	1.4.2016-5.3.2017
Cases concluded without resorting to legal proceedings	1	11	9
Cases taken to court	0	5	2
Cases settled out of court	0	3	1

- (c) Legal proceedings in respect of each case are generally handled by EOC's in-house lawyers but the EOC may engage independent counsels to conduct some parts of the court proceedings, such as assessment of damages, part of the interlocutory application or actual trials, etc. The respective numbers of legal assistance cases whose legal proceedings were handled by external lawyers and the respective expenditures incurred in the past 3 years are as follows:

Financial year	2014-15	2015-16	1.4.2016-5.3.2017
No. of cases	2	0	0
Amount of expenditure incurred (\$)	0	9,000 ^{Note}	50,000 ^{Note}

Note: Including the expenditure incurred on 2 cases which have been granted legal assistance since 2014-15

- (d) In the past 3 years, of the cases with legal assistance approved, the respective numbers of legal advice that were sought from external lawyers and the respective expenditures incurred are as follows:

Financial year	2014-15	2015-16	1.4.2016-5.3.2017
No. of cases	6	1	0
Amount of expenditure incurred (\$)	70,000	130,000 ^{Note}	100,000 ^{Note}

Note: Including the expenditure incurred on a total of 7 cases which have been granted legal assistance since 2014-15

- (e) The establishment and strength of the Counsel grade whose members are responsible for handling complaints investigation and providing legal assistance, and the expenditures involved are as follows:

	2014-15	2015-16	1.4.2016-31.3.2017 (estimate)
Establishment of Counsel grade (as at 31 March)	6	6	6.1 ^{Note}
Strength (as at 31 March)	6	6	6.1 ^{Note}
Expenditure involved (\$ million)	7.62	6.42	8.6

Note: One of the counsels handled complaints investigation and provided legal assistance on a part-time basis.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB076****(Question Serial No. 2762)**Head: (163) Registration and Electoral OfficeSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: Electoral ServicesControlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

(1) Please list in the following table, by the 18 District Councils (DCs) in the territory, the numbers of registered electors in the register of electors in the past 3 years.

18 DCs	2014 register of electors	2015 register of electors	2016 register of electors

(2) Please list in the following table, by the 18 DCs in the territory, the numbers of newly registered electors in the register of electors in the past 3 years.

18 DCs	2014 register of electors	2015 register of electors	2016 register of electors

(3) Please list in the following table, by the 18 DCs in the territory, the numbers of electors omitted from the register of electors in the past 3 years and the respective reasons for the omission.

18 DCs	2014 register of electors	2015 register of electors	2016 register of electors

(4) What were the manpower and expenditures involved in the Voter Registration (VR) Campaigns in election and non-election years in the past 3 years? Has a comparison been made on whether there is a positive correlation between these figures and the VR statistics? Has the Government reviewed the effectiveness of VR Campaigns and what are the details of the review?

(5) What organisations were commissioned by the Government to take charge of VR Campaigns in the past 3 years? What indicators did these organisations use to evaluate the effectiveness of VR work? What were the manpower and expenditures involved?

(6) What are the manpower and expenditure for the VR Campaign in the coming year?

(7) It is mentioned in the Programme that the Government will enhance the checking of electors in the current register in respect of their registered addresses. Please list in the following table, by the 18 DCs in the territory, the numbers of electors checked by the Government in the past 3 years. How many of them were electors with registered addresses at residential homes for the elderly?

18 DCs	2014 register of electors	2015 register of electors	2016 register of electors

(8) Please list in the following table, by the 18 DCs in the territory, the numbers of electors omitted from the register upon checking by the Government in the past 3 years. How many of them were electors with registered addresses at residential homes for the elderly?

18 DCs	2014 register of electors	2015 register of electors	2016 register of electors

(9) What are the manpower and expenditures for the Chief Executive election and Legislative Council by-elections in the coming year?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. 3)

Reply:

According to the 2014, 2015 and 2016 final registers, the number of registered geographical constituency (GC) electors in each District Council (DC) constituency is set out below:

	2014 final register	2015 final register	2016 final register
Central & Western	100 456	104 547	105 004
Wan Chai	56 258	71 787	71 646
Eastern	307 036	304 503	307 381
Southern	138 372	142 637	143 776
Yau Tsim Mong	111 526	117 881	120 035
Sham Shui Po	166 143	176 706	181 079
Kowloon City	169 337	184 293	187 015
Wong Tai Sin	237 118	245 855	249 024

	2014 final register	2015 final register	2016 final register
Kwun Tong	329 159	346 347	352 543
Tsuen Wan	138 047	148 577	152 965
Tuen Mun	257 903	267 604	271 290
Yuen Long	277 862	296 957	308 865
Kwai Tsing	264 848	278 855	284 752
Islands	62 992	67 053	68 639
North	162 001	170 900	175 072
Tai Po	162 418	169 829	175 720
Sai Kung	218 338	235 100	245 808
Sha Tin	347 972	364 511	378 471
Total	3 507 786	3 693 942	3 779 085

2. According to the 2014, 2015 and 2016 final registers, the number of newly registered GC electors in each DC constituency is set out below:

	2014 final register	2015 final register	2016 final register
Central & Western	1 970	6 933	4 572
Wan Chai	823	4 335	2 731
Eastern	5 182	18 479	11 789
Southern	2 462	7 939	5 046
Yau Tsim Mong	2 799	10 043	6 705
Sham Shui Po	4 057	15 444	9 479
Kowloon City	4 221	17 483	8 982
Wong Tai Sin	4 681	15 789	9 484
Kwun Tong	8 068	26 779	15 498
Tsuen Wan	2 849	12 436	7 615
Tuen Mun	5 355	15 242	11 154
Yuen Long	7 491	22 365	16 177
Kwai Tsing	5 839	21 102	11 993
Islands	1 665	5 219	3 287
North	4 048	12 618	9 499

	2014 final register	2015 final register	2016 final register
Tai Po	3 511	10 281	9 724
Sai Kung	4 347	17 651	13 829
Sha Tin	7 893	22 495	19 939
Total	77 261	262 633	177 503

3. In the light of public concern over the accuracy of residential addresses recorded in the voter register in recent years, the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) has stepped up publicity since the 2012 voter registration (VR) cycle to remind the public about the importance of providing true and accurate information for registration and updating their registration particulars, especially the principal residential addresses. Besides, the REO continues to implement various checking measures, including the conduct of cross-matching exercise with other government departments on the registered particulars of electors, and inquiry process to improve the accuracy and completeness of VR records. The checking measures include follow-up inquiries on undelivered poll cards arising from elections; cross-matching of the residential addresses of electors with the Housing Department, the Hong Kong Housing Society and the Home Affairs Department; checks on residential addresses with multiple electors or multiple surnames of electors; random sample checks on registered and newly registered electors; checks on addresses with incomplete information or suspected non-residential addresses; and checks on addresses situated at buildings already demolished or vacant buildings to be demolished. After implementing or following up with the checking measures, if the REO has reasonable grounds to suspect that registered residential addresses might not be the only or principal residence of certain electors, it will issue inquiry letters to the electors concerned to request confirmation or updating of the registered addresses. Upon the completion of the statutory inquiry procedures, electors failing to respond will be removed from the final register.

The REO does not have a breakdown of the number of electors included in statutory inquiry procedures or removed from the register by DC constituencies. In the last 3 VR cycles from 2014 to 2016, the number of electors included in statutory inquiry procedures was 24 424, 82 655 and 103 802 respectively, of which the number of electors whose registered addresses were the addresses of residential care homes for the elderly was 7, 2 318 and 3 405 respectively. A breakdown of the numbers of GC electors removed from the register because of loss of eligibility for registration in the above 3 VR cycles is as follows:

Reason for removal and number of electors	Cycle		
	2014	2015	2016
Failure to respond to statutory inquiry procedures [#]	13 740	41 661	67 509
Death	26 863	34 038	24 163

Other reasons (such as voluntary de-registration, loss of Hong Kong permanent resident status, objection cases allowed by the Revising Officer, etc.)	295	778	688
Total	40 898	76 477	92 360

In the VR cycles from 2014 to 2016, among the electors removed due to failure to respond to statutory inquiry procedures, there were respectively 5, 819 and 2 563 electors whose registered addresses were the addresses of residential care homes for the elderly.

4. The work of the REO in checking and verifying the particulars of electors as well as implementing VR Campaigns is undertaken by a team comprising civil servants and non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff responsible for VR matters. The Government did not commission any individual organisation to undertake VR Campaigns. From 2014-15 to 2016-17, the establishment and operational expenses (including publicity expenses on VR Campaign) in respect of VR and checking work are detailed below:

Year	Establishment*	Number of NCSC staff employed [@]	Expenditure on staff remuneration and related operational expenses
2014-15	90	152	\$47 million
2015-16	92	404	\$97 million
2016-17	95	about 400	\$112 million (revised estimate)

Including time-limited civil service posts created in the relevant year

@ NCSC staff are employed according to actual needs. These figures represent the number of staff employed during the peak period of the VR cycle in the relevant year.

In the 2016 final register, there are about 3.78 million GC electors, representing a registration rate of 78.9%. Both the total number of electors and the registration rate are the highest on record. The Government will continue to adopt diversified means to appeal to persons of all ages and different backgrounds in order to encourage eligible persons to register as electors, remind electors to update their registration particulars in a timely manner while strengthening the public awareness and knowledge of VR. The Government will also conduct regular reviews on the publicity work and make appropriate adjustments in the light of actual needs and public responses.

5. The REO will allocate sufficient manpower and resources in 2017-18 to sustain the checking work. It will also continue to strengthen the publicity measures to encourage eligible persons to register as electors, remind the electors under checking to update or confirm their registered residential addresses with the REO before the deadline and

encourage electors to use the Online Voter Information Enquiry System to verify their registration status and particulars. The above work will be carried out by a team comprising 104 civil servants (including 1 time-limited civil service post) and around 50 NCSC staff. The expenditure on staff remuneration and the related operational expenses is estimated to be around \$51 million. The relevant work will continue to be carried out in the 2017 and 2018 VR cycles.

6. The REO has reserved about \$102 million and \$320 million for the conduct of the 2017 Chief Executive (CE) election and the preparation and conduct of any possible by-elections respectively. The REO will allocate sufficient manpower to conduct the 2017 CE election and complete all the winding up work, and to prepare and conduct any possible by-elections.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB077

(Question Serial No. 2423)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please provide information on the specific contents of work, the results, the manpower and the expenditures involved with regard to “the conduct of checks on electors in the current register in respect of their registered particulars, including cross-matching exercise with other government departments” over the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (Member Question No. 69)

Reply:

In the light of public concern over the accuracy of residential addresses recorded in the voter register in recent years, the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) has stepped up publicity since the 2012 voter registration (VR) cycle to remind the public about the importance of providing true and accurate information for registration and updating their registration particulars, especially the principal residential addresses. Besides, the REO continues to implement various checking measures including the conduct of cross-matching exercise with other government departments on the registered particulars of electors, and inquiry process to improve the accuracy and completeness of VR records. The checking measures include follow-up inquiries on undelivered poll cards arising from elections; cross-matching of the residential addresses of electors with the Housing Department, the Hong Kong Housing Society and the Home Affairs Department; checks on residential addresses with multiple electors or multiple surnames of electors; random sample checks on registered and newly registered electors; checks on addresses with incomplete information or suspected non-residential addresses; and checks on addresses situated at buildings already demolished or vacant buildings to be demolished. After implementing or following up with the checking measures, if the REO has reasonable grounds to suspect that registered residential addresses might not be the only or principal residence of certain electors, it will issue inquiry letters to the electors concerned to request confirmation or updating of the registered addresses. Upon the completion of the statutory inquiry procedures, electors failing to respond will be removed from the final register.

2. In the last 5 VR cycles from 2012 to 2016, the number of electors covered by the above measures of checking of registration particulars conducted by the REO and the number of electors removed from the register because of their failure to respond to the statutory inquiry procedures upon checking are as follows:

Cycle	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Number of electors covered by the checking measures	about 1.7 million	about 140 000	about 140 000	about 1.6 million	about 1.6 million
Number of electors removed from the register because of their failure to respond to statutory inquiry procedures	218 199	26 281	13 740	41 661	67 509

3. From 2012-13 to 2016-17, the establishment and operational expenses (including publicity expenses on VR Campaign) in respect of VR and checking work are detailed below:

Year	Establishment*	Number of contract staff employed [@]	Expenditure on staff remuneration and related operational expenses
2012-13	78	330	\$71 million
2013-14	86	46	\$40 million
2014-15	90	152	\$47 million
2015-16	92	404	\$97 million
2016-17	95	about 400	\$112 million (revised estimate)

* Including time-limited civil service posts created in the relevant year.

[@] Contract staff are employed according to actual needs. These figures represent the number of staff employed during the peak period of the VR cycle in the relevant year.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB078

(Question Serial No. 0465)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Last year, 2 Members of the Legislative Council were disqualified from office due to judicial review, currently pending appeal. On the other hand, 4 other Members are facing judicial review. Regarding the issue of by-elections, will the Government inform this Committee:

- 1.) whether the by-elections, if they are to be held, will commence only after the close of all judicial review proceedings?
- 2.) whether the Registration and Electoral Office has already commenced preparation for the by-elections, so that the procedures of the by-elections may start immediately after the close of all judicial review proceedings?
- 3.) whether it is necessary to hire temporary contract staff if all 6 seats have to be returned? What is the overall estimated expenditure involved in the by-elections?

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (Member Question No. 28)

Reply:

When vacancies arise in the membership of the Legislative Council (LegCo), the Electoral Affairs Commission will arrange for by-election to be held in accordance with the legislation and actual situation.

2. The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) has reserved about \$320 million in 2017-18 for the preparation and conduct of any possible by-elections. Should there be a need to organise LegCo by-election, the REO will, depending on the timing, scale and practical arrangements, provide adequate manpower and commence early preparatory work to ensure that the by-election will be smoothly conducted in an open, fair and honest manner.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB079

(Question Serial No. 1040)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding “the conduct of checks on electors in the current register in respect of their registered particulars” mentioned in paragraph 6, will the Government inform this Committee of:

the concrete actions to be taken and the plans;

the expenditure and manpower required for the whole exercise; and

the number of electors covered by the whole exercise?

Asked by: Hon LAW Kwun-chung, Nathan (Member Question No. 45)

Reply:

In the light of public concern over the accuracy of residential addresses recorded in the voter register in recent years, the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) has stepped up publicity since the 2012 voter registration (VR) cycle to remind the public about the importance of providing true and accurate information for registration and updating their registration particulars, especially the principal residential addresses. Besides, the REO continues to implement various checking measures, including the conduct of cross-matching exercise with other government departments on the registered particulars of electors, and inquiry process to improve the accuracy and completeness of VR records. The checking measures include follow-up inquiries on undelivered poll cards arising from elections; cross-matching of the residential addresses of electors with the Housing Department, the Hong Kong Housing Society and the Home Affairs Department; checks on residential addresses with multiple electors or multiple surnames of electors; random sample checks on registered and newly registered electors; checks on addresses with incomplete information or suspected non-residential addresses; and checks on addresses situated at buildings already demolished or vacant buildings to be demolished. After implementing or following up with the checking measures, if the REO has reasonable grounds to suspect that registered residential addresses might not be the only or principal residence of certain electors, it will issue inquiry letters to the electors concerned to request confirmation or updating of the

registered addresses. Upon the completion of the statutory inquiry procedures, electors failing to respond will be removed from the final register. The REO will verify the registration particulars of around 140 000 electors through the above measures in the 2017 VR cycle.

2. The REO will allocate sufficient manpower and resources in 2017-18 to sustain the checking work. It will also continue to strengthen the publicity measures to encourage eligible persons to register as electors, remind the electors under checking to update or confirm their registered residential addresses with the REO before the deadline and encourage electors to use the Online Voter Information Enquiry System to verify their registration status and particulars. The above work will be carried out by a team comprising 104 civil servants (including 1 time-limited civil service post) and around 50 contract staff. The expenditure on staff remuneration and the related operational expenses are estimated to be around \$51 million. The relevant work will continue to be carried out in the 2017 and 2018 VR cycles.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB080

(Question Serial No. 1041)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Despite the fact that none of the judicial reviews against the status of certain legislators has been settled, has the Government set aside resources for conducting Legislative Council by-election? If so, what is the amount of the provision? If the Court of Final Appeal declines to hear the appeal lodged by Sixtus LEUNG and YAU Wai-ching, when will the by-election be held? Will the Government postpone the conduct of the by-election until the close of proceedings of all these cases?

Asked by: Hon LAW Kwun-chung, Nathan (Member Question No. 46)

Reply:

When vacancies arise in the membership of the Legislative Council (LegCo), the Electoral Affairs Commission will arrange for by-election to be held in accordance with the legislation and actual situation.

2. The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) has reserved about \$320 million in 2017-18 for the preparation and conduct of any possible by-elections. Should there be a need to organise LegCo by-election, the REO will, depending on the timing, scale and practical arrangements, provide adequate manpower and commence early preparatory work to ensure that the by-election will be smoothly conducted in an open, fair and honest manner.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB081

(Question Serial No. 0594)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please provide, by District Council, a breakdown of the numbers of geographical constituency electors who have been removed from the register because of the loss of eligibility for registration in each of the past 3 voter registration cycles, and the reasons for the ineligibility.

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (Member Question No. 12)

Reply:

In the light of public concern over the accuracy of residential addresses recorded in the voter register in recent years, the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) has stepped up publicity since the 2012 voter registration (VR) cycle to remind the public about the importance of providing true and accurate information for registration and updating their registration particulars, especially the principal residential addresses. Besides, the REO continues to implement various checking measures, including the conduct of cross-matching exercise with other government departments on the registered particulars of electors, and inquiry process to improve the accuracy and completeness of VR records. The checking measures include follow-up inquiries on undelivered poll cards arising from elections; cross-matching of the residential addresses of electors with the Housing Department, the Hong Kong Housing Society and the Home Affairs Department; checks on residential addresses with multiple electors or multiple surnames of electors; random sample checks on registered and newly registered electors; checks on addresses with incomplete information or suspected non-residential addresses; and checks on addresses situated at buildings already demolished or vacant buildings to be demolished. After implementing or following up with the checking measures, if the REO has reasonable grounds to suspect that registered residential addresses might not be the only or principal residence of certain electors, it will issue inquiry letters to the electors concerned to request confirmation or updating of the registered addresses. Upon the completion of the statutory inquiry procedures, electors failing to respond will be removed from the final register.

2. The REO does not have a breakdown of the number of electors who have been removed from the register by District Council constituency. The number of geographical constituency electors removed from the register because of loss of eligibility for registration in the last 3 VR cycles from 2014 to 2016 is as follows:

Reason for removal and number of electors \ Cycle	2014	2015	2016
Failure to respond to statutory inquiry procedures	13 740	41 661	67 509
Death	26 863	34 038	24 163
Other reasons (such as voluntary de-registration, loss of Hong Kong permanent resident status, objection cases allowed by the Revising Officer, etc.)	295	778	688
Total	40 898	76 477	92 360

3. In 2017-18, the REO will continue to strengthen the publicity measures to encourage eligible persons to register as electors, remind the electors under checking to update or confirm their registered residential addresses with the REO before the deadline and encourage electors to use the Online Voter Information Enquiry System to verify their registration status and particulars.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB082

(Question Serial No. 0713)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: Electoral Services
Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please provide, by District Council, a breakdown of the numbers of cases received from the public with respect to misrepresentation in relation to a person's eligibility to be an elector, the numbers of electors involved in such complaints, the numbers of cases that were substantiated after verification, the numbers of electors who were subsequently removed from the register of electors, and the expenses involved in the verification work in each of the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (Member Question No. 48)

Reply:

A person who makes any false or incorrect statement in the application for voter registration (VR) or change of registration particulars is in breach of the electoral laws. For suspected cases of false or incorrect statements in VR, the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) will handle them in strict accordance with the law and refer them to the law enforcement agencies for investigation and follow-up.

2. Between the 2012 and 2016 VR cycles, the numbers of electors suspected of, prosecuted for and convicted of making false statements in VR, as well as the number of electors removed from the register of electors and newly registered electors cancelled after investigation are respectively as follows:

VR cycle	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Number of electors involved in cases referred to the law enforcement agencies by the REO for follow-up and investigation	2 163	0	1	482	631
Number of electors involved in cases investigated by the law enforcement agencies (including cases received by the law enforcement agencies from sources other than the REO)	11 500	*	*	*	*
Number of electors prosecuted and convicted after investigation in the VR cycle	57	0	0	2	0
Number of electors removed from the register of electors after investigation by the REO in the VR cycle	3 732	0	0	9	12
Number of newly registered electors cancelled after investigation by the REO in the VR cycle	0	0	0	110	170

* The REO does not keep record of the number of cases investigated by the law enforcement agencies between the 2013 and 2016 VR cycles.

3. The REO does not have a breakdown of the aforementioned cases by District Council constituency.

4. The work of the REO in checking and verifying the particulars of electors is undertaken by a team comprising civil servants and non-civil service contract staff responsible for VR matters. Details of the operational expenses from 2012-13 to 2016-17 are as follows:

Year	Expenditure on staff remuneration and other operational expenses
2012-13	\$71 million
2013-14	\$40 million
2014-15	\$47 million
2015-16	\$97 million
2016-17	\$112 million (revised estimate)

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB083

(Question Serial No. 1254)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

- (1) What are the estimated manpower and expenditure required for the conduct of checks on electors in the current registers in respect of their registered particulars? What is the estimated number of cases to be checked in 2017-18?
- (2) How many cases were found to contain erroneous entries subsequent to the checks of the current registers over the past 3 years? What was the percentage of such cases against the total number of cases checked?
- (3) With respect to the line which states that "the conduct of checks on electors in the current register in respect of their registered particulars, including cross-matching exercise with other government departments" under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2017-18, what are the other departments being referred to in "cross-matching exercise with other government departments"? Is the cross-matching exercise with other government departments a standing checking procedure? Or does it only target at suspected cases or those with incomplete information?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Che-cheung (Member Question No. 7)

Reply:

In the light of public concern over the accuracy of residential addresses recorded in the voter register in recent years, the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) has stepped up publicity since the 2012 voter registration (VR) cycle to remind the public about the importance of providing true and accurate information for registration and updating their registered particulars, especially the principal residential addresses. Besides, the REO will continue to implement various checking measures, including the conduct of cross-matching exercise with other government departments on the registered particulars of electors, and inquiry process to improve the accuracy and completeness of VR records. The checking measures include follow-up inquiries on undelivered poll cards arising from elections; cross-matching of the residential addresses of electors with the Housing Department (HD), the Hong Kong Housing Society (HKHS) and the Home Affairs Department (HAD); checks

on residential addresses with multiple electors or multiple surnames of electors; random sample checks on registered and newly registered electors; checks on addresses with incomplete information or suspected non-residential addresses; and checks on addresses situated at buildings already demolished or vacant buildings to be demolished. The REO's cross-matching exercise with other government departments on checking electors' registered addresses includes regular updating of particulars, and checking with the HD, HKHS and HAD in election years regarding electors with registered addresses in public housing units and electors of the Rural Representative Election. After implementing or following up with the checking measures, if the REO has reasonable grounds to suspect that registered residential addresses might not be the only or principal residence of certain electors, it will issue inquiry letters to the electors concerned to request confirmation or updating of the registered addresses. Upon the completion of the statutory inquiry procedures, electors failing to respond will be removed from the final register.

2. In the last 3 VR cycles from 2014 to 2016, the number of electors covered by the above measures of checking of registration particulars conducted by the REO and the number of electors removed from the register because of their failure to respond to the statutory inquiry procedures upon checking are as follows:

Cycle	2014	2015	2016
Number of electors covered by the checking measures	about 140 000	about 1.6 million	about 1.6 million
Number of electors removed from the register because of their failure to respond to statutory inquiry procedures	13 740	41 661	67 509

3. The REO will allocate sufficient manpower and resources in 2017-18 to sustain the checking work. It will also continue to strengthen the publicity measures to encourage eligible persons to register as electors, remind the electors under checking to update or confirm their registered residential addresses with the REO before the deadline and encourage electors to use the Online Voter Information Enquiry System to verify their registration status and particulars. The above work will be carried out by a team comprising 104 civil servants (including 1 time-limited civil service post) and around 50 contract staff. The expenditure on staff remuneration and the related operational expenses are estimated to be around \$51 million. The relevant work will continue to be carried out in the 2017 and 2018 VR cycles.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB084

(Question Serial No. 1457)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2017-18, the Registration and Electoral Office will conduct and supervise the Legislative Council and District Council by-elections, if any. What are the estimated expenditure and manpower arrangement involved?

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (Member Question No. 42)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) has reserved about \$320 million in 2017-18 for the preparation and conduct of any possible by-elections. Should there be a need to organise by-election, the REO will, depending on the timing, scale and practical arrangements, provide adequate manpower and commence early preparatory work to ensure that the by-election will be smoothly conducted in an open, fair and honest manner.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB085

(Question Serial No. 3159)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

It is mentioned by the Government that a voter registration (VR) exercise will be rolled out. In this connection, will the Government advise this Committee on:

1. the channels through which the Government will enhance publicity for the VR exercise in 2017-18 and the details?
2. whether the numbers of newly registered voters were on the rise over the past 3 years? If yes, what are the numbers?
3. the estimated provision for the conduct of the relevant promotional events in 2017-18?

Asked by: Hon LUK Chung-hung (Member Question No. 44)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office made use of various channels in the past voter registration (VR) cycles to appeal to eligible persons to register as electors. These channels included various media and platforms, such as television, radio, newspapers, websites, mobile applications for smartphone, public transport system, as well as different kinds of community publicity activities and materials, etc. During the 2017 VR cycle, the Government will continue to adopt diversified means to appeal to persons of all ages and different backgrounds in order to encourage eligible persons to register as electors, remind electors to update their registration particulars in a timely manner while strengthening the public awareness and knowledge of VR. Publicity expenses on the VR Campaign in 2017 are estimated to be about \$6 million.

2. The numbers of newly registered and registered geographical constituency (GC) electors in the VR cycles from 2014 to 2016 are as follows:

	2014 final register	2015 final register	2016 final register
Number of newly registered GC electors	77 261	262 633	177 503
Number of registered GC electors	3 507 786	3 693 942	3 779 085

In the 2016 final register, there are about 3.78 million GC electors, representing a registration rate of 78.9%. Both the total number of electors and the registration rate are the highest on record.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB086

(Question Serial No. 1856)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

It is mentioned in this year's Matters Requiring Special Attention that efforts will be made to continue to encourage eligible persons (including young persons in particular) to register as electors. In this connection, please answer the following questions:

1. What were the publicity measures and related expenses for the 2012 to 2016 Voter Registration (VR) Campaigns? Please provide an itemised breakdown: 1) publicity on television and radio; 2) newspapers and magazines; 3) websites and mobile applications for smartphone; 4) public transport system; 5) employing VR Assistants and conducting various publicity activities in the community; and 6) production and distribution of leaflets, posters, banners, appeal letters, souvenirs and miscellaneous items.

2. How much is the provision earmarked by the Government for the publicity of Legislative Council by-election(s) to be held in 2017?

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (Member Question No. 6)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) made use of various channels in the past voter registration (VR) cycles to appeal to eligible persons to register as electors. These channels included various media and platforms, such as television, radio, newspapers, websites, mobile applications for smartphone, public transport system, as well as different kinds of community publicity activities and materials, etc. The publicity measures and expenses for the 2012 to 2016 VR Campaigns are as follows:

Cycle Measure	Publicity expenses for VR Campaign (\$'000)				
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016 [#]
Publicity on television and radio	2,640	2,850	920	2,270	2,730
Newspapers and magazines	1,480	520	520	740	900
Websites and mobile applications for smartphone	380	290	1,780	1,380	1,340
Public transport system	1,120	—	460	1,450	2,230
Employing VR Assistants and conducting various publicity activities in the community	6,130	750	1,300	4,530	6,880
Production and distribution of leaflets, posters, banners, appeal letters, souvenirs and miscellaneous items	2,070	460	120	3,420	3,160
Total	13,820	4,870	5,100	13,790	17,240

#Figures for the 2016 VR Campaign represent estimated expenses.

2. The REO has reserved about \$320 million in 2017-18 for the preparation and conduct of any possible by-elections. The publicity expenses involved will be paid out of the above reserved provision.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB087

(Question Serial No. 2091)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Provision for 2017-18 has been reduced by 39.7% to \$554.2 million compared with the previous year. This is mainly due to the reduction in requirements upon completion of the 2016 Legislative Council (LegCo) general election and the 2016 Election Committee subsector ordinary elections. In this connection, please provide the following information:

(1) What will be the estimated expenditure and manpower required for the conduct and supervision of the LegCo by-elections if they are to be held? Will the estimated provision this year be able to cover the expenditure required for the relevant by-elections?

(2) In view of the discrepancies between voter turnout and number of ballot papers issued and the long queues of voters at some polling stations in the 2016 LegCo general election, has the Government reviewed the situation and considered electronisation of the relevant procedures so as to avoid a repetition of the same situation in the next LegCo election or by-elections that may be conducted? If so, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy (Member Question No. 18)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) has reserved about \$320 million in 2017-18 for the preparation and conduct of any possible by-elections. Should there be a need to organise Legislative Council (LegCo) by-election, the REO will, depending on the timing, scale and practical arrangements, provide adequate manpower and commence early preparatory work to ensure that the by-election will be smoothly conducted in an open, fair and honest manner.

2. The Electoral Affairs Commission (EAC) conducted a review on the discrepancies between the cumulative voter turnout figures and the number of ballot papers actually counted, and the long queues of voters at some polling stations in the 2016 LegCo general election. The review findings and relevant recommendations are set out in the EAC Report on the 2016 LegCo general election. In response to the recommendations of the Report,

the REO will implement the following improvement measures to avoid occurrence of similar incidents in future elections:

- (a) revising the design of the statistical forms to strengthen the monitoring function of cross-checking of data on the statistical forms and countersigning among different polling staff. The REO will also increase the number of staff responsible for statistical work at the polling stations to alleviate their work pressure, and enhance the training of polling staff on the skills of completing statistical forms and handling statistics; and
- (b) conducting a more detailed estimation of the throughput of polling stations in advance in future elections, and securing more and larger venues for use as polling stations as far as possible. Furthermore, the REO will strive to strike a better balance between the size of the polling station and the accessibility of the location. Where necessary, it will look for appropriate venue at a location farther away to ensure that the size of the polling station is sufficient to accommodate the electors and handle the throughput of electors during peak hours.

In addition, the REO will continue to assess the feasibility of using information technology in different aspects of the election with a view to improving the electoral process.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB088

(Question Serial No. 1362)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2017-18 under this programme, it was mentioned that checks on electors in the current register will be conducted in respect of their registered particulars, including cross-matching exercise with other government departments. In this connection, please inform this Committee of:

1. the total number of electors whose registered particulars were checked in 2016-17; the percentage of the electors checked against the total number of electors in Hong Kong; and when the checking of particulars with respect to those electors who are not yet covered by the exercise will commence;
2. the estimated provision for the above-mentioned checking exercise; and
3. the manpower arrangement of the above exercise; and whether the Government will allocate additional manpower to complete the checking exercise.

Asked by: Hon WONG Kwok-kin (Member Question No. 45)

Reply:

In the light of public concern over the accuracy of residential addresses recorded in the voter register in recent years, the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) has stepped up publicity since the 2012 voter registration (VR) cycle to remind the public about the importance of providing true and accurate information for registration and updating their registration particulars, especially the principal residential addresses. Besides, the REO will continue to implement various checking measures, including the conduct of cross-matching exercise with other government departments on the registered particulars of electors, and inquiry process to improve the accuracy and completeness of VR records. The checking measures include follow-up inquiries on undelivered poll cards arising from elections; cross-matching of the residential addresses of electors with the Housing Department, the Hong Kong Housing Society and the Home Affairs Department; checks on residential addresses with multiple electors or multiple surnames of electors; random sample checks on registered and newly registered electors; checks on addresses with incomplete

information or suspected non-residential addresses; and checks on addresses situated at buildings already demolished or vacant buildings to be demolished.

2. The number of electors covered by the checking measures in the 2016 VR cycle was around 1.6 million, representing about 43% of electors contained in the register. The REO will continue with the above checking work in the 2017 and future VR cycles to enhance the accuracy and completeness of VR records contained in the final register.

3. The REO will allocate sufficient manpower and resources in 2017-18 to sustain the checking work. It will also continue to strengthen the publicity measures to encourage eligible persons to register as electors, remind the electors under checking to update or confirm their registered residential addresses with the REO before the deadline and encourage electors to use the Online Voter Information Enquiry System to verify their registration status and particulars. The above work will be carried out by a team comprising 104 civil servants (including 1 time-limited civil service post) and around 50 contract staff. The expenditure on staff remuneration and the related operational expenses are estimated to be around \$51 million. The relevant work will continue to be carried out in the 2017 and 2018 VR cycles.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB089

(Question Serial No. 1779)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. Regarding the conduct of a voter registration (VR) exercise in 2017-18, the Government indicated that it would encourage eligible young people in particular to register as electors. What are its strategies in this respect?
2. Is there an estimation of the number of young electors out of the 80 000 new electors to be registered? If yes, what is the basis for such estimation?
3. With respect to the conduct of a VR exercise, what is the estimated expenditure in 2017-18?

Asked by: Hon WONG Pik-wan, Helena (Member Question No. 1)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) makes use of different channels to appeal to eligible persons to register as electors. These channels include traditional media (such as television, radio and newspaper) and new media that are more popular among young people (such as websites and mobile applications for smartphome), etc. In addition, the REO will launch the following publicity measures during the 2017 Voter Registration (VR) Campaign to encourage eligible young people to register as electors if they have yet to do so:

- (a) setting up registration counters at the Registration of Persons Offices of the Immigration Department to encourage and assist young people applying for or collecting adult identity cards at these Offices to register as electors;
- (b) displaying posters at universities, tertiary institutions and secondary schools to appeal to eligible students to register as electors; and
- (c) appealing to secondary school students who will reach the age of 18 to register as electors through the school visit programme.

The Government will continue to adopt a multi-pronged approach to promote to persons of different ages and backgrounds with a view to encouraging eligible persons to register as electors, reminding electors to timely update registration particulars, and enhancing public awareness and knowledge of VR.

2. The REO estimates the total number of newly registered electors in the 2017 VR cycle after making reference to the number of applications for VR handled in the past non-election years and recent years. We do not have estimates of the numbers of newly registered electors by age group.

3. Publicity expenses for the 2017 VR Campaign are estimated to be about \$6 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB090

(Question Serial No. 2541)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

With respect to the election expenses for 2017-18, it is estimated that the election expenses will amount to \$437.31 million. Has provision been made for any Legislative Council (LegCo) by-elections that may arise? If yes, what is the amount of provision and how many by-elections can it cope with? How many LegCo constituencies are involved?

Asked by: Hon WONG Pik-wan, Helena (Member Question No. 2)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) has reserved about \$320 million in 2017-18 for the preparation and conduct of any possible by-elections. Should there be a need to organise Legislative Council by-election, the REO will, depending on the timing, scale and practical arrangements, provide adequate manpower and commence early preparatory work to ensure that the by-election will be smoothly conducted in an open, fair and honest manner.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB091

(Question Serial No. 0821)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: Electoral Services
Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The revised estimated expenditure of the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) in 2016-17 is \$918.7 million, representing a substantial drop of 17.6% when compared with the original estimate of \$1.143 billion. What are the reasons for such a substantial drop in the relevant expenditure? The estimated expenditure of the REO in 2017-18 is only \$554.2 million. Has a provision been set aside in the above estimated expenditure for the conduct of Legislative Council (LegCo) by-election(s)? What is the estimated expenditure for conducting the LegCo by-election(s)?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ting-kwong (Member Question No. 4)

Reply:

The revised estimate for 2016-17 of the Registration and Electoral Office is \$196 million (17.6%) less than its original estimate. The main reason is that the expenses related to the preparation and conduct of the 2016 Legislative Council general election, the 2016 Election Committee subsector ordinary elections and the 2016 Legislative Council New Territories East Geographical Constituency by-election are lower than the budgeted provision. Overall speaking, the revision to the provision does not affect the conduct of or the preparatory work for the elections concerned.

2. The estimate for 2017-18 is \$554 million, of which about \$320 million has been reserved for the preparation and conduct of any possible by-elections.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB092

(Question Serial No. 1807)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: Electoral Services
Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. Please inform this Committee of the expenditure set aside for the by-elections (New Territories East and Kowloon West geographical constituencies) to be held due to the disqualification from office of legislators. Please provide details of the estimated expenditure and manpower arrangement for each of the constituencies.
2. The Department of Justice has filed with court against the status of 4 legislators. What is the expenditure for the by-elections to be held in the event of the 4 legislators being disqualified from office? Please provide details of the estimated expenditure and manpower arrangement for each of the constituencies.

Asked by: Hon YEUNG Alvin (Member Question No. 13)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) has reserved about \$320 million in 2017-18 for the preparation and conduct of any possible by-elections. Should there be a need to organise Legislative Council by-election, the REO will, depending on the timing, scale and practical arrangements, provide adequate manpower and commence early preparatory work to ensure that the by-election will be smoothly conducted in an open, fair and honest manner.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB093

(Question Serial No. 1837)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: Electoral Services
Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please list the additional expenses incurred due to problems with polling stations (including hire of venue, honorarium for polling and counting staff, etc.) for the 2016 Legislative Council (LegCo) general election, and indicate whether additional provision will be set aside in the estimate for the conduct of LegCo by-election(s) in the coming year.

Asked by: Hon YEUNG Alvin (Member Question No. 20)

Reply:

In the 2016-17 revised estimate for the Registration and Electoral Office (REO), the provision for the preparation and conduct of the 2016 Legislative Council (LegCo) general election is \$596 million, which includes all venue rental costs, honorarium for polling and counting staff and other related expenses.

2. In the 2016 LegCo general election, owing to a significant rise in the number of ballot papers to be counted as a result of an increased voter turnout, coupled with delay in the counting process as electors at individual polling stations had not completed their voting at the close of poll, the staff had to stay at the counting stations about 4 hours longer than the original expected duration. The additional expenses incurred, including venue rental costs beyond the expected duration and honorarium for overtime work of electoral staff, were absorbed from within the provision mentioned above.

3. The REO has reserved about \$320 million in 2017-18 for the preparation and conduct of any possible by-elections. The venue rental costs, honorarium for polling and counting staff and other related expenses involved will be paid out of the above reserved provision.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB094

(Question Serial No. 1858)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the expenditure on ballot papers used in the 2016 Legislative Council general election, please provide details of the printing cost of the ballot papers, the rental cost of the storage venues, how the ballot papers were stored at the night before the election, and the cost for transporting the ballot papers from the storage venues to the polling stations, etc. What is the estimated expenditure on ballot papers to be used in future by-elections? Please provide details of the whole procedure and the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon YEUNG Alvin (Member Question No. 25)

Reply:

In the 2016 Legislative Council (LegCo) general election, all ballot papers were delivered to the office of the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) for storage after completion of printing by the Government Logistics Department. Proper security measures were put in place by the REO at the venue where the ballot papers were handled and stored, including round-the-clock stationing by security guards and closed circuit television surveillance. In view of the large number of polling stations involved, the Presiding Officers and their deputies went to the ballot paper distribution centre of the REO in batches starting from about one week before the polling day to collect part of the ballot papers for their respective polling stations, and bring them along to their polling stations on the polling day. The remaining ballot papers were delivered to the polling stations in the morning of the polling day under the escort of security guards and electoral staff deployed by the REO. Details pertaining to the delivery of ballot papers for the 2016 LegCo general election, as well as the review findings and corresponding recommendations were set out in paragraphs 14.21 to 14.27 in the Electoral Affairs Commission (EAC) Report on the 2016 LegCo general election. The Report can be downloaded from the EAC website (www.eac.gov.hk).

2. The REO's revised estimate for the preparation and conduct of the 2016 LegCo general election in 2016-17 is \$596 million, covering the printing and delivery costs of ballot papers. The REO has also reserved about \$320 million in 2017-18 for the preparation and conduct of any possible by-elections. Both printing and delivery costs for the ballot papers involved will be paid out of the above reserved provision.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB095

(Question Serial No. 4164)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Government conducted the (1) 2016 Legislative Council general election, (2) 2016 Election Committee subsector ordinary elections in the past year and will hold (3) the fifth term Chief Executive election in 2017. In this connection, would the Government please list in table form the actual expenditures, manpower and arrangements for the above 3 elections?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. 123)

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) has been working closely with the Electoral Affairs Commission (EAC) to assist the EAC and the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) in the necessary preparatory work for public elections to ensure that the elections are conducted in an open, fair and honest manner. These tasks are CMAB's election-related work and are carried out by the staff in the existing establishment of the Bureau.

2. The EAC has the statutory responsibility for the conduct and supervision of elections. The REO provides the EAC with the necessary support in conducting the elections. The costs for conducting the elections are met by the REO.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB096

(Question Serial No. 3536)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

When the remuneration package for politically appointed officials was discussed at the Finance Committee, some Members of the Legislative Council expressed grave concerns over the need for continual existence of the position of Political Assistant to Director of Bureau. Will the Government earmark resources in 2017-18 to conduct a comprehensive review on the entire Political Appointment System, including whether the position of Political Assistant to Director of Bureau should continue to exist. If yes, what are the specific work plan, timetable and estimated expenditure for the review? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. 311)

Reply:

In November 2016, the Chief Executive in Council accepted the recommendations of the Independent Commission on Remuneration for Members of the Executive Council and the Legislature, and Officials under the Political Appointment System of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region regarding the remuneration package for politically appointed officials (PAOs) serving in the fifth-term HKSAR Government. The Government then submitted to the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council for consideration the recommendations for adjusting the PAOs' cash remuneration, which were approved on 10 February.

2. We are implementing and developing the Political Appointment System, and are of the view that it might not be appropriate to introduce significant changes in haste. The existing system (consisting of three layers of PAOs) has been in operation for less than two terms. It is therefore more appropriate to conduct a review upon accumulating more experience.

3. In 2017-18, we have not earmarked any provisions for conducting the review. If it is necessary to carry out the relevant work, the related expenditure will be covered by internal redeployment of resources.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB097

(Question Serial No. 6862)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Has provision been set aside by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau this year to conduct consultation on legislation against discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and the related legislative work? If yes, what are the details of the work?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. 205)

Reply:

Pursuant to a recommendation by the Advisory Group on Eliminating Discrimination against Sexual Minorities to the Government in December 2015, we are conducting a further study on the experience of other jurisdictions in tackling discrimination through legislative and non-legislative measures. The findings of the study would form the basis for public consultation on both legislative proposals and administrative measures to eliminate discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity. The study covers the following topics:

- (a) administrative measures adopted in other jurisdictions to tackle discrimination against the sexual minorities (including whether conciliation to resolve disputes should be the preferred approach), and any empirical data on their implementation, including utilisation of relevant services and facilities, the administrative infrastructure and public expenditure involved, any changes in public attitudes on relevant issues, etc.;

- (b) legislative measures adopted in other jurisdictions to tackle discrimination against the sexual minorities, including –
- (i) empirical data on their implementation, including the number and nature of disputes settled by judicial or other processes;
 - (ii) definitions of “gender identity” and “sexual orientation” in the relevant legislation, and the threshold of evidence required to establish these grounds for claims;
 - (iii) the evolving case law and any established or emerging criteria adopted by courts in balancing the rights of the sexual minorities to protection from discrimination and the freedom of speech and religion of others including religious groups. In particular, the scope and application of exemptions in anti-discrimination legislation should be examined in detail to provide insights on permissible activities under respective exemption provisions;
 - (iv) comparative analyses of the different approaches of formulating anti-discrimination laws including those enacted as a self-contained piece of legislation, as separate pieces of legislation targeting different domains, and as specific provisions in various other legislation; and the legislative approach of extending the definition of “sex” under anti-discrimination legislation on the ground of sex to cover sexual orientation. The underlying factors to the adoption of different approaches, and stakeholders’ views on the adequacy of protection and accessibility of remedies should be covered; and
 - (v) controversial issues in other jurisdictions in relation to the legislative measures, including the implications of legislation on freedom of speech, freedom of conscience and freedom of religion; the concerns of different parties such as the legislature, enforcement authorities and stakeholder groups; and public discourse on “reverse discrimination”.

The study covers both jurisdictions which have adopted legislative measures and those which have not done so, as well as jurisdictions in different cultures including those in Asia. It would provide recommendations on how stakeholders with diverse views could facilitate and participate in public discussion in Hong Kong on both legislative proposals and administrative measures to eliminate discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity.

2. The study is conducted as part of our policy research efforts and the resources required are absorbed in the recurrent expenditure of the Bureau.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB098****(Question Serial No. 6864)**

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Secretary for Security

Question:

Please set out in table form the number of cases in which the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau provided practical assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland in the past 5 years, and provide details of the follow-up actions taken as well as the number of cases successfully assisted.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. 570)

Reply:

Immigration Divisions are currently set up under the Beijing Office and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Guangdong, Chengdu and Shanghai to provide practical assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland.

2. The number of requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland received by the Immigration Divisions in the past 5 years is set out in the table below:

Year	No. of requests for assistance
2012	362
2013	353
2014	340
2015	407
2016	319

3. The Immigration Divisions had rendered practical assistance in the light of actual circumstances, including:

- (a) issuing Entry Permits to Hong Kong residents who had lost their identity documents for returning to Hong Kong;
- (b) notifying relatives of the parties concerned in Hong Kong and giving advice on procedural matters if the parties concerned were involved in a serious accident or become a casualty;
- (c) liaising, on request from the parties concerned, with their relatives and friends in Hong Kong for rendering financial assistance to the parties concerned;
- (d) upon receipt of notification from the Mainland law enforcement agencies regarding the arrest or detention of Hong Kong residents, passing information to relatives of the parties concerned in Hong Kong;
- (e) inquiring, on request from the relatives and friends of the parties concerned, about the situation of the case involving Hong Kong residents being arrested or detained by the Mainland law enforcement agencies;
- (f) providing information on lawyers in the Mainland to the parties concerned or their relatives and friends on request; and
- (g) providing any other relevant advisory services.

4. As the nature and complexity of the cases vary, the Mainland Offices cannot provide a breakdown on the basis of whether the cases have been successfully handled.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB099

(Question Serial No. 5518)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please provide information on the present status of the Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation Joint Conference, its work progress and expected work, minutes of past meetings and relevant expenditure.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 6115)

Reply:

The Plenary of the Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation Joint Conference (Plenary) takes place annually under the co-chairmanship of the Chief Executive and the Governor of Guangdong Province to not only review the progress of Hong Kong/Guangdong co-operation over the past year, but also set the directions for co-operation for the coming year. The most recent Plenary was held in Guangzhou on 14 September 2016. As an established practice, the HKSAR Government reports the discussions and consensus reached at Plenaries via press releases. Relevant information is also provided to the Panel on Commerce and Industry of the Legislative Council for reference.

2. Policy matters on furthering co-operation between Hong Kong and Guangdong Province in the context of deepening regional co-operation with the Mainland under Programme (2) "Constitutional and Mainland Affairs" are mainly handled by 1 division of staff in the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB). In addition, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong (Guangdong ETO) under Programme (3) "Mainland and Taiwan Offices" also plays an on-site facilitating and co-ordinating role in fostering co-operation between Hong Kong and Guangdong at various levels. As the work on organising and participating in the Plenaries of the Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation Joint Conference for the purpose of furthering Hong Kong/Guangdong co-operation is an integral part of the duties and functions of the officers concerned in the CMAB and the Guangdong ETO, the provision required cannot be separately singled out and itemised.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB100****(Question Serial No. 5711)**Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs BureauSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal DataControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

Regarding the studies (if any) conducted by the Equal Opportunities Commission for the purpose of formulating and assessing policies, please provide information in the following format.

- (a) Using the table below, please provide information about studies on public policy and strategic public policy for which funds had been allocated in the past 2 financial years:

Name of consultant	Mode of award (public bidding/ tender/ others (please specify))	Title, content and objectives of project	Consultancy fee (\$)	Start date	Progress of study (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Follow-up actions taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any)	For completed projects, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?

- (b) Are there any projects for which funds have been reserved for conducting internal studies this year? If yes, please provide the following information:

Title, content and objectives of project	Start date	Progress of study (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Follow-up actions taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any)	For projects that are expected to be completed this year, is there any plan to make them public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?

- (c) Are there any projects for which funds have been reserved for conducting consultancy studies this year? If yes, please provide the following information:

Name of consultant	Mode of award (public bidding/ tender/ others (please specify))	Title, content and objectives of project	Consultancy fee (\$)	Start date	Progress of study (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Follow-up actions taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any)	For projects that are expected to be completed this year, is there any plan to make them public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?

- (d) What are the criteria for considering the award of consultancy projects to the research institutions concerned?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 2489)

Reply:

According to the information provided by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), studies that EOC has carried out for the purpose of formulating and assessing policies are set out as below:

- (a) Information about studies on public policy and strategic public policy funded and carried out by EOC in 2015-16 and 2016-17 is as follows:

Name of consultant	Mode of award (public bidding/ tender/ others (please specify))	Title, content and objectives of project	Consultancy fee (\$)	Start date	Progress of study (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Follow up actions taken by the EOC on the study reports and their progress (if any)	If completed, have the projects been made public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
Gender Research Centre, Hong Kong Institute of Asia Pacific Studies of The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Selection of quotation based on the criteria set out at paragraph (d) below	Feasibility Study of Legislating against Discrimination on the Grounds of Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Intersex Status To solicit views from stakeholders on the feasibility of legislation to outlaw discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status.	648,609.20	March 2014	Completed in February 2016	Not applicable	The consultancy study report has been uploaded onto the website of the EOC for public perusal; the EOC also held a press conference on 26 January 2016.
Consumer Search Hong Kong Limited	Selection of quotation based on the criteria set out at paragraph (d) below	Exploratory Study on Age Discrimination in Employment To provide an overview on age discrimination in the Hong Kong workplace and probe for the feasibility of legislation on age discrimination.	280,000	June 2014	Completed in February 2016	Not applicable	The consultancy study report has been uploaded onto the website of the EOC for public perusal; the EOC also held a press conference on 7 January 2016.

Name of consultant	Mode of award (public bidding/ tender/ others (please specify))	Title, content and objectives of project	Consultancy fee (\$)	Start date	Progress of study (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Follow up actions taken by the EOC on the study reports and their progress (if any)	If completed, have the projects been made public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
Mercado Solutions Associates Ltd.	Selection of quotation based on the criteria set out at paragraph (d) below	Study on Discrimination against Ethnic Minorities in the Provision of Goods, Services and Facilities, and Disposal and Management of Premises To provide an overview on discrimination against ethnic minority groups in seeking services and securing an accommodation in Hong Kong.	422,000	December 2014	Completed in June 2016	The consultant has been making regular reports to members of the EOC on the progress.	The consultancy study report has been uploaded onto the website of the EOC for public perusal; the EOC also held a press conference on 21 September 2016.
Mercado Solutions Associates Ltd.	Selection of quotation based on the criteria set out at paragraph (d) below	Study on Pregnancy Discrimination in Small and Medium Enterprises	435,000	March 2015	Completed in May 2016	The consultant has been making regular reports to members of the EOC on the progress.	The consultancy study report has been uploaded onto the website of the EOC for public perusal; the EOC also held a press conference on 4 May 2016.

Name of consultant	Mode of award (public bidding/ tender/ others (please specify))	Title, content and objectives of project	Consultancy fee (\$)	Start date	Progress of study (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Follow up actions taken by the EOC on the study reports and their progress (if any)	If completed, have the projects been made public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
Mercado Solutions Associates Ltd.	Selection of quotation based on the criteria set out at paragraph (d) below	Equal Opportunities Awareness Survey 2015	220,000	May 2015	Completed in August 2016	The consultant has been making regular reports to members of the EOC on the progress.	The consultancy study report has been uploaded onto the website of the EOC for public perusal; the EOC also held a press conference on 18 July 2016.

(b) Information about internal studies for which funds have been allocated in 2017-18 is as follows:

Title, content and objectives of project	Start date	Progress of study (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Follow up actions taken by the EOC on study reports and their progress (if any)	For projects that are expected to be completed this year, is there any plan to make them public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
Questionnaire Survey on Sexual Harassment, including Questionnaire Survey for Non-government Organisations in Social Welfare Sector	Q3 2016	In progress	Not applicable	For internal reference when the project is completed.

Title, content and objectives of project	Start date	Progress of study (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Follow up actions taken by the EOC on study reports and their progress (if any)	For projects that are expected to be completed this year, is there any plan to make them public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
Survey on Further Studies and Career Path of DSE Ethnic Minorities Graduates	Q3 2017	Under planning	Not applicable	For internal reference when the project is completed.

(c) Information about consultancy studies for which funds have been allocated in 2017-18 is as follows:

Name of consultant	Mode of award (public bidding/ tender/ others (please specify))	Title, content and objectives of the project	Consultancy fee (\$)	Start date	Progress of study (under planning/ in progress / completed)	Follow up actions taken by the EOC on the study reports and their progress (if any)	For projects that are expected to be completed by this year, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
Lingnan University	Public bidding	Sexual Harassment in Service Industries: Comparison of Sexual Harassment Experienced by Mainland Women Newly Arrived in Hong Kong and Women Born Locally and their Awareness of Sexual Harassment Prevention	476,675	January 2017	In progress	--	All study reports completed will be made public through press conference; reports and press releases will be uploaded onto the EOC's website.

Name of consultant	Mode of award (public bidding/ tender/ others (please specify))	Title, content and objectives of the project	Consultancy fee (\$)	Start date	Progress of study (under planning/ in progress / completed)	Follow up actions taken by the EOC on the study reports and their progress (if any)	For projects that are expected to be completed by this year, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
Centre for Chinese Families Studies of the Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies at the Chinese University of Hong Kong	Public bidding	Research on Family Status Discrimination in Hong Kong Workplace	600,999.20	January 2017	In progress	--	All study reports completed will be made public through press conference; reports and press releases will be uploaded onto the EOC's website.
To be confirmed (in preparation for engagement of consultant)	Public bidding	Identifying Effective Approaches to Reduce Opposition in the Siting of Integrated Community Centres for Mental Wellness and other Mental Health Facilities	To be confirmed	Expected to start in Q3 2017	Not applicable	--	All study reports completed will be made public through press conference; reports and press releases will be uploaded onto the EOC's website.

(d) The EOC assesses all proposals for study projects on the basis of the following selection criteria:

1. Organisational capacity and experience;
2. Capacity to meet service requirements;
3. Knowledge and understanding of equal opportunities; and
4. Budget.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB101

(Question Serial No. 5712)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the records management work of your bureau and the department under its purview over the past year –

1. Please provide information on the number and rank of officers designated to perform such work. If there is no officer designated for such work, please provide information on the number of officers and the hours of work involved in records management duties, and the other duties they have to undertake in addition to records management;
2. Please list in the table below information on programme and administrative records which have been closed pending transfer to the Government Records Service (GRS) for appraisal;

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents	Reasons for records yet to be transferred

3. Please list in the table below information on programme and administrative records which have been transferred to GRS for retention;

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Years that records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents

4. Please list in the table below information on records which have been approved for destruction by GRS;

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Years that records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 2490)

Reply:

Regarding records management work in the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) and the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) under the CMAB's purview over the past year, the relevant information is provided below –

1. A Senior Executive Officer in each of CMAB and REO performs the role of Departmental Records Manager as part of the officer's duties, to establish and implement a departmental records management programme in accordance with the guidelines of the Government Records Service (GRS). Staff of individual teams/offices are responsible for their day-to-day records management activities.

Since the work is performed as part of the daily duties of the above officers, we do not have a separate record on the number of hours of work involved in records management.

2. CMAB and REO do not have programme and administrative records which were closed pending transfer to the GRS for appraisal in the past year.
3. Information on records which were transferred to GRS for retention in the past year is provided below –

Name of Bureau/ Department	Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Years that records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents
REO	Programme records	2002-2016	681 265 records in 167.83 linear metres	2016	Permanent retention or further appraised by GRS 3 years after action completed	Some are confidential documents

4. Information on records which were approved for destruction by GRS in the past year is provided below –

Name of Bureau/ Department	Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Years that records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents
CMAB	Administrative records	1989-2015	112 records in 2.52 linear metres	Direct destruction, no need to transfer to GRS	12 months after the employees have left service	No
REO	Programme records	1995-2016	983 764 records in 435.64 linear metres	Some were transferred to GRS for appraisal in 2013 and were destroyed in 2016, while the others were destroyed directly, no need to transfer to GRS	6 months to 5 years after action completed	Some are confidential documents
	Administrative records	1998-2012	91 records in 5.97 linear metres	Direct destruction, no need to transfer to GRS	2 to 3 years after action completed	No

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB102****(Question Serial No. 5714)**Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs BureauSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: Not specifiedControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

1. Regarding the expenses on entertainment and gifts of your bureau and the department under its purview in the past 2 financial years, please provide details using the table below:

Bureau/ branch/ department and year	Estimated expenses on entertainment and gifts in the year	Actual expenses on entertainment and gifts in the year	Expenditure limit on entertainment expenses (including beverages) per head for the year	Expenditure limit on gift expenses per guest for the year	Number of receptions held and total number of guests entertained in the year

2. Regarding the expenses on entertainment and gifts of your bureau and the department under its purview in this financial year, please provide details using the table below:

Bureau/ branch/ department	Date of reception (day/ month/ year)	Departments/ organisations and titles of the guests entertained (grouped by department/ organisation and indicating the number of guests)	Food expenses incurred in the reception	Beverage expenses and gift expenses incurred in the reception	Venue of the reception (department office/ restaurant in government facilities/ private restaurant/ others (please specify))

3. Please provide the estimated expenses on entertainment and gifts for the next financial year using the table below:

Bureau/ branch/department	Estimated provision for expenses on entertainment and gifts	Expenditure limit on entertainment expenses per guest	Expenditure limit on gift expenses per guest

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 2492)

Reply:

All politically appointed officials and civil servants should observe the relevant regulations and administrative guidelines in the provision of official meals. According to the existing guidelines, the expenditure limits on entertainment in the form of official meals should not exceed \$450 per person for lunch or \$600 per person for dinner, inclusive of all expenses incurred on food and beverages consumed on the occasion, service charges and tips. Official entertainment provided by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) and the Registration and Electoral Office (REO), which is under the purview of CMAB, is also subject to the same principles and guidelines. In 2015-16 and 2016-17 (as at 28 February 2017), the expenses under the Departmental Entertainment Vote for local entertainment incurred by CMAB are \$140,000 and \$80,000 respectively, while the estimated expenditure for 2017-18 is \$143,000. As for REO, the expenses on official entertainment in 2015-16 and 2016-17 (as at 28 February 2017) are \$2,300 and \$5,300 respectively. The Office has not particularly earmarked any provision for official entertainment in 2017-18.

2. In line with the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government's green policy, public officers have as far as possible refrained from bestowing gifts/souvenirs to others during the conduct of official activities. According to the existing guidelines, where bestowal of gifts/souvenirs is necessary or unavoidable due to operational, protocol or other reasons, the gift/souvenir items should not be lavish or extravagant and the number should be kept to a minimum. Also, the exchange of gifts/souvenirs should only be made on an organisation-to-organisation basis. CMAB and REO do not specifically maintain separate accounts for the expenses on the procurement of gifts and souvenirs, nor do they maintain a separate breakdown.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB103

(Question Serial No. 5716)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office
(3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices
(4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please provide the details of the visits outside Hong Kong made by the Secretary and Under Secretary in the past 5 years, and list, by date, the following for each trip: (a) objective, place of visit; (b) titles of the local officials met; (c) number and titles of the Hong Kong officers joining the visit; (d) duration of trip (days); and (e) total expenditure incurred as well as respective expenses on (i) transport (please list flight ticket expenditure and local transportation expenses separately); (ii) accommodation; (iii) meals; (iv) banquets or entertainment; and (v) gifts.

Date	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(v)

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 2494)

Reply:

The relevant summary information on official duty visits outside Hong Kong made by the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs and Under Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs from 2012-13 to 2016-17 is provided below –

Date of visits (Number of visits)	Place of visits	Departments/ organisations visited	No. of officers in Director of Bureau's Office joining the visits	Objectives of visits	Hotel accommo- dation expendi- ture^{Note 1} (\$ (A)	Flight/ train/ vessel ticket expendi- ture^{Note 2} (\$ (B)	Other expenses^{Note 3} (\$ (C)	Total expenditure (\$ (A)+(B)+(C)
2012-13 ^{Note 4} (10)	Mainland (Beijing, Hainan, Guangdong, Sichuan, Tainjin) Taiwan, Switzerland	Central ministries, departments of local governments and relevant committees of the United Nations	0-1 officer per visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● promoting exchanges and co-operation with the Mainland, Macao and Taiwan ● attending the hearings of the relevant committees of the United Nations 	14,900	124,660	14,490	154,050
2013-14 (11)	Mainland (Beijing, Fujian, Guangdong) and Macao, Taiwan, Switzerland	Central ministries, departments of local governments and relevant committees of the United Nations	0-1 officer per visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● promoting exchanges and co-operation with the Mainland, Macao and Taiwan ● attending the hearings of the relevant committees of the United Nations 	33,050	179,340	24,490	236,880
2014-15 (13)	Mainland (Shanghai, Guangdong, Beijing, Fujian) and Macao, Switzerland	Central ministries, departments of local governments and relevant committees of the United Nations	0-3 officers per visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● promoting exchanges and co-operation with the Mainland, Macao and Taiwan ● attending the hearings of the relevant committees of the United Nations 	30,510	136,050	33,220	199,780
2015-16 (17)	Mainland (Hubei, Shanghai, Liaoning, Guangdong, Beijing, Tianjin, Hunan, Henan, Shaanxi, Fujian) and Macao, Taiwan	Central ministries and departments of local governments	0-4 officers per visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● promoting exchanges and co-operation with the Mainland, Macao and Taiwan 	40,550	148,110	47,040	235,700
2016-17 (8)	Mainland (Shanghai, Shandong, Beijing, Guangdong, Jiangxi, Zhejiang) and Macao, Australia, New Zealand	Central ministries and departments of local governments	0-2 officers per visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● promoting exchanges and co-operation with the Mainland and Macao ● studying issues related to electoral arrangements in overseas places 	31,220	213,630	42,660	287,510

Notes:

- (1) The arrangement of hotel accommodation was provided to officers concerned in accordance with the relevant Civil Service Regulations and guidelines.
- (2) Proper class of air passages was provided to officers concerned in accordance with the relevant Civil Service Regulations which take into account ranking of their offices, flying time, flight schedule and details.
- (3) Other expenses include subsistence allowance for duty outside Hong Kong and local transportation expenses, but exclude the expenditure which was sponsored by the hosting government (if any).
- (4) Since the assumption of office by the current term government on 1 July 2012 until 31 March 2013.

2. All politically appointed officials and civil servants should observe the relevant regulations and administrative guidelines in the provision of official meals. According to the existing guidelines, the expenditure limits on entertainment in the form of official meals should not exceed \$450 per person for lunch or \$600 per person for dinner, inclusive of all expenses incurred on food and beverages consumed on the occasion, service charges and tips. Official entertainment provided by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) is also subject to the same principles and guidelines. We do not maintain separate accounts for official entertainment expenses incurred by the Director of Bureau and Deputy Director of Bureau during their duty visits outside Hong Kong.

3. In line with the Government's green policy, public officers should as far as possible refrain from bestowing gifts/souvenirs to others during the conduct of official activities. According to the existing guidelines, where bestowal of gifts/souvenirs is necessary or unavoidable due to operational, protocol or other reasons, the gift/souvenir items should not be lavish and the number should be kept to a minimum. Also, the exchange of gifts/souvenirs should only be made on an organisation-to-organisation basis. CMAB does not specifically maintain separate accounts for the expenses on the procurement of gifts and souvenirs, nor does it maintain a separate breakdown.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB104****(Question Serial No. 5718)**Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs BureauSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan OfficesControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

Please provide the details of the meetings, visits or exchanges with relevant Mainland authorities in the past year, and list, by date, the following for each trip: (a) objective, place of visit; (b) titles of the local officials met; (c) number and titles of the Hong Kong officers joining the visit; (d) duration of trip (days); and (e) total expenditure incurred as well as respective expenses on (i) transport (please list flight ticket expenditure and local transportation expenses separately); (ii) accommodation; (iii) meals; (iv) banquets or entertainment; and (v) gifts.

Date	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 2496)Reply:

A total of 32 official duty visits to the Mainland, Macao and Taiwan were undertaken by officers of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) in 2016-17, the relevant information is provided below –

Content/objective	Number of officers	Expenditure (\$) ^{Note}
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promoting regional co-operation with the Mainland in places including Beijing, Shanghai, Henan, Guangdong, Shandong, Sichuan, Jiangxi, Zhejiang, etc. • enhancing co-operation and exchanges with Macao and Taiwan 	1-12 officers per visit	264,480

The above duty visits lasted for 1 to 7 days per trip, joined by officers of different ranks and led by a senior officer or directorate officer. The Registration and Electoral Office under CMAB's purview did not undertake any official duty visit in 2016-17.

Note:

- (1) The above expenditure includes expenditure on hotel accommodation and flight tickets, but excludes—
 - (a) overseas subsistence allowance provided to officers concerned, expenses on communication, etc.; and
 - (b) the expenditure which was sponsored by the hosting government.
- (2) The arrangement of hotel accommodation was provided to officers concerned in accordance with the relevant Civil Service Regulations and guidelines.
- (3) Proper class of air passages was provided to officers concerned in accordance with the relevant Civil Service Regulations which take into account ranking of their offices, flying time, flight schedule and other relevant details.

2. All politically appointed officials and civil servants should observe the relevant regulations and administrative guidelines in the provision of official meals. According to the existing guidelines, the expenditure limits on entertainment in the form of official meals should not exceed \$450 per person for lunch or \$600 per person for dinner, inclusive of all expenses incurred on food and beverages consumed on the occasion, service charges and tips. Official entertainment provided by CMAB is also subject to the same principles and guidelines.

3. In line with the Government's green policy, public officers should as far as possible refrained from bestowing gifts/souvenirs to others during the conduct of official activities. According to the existing guidelines, where bestowal of gifts/souvenirs is necessary or unavoidable due to operational, protocol or other reasons, the gift/souvenir items should not be lavish or extravagant and the number should be kept to a minimum. Also, the exchange of gifts/souvenirs should only be made on an organisation-to-organisation basis. CMAB does not specifically maintain separate accounts for the expenses on the procurement of gifts and souvenirs, nor does it maintain a separate breakdown.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB105****(Question Serial No. 5722)****Head:** (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau**Subhead (No. & title):** ()**Programme:** Not Specified**Controlling Officer:** Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)**Director of Bureau:** Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs**Question:**

In regard to the growing co-operation between Hong Kong and the Mainland in recent years, please provide relevant information on Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects or programmes in which your bureau and the department under your purview have been involved.

- (a) For Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects or programmes, please provide information for the past 2 financial years as per following table:

Project / Programme	Details, objective and whether it is related to the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong / Guangdong Co-operation (the Framework Agreement) or the National 13 th Five-year Plan (13-5 Plan)	Expenditure involved	Mainland officials and department/ organisation involved	Has any agreement been signed and whether it has been made public? If not, what are the reasons?	Progress (% completed, commencement date, target completion date)	Have the details, objectives, amount involved or impact on the public, society, culture and ecology been released to the public? If so, through what channels and what were the manpower and expenditure involved? If not, what are the reasons?	Has public consultation on the cross-boundary project been conducted in Hong Kong?	Details of the legislative amendments or policy changes involved in the project/ programme

- (b) Has provision been earmarked for Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects or programmes in this financial year (2017-18)? If so, please provide information in respect of Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects or programmes for 2017-18 as per following table:

Project / Programme	Details, objective and whether it is related to the Framework Agreement or the 13-5 Plan	Expenditure involved	Mainland officials and department/ organisation involved	Has any agreement been signed and whether it has been made public? If not, what are the reasons?	Progress (% completed, commencement date, target completion date)	Have the details, objectives, amount involved or impact on the public, society, culture and ecology been released to the public? If so, through which channels and what were the manpower and expenditure involved? If not, what are the reasons?	Will public consultation on the cross-boundary project be conducted in Hong Kong?	Details of the legislative amendments or policy changes involved in the project/ programme

- (c) Apart from the projects or programmes listed above, are there any other modes of Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary co-operation? If so, in what modes are they taken forward? What were the manpower and expenditure involved over the past year? How much financial and manpower resources have been earmarked in the 2017-18 Estimates?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 2500)

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) attaches great importance to enhancing co-operation between Hong Kong and the Mainland. Our co-operation with Guangdong is conducted on a mutually beneficial and complementary basis. In fact, the Legislative Council (LegCo) reaffirmed its strong support by passing 2 motions entitled “Proactively implementing the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation” and “Promoting regional economic integration between Guangdong and Hong Kong” on 26 May 2010 and 5 May 2011 respectively. The motions urged the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government to formulate and implement the specific policies and measures outlined in the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation (Framework Agreement) as early as possible, and to promote economic integration between Guangdong and Hong Kong on various fronts.

2. The Government has briefed the House Committee and different Panels of LegCo on individual aspects of the Framework Agreement on various occasions. The full text of the Framework Agreement was issued via a press release on the day it was signed (7 April 2010). While CMAB is responsible for co-ordinating the efforts of the HKSAR Government in promoting co-operation with Guangdong, specific projects are initiated and taken forward by the relevant policy bureaux and departments. Where necessary, relevant parties such as advisory boards and LegCo would be briefed or consulted in accordance with established practice.

3. Since the Framework Agreement was signed in 2010, good progress has been made in its implementation. Both sides signed in February this year “The 2017 Work Plan” which sets out the work programme of Hong Kong/Guangdong co-operation for the year.
4. The Outline of the National 13th Five-Year Plan (13-5 Plan) was promulgated in March 2016. In 2017-18, CMAB will continue to provide support to the Steering Committee on Co-operation with the Mainland, chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration, to co-ordinate various policy bureaux and departments to actively implement the initiatives related to Hong Kong’s development set out in the 13-5 Plan under the “one country, two systems” principle.
5. Policy matters on deepening regional co-operation are mainly handled by 2 divisions of staff in CMAB. In addition, the Beijing Office and the 4 Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan (Mainland Offices) also play a facilitating and co-ordinating role in fostering closer ties with the Mainland at various levels.
6. As the above work is an integral part of the duties and functions of the officers concerned in CMAB and the Mainland Offices, the manpower provision cannot be separately singled out and itemised. Broadly speaking, about \$154 million was incurred and \$171 million has been set aside (excluding staff cost) in 2016-17 and 2017-18 respectively for taking forward the relevant work.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB106****(Question Serial No. 6060)**

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child has asked Contracting States or territories to the Convention on the Rights of the Child to promote public awareness of the provisions of the Convention. In this regard, what were the Government's related expenditures in the past 5 years? Has provision been earmarked for promotional work in the next financial year? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 1172)

Reply:

The Government is committed to promoting public awareness of and respect for the rights of children as enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The related expenditures incurred in the past 5 years (excluding manpower expenditure) are listed in the table below –

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2012-13	1.838 [#]
2013-14	2.116 [^]
2014-15	1.288
2015-16	2.876 [^]
2016-17 (revised estimate)	1.077

[#] Including production of Announcements in the Public Interest on children's rights.

[^] Including co-operating with the Radio Television Hong Kong to produce a TV programme promoting children's rights.

2. In 2017-18, the Government will continue to promote children's rights through implementing the Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme and organising the Children's Rights Forum. Since the above work is performed as part of the daily duties of our staff, the manpower involved cannot be singled out or separately quantified. The estimated expenditure for these efforts is about \$1.1 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB107

(Question Serial No. 6221)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please set out in table form the allocation of provision, the additional manpower and the relevant posts created for examining the feasibility of establishing an Equal Opportunities Tribunal. What are the specific work plan and the expenditure involved? If there is no such plan, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 1308)

Reply:

With regard to the proposal to establish an Equal Opportunities Tribunal, we have consulted the Judiciary. The Judiciary considers that the proactive case management measures introduced after the Civil Justice Reform in April 2009 have enabled the District Courts to handle Equal Opportunities (EO) claims in a more efficient manner. Besides, the Legislative Council passed the District Court Equal Opportunities (Amendment) Rules 2014 in July 2014 so as to streamline the adjudication of EO claims in District Courts and further enhance case management measures. The new measures have come into effect in November 2014 and are now operating smoothly. The relevant measures have provided a more accessible platform for parties concerned to pursue EO claims in court, and also helped expedite the adjudication of EO claims.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB108

(Question Serial No. 6226)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please set out in table form the allocation of provision, the additional manpower and the relevant posts created for the promotion of the concept of equal pay for work of equal value in the context of gender equality. What are the specific plan, (including the publicity programme) and the expenditure involved? If there is no such plan, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 1309)

Reply:

Since its establishment, the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) has been working steadily to advance the Equal Pay for Work of Equal Value (EPEV) principle. These efforts include incorporating EPEV into the Code of Practice on Employment (Code of Practice) issued under the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (SDO) in 1996; publishing a set of guidelines to address the issue of pay disparity between the two genders; publishing a four-book set on Guide to Equal Pay for Work of Equal Value for small businesses, which together hire a large number of employees in Hong Kong; arranging talks for employers, women groups and other stakeholders; and incorporating EPEV principles and practices in trainings organised for different stakeholders and the general public.

2. The EOC is reviewing internally the abovementioned Code of Practice, including the content about the EPEV principle. Drawing on the experiences and cases accumulated since the enactment of the SDO in 1996, the review aims to incorporate the Guide to Equal Pay for Work of Equal Value into the Code of Practice, in order to promote good management practices and enhance public awareness on the EPEV concept. The EOC expects that the internal review will be completed by the end of this year and it will consult stakeholders and the general public afterwards.

3. As advised by the EOC, the work on promoting the concept of EPEV includes conducting research studies, preparing consultancy reports, organising conferences, preparing and printing EPEV guides, etc. These are integral parts of the EOC's efforts in promoting the concept of equal opportunities for all; hence a separate breakdown is not available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB109

(Question Serial No. 6376)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In the past 5 years, had the Government collected relevant data on the races of stakeholders when it implemented policies and measures on education, employment, health care, housing, social welfare or security, as well as provided the related public services, so as to facilitate more comprehensive consideration by the policy bureaux concerned when formulating policies? If it had, please list such policies, measures and public services. If it had not, what measures does the Government have in place to ensure that its policies, measures and public services can cater for the needs of local residents of different races, and promote racial harmony and sustainable development of a pluralistic society?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 1706)

Reply:

The Government endeavours to promote racial equality and harmony, and to ensure that people of different races enjoy equal access to public services. Government bureaux and departments, having regard to their own policy considerations and needs, collect data and statistics on the races of stakeholders and conduct related studies.

2. As specifically stated in the 2014 Policy Address, the Government would implement a number of measures to strengthen education support and employment services for ethnic minorities and to help them integrate into the community in such areas as community outreach, health and public education. The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) is responsible for the overall policy on the promotion of racial equality and the Race Discrimination Ordinance. CMAB has also promulgated the Administrative Guidelines on Promotion of Racial Equality, which provides guidance to relevant Government bureaux and departments and other statutory bodies, and assists them in the promotion of racial equality and equal opportunities in public services under their respective policy purview.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB110****(Question Serial No. 6380)**

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Does the Government have any measure or plan to require all government departments to collect relevant data on the races of stakeholders, so as to review if the relevant policies, measures and public services will effectively promote racial equality and racial harmony? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

In the past 5 years, had various policy bureaux and departments, either on their own or through commissioning community organisations, conducted surveys or researches with local residents of different races as their targets? If they had, please set out the following about the survey or research projects: when they were conducted, the responsible government departments or organisations, the expenditure involved, whether they have been completed and (if completed) the results thereof, broken down by project names; if no such surveys or researches had been conducted, what are the reasons? Please provide the information as per following table.

Bureau/ Department	Name of project	When the project was conducted	Responsible department/ organisation	Expenditure	Results

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 1707)

Reply:

Government bureaux and departments, having regard to their own policy considerations and needs, collect data and statistics on the races of stakeholders and conduct related studies on their own. This Bureau does not have separate breakdown of the work involved.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB111

(Question Serial No. 6420)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Government states that it will use the Children's Forum as a platform for collecting and listening to the views of the children. Please provide information on:

1. the details of the Children's Forums organised, including the dates, themes, numbers of participants, venues as well as the Government departments and officials participated, since the establishment of the Forum;
2. the number of children that can be reached by the Forum;
3. whether the timing of the Forum is children-friendly, e.g., whether the Forums are held at the time when children have to attend school; and
4. the effectiveness of the Forum.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 1904)

Reply:

Since the establishment of the Children's Rights Forum (the Forum) in 2005, 31 meetings have been convened. These meetings were held after school hours or during weekends. There were about 30 to 50 participants at each meeting. The venues and discussion topics of past meetings are set out at the Annex. Generally speaking, the secretariat will, in respect of different topics, invite representatives from relevant bureaux and departments (usually pitched at directorate / senior level) to the meetings. The views of the participants on various topics are relayed to the bureaux / departments concerned. For example, views about rehabilitation services to help discharged young offenders reintegrate into society, student suicide and free quality kindergarten education, etc., have been reflected to the Security Bureau and the Education Bureau respectively.

2. The Forum has been serving as a platform for the exchange of views among children bodies, children and the Government on pertinent matters. It encourages members of the public who take an interest in children's affairs (including children) to propose topics for discussion and participate in the Forum's discussions. Starting from 2014, the Government has enhanced the co-operation between the Family Council and the Forum. The Forum will relay not only to policy bureaux but also to the Family Council the views of children on various government initiatives expressed at the Forum, so as to facilitate the Family Council's work in assessing the impact of these policies on family. This will help facilitate the collection and reflection of views concerning children's interests for reference by bureaux and departments in a more systematic way.

Details of meetings of The Children's Rights Forum

Date	District	Discussion topic
2 December 2005	Wan Chai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment of a Children's Rights Forum - Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme - Initial report of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region under the Convention on the Rights of the Child: Response to the Concluding Observations of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (continued discussion)
25 January 2006 (continued meeting)	Wan Chai	
29 March 2006	Wan Chai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Initial report of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region under the Convention on the Rights of the Child: Response to the Concluding Observations of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (continued discussion) - Proposed race discrimination legislation - Establishment of the Children's Rights Unit - Review of corporate governance of the Equal Opportunities Commission
15 December 2006	Wan Chai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Initial report of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region under the Convention on the Rights of the Child: Response to the Concluding Observations of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (continued discussion) - Progress report on 2006-07 Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme
9 March 2007	Wan Chai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Initial report of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region under the Convention on the Rights of the Child: Response to the Concluding Observations of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (continued discussion) - Progress report on 2006-07 Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme - Social welfare services for children
29 June 2007	Wan Chai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Initial report of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region under the Convention on the Rights of the Child: Response to the Concluding Observations of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (continued discussion)

Date	District	Discussion topic
21 September 2007	Wan Chai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Initial report of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region under the Convention on the Rights of the Child: Response to the Concluding Observations of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (continued discussion) - Suggestions on Children's Rights Forum by Kids' Dream, Children's Rights Association and Child Councilors of Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong
29 February 2008	Wan Chai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fostering a Caring School Ethos – the Students' Participation
4 July 2008	Wan Chai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Internet safety for children - Response of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region to the Concluding Observations of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (continued discussion)
19 December 2008	Eastern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Corporal punishment and violence to children - Convention on the Rights of the Child comic booklet - International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights comic booklet
16 April 2009	Eastern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children's health and health service – drug abuse among children - An outline of the topic to be covered in the second report of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
25 September 2009	Eastern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children's health and health service – sex education - Review of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance
13 November 2009 (special meeting)	Yau Tsim Mong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Briefing and discussion on review of Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance
5 January 2010 (special meeting)	Yau Tsim Mong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - West Kowloon Cultural District Stage 1 Public Engagement Exercise
26 February 2010	Wan Chai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An outline of the topics in the third report of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
2 July 2010	Wan Chai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An outline of the topics to be covered in the third report of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in the light of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights - Prevention of Suicide

Date	District	Discussion topic
19 November 2010	Yau Tsim Mong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - West Kowloon Cultural District Stage 2 Public Engagement Exercise - Report on the Public Consultation on the Review of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance
17 August 2011	Wan Chai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moral and National Education Curriculum - School violence
21 October 2011	Yau Tsim Mong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - West Kowloon Cultural District Stage 3 Public Engagement Exercise - Establishing the Sexual Conviction Record Check Scheme
20 April 2012	Central and Western	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Internet Learning Support Programme - “I Learn at home” - Consultation on the implementation of “Joint Parental Responsibility Model” by Legislative Measure
14 January 2013	Wan Chai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Air quality in Hong Kong - Children’s rights initiatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2013 Children’s Rights Education Funding Scheme - School outreach programme - Mobile application for promoting children’s rights
20 April 2013	Wan Chai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Primary one allocation and transport arrangement for cross-boundary students - Second report of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region under the Convention on the Rights of the Child - Progress report on 2013 Children’s Rights Education Funding Scheme
30 July 2013	Central and Western	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment of the Centre of Excellence in Paediatrics - Meeting arrangements of the Children’s Rights Forum
17 January 2014	Sham Shui Po	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The hearing and concluding observations of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child regarding the report of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region under the Convention on the Rights of the Child - First report of the Child Fatality Review Panel - Rehabilitation services for pre-school children
12 August 2014	Yau Tsim Mong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhanced support measures in learning Chinese for non-Chinese speaking students - Comprehensive child development service
1 April 2015	Central and Western	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Life planning education - Sexual Conviction Record Check Scheme
9 October 2015	Wan Chai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children’s privacy - Sustainable development

Date	District	Discussion topic
4 December 2015	Central and Western	- Territory-wide System Assessment (TSA)
21 January 2016	Wong Tai Sin	- Proposed legislation to implement the recommendations of the Law Reform Commission Report on Child Custody and Access
27 May 2016	Central and Western	- Rehabilitation services to help discharged young offenders reintegrate into society
13 October 2016	Central and Western	- Student suicide
3 March 2017	Wan Chai	- Free quality kindergarten education

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB112

(Question Serial No. 6425)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

On 20 November 2013, I moved a motion on “Setting up a Commission on Children”. The motion, which was subsequently amended by Hon Kenneth CHAN requesting the Government to organise an annual “Summit on Children”, was unanimously passed by all members present. Does the Government have any plans to convene an annual “Summit on Children”? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 1906)

Reply:

Issues relating to safeguarding children’s rights and well-being straddle across different policy areas, e.g. education, family, healthcare and welfare, etc. The relevant policy bureaux handle matters under their respective purviews, such as formulating specific legislation and making available resources for protection of children’s rights and for implementation of policies to promote the well-being of children. With effect from 1 April 2013, a mandatory assessment of family implications has been introduced for all policies, including those related to children. In assessing the impact of their policies on families, bureaux and departments are required to consider the 3 sets of core family values identified by the Family Council (i.e., “love and care”, “respect and responsibilities” and “communication and harmony”) and the effects on family structure and functions. Bureaux and departments are also required to consider consulting the Family Council on policies which carry family implications.

2. At the same time, the Family Council also assesses the impact of these policies on family to ensure that due consideration is given to children’s well-being and views during the policy formulation process. This will help facilitate the collection and reflection of views concerning children’s interests for reference by bureaux and departments in a more systematic way, and will achieve similar purposes to a “Summit on Children”.

3. In case of matters involving a number of policy areas, policy bureaux will co-ordinate among themselves. We will also suitably co-ordinate and support through high level set-up such as the Policy Committee. The 2017 Policy Address has set out a range of measures to be implemented by different bureaux and departments to promote the well-being of children, notably those who are disadvantaged, such as waiving the service fees of special child care centres, providing additional foster care places, and implementing free quality kindergarten education policy starting from the 2017/18 school year. These measures have taken into consideration the views of, inter alia, the Legislative Council, the public and the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child on children's affairs.

4. The Government has no intention to separately convene a "Summit on Children" within its current term.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB113

(Question Serial No. 6430)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

It is the international trend to set up a dedicated institution to deal with matters relating to children. In order to assist the governments in formulating a comprehensive policy on children, over 70 countries and 200 regions have set up children's commissions or have appointed children's commissioners to collect views on children-related matters, to address the needs and to safeguard the well-being of children. A dedicated institution will not only facilitate the Government to consolidate the work of the various parties so that co-ordinated and focused efforts can be made to address children-related issues, but also ensure that a more holistic approach can be adopted in policy formulation. Moreover, effective consultation can help reduce political wrangles and facilitate the smooth implementation of policies. Will the Government consider setting up a commission on children in the light of the international experience? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 1908)

Reply:

Issues relating to safeguarding children's rights and well-being straddle across different policy areas, e.g. education, family, healthcare and welfare, etc. The relevant policy bureaux handle matters under their respective purviews, such as formulating specific legislation and making available resources for protection of children's rights and for implementation of policies to promote the well-being of children. With effect from 1 April 2013, a mandatory assessment of family implications has been introduced for all policies, including those related to children. In assessing the impact of their policies on families, bureaux and departments are required to consider the 3 sets of core family values identified by the Family Council (i.e., "love and care", "respect and responsibilities" and "communication and harmony") and the effects on family structure and functions. Bureaux and departments are also required to consider consulting the Family Council on policies which carry family implications.

2. At the same time, the Family Council also assesses the impact of these policies on family to ensure that due consideration is given to children's well-being and views during the policy formulation process. This will help facilitate the collection and reflection of views concerning children's interests for reference by bureaux and departments in a more systematic way, and will achieve similar purposes to a commission on children.

3. In case of matters involving a number of policy areas, policy bureaux will co-ordinate among themselves. We will also suitably co-ordinate and support through high level set-up such as the Policy Committee. The 2017 Policy Address has set out a range of measures to be implemented by different bureaux and departments to promote the well-being of children, notably those who are disadvantaged, such as waiving the service fees of special child care centres, providing additional foster care places, and implementing free quality kindergarten education policy starting from the 2017/18 school year. These measures have taken into consideration the views of, inter alia, the Legislative Council, the public and the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child on children's affairs.

4. The Government has no intention to separately convene a commission on children within its current term.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB114

(Question Serial No. 6432)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In its Concluding Observations issued on October 2013, the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child states that “(it) further recommends that Hong Kong SAR expedite the establishment of a Children’s Commission or another independent human rights institution with a clear mandate to monitor children’s rights and provide it with adequate financial, human and technical resources.” Does the Government have any plans to set up a commission on children as recommended by the Committee? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 1909)

Reply:

Issues relating to safeguarding children’s rights and well-being straddle across different policy areas, e.g. education, family, healthcare and welfare, etc. The relevant policy bureaux handle matters under their respective purviews, such as formulating specific legislation and making available resources for protection of children’s rights and for implementation of policies to promote the well-being of children. With effect from 1 April 2013, a mandatory assessment of family implications has been introduced for all policies, including those related to children. In assessing the impact of their policies on families, bureaux and departments are required to consider the 3 sets of core family values identified by the Family Council (i.e., “love and care”, “respect and responsibilities” and “communication and harmony”) and the effects on family structure and functions. Bureaux and departments are also required to consider consulting the Family Council on policies which carry family implications.

2. At the same time, the Family Council also assesses the impact of these policies on family to ensure that due consideration is given to children’s well-being and views during the policy formulation process. This will help facilitate the collection and reflection of views concerning children’s interests for reference by bureaux and departments in a more systematic way, and will achieve similar purposes to a commission on children.

3. In case of matters involving a number of policy areas, policy bureaux will co-ordinate among themselves. We will also suitably co-ordinate and support through high level set-up such as the Policy Committee. The 2017 Policy Address has set out a range of measures to be implemented by different bureaux and departments to promote the well-being of children, notably those who are disadvantaged, such as waiving the service fees of special child care centres, providing additional foster care places, and implementing free quality kindergarten education policy starting from the 2017/18 school year. These measures have taken into consideration the views of, inter alia, the Legislative Council, the public and the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child on children's affairs.

4. The Government has no intention to separately convene a commission on children within its current term.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB115****(Question Serial No. 6440)**

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please provide the number of complaints made under the Disability Discrimination Ordinance and received by the Equal Opportunities Commission over the past 5 years. Please provide a breakdown by category of these complaints.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 2224)

Reply:

A breakdown by category of complaint cases in relation to the Disability Discrimination Ordinance received by the Equal Opportunities Commission over the past 5 years is as follows:

Year	Disability discrimination	Disability harassment	Disability vilification	Victimisation	Total
2012	356	30	16	3	405
2013	284	58	3	3	348
2014	240	33	4	4	281
2015	213	31	2	0	246
2016	166	15	0	1	182

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB116****(Question Serial No. 6445)**Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs BureauSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal DataControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

Please provide the number of complaints made by students with special education needs and received by the Equal Opportunities Commission over the past 5 years. Please provide a breakdown by category of these complaints.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 2226)Reply:

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) does not maintain a breakdown by category of complaints made by students with special education needs. The EOC has provided the number of complaint cases in the field of education received under the Disability Discrimination Ordinance over the past 5 years for reference:

Year	Disability discrimination	Disability harassment	Disability vilification	Victimisation	Total
2012	11	1	0	0	12
2013	8	14	0	1	23
2014	7	4	0	0	11
2015	6	0	0	0	6
2016	3	1	0	0	4

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB117

(Question Serial No. 6455)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

I initiated a motion debate in 2007 urging the Government to set up a commission on children and to formulate a comprehensive child policy. The motion was unanimously passed by all members present. In November 2013, I moved a motion on "Setting up a Commission on Children" and again the motion was unanimously passed by all members present. Will the Government set up a commission on children in response to the demands of the Legislative Council members? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 1907)

Reply:

Issues relating to safeguarding children's rights and well-being straddle across different policy areas, e.g. education, family, healthcare and welfare, etc. The relevant policy bureaux handle matters under their respective purviews, such as formulating specific legislation and making available resources for protection of children's rights and for implementation of policies to promote the well-being of children. With effect from 1 April 2013, a mandatory assessment of family implications has been introduced for all policies, including those related to children. In assessing the impact of their policies on families, bureaux and departments are required to consider the 3 sets of core family values identified by the Family Council (i.e., "love and care", "respect and responsibilities" and "communication and harmony") and the effects on family structure and functions. Bureaux and departments are also required to consider consulting the Family Council on policies which carry family implications.

2. At the same time, the Family Council also assesses the impact of these policies on family to ensure that due consideration is given to children's well-being and views during the policy formulation process. This will help facilitate the collection and reflection of views concerning children's interests for reference by bureaux and departments in a more systematic way, and will achieve similar purposes to a commission on children.

3. In case of matters involving a number of policy areas, policy bureaux will co-ordinate among themselves. We will also suitably co-ordinate and support through high level set-up such as the Policy Committee. The 2017 Policy Address has set out a range of measures to be implemented by different bureaux and departments to promote the well-being of children, notably those who are disadvantaged, such as waiving the service fees of special child care centres, providing additional foster care places, and implementing free quality kindergarten education policy starting from the 2017/18 school year. These measures have taken into consideration the views of, inter alia, the Legislative Council, the public and the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child on children's affairs.

4. The Government has no intention to separately convene a commission on children within its current term.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB118

(Question Serial No. 7220)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please set out (i) the mid-point salary (ii) the highest salary, (iii) the lowest salary, (iv) the entitlement to benefits, (v) the retirement protection in respect of politically appointed officials, and (vi) the total expenditure on emoluments for the positions under the Political Appointment System in the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (Member Question No. 7)

Reply:

The remuneration packages of politically appointed officials (PAOs) were approved by the Legislative Council Finance Committee (FC) in 2002 (in respect of Secretaries of Department and Directors of Bureau) or 2007 (in respect of Deputy Directors of Bureau and Political Assistants). Relevant details of the systems are set out in FC papers FCR(2002-03)21 and FCR(2007-08)37 respectively.

2. The relevant expenditure of PAOs' remuneration packages is met by the respective bureaux and offices. This Bureau is unable to provide separate breakdowns of expenditure.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB119****(Question Serial No. 3637)**Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs BureauSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's OfficeControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

(a) Please provide relevant information on cross-boundary projects or programmes that the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) has collaborated with Mainland departments or in which it has been involved over the past 5 years (i.e. 2012-13 to 2016-17), and in the coming year (i.e. 2017-18), as well as the manpower and expenditure involved as per following table:

Project/ Programme	Details and objective	Mainland department or organisation involved	Progress	Has the project/ programme been released to the public?	Details of the legislation or policy involved in the project/ programme	Manpower and expenditure involved

(b) Please set out the number, contents, objectives of and respective expenditure involved for all meetings, lunches and dinners between CMAB and the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (Liaison Office) and Mainland departments over the past 5 years (i.e 2012-13 to 2016-17).

(c) Please set out the number, contents, objectives of, number of participants in and expenditure involved for all duty visits and studies to the Mainland made by CMAB staff over the past 5 years (i.e 2012-13 to 2016-17).

(d) Please set out the number, contents, objectives of, number of participants in and expenditure involved for all overseas duty visits and studies (excluding the Mainland) made by CMAB staff over the past 5 years (i.e 2012-13 to 2016-17).

Asked by: Hon IP Kin-yuen (Member Question No. 98)

Reply:

While the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) is responsible for the overall co-ordination of the efforts of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government in promoting regional co-operation with provinces/municipalities in the Mainland, specific co-operation projects are initiated and taken forward by the relevant policy bureaux and departments.

2. CMAB maintains necessary working relationships with the central and provincial/municipal authorities in the Mainland, as well as offices of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR to ensure effective exchanges. There is no separate establishment or account for this daily operational work.

3. For official duty visits to the Mainland, Macao and Taiwan undertaken by officers of CMAB over the past 5 years (2012-13 to 2016-17), the relevant information is provided below –

Year (Number of visits)	Content/objective	Number of officers	Expenditure (\$)^{Note}
2012-13 (33)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• promoting regional co-operation with the Mainland• enhancing further co-operation and exchanges with Macao and Taiwan	1-12 officers per visit	379,000
2013-14 (54)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• promoting regional co-operation with the Mainland• enhancing further co-operation and exchanges with Macao and Taiwan• attending Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation Data Privacy Sub-group meetings	1-8 officers per visit	345,230
2014-15 (56)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• promoting regional co-operation with the Mainland• enhancing further co-operation and exchanges with Macao and Taiwan• attending Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation Data Privacy Sub-group meetings	1-14 officers per visit	501,960

Year (Number of visits)	Content/objective	Number of officers	Expenditure (\$)^{Note}
2015-16 (35)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promoting regional co-operation with the Mainland • enhancing further co-operation and exchanges with Macao and Taiwan • arranging Mainland officials to exchange views on constitutional development with Legislative Council Members 	1-11 officers per visit	391,740
2016-17 (32)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promoting regional co-operation with the Mainland • enhancing further co-operation and exchanges with Macao and Taiwan 	1-12 officers per visit	264,480

4. For official duty visits outside Hong Kong (excluding the Mainland, Macao and Taiwan) undertaken by officers of CMAB over the past 5 years (2012-13 to 2016-17), the relevant information is provided below –

Year (Number of visits)	Content/objective	Number of officers	Expenditure (\$)^{Note}
2012-13 (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • experience sharing on issues related to electoral arrangements • attending United Nations human rights hearings • attending Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation Data Privacy Sub-group meetings 	1-5 officers per visit	494,990
2013-14 (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • attending United Nations human rights hearings 	1-3 officers per visit	367,170
2014-15 (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • attending Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation Data Privacy Sub-group meetings • attending United Nations human rights hearings 	1-3 officers per visit	160,910
2015-16 (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • attending Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation Data Privacy Sub-group meetings • attending United Nations human rights hearings 	1-3 officers per visit	284,810

Year (Number of visits)	Content/objective	Number of officers	Expenditure (\$)^{Note}
2016-17 (4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promoting exchanges between the Mainland and Portuguese-speaking countries and European Union • attending Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation Data Privacy Sub-group meetings • studying issues related to electoral arrangements in overseas places 	1-5 officers per visit	395,050

Note:

- (1) The above expenditure includes expenditure on hotel accommodation and flight tickets, but excludes—
 - (a) overseas subsistence allowance provided to officers concerned, expenses on communication, etc.; and
 - (b) the expenditure which was sponsored by the hosting government.
- (2) The arrangement of hotel accommodation was provided to officers concerned in accordance with the relevant Civil Service Regulations and guidelines.
- (3) Proper class of air passages was provided to officers concerned in accordance with the relevant Civil Service Regulations which take into account ranking of their offices, flying time, flight schedule and other relevant details.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB120

(Question Serial No. 6807)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

One of the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2017-18 is the review of the number of elected seats for the sixth term District Councils (DCs). There is a close relationship between the number of seats and the method for forming DCs and there is a strong call from the community for changing the existing method for forming DCs. The Government has in the past repeatedly reviewed and changed the number of elected seats in the DCs, but has never reviewed or changed the method for their formation. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee:

- (1) whether it thinks there are any deficiencies in the existing method for forming DCs;
- (2) of the reasons for not reviewing or changing the method for forming DCs?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wing-hang, Dennis (Member Question No. 17)

Reply:

The method for forming District Councils is stipulated in the District Councils Ordinance (Cap. 547). It has been operating effectively for many years and members of the public are familiar with it. We consider that the method should not be changed lightly.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB121

(Question Serial No. 6808)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Will the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) earmark funds in each year to provide assistance to complainants in conducting legal proceedings? If yes, what is the amount of funds earmarked? If no, how will the EOC ensure that adequate resources are available for initiating legal proceedings as required in individual cases?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wing-hang, Dennis (Member Question No. 23)

Reply:

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) has earmarked around \$1.5 million each year to provide assistance to complainants in conducting legal proceedings. The above amount does not include the manpower and administrative expenditure of the EOC (such as the expenses of the Legal Service Division of the EOC). Where necessary, the EOC may deploy additional resources for this area of work.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB122

(Question Serial No. 5235)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

As the number of “EOC-initiated investigation” conducted by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) have seen a decline for two years in a row, and the respective actual numbers of cases processed in 2015 and 2016 have also failed to meet the originally estimated target, the EOC has adopted a conservative estimate for 2017. In this connection, will the Government explain the situation and put forward ways for improvement?

Asked by: Hon LAU Siu-lai (Member Question No. 3151)

Reply:

According to the information provided by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), when some aggrieved individuals or third parties who do not wish to be involved in an investigation or conciliation process report suspected unlawful acts to the EOC, or when the EOC learns of incidents involving suspected unlawful acts from media reports, the EOC will consider launching “EOC-initiated investigations”. Before conducting an “EOC-initiated investigation”, if the aggrieved individual can be identified or contacted, the case officer will discuss with the aggrieved person and encourage him/her to agree to a “complaint investigation” so that the EOC can follow up in the form of investigation and conciliation. Only when the aggrieved person is unwilling to do so or when the case is lodged by a third party without an aggrieved individual will the EOC follow up through an “EOC-initiated investigation”. In such cases, the EOC will strive to approach all parties concerned to inquire and investigate into the matter. If the EOC finds that unlawful acts may be involved, it will explain the relevant legislative provisions and advise the parties to rectify the situation. In fact, for cases where the aggrieved individual is unwilling or in the absence of an aggrieved individual, it is not feasible to strive for a settlement.

2. When deciding on the case classification, the EOC will give priority to handling procedures that are most effective in helping the aggrieved individuals and eliminating unlawful discriminatory acts. The EOC will generally make reference to the number of

relevant complaints processed in the previous year in estimating the number of cases for the coming year. Hence, there will be a difference between the estimated number of complaints and the actual number of complaints received.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB123

(Question Serial No. 5254)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In respect of the HKSAR report to the United Nations Committee against Torture, please advise this Committee:

- (1) of the staffing requirement and expenditure for compiling the report;
- (2) in respect of the Central People's Government's "holding up" of the HKSAR report early this year, leading to its late submission to the Committee, whether the Government had taken up the matter with the Mainland authorities; if yes, of the number of meetings held, number of participating officers and the expenditure required; if no, of the reasons.

Asked by: Hon LAU Siu-lai (Member Question No. 3152)

Reply:

According to established practice, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government submits its response, with respect to information requested by the United Nations (UN), to the relevant Committee through the Central People's Government, and publicises the response when the relevant Committee has received it.

2. The third periodic report of the HKSAR under the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) was submitted to the UN Committee against Torture (CAT Committee) in 2013 as part of China's sixth report under CAT. The CAT Committee considered the report at its hearing held in November 2015. The follow-up information submitted by the HKSAR Government to the CAT Committee was also made public in January.

3. Compiling UN human rights reports is an integral part of the work of this Bureau, and no separate breakdown is available for the resources and manpower involved.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB124****(Question Serial No. 5291)**

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the studies conducted by the Equal Opportunities Commission for the purpose of formulating and assessing policies, please provide information in the following format:

- (a) Using the table below, please provide information about studies on public policy and strategic public policy for which funds had been allocated in 2016-17:

Consultant	Title, content and objectives of the project	Consultancy fee (\$)	Start date	Progress of study	Has the project been made public? What are the details?

- (b) What are the contents and anticipated start dates of internal studies expected to be conducted in 2017-18?
- (c) What are the subjects of consultancy studies expected to be conducted in 2017-18?

Asked by: Hon LAU Siu-lai (Member Question No. 3153)

Reply:

According to the information provided by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), studies that EOC has carried out for the purpose of formulating and assessing policies are set out as below:

- (a) Information about studies on public policy and strategic public policy funded and carried out by EOC in 2016-17 is as follows:

Consultant	Title, content and objectives of the project	Consultancy fee (\$)	Start date	Progress of study	Has the project been made public? What are the details?
Mercado Solutions Associates Ltd.	Study on Discrimination against Ethnic Minorities in the Provision of Goods, Services and Facilities, and Disposal and Management of Premises To provide an overview on discrimination against ethnic minority groups in seeking services and securing an accommodation in Hong Kong.	422,000	December 2014	Completed in June 2016	The consultancy study report has been uploaded onto the website of the EOC for public perusal; the EOC also held a press conference on 21 September 2016.
Mercado Solutions Associates Ltd.	Study on Pregnancy Discrimination in Small and Medium Enterprises	435,000	March 2015	Completed in May 2016	The consultancy study report has been uploaded onto the website of the EOC for public perusal; the EOC also held a press conference on 4 May 2016.
Mercado Solutions Associates Ltd.	Equal Opportunities Awareness Survey 2015	220,000	May 2015	Completed in August 2016	The consultancy study report has been uploaded onto the website of the EOC for public perusal; the EOC also held a press conference on 18 July 2016.

(b) Information about internal studies expected to be conducted in 2017-18 is as follows:

Title, content and objective of the project	Start date	Progress of study (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Follow up actions taken by the EOC on study reports and their progress (if any)	For project that are expected to be completed this year, is there any plan to make them public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
Questionnaire Survey on Sexual Harassment, including Questionnaire Survey for Non-government Organisations in Social Welfare Sector	Q3 2016	In progress	Not applicable	For internal reference when the project is completed.
Survey on Further Studies and Career Path of DSE Ethnic Minorities Graduates	Q3 2017	Under planning	Not applicable	For internal reference when the project is completed.

(c) Titles of consultancy studies expected to be conducted in 2017-18 are as follows:

- (1) Sexual Harassment in Service Industries: Comparison of Sexual Harassment Experienced by Mainland Women Newly Arrived in Hong Kong and Women Born Locally and their Awareness of Sexual Harassment Prevention;
- (2) Research on Family Status Discrimination in Hong Kong Workplace; and
- (3) Identifying Effective Approaches to Reduce Opposition in the Siting of Integrated Community Centres for Mental Wellness and other Mental Health Facilities.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB125****(Question Serial No. 3832)**Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs BureauSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (4) Rights of the IndividualControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

In respect of the indicator “no. of projects grants approved under the Children’s Rights Education Funding Scheme” in paragraph 14, please provide information as per following table.

In respect of applications received in the past 3 years (i.e. 2014-2016):

Year	No. of applications received	No. of projects not granted with sponsorship	Reasons for non-approval (such as: effectiveness unclear, budget not provided)	Total amount of sponsorship

In respect of the projects granted with sponsorship in 2016:

Project	Organiser	Theme of project	Content of project	Venue of project	Date of project	No. of participants	Amount of sponsorship granted	Effectiveness

Asked by: Hon LAW Kwun-chung, Nathan (Member Question No. 82)

Reply:

From 2014-15 to 2016-17, the Children’s Rights Education Funding Scheme (CREFS) received a total of 186 applications and approved sponsorship for 96 of them. In assessing the applications, the Assessment Committee of CREFS considered the project proposals on their individual merits and in accordance with a set of assessment criteria like objectives and feasibility of the proposed projects; content of the proposal; financial consideration; background of the organisation; publicity plan; and other factors the Assessment Committee considered relevant. As such, the number of projects sponsored

each year depends on the number of applications and whether they meet the assessment criteria. Information on applications received under the CREFS in the past 3 years is set out in the table below.

Year	No. of applications received	No. of projects not granted with sponsorship	Total amount of sponsorship (\$ million)
2014-15	89	52	1.344
2015-16	41	16	1.133
2016-17	56	22	1.159

2. Details of projects sponsored under 2016-17 CREFS are set out in the table below.

Project	Organiser	Content of project	Venue of project	Date of project	No. of participants	Amount of sponsorship granted (HK\$)	Participants indicated having benefitted from projects with enhanced knowledge of or respect for children's rights (% of participants)*
The Child's Rights without Wall	Jockey Club Wah Ming Lutheran Integrated Service Centre	Activities include ambassador training, group activities, camp site activities and community promotion	North District	March to August	1 024	8,434	95%
童樂學 [^]	St. Charles School	Activities include intra-school competition and prize presentation ceremony cum experience day	Central and Western District and Southern District	January to September	3 000	6,650	Not applicable
Child's voice and feeling creative reading program	Toi Shan Association Primary School	Activities include intra-school competition, exhibition and sharing session on achievements	Tuen Mun District	February to September	500	13,030	96%
Kids in Community-Children's Right in Community Scheme	Neighbourhood & Worker's Education Centre Limited	Activities include ambassador training, workshop and talk cum exhibition of works	Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing District	February to September	350	21,000	100%

Project	Organiser	Content of project	Venue of project	Date of project	No. of participants	Amount of sponsorship granted (HK\$)	Participants indicated having benefitted from projects with enhanced knowledge of or respect for children's rights (% of participants)*
Children Voice from the Puppet	The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong Jockey Club Cheung Hang Children and Youth Integrated Services Centre	Activities include workshop, camping, school promotion and fun fair	Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing District	February to September	2 046	40,092	93%
Know Your Rights	Urdu Neighbour Centre Limited	Activities include ambassador training, workshop and fun fair	Kowloon City District	January to July	600	26,818	66%
"Kong" Kids' Speaking	The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong	Activities include group activities, workshop, camp site activities and exhibition briefing session	Territory-wide	January to August	1 480	38,570	87%
Not for Sale	The Girls' Brigade Hong Kong	Activities include day camp, experience activities, seminar and briefing session on teaching kit	Kowloon, New Territories (Tin Shui Wai, Ma On Shan), Islands (Lantau Island)	January to September	1 000	24,770	94%
"童權創新天" — 兒童公約社區計劃 [^]	New Home Association Kowloon East Service Centre	Activities include group activities, education camp, intra-school competition and community games day	Kowloon East	January to August	1 622	30,162	97%
Read & Write with Children's Right	Pentecostal Church of Hong Kong Tseung Kwan O Nursery School	Activities include ambassador training, group activities and commendation ceremony cum games day	Sai Kung District	April to August	430	28,500	100%

Project	Organiser	Content of project	Venue of project	Date of project	No. of participants	Amount of sponsorship granted (HK\$)	Participants indicated having benefitted from projects with enhanced knowledge of or respect for children's rights (% of participants)*
Child Right, act right now!	Pentecostal Church of Hong Kong Tai Wo Nursery School	Activities include workshop, intra-school competition and exhibition of entries cum commendation ceremony	Tai Po District	February to August	640	16,650	100%
SAY & PLAY Education Project	Christian & Missionary Alliance Kwun Tong Church Family Service Centre	Activities include fun fair, workshop, education camp, pamphlet production and community promotion	Kwun Tong District	April to September	1 944	42,350	93%
S.T.E.P. Children's Rights Education Scheme	Ma On Shan Ling Liang Primary School	Activities include ambassador training, group activities, camp site activities, intra-school competition and commendation ceremony cum fun fair	Sha Tin District and Ma On Shan	January to December	3 000	68,400	93%
CHILDREN'S RIGHTS 2016	Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong Hin Keng Centre	Activities include children councillor group training, interview with district councillor, mock electioneering activities, school exhibition promotion and drama training and performance	Sha Tin District	February to September	6 930	48,540	89%

Project	Organiser	Content of project	Venue of project	Date of project	No. of participants	Amount of sponsorship granted (HK\$)	Participants indicated having benefitted from projects with enhanced knowledge of or respect for children's rights (% of participants)*
Children's Rights Post	Hong Kong - Macao Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Shan King Integrated Children and Youth Services Centre of Seventh-day Adventists	Activities include group activities, camp site activities, community visit, production of publication, community exhibition and sharing session	Tuen Mun District	April to August	150	14,567	98%
"Love, Joy and Development" Children's Rights Ambassadors Project	Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong Shek Kip Mei Centre	Activities include children ambassador workshop, school/ community promotion and competition	Sham Shui Po District and Shek Kip Mei	April to September	1 260	14,510	100%
Understanding Children's Rights: Community Concern For Youths Project	Neighbourhood & Worker's Education Centre Tin Shui Wai Women Integrated Service Centre	Activities include workshop, community visit, talk, pamphlet production and sharing session	Tin Shui Wai	February to September	939	13,634	77%
Children's Rights@ Community: Art & Promotion Project	Special Educational Needs & Parents Association Limited	Activities include workshop, exhibition of works, talk, pamphlet production and sharing session	Tin Shui Wai, Yuen Long and Tuen Mun District	February to September	814	23,060	Not applicable
"Live in the same society": Sign Language Promotion of the United Nations on the Rights of the Child	Hong Kong Association of the Deaf	Activities include workshop and sharing session	Kwun Tong District	May to August	50	7,100	100%

Project	Organiser	Content of project	Venue of project	Date of project	No. of participants	Amount of sponsorship granted (HK\$)	Participants indicated having benefitted from projects with enhanced knowledge of or respect for children's rights (% of participants)*
"We Are Family"-the night camp to learn how to apply United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in family	Hong Kong Association of the Deaf	Activities include camp site activities and talk	Territory-wide	July	60	19,450	100%
「Shine」伴我成長計劃 [^]	Hong Kong Young Women's Christian Association	Activities include workshop, camping and fun fair	New Territories and Kowloon	July to August	270	11,050	100%
Children's voice of Children's Rights and Their Daily Life	Amazing Room For Stories	Activities include school promotion and pamphlet production	Territory-wide	February to November	500	44,650	100%
"We deserve to grow up safely and healthy" Children's Rights Show & Tell Competition	Amazing Room For Stories	Activities include inter-school speech contest and prize presentation ceremony	Territory-wide	January to August	1 200	21,590	100%
Hong Kong Junior Chief Executives: the Right of Play	The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong	Activities include camp site activities, workshop, design competition, dissemination of work cum games day	Territory-wide	February to October	2 968	96,100	95%
"Happy Children"-Children's Rights Education Program	W Workshop (Hong Kong) Limited	Activities include workshop and fun fair	Sham Shui Po District	March to August	1 020	63,150	96%

Project	Organiser	Content of project	Venue of project	Date of project	No. of participants	Amount of sponsorship granted (HK\$)	Participants indicated having benefitted from projects with enhanced knowledge of or respect for children's rights (% of participants)*
Happy child to be Councillor	New Home Association New Territories East Service Centre	Activities include talk, workshop, community study and visit, children councillor training, pamphlet production and community fun fair	North District, Tai Po, Sha Tin and Sai Kung Districts	March to August	700	46,300	91%
「玩」創市集—兒童權利推廣計劃 [^]	The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups Tsuen King Youth SPOT	Activities include workshop and community fun fair	Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing District	March to August	3 297	31,050	100%
「童心」找樂園 [^]	Hong Kong Society for the Protection of Children Sham Mong District Children & Family Services Centre	Activities include camp site activities, workshop, community exploration and fun fair	Sham Shui Po and Yau Tsim Mong Districts	January to December	1 200	28,950	98%
I dream my dream	Yan Oi Tong Community Centre	Activities include workshop, community exploration and fun fair	Tuen Mun District	July to November	1 340	24,840	63%
Little Director Training Project	Kowloon Federation of Associations Youth Volunteer Group	Activities include workshop, children ambassador training, school promotion, sharing session on short film production and fun fair	Kowloon	February to October	1 040	116,200	98%
"Voice & Act" Children's Drama Training Program	The C&M Alliance Wah Kee Neighbourhood Centre	Activities include group activities, drama training and performance	Southern District and Eastern District	March to December	600	34,100	100%

Project	Organiser	Content of project	Venue of project	Date of project	No. of participants	Amount of sponsorship granted (HK\$)	Participants indicated having benefitted from projects with enhanced knowledge of or respect for children's rights (% of participants)*
2016 Children Leadership Training Program: Hong Kong Children's Rights Summit	Hong Kong U-Rounders	Activities include workshop, community study, mock debate conference and community promotion	Territory-wide	March to October	100	57,575	99%
Reporter of Children's Rights of 2016-Children's Rights Education Project	Hong Kong Women Development Association Limited	Activities include group training and fun fair cum commendation ceremony	Tsing Yi	July to August	840	34,070	100%

* Based on the sponsored organisations' summary reports on participants' responses to questionnaire

^ The project does not have an English name

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB126****(Question Serial No. 3833)**

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Paragraph 15 states that (the Bureau) will “continue to promote the rights of children”. Will the Government advise this Committee of:

the activities conducted or initiatives taken forward in the past 3 years and their effectiveness;

the activities to be conducted or initiatives to be taken forward in the coming year, and the estimated provision for the above activities or initiatives and the expected effectiveness.

Asked by: Hon LAW Kwun-chung, Nathan (Member Question No. 83)

Reply:

The Government is committed to promoting public awareness of and respect for the rights of children as enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The related expenditures incurred in the past 3 years are listed in the table below –

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2014-15	1.288
2015-16	2.876 [^]
2016-17 (revised estimate)	1.077

[^] Including co-operating with the Radio Television Hong Kong to produce a TV programme promoting children's rights.

2. The Government has been promoting children's rights through implementing the Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme, organising the Children's Rights Forum as well as publicity and public education programmes, including co-operating with the Radio Television Hong Kong to produce a TV programme promoting children's rights. In 2017-18, the estimated expenditure for these efforts is about \$1.1 million. As the above work is performed as part of the daily duties of our staff, the manpower involved cannot be singled out or separately quantified.

3. Information on projects sponsored under the Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme from 2014-15 to 2016-17 is set out at Annex 1. Based on the sponsored organisations' summary reports on participants' responses to questionnaire, 95%, 94% and 91% of the participants indicated that they have benefitted from projects sponsored under the Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme from 2014-15 to 2016-17 respectively with enhanced knowledge of or respect for children's rights.

4. Details of meetings of the Children's Rights Forum held from 2014-15 to 2016-17 are set out at Annex 2.

**2014-15 Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme
List of Sponsored Projects**

Sponsored organisation	Name of project	Activity	Amount of sponsorship (HK\$)	Date of activity	No. of participants (aged 18 and above)	No. of participants (aged under 18)
St. Charles School	童體驗童權*	Activities include visit, competition and fun fair	6,400	May to September	1 500	1 500
The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong Jockey Club Cheung Hang Children and Youth Integrated Services Centre	「權利【童】學會」兒童權利推廣計劃*	Activities include ambassador training, workshop, camp site activities, exhibition and fun fair	28,000	May to October	300	755
Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong Hin Keng Centre	Children's Rights 2014	Activities include children councillor training, workshop, visit, drama, exhibition, mock debate and briefing session	52,990	February to September	2 000	6 132
Pentecostal Church of Hong Kong Nam Cheong Nursery School	Small eyes look at Hong Kong	Activities include workshop, community visit, performance, exhibition and fun fair	18,680	March to June	404	414
The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong Jockey Club Yau Tong Children and Youth Integrated Services Centre	Shall We Play	Activities include workshop, camp site activities, drama, exhibition and fun fair	17,840	January to October	0	1 035
Hong Kong Association of the Deaf	Family Day Camp: Understanding United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child	Activities include day camp and group activities	15,100	July	70	50

Sponsored organisation	Name of project	Activity	Amount of sponsorship (HK\$)	Date of activity	No. of participants (aged 18 and above)	No. of participants (aged under 18)
Hong Kong Association of the Deaf	Deaf Children's Rights Leadership Scheme and Sign Language Promotion of the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child	Activities include workshop and sharing session	9,900	March to October	0	30
Jockey Club Wah Ming Lutheran Integrated Service Centre	Children's rights in our community	Activities include competition, community exhibition promotion and fun fair	14,955	April to August	100	1 200
St. Stephen's Girls' College	CHILDREAM	Activities include school exhibition promotion and fun fair	12,585	July	500	1 500
Hong Kong Children & Youth Services Jockey Club Fanling Integrated Children & Youth Services Centre	童聲X G30高峰之旅*	Activities include camp site activities, community study and sharing session	21,680	May to October	240	28
Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong Shek Kip Mei Centre	"Participation and Development" Children's Rights Ambassadors	Activities include workshop, competition and community promotion	16,300	May to October	0	2 440
Hong Kong New Arrivals Services Foundation Limited	小眼睛，大世界—兒童權利推廣計劃*	Activities include children councillor training, camp site activities, community study competition, community promotion and briefing session	31,430	February to December	52	250

Sponsored organisation	Name of project	Activity	Amount of sponsorship (HK\$)	Date of activity	No. of participants (aged 18 and above)	No. of participants (aged under 18)
New Home Association New Territories East Service Centre	To be a Legislative Councillor	Activities include children councillor training, workshop, exhibition, talk and mock conference	25,650	March to October	300	500
Holy Cross Lutheran School	A Scheme of Little Author	Activities include workshop, classroom activities and exhibition	25,700	March to October	0	300
The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong Jockey Club Sau Mau Ping Children and Youth Integrated Services Centre	「童」看權利—「童」攜手齊發「聲」計劃*	Activities include workshop, questionnaire survey, exhibition, community promotion and briefing session	4,300	March to August	80	130
ELCHK Tai Wo Integrated Youth Service Centre	“Children's Stories” Children's Rights Education Project	Activities include children ambassador training, workshop, competition, talk and fun fair	35,200	March to October	345	3 240
Yan Oi Tong Community Centre	兒童動「喜」來*	Activities include workshop, camp site activities and production of large drawing	14,310	July to December	1 992	135
Hong Kong - Macao Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Shan King Integrated Children and Youth Services Centre of Seventh-day Adventists	Different points of view from children	Activities include workshop, visit, mock debate, production of publication and sharing session	5,500	July to December	60	164

Sponsored organisation	Name of project	Activity	Amount of sponsorship (HK\$)	Date of activity	No. of participants (aged 18 and above)	No. of participants (aged under 18)
Hong Kong Women Development Association Limited	“Children’s Rights Uprising” Children’s Rights Education Project	Activities include workshop, exhibition and fun fair cum commendation ceremony	25,170	July to December	150	190
Hong Kong Christian Service Central Nursery School	“Care who we are, Hear what we deliver.” Project of children rights in society involvement activity	Activities include workshop, talk, day camp, visit, community study, exhibition and sharing session	28,800	February to September	700	300
Sham Ching Youth Association Limited	「深。愛」兒童權利推廣計劃*	Activities include workshop and fun fair	10,200	July to September	220	180
The Hong Kong Institute of Education Alumni Association	「童心童真」兒童權利創意明信片設計比賽*	Activities include competition, exhibition of works and production of publication	25,550	April to October	50	150
Neighbourhood & Worker’s Education Centre Tin Shui Wai Women Integrated Service Centre	Drawing Rainbow - Child’s Rights Creative Project	Activities include workshop, exhibition of works and pamphlet production	10,680	April to September	360	40
Chai Wan Kok Catholic Primary School	〈兒童要有 SAY!〉兒童權利推廣計劃*	Activities include drama performance, competition, school exhibition promotion and seminar	5,300	March to November	1 000	1 000
Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service	Children Voice and Creation - Children's Rights Project 2014	Activities include day camp, social service, workshop, photo exhibition and sharing session	31,300	April to September	5 060	5 265

Sponsored organisation	Name of project	Activity	Amount of sponsorship (HK\$)	Date of activity	No. of participants (aged 18 and above)	No. of participants (aged under 18)
Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong Tuen Mun Centre	Children First	Activities include children councillor training, group activities, camp site activities, competition and fun fair	39,600	March to August	250	400
Asbury Methodist Social Service	"Share the Happiness" Children's Rights Promotion Scheme	Activities include workshop, visit, interview, community visit, competition and fun fair	23,100	March to October	160	2 590
The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong Jockey Club Ma On Shan Children and Youth Integrated Services Centre	Seize the Rights, Make the Fun	Activities include workshop, community exhibition and fun fair	24,466	May to September	2 075	2 006
Hong Kong Evangelical Church Yan Lam Community Centre	Child in my Heart	Activities include talk, community exhibition promotion, workshop and social service	26,500	April to October	180	1 400
Against Child Abuse Limited	Children's Council 2014	Activities include children councillor training, workshop, camp site activities, community study, mock conference and production of publication	258,900	May to December	1 000	1 000

Sponsored organisation	Name of project	Activity	Amount of sponsorship (HK\$)	Date of activity	No. of participants (aged 18 and above)	No. of participants (aged under 18)
The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong	Junior Chief Executive	Activities include children ambassador training, workshop, camp site activities, mock conference, production of publication and short film, briefing session	138,390	February to December	85	200
Roundtable Community Limited	"WE SAY YES!" 2014 Children Leadership Training Program: Hong Kong Children's Rights Summit	Activities include workshop, camp site activities and mock conference	96,120	October to December	20	150
The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong Jockey Club South Kwai Chung Children and Youth Integrated Services Centre	Children District Councilors	Activities include children councilor training, workshop, camp site activities, interview, competition, community promotion, prize presentation ceremony and production of publication	59,500	June to January next year	375	1 245
Kowloon Federation of Associations Youth Volunteer Group	Child · Fun Campaign	Activities include children ambassador training, camp site activities, community exhibition promotion, and sharing session cum fun fair	113,100	February to December	3 000	11 000
Hong Kong Young Women's Christian Association	Potential Advancement Training Project	Activities include visit, workshop, camp site activities and fun fair	23,920	July to August	82	180
Total					22 710	47 099

* The project does not have an English name

**2015-16 Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme
List of Sponsored Projects**

Sponsored organisation	Name of project	Activity	Amount of sponsorship (HK\$)	Date of activity	No. of participants (aged 18 and above)	No. of participants (aged under 18)
St. Charles School	童遊戲・童參與・童享樂*	Activities include class activities, competition and fun fair	7,750	January to September	1 500	1 500
The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong Jockey Club Yau Tong Children and Youth Integrated Services Centre	安樂窩?*	Activities include workshop, camp site activities, community visit and interview and short film production	8,570	July to September	100	216
Hong Kong Women Development Association Limited	"Children's Rights Uprising of 2015" Children's Rights Education Project	Activities include group activities, short film production and exhibition cum fun fair	39,570	July to August	150	190
Pentecostal Church of Hong Kong Tseung Kwan O Nursery School	Children's Rights & Obligations	Activities include children ambassador training, workshop, social service, talk and commendation ceremony	40,800	January to August	280	220
Hong Kong Young Women's Christian Association	"What are my Rights?" Training Project	Activities include workshop, camp site activities, visit and fun fair	30,080	July to August	80	200
The Church of United Brethren in Christ Yuen Long Social Service Centre	Children dream to see the world	Activities include competition, community panel promotion, camp site activities and visit	23,610	April to August	530	1 630
The Girls' Brigade Hong Kong	BaBe Project	Activities include workshop, visit, sharing session and pamphlet production	15,040	April to August	70	470

Sponsored organisation	Name of project	Activity	Amount of sponsorship (HK\$)	Date of activity	No. of participants (aged 18 and above)	No. of participants (aged under 18)
Lok Sin Tong Leung Wong Wai Fong Memorial School	Duties and Rights for Freedom	Activities include workshop, visit, community study, competition, sharing session and pamphlet production	19,150	January to July	30	1 187
Special Educational Needs & Parents Association Limited	Children's Rights Artbook Workshop	Activities include workshop, competition, exhibition of works and production of publication	26,390	February to September	1 400	418
Hong Kong Association of the Deaf	Family Night Camp: Learning how to apply United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child into the families	Activities include camp site and group activities	21,750	July	30	30
Hong Kong Association of the Deaf	To be a Quality Councillor: Sign Language Promotion of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child	Activities include children ambassador training, workshop, mock forum and short film production	10,000	April to September	75	25
Jockey Club Wah Ming Lutheran Integrated Service Centre	Children's Voices on Children's Rights	Activities include camp site activities, community promotion and fun fair	18,220	February to September	0	1 314
ELCHK Tai Wo Integrated Youth Service Centre	"Children's World" Children's Rights Education Project	Activities include workshop, drama performance and story telling competition	15,290	January to May	280	210

Sponsored organisation	Name of project	Activity	Amount of sponsorship (HK\$)	Date of activity	No. of participants (aged 18 and above)	No. of participants (aged under 18)
Urdu Neighbour Centre Limited	Understanding the Children's Rights	Activities include children ambassador training, workshop, sharing session and fun fair	32,250	January to July	400	600
Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong Hin Keng Centre	Silence • Sound	Activities include workshop, visit, short film production and sharing session	20,950	April to September	2 000	286
KELY Support Group Limited	"Know It, Say It" Project for Ethnic Minority Youth	Activities include workshop activities, visit, sharing session and school promotion	47,100	January to September	520	30
New Home Association Legal Advice and Service Centre	Child Steps in the Legal World	Activities include children ambassador training, workshop, community study, mock court debate, community exhibition promotion and sharing session	59,700	January to July	250	580
Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong Shek Kip Mei Centre	"Love, Participation and Development" Children's Rights Ambassadors Project	Activities include workshop, competition, community and school promotion	16,850	April to September	800	460
Hong Kong - Macao Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Shan King Integrated Children and Youth Services Centre of Seventh-day Adventists	Know more about children	Activities include workshop, mock forum, short film production and sharing session	5,650	April to September	20	120

Sponsored organisation	Name of project	Activity	Amount of sponsorship (HK\$)	Date of activity	No. of participants (aged 18 and above)	No. of participants (aged under 18)
Yan Oi Tong Community Centre	「童」・成長*	Activities include debate competition	20,950	October to December	1 000	50
Kowloon Federation of Associations Youth Volunteer Group	"Playright" Children's Development Program	Activities include workshop, camp site activities, competition, exhibition cum fun fair	110,900	February to November	2 000	12 000
The Hong Kong Committee on Children's Rights Limited	Children's Council 2015	Activities include children ambassador training, workshop, camp site activities, mock conference and production of publication	240,260	March to December	1 000	1 000
Hong Kong U-Rounders	"Have Fun • We Share" 2015 Children Leadership Training Program: Hong Kong Children's Rights Summit	Activities include workshop, school promotion and mock conference	155,850	October to December	1 400	100
New Home Association New Territories East Service Centre	To be a Legislative Councillor	Activities include workshop, camp site activities, interview, community study, mock conference and fun fair	77,550	March to November	500	1 000
The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups Tsuen King Youth SPOT	Give me rights in my life	Activities include workshop, exhibition of works, short film production and fun fair	69,250	January to August	460	790
Total					14 875	24 626

*The project does not have an English name

**2016-17 Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme
List of Sponsored Projects**

Sponsored organisation	Name of project	Activity	Amount of sponsorship (HK\$)	Date of activity	No. of participants (aged 18 and above)	No. of participants (aged under 18)
Jockey Club Wah Ming Lutheran Integrated Service Centre	The Child's Rights without Wall	Activities include ambassador training, group activities, camp site activities and community promotion	8,434	March to August	0	1 024
St. Charles School	童樂學*	Activities include intra-school competition and prize presentation ceremony cum experience day	6,650	January to September	1 500	1 500
Toi Shan Association Primary School	Child's voice and feeling creative reading program	Activities include intra-school competition, exhibition and sharing session on achievements	13,030	February to September	0	500
Neighbourhood & Worker's Education Centre Limited	Kids in Community-Children's Right in Community Scheme	Activities include ambassador training, workshop and talk cum exhibition of works	21,000	February to September	255	95
The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong Jockey Club Cheung Hang Children and Youth Integrated Services Centre	Children Voice from the Puppet	Activities include workshop, camping, school promotion and fun fair	40,092	February to September	406	1 640
Urdu Neighbour Centre Limited	Know Your Rights	Activities include ambassador training, workshop and fun fair	26,818	January to July	200	400
The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong	"Kong" Kids' Speaking	Activities include group activities, workshop, camp site activities and exhibition briefing session	38,570	January to August	1 200	280

Sponsored organisation	Name of project	Activity	Amount of sponsorship (HK\$)	Date of activity	No. of participants (aged 18 and above)	No. of participants (aged under 18)
The Girls' Brigade Hong Kong	Not for Sale	Activities include day camp, experience activities, seminar and briefing session on teaching kit	24,770	January to September	200	800
New Home Association Kowloon East Service Centre	"童權創新天"—兒童公約社區計劃*	Activities include group activities, education camp, intra-school competition and community games day	30,162	January to August	461	1 161
Pentecostal Church of Hong Kong Tseung Kwan O Nursery School	Read & Write with Children's Right	Activities include ambassador training, group activities and commendation ceremony cum games day	28,500	April to August	141	289
Pentecostal Church of Hong Kong Tai Wo Nursery School	Child Right, act right now!	Activities include workshop, intra-school competition and exhibition of entries cum commendation ceremony	16,650	February to August	280	360
Christian & Missionary Alliance Kwun Tong Church Family Service Centre	SAY & PLAY Education Project	Activities include fun fair, workshop, education camp, pamphlet production and community promotion	42,350	April to September	920	1 024
Ma On Shan Ling Liang Primary School	S.T.E.P. Children's Rights Education Scheme	Activities include ambassador training, group activities, camp site activities, intra-school competition and commendation ceremony cum fun fair	68,400	January to December	1 500	1 500

Sponsored organisation	Name of project	Activity	Amount of sponsorship (HK\$)	Date of activity	No. of participants (aged 18 and above)	No. of participants (aged under 18)
Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong Hin Keng Centre	CHILDREN'S RIGHTS 2016	Activities include children councillor group training, interview with district councillor, mock electioneering activities, school exhibition promotion and drama training and performance	48,540	February to September	325	6 605
Hong Kong - Macao Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Shan King Integrated Children and Youth Services Centre of Seventh-day Adventists	Children's Rights Post	Activities include group activities, camp site activities, community visit, production of publication, community exhibition and sharing session	14,567	April to August	29	121
Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong Shek Kip Mei Centre	"Love, Joy and Development" Children's Rights Ambassadors Project	Activities include children ambassador workshop, school/ community promotion and competition	14,510	April to September	800	460
Neighbourhood & Worker's Education Centre Tin Shui Wai Women Integrated Service Centre	Understanding Children's Rights: Community Concern For Youths Project	Activities include workshop, community visit, talk, pamphlet production and sharing session	13,634	February to September	0	939
Special Educational Needs & Parents Association Limited	Children's Rights@ Community: Art & Promotion Project	Activities include workshop, exhibition of works, talk, pamphlet production and sharing session	23,060	February to September	250	564

Sponsored organisation	Name of project	Activity	Amount of sponsorship (HK\$)	Date of activity	No. of participants (aged 18 and above)	No. of participants (aged under 18)
Hong Kong Association of the Deaf	"Live in the same society": Sign Language Promotion of the United Nations on the Rights of the Child	Activities include workshop and sharing session	7,100	May to August	25	25
Hong Kong Association of the Deaf	"We Are Family"-the night camp to learn how to apply United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in family	Activities include camp site activities and talk	19,450	July	30	30
Hong Kong Young Women's Christian Association	「Shine」伴我成長計劃*	Activities include workshop, camping and fun fair	11,050	July to August	70	200
Amazing Room For Stories	Children's voice of Children's Rights and Their Daily Life	Activities include school promotion and pamphlet production	44,650	February to November	0	500
Amazing Room For Stories	"We deserve to grow up safely and healthy" Children's Rights Show & Tell Competition	Activities include inter-school speech contest and prize presentation ceremony	21,590	January to August	200	1 000
The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong	Hong Kong Junior Chief Executives: the Right of Play	Activities include camp site activities, workshop, design competition, dissemination of work cum games day	96,100	February to October	1 308	1 660
W Workshop (Hong Kong) Limited	"Happy Children"-Children's Rights Education Program	Activities include workshop and fun fair	63,150	March to August	300	720

Sponsored organisation	Name of project	Activity	Amount of sponsorship (HK\$)	Date of activity	No. of participants (aged 18 and above)	No. of participants (aged under 18)
New Home Association New Territories East Service Centre	Happy child to be Councillor	Activities include talk, workshop, community study and visit, children councillor training, pamphlet production and community fun fair	46,300	March to August	300	400
The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups Tsuen King Youth SPOT	「玩」創市集—兒童權利推廣計劃*	Activities include workshop and community fun fair	31,050	March to August	962	2 335
Hong Kong Society for the Protection of Children Sham Mong District Children & Family Services Centre	「童心」找樂園*	Activities include camp site activities, workshop, community exploration and fun fair	28,950	January to December	400	800
Yan Oi Tong Community Centre	I dream my dream	Activities include workshop, community exploration and fun fair	24,840	July to November	906	434
Kowloon Federation of Associations Youth Volunteer Group	Little Director Training Project	Activities include workshop, children ambassador training, school promotion, sharing session on short film production and fun fair	116,200	February to October	0	1 040
The C&M Alliance Wah Kee Neighbourhood Centre	"Voice & Act" Children's Drama Training Program	Activities include group activities, drama training and performance	34,100	March to December	540	60

Sponsored organisation	Name of project	Activity	Amount of sponsorship (HK\$)	Date of activity	No. of participants (aged 18 and above)	No. of participants (aged under 18)
Hong Kong U-Rounders	2016 Children Leadership Training Program: Hong Kong Children's Rights Summit	Activities include workshop, community study, mock debate conference and community promotion	57,575	March to October	0	100
Hong Kong Women Development Association Limited	Reporter of Children's Rights of 2016-Children's Rights Education Project	Activities include group training and fun fair cum commendation ceremony	34,070	July to August	400	440
Total					13 908	29 006

* The project does not have an English name

Details of meetings of the Children's Rights Forum in 2014-15

Date	District	Discussion Topic
12 August 2014	Yau Tsim Mong	- Enhanced support measures in learning Chinese for non-Chinese speaking students - Comprehensive child development service

Details of meetings of the Children's Rights Forum in 2015-16

Date	District	Discussion Topic
1 April 2015	Central and Western	- Life planning education - Sexual Conviction Record Check Scheme
9 October 2015	Wan Chai	- Children's privacy - Sustainable development
4 December 2015	Central and Western	- Territory-wide System Assessment (TSA)
21 January 2016	Wong Tai Sin	- Proposed legislation to implement the recommendations of the Law Reform Commission Report on Child Custody and Access

Details of meetings of the Children's Rights Forum in 2016-17

Date	District	Discussion Topic
27 May 2016	Central and Western	- Rehabilitation services to help discharged young offenders reintegrate into society
13 October 2016	Central and Western	- Student suicide
3 March 2017	Wan Chai	- Free quality kindergarten education

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB127

(Question Serial No. 3378)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: Not specified
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding outsourcing of service in your department, please inform this Committee of the followings in respect of the past 3 years:

1. the total number of outsourced service staff employed by your department and the percentage of outsourced service staff against the total number of staff with the same types of duties in your department;
2. the total expenditure on staff of your department; the total amount paid to outsourced service providers; and the percentage of amount paid to outsourced service providers against the total expenditure on staff of your department; and
3. the nature of your department's outsourced services and the duration of the relevant contracts.

In addition, according to the Government's guidelines for tendering of outsourced services revised last year, if the procured service relies heavily on the deployment of non-skilled workers, and a marking scheme for assessing the tenders is adopted, the procuring department, when assessing the tenders, should include in the assessment criteria the evaluation of tenderers' proposed wage rates and working hours for non-skilled workers. In this regard, please inform this Committee of the followings:

4. the current number of outsourced service contracts involving a large number of non-skilled workers awarded by your department since implementation of the guidelines;
5. the departments which have adjusted their assessment criteria in respect of wage rates and working hours for the outsourced service contracts involving a large number of non-skilled workers in the light of the new guidelines since their implementation; how your department has made adjustment; and if no relevant information is available, the reasons for it;

6. whether there have been any rises in the average wage rates for workers in the contracts of outsourced services that rely heavily on deployment of non-skilled workers since the implementation of the guidelines; if yes, the number of contracts with rises in wage rates; if no relevant information is available, the reasons for it;
7. your department's measures to evaluate the effectiveness of the new tendering guidelines;
8. whether your department is required to adopt the existing mechanism of two-envelope assessment of the technical and price aspects when evaluating tenders for contracts of outsourced service; if no, the number of contracts awarded without adopting the existing mechanism of two-envelope assessment of the technical and price aspects in the past 3 years;
9. the annual numbers of cases of government service contractors breaching the service contracts, the Employment Ordinance or the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance as revealed by the inspections conducted by your department, and the annual numbers of complaints lodged by the outsourced service staff;
10. the details of follow-up actions on the aforementioned non-compliance and complaint cases; and
11. the number and details of cases involving contractors being punished for non-compliance or sustained complaints.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung (Member Question No. 151)

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB)'s outsourced service contracts awarded in the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17) were mainly contracts for short-term or even one-off service on publicity or promotion of policies. We did not have outsourced contracts which specified the number of employees.

2. When outsourcing of services is required, CMAB will adopt appropriate assessment mechanism in accordance with the Stores and Procurement Regulations and relevant government guidelines. In the past 3 years, CMAB did not award any outsourced service contracts involving a large number of non-skilled workers (such as cleansing workers or security guards) by tender.

3. In the past 3 years, CMAB did not find any breaches of service contracts, the Employment Ordinance or the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance by outsourced service contractors, or receive any complaints on such breaches lodged by the outsourced service staff.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB128

(Question Serial No. 3396)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: Not specified
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Does your department provide sign language interpretation services? If yes, what are the manpower and expenditure involved? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung (Member Question No. 194)

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau does not have any sign language interpreter in its establishment, nor has it received any requests for such services. Where necessary, we will make appropriate arrangements. For example, the Registration and Electoral Office under our purview has included sign language interpretation in all its Announcements in the Public Interest broadcast on television.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB129

(Question Serial No. 4874)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

- (a) Please list out the expenditure and manpower arrangement of the Beijing Office, other Mainland Offices and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan for promoting cultural exchange in the past year, as well as the percentage of such expenditure against the total expenditure.
- (b) What specific plans do the Beijing Office, other Mainland Offices and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan have to promote cultural exchange this year? What are the related expenditure and manpower arrangement?
- (c) The Government created the post of Head (Cultural Exchange) under the Beijing Office in July 2016. What efforts have been made by him/her in the past couple of months to promote cultural exchange between Hong Kong and the Mainland? In what ways has he/she provided support to Hong Kong artists engaged in cultural and arts activities in the Mainland? What is the expenditure involved in the deployment of the dedicated staff concerned?
- (d) Will the Government consider deploying dedicated staff to other Mainland Offices to handle cultural matters in future? If it will, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
- (e) Had local cultural organisations ever approached the Beijing Office, other Mainland Offices and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan, reflecting the need to engage in cultural exchanges with the Mainland and Taiwan as well as to promote local culture? If yes, what were the main areas covered and the respective numbers of such requests made in respect of each area? How were such requests handled by the Offices concerned?

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (Member Question No. 58)

Reply:

The Mainland and Taiwan Offices (namely the Beijing Office (BJO) and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan, and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan) have taken continuous efforts to assist in enhancing cultural and arts exchange between Hong Kong and the Mainland/Taiwan. Over the past year, the initiatives taken include organising, co-organising or supporting the launching of film festivals, dance performances, theatrical shows, concerts, arts exhibitions, photo exhibitions, lantern carnivals, talks, radio programmes, etc., to showcase Hong Kong's unique culture and arts.

2. A number of Hong Kong cultural and arts organisations, such as the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra, Hong Kong Youth Chinese Orchestra, City Contemporary Dance Company, Asian Youth Orchestra, Spring-Time Experimental Theatre, Hong Kong Publishing Federation and The Hong Kong Printers Association, etc., have approached the Mainland and Taiwan Offices with a view to conducting cultural exchange activities in the areas under the coverage of these Offices. Appropriate follow-up actions, such as assisting in promoting the performances, liaising and communicating with relevant authorities in the Mainland and Taiwan, have been taken by the Mainland and Taiwan Offices. As the work on promoting cultural exchange is an integral part of the duties and functions of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices, the expenditure and manpower involved cannot be separately singled out and itemised. In 2017-18, the Mainland and Taiwan Offices will continue to assist relevant Hong Kong cultural and arts organisations in liaising with local authorities and bodies as necessary, and in promoting the related events as appropriate to support the performances of these cultural and arts organisations, and further promote Hong Kong's unique culture and arts.

3. In July 2016, we created the post of Head (Cultural Exchange) under the BJO to assume the responsibilities of planning, co-ordinating and implementing cultural programmes, enhancing liaison with the Mainland in promoting culture and arts and fostering cultural exchange. In 2016-17, the Head (Cultural Exchange) took forward and completed a number of initiatives, including the support of the presentation of "2016 Hong Kong - Macau Visual Art Biennial Exhibition" in Beijing and Dunhuang; the support of Hong Kong Youth Chinese Orchestra's performance in Shenyang; and the presentation of the "100 Must-see Hong Kong Movies" screening cum seminar in Beijing. Besides, Head (Cultural Exchange) also attended the "Conference on Beijing-Hong Kong Museum Collections and Resources Collaboration", jointly organised by Beijing Administration Bureau of Cultural Relics, Beijing Investment Promotion Bureau, Hong Kong Trade and Development Council, and Committee of Marketing and Public Relations of the Chinese Museums Association; and the "Public Art and City Design International Summit" organised by Central Academy of Fine Arts, etc. The revised estimated expenditure for the creation of the above post in 2016-17 is around \$1.6 million. Together with the Home Affairs Bureau, we will review the effectiveness of deploying dedicated staff for handling cultural matters and the way forward at an appropriate time.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB130

(Question Serial No. 6926)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please advise on the Fund under the purview of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau, and list out the date when the Fund was set up and the amount of injections, as well as its balance, the amount of Government injections and total expenditure for each year in 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17.

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (Member Question No. 102)

Reply:

From 2013-14 to 2016-17, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau was not responsible for administering any Fund.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB131

(Question Serial No. 5125)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the study on implementing section 33 of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance, please advise:

- (1) on details of follow-up actions, the work plan, timetable, etc. given that in respect of the business impact assessment commissioned to the consultant, the Government stated in last year's reply that after the completion of the study, the Government would examine in detail the information and views collected, and then consider follow-up actions;
- (2) on the summary of views of the consultancy report as stated in (1) above;
- (3) whether there are plans to review the applicability of section 33 to the current state of development of information technology, given that the implementation of the provision may have an enormous impact on the information technology sector; if so, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon MOK Charles Peter (Member Question No. 69)

Reply:

The consultant commissioned by the Government is conducting a business impact assessment on the proposed implementation of section 33, which involves an examination of compliance measures necessary for data users to meet the requirements of the provision. The main objective of the study is to ensure that there exist viable means for data users to effectively fulfil the requirements of the provision and the adoption of such means will not stifle legitimate business operations.

2. The consultant has gathered information and views from stakeholders in different industries, including the information technology sector, so as to understand the relevant business operations as well as the modes of cross-border transfers and types of data

involved, and to identify the compliance measures required for the implementation of section 33 and their impact on different industries. The consultant's report will be completed in the first half of 2017. We will examine in detail the findings of the study and then consider follow-up actions.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB132****(Question Serial No. 5129)**Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs BureauSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: Not specifiedControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

In respect of the public relations expenses of government departments, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) the total expenses of your department for publishing advertisements, sponsored content or advertorials in newspapers registered under the Registration of Local Newspapers Ordinance in the past year as well as the relevant details:

Date of publish (Day/Month/Year)	Status (one-off/ ongoing/ completed) (as at 28 February 2017)	Government or public organisation (including policy bureau/ department/ public sector organisation/ government advisory body)	Name and purpose of advertisement	Name of media organisation and newspaper	Frequency (as at 28 February 2017)	Expenses (as at 28 February 2017)

- (2) the expenses of your department for sponsoring local free-to-air television stations, paid television stations and radio stations to provide information and produce programmes or materials in the past year as well as the relevant details:

Date of broadcast (Day/Month/Year)	Status (one-off/ ongoing/ completed) (as at 28 February 2017)	Government or public organisation (including policy bureau/ department/ public sector organisation/ government advisory body)	Name and purpose of advertisement	Media organisation	Frequency (as at 28 February 2017)	Expenses (as at 28 February 2017)

- (3) the media organisations which published or broadcast advertisements/sponsored content of your department in the past year, as well as the frequency and the total expenses involved (in descending order of amount spent):

Name of media organisation	Frequency	Total expenses (\$)

- (4) the websites/network platforms on which your department published online advertisements/sponsored content in the past year, as well as the frequency, the duration (days) and the total expenses involved (tabulated in descending order of amount spent):

Website/ network platform	Content of advertisement	Frequency	Duration (days)	Hit rate, frequency of exposure and number of viewers	Total expenses (\$)

Asked by: Hon MOK Charles Peter (Member Question No. 76)

Reply:

In respect of public relations expenses of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) as well as the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) and subvented bodies under CMAB's purview in 2016-17 (as at 28 February 2017), the relevant information is provided below –

- (1) The relevant details for publishing advertisements on registered newspapers, and for sponsoring local television stations and radio stations to broadcast information programmes or advertisements/promotional materials are as follows:

Date of publish/ broadcast (Month/ Year)	Status	Policy bureau/ department/ subvented body	Content of programme/ advertisement	Purpose of programme/ advertisement	Media organisation	Frequency	Expenses
Aug 2016 – Feb 2017	Com- pleted	CMAB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2017-18 Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme • Basic Law Promotion Sponsorship Scheme 	To announce invitation of applications for the Schemes	newspapers	1-2 times	about HK\$8 million

Date of publish/ broadcast (Month/ Year)	Status	Policy bureau/ department/ subvented body	Content of programme/ advertisement	Purpose of programme/ advertisement	Media organisation	Frequency	Expenses
Mar 2016 – Feb 2017	Completed	REO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public consultation on proposed guidelines for Election Committee Subsector Elections • Public consultation on proposed guidelines for Chief Executive (CE) Election • Voter Registration Campaign 2016 • Publicity campaign on 2016 Legislative Council (LegCo) General Election • Publicity campaign on 2016 Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections • Publicity campaign on 2017 CE Election 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To conduct public consultation • To draw the public's attention to information relating to voter registration so as to encourage eligible persons to register as voters, and remind registered electors to notify REO of their change of residential addresses in a timely manner • To publicise electoral matters in respect of 2016 LegCo Election • To publicise electoral matters in respect of 2016 Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections • to publicise electoral matters in respect of 2017 CE Election 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • newspaper • radio stations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 times • 4 639 times 	about HK\$4.56 million

Date of publish/broadcast (Month/Year)	Status	Policy bureau/department/subvented body	Content of programme/advertisement	Purpose of programme/advertisement	Media organisation	Frequency	Expenses
Apr 2016 – Mar 2017	On-going	Equal Opportunities Commission	Equal Opportunities Diversity Project 2016-17	To promote diversity	radio stations	48 times	about HK\$0.49 million
Starting from Jul 2016	On-going	Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data	Television programme “Privacy Beyond Price II”	To heighten public awareness of the importance of privacy protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • television stations • radio website and mobile app 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 episodes (broadcast a total of 12 times) • live broadcast and programme replay 	about HK\$ 2.77 million

- (2) The detailed information regarding the media organisations which published or broadcasted advertisements/sponsored content, as well as the frequency and the total expenses involved is provided below (in descending order of amount spent) –

Media organisation	Frequency	Total expenses
Newspapers	53 times	about HK\$2.84 million
Radio stations	4 639 times	about HK\$1.80 million

- (3) The detailed information regarding the websites/network platforms on which online advertisements/sponsored content were published, as well as the frequency, the duration (days) and the total expenses involved is provided below (in descending order of amount spent) –

Website/ network platform	Content of advertisement	Frequency	Duration	Hit rate, frequency of exposure and number of viewers	Total expenses
Various websites/ network platform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publicity campaign on 2016 LegCo General Election • Voter Registration Campaign 2016 • Broadcast of promotional videos on non-discrimination of people of different sexual orientations and transgenders • Promotion of the Basic Law • Promotion of Code of Practice against Discrimination in Employment on the Ground of Sexual Orientation • Promote the message of equal opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 times • 5 times • 3 times • 9 times • 7 times • on average the advertisement can be viewed once in every 25 visits to the website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 38 days • 77 days • 14-21 days • 30 days • 5-33 days • 19 days 	Given the different approaches adopted for different items, the relevant figures cannot be provided	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • about HK\$1.64 million • about HK\$1.1 million • about HK\$0.56 million • about HK\$0.48 million • about HK\$0.38 million • about HK\$0.35 million

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB133****(Question Serial No. 5146)**

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the records management work of your bureau and the department under its purview over the past year –

- Please provide information on the number and rank of officers designated to perform such work. If there is no officer designated for such work, please provide information on the number of officers and the hours of work involved in records management duties, and the other duties they have to undertake in addition to records management;
- Please list in the table below information on programme and administrative records which have been closed pending transfer to the Government Records Service (GRS) for appraisal;

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents	Reasons for records yet to be transferred

- Please list in the table below information on programme and administrative records which have been transferred to GRS for retention;

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents	Reasons for records yet to be transferred

4. Please list in the table below information on records which have been approved for destruction by GRS;

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents	Reasons for records yet to be transferred

Asked by: Hon MOK Charles Peter (Member Question No. 93)

Reply:

Regarding records management work in the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) and the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) under the CMAB's purview over the past year, the relevant information is provided below –

1. A Senior Executive Officer in each of CMAB and REO performs the role of Departmental Records Manager as part of the officer's duties, to establish and implement a departmental records management programme in accordance with the guidelines of the Government Records Service (GRS). Staff of individual teams/offices are responsible for their day-to-day records management activities.

Since the work is performed as part of the daily duties of the above officers, we do not have a separate record on the number of hours of work involved in records management.

2. CMAB and REO do not have programme and administrative records which were closed pending transfer to the GRS for appraisal in the past year.
3. Information on records which were transferred to GRS for retention in the past year is provided below –

Name of Bureau/ Department	Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents	Reasons for records yet to be transferred
REO	Programme records	2002-2016	681 265 records in 167.83 linear metres	Permanent retention or further appraised by GRS 3 years after action completed	Some are confidential documents	Not applicable

4. Information on records which were approved for destruction by GRS in the past year is provided below –

Name of Bureau/ Department	Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents	Reasons for records yet to be transferred
CMAB	Administrative records	1989-2015	112 records in 2.52 linear metres	12 months after the employees have left service	No	Not applicable
REO	Programme records	1995-2016	983 764 records in 435.64 linear metres	6 months to 5 years after action completed	Some are confidential documents	Not applicable
	Administrative records	1998-2012	91 records in 5.97 linear metres	2 to 3 years after action completed	No	Not applicable

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB134****(Question Serial No. 5270)**Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs BureauSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: Not specifiedControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

Please tabulate the details concerning the social media platforms set up and operated by your bureau/department/public sector organisation and its subvented bodies (including outsourced contractors or consultants) in 2016-17 (as at 28 February 2017).

Commencement of operation (month/year)	Status (keep on updating/ceased updating)	Policy bureau/subvented body	Name	Social media platform	Purpose of establishment and contents	No. of "likes"/subscribers/average monthly visits	Regular compilation of summary of comments and follow-up (yes/no)	Average no. of posts per day and average no. of interactions per post (total no. of "likes", comments and shares)	Ranks and no. of officers responsible for the operation	Expenditure for setting up the platform and daily operational expenses

Asked by: Hon MOK Charles Peter (Member Question No. 136)Reply:

Information on social media platforms set up and operated by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) and its subvented bodies in 2016-17 is provided at the Annex. The Registration and Electoral Office, which is under the purview of CMAB, did not set up or operate any social media platform in 2016-17.

**Information on the social media platforms set up and operated by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
and its subvented bodies in 2016-17
(as at 28 February 2017)**

Commencement of operation (month/year)	Status (keep on updating/ ceased updating)	Policy bureau/ subvented body	Name	Social media platform	Purpose of establishment and contents	No. of "Likes"/ subscribers/ average monthly visits	Regular compilation of summary of comments and follow-up (Yes/No)	Average no. of posts per day and average no. of interactions per post (total no. of "likes", comments and shares)	Rank and no. of officers responsible for the operation	Expenditure for setting up the platform and daily operational expenses
Feb 2008	Regular updating	Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC)	EOC YouTube Channel	YouTube	To make use of social media to upload videos to promote equal opportunities. A total of 259 videos under 5 categories have been uploaded	No. of subscribers: 324	No	Total no. of posts in the year: 17 Total no. of interactions in the year: 500	1 Equal Opportunities Officer	Internally absorbed
Jan 2011	Regular updating	EOC	Uniquely Me!	Facebook	To make use of social media to promote racial integration among youth	No. of "Likes": 105 No. of followers: 596	No	Average no. of posts per day: 0.5 Average no. of interactions per post: 12	1 Assistant Equal Opportunities Officer	Internally absorbed
May 2011	Regular updating	EOC	Career Challenge	Facebook	To eliminate discrimination, break stereotypes, broaden the horizons, promote integration	No. of "Likes": 650 No. of followers: 649	No	Average no. of posts per day: 2 Average no. of interactions per post: 39	1 Equal Opportunities Officer	Internally absorbed

Commencement of operation (month/year)	Status (keep on updating/ ceased updating)	Policy bureau/ subvented body	Name	Social media platform	Purpose of establishment and contents	No. of “Likes”/ subscribers/ average monthly visits	Regular compilation of summary of comments and follow-up (Yes/No)	Average no. of posts per day and average no. of interactions per post (total no. of “likes”, comments and shares)	Rank and no. of officers responsible for the operation	Expenditure for setting up the platform and daily operational expenses
Mar 2012	Regular updating	The Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD)	Student Ambassador for Privacy Protection Programme	Facebook	To publish latest updates on the Student Ambassador for Privacy Protection Programme	No. of “Likes”: 224	Yes	Total no. of posts in the year: 82 Total no. of interactions in the year: 2 057	1 Communications and Education Executive	Internally absorbed
Apr 2013	Update as necessary	PCPD	PCPD YouTube Channel	YouTube	To provide information and school educational resources on online privacy protection in the form of videos	Average monthly visits: 25 500	Yes	Total no. of videos uploaded in the year: 60 Total no. of interactions in the year: 739	1 Communications and Education Executive	Internally absorbed

Commencement of operation (month/year)	Status (keep on updating/ ceased updating)	Policy bureau/ subvented body	Name	Social media platform	Purpose of establishment and contents	No. of "Likes"/ subscribers/ average monthly visits	Regular compilation of summary of comments and follow-up (Yes/No)	Average no. of posts per day and average no. of interactions per post (total no. of "likes", comments and shares)	Rank and no. of officers responsible for the operation	Expenditure for setting up the platform and daily operational expenses
Sep 2013	Update as necessary	The Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan	Hong Kong Week in Taiwan	Facebook	To promote the Hong Kong Week organised in Taiwan by the Hong Kong-Taiwan Cultural Co-operation Committee and disseminate Hong Kong's cultural and arts information	No. of "Likes": 36 705	No	An average of 2 to 3 articles are posted per week, with more frequent issues during the period of Hong Kong Week publicity drive Average no. of interactions per post: 330	1 Senior Information Officer and 1 Public Relations Assistant	Internally absorbed

Commencement of operation (month/year)	Status (keep on updating/ ceased updating)	Policy bureau/ subvented body	Name	Social media platform	Purpose of establishment and contents	No. of “Likes”/ subscribers/ average monthly visits	Regular compilation of summary of comments and follow-up (Yes/No)	Average no. of posts per day and average no. of interactions per post (total no. of “likes”, comments and shares)	Rank and no. of officers responsible for the operation	Expenditure for setting up the platform and daily operational expenses
Dec 2014	Update as necessary	Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (ETO) in Guangdong	Official WeChat platform of Guangdong ETO	WeChat	To disseminate the latest updates on activities and the Guangdong ETO Newsletter to business communities, non-government organisations, Mainland authorities and the general public. The content covers the latest information on commerce and trade-related policies/regulations and the economic developments in the provinces/region under the coverage of Guangdong ETO, as well as information about major economic and trade activities held. It also gives an account of Hong Kong’s latest developments in different aspects	No. of subscribers: 5 297 Average monthly visits: 2 370	No	Average no. of posts per month: 12 Average no. of interactions per post: 13	1 Principal Information Officer, 1 Public Relations Officer and 1 General Assistant	Internally absorbed

Commencement of operation (month/year)	Status (keep on updating/ ceased updating)	Policy bureau/ subvented body	Name	Social media platform	Purpose of establishment and contents	No. of "Likes"/ subscribers/ average monthly visits	Regular compilation of summary of comments and follow-up (Yes/No)	Average no. of posts per day and average no. of interactions per post (total no. of "likes", comments and shares)	Rank and no. of officers responsible for the operation	Expenditure for setting up the platform and daily operational expenses
Apr 2015	Regular updating	PCPD	Be SMART online	Facebook	To provide the general public with information about protection of personal data on computers and the Internet	No. of "Likes": 737	Yes	No. of posts in the year: 115 Total no. of interactions in the year: 39 740	1 Communications and Education Executive	Internally absorbed
Sept 2015	Update as necessary	Wuhan ETO	Official WeChat platform of Wuhan ETO	WeChat	To provide business communities, non-government organisations, Mainland authorities and the general public with information about Hong Kong and Wuhan ETO. The content covers various major activities held in Hong Kong, activities organised by Wuhan ETO, as well as commerce and trade-related policies/regulations, and major economic and trade activities held in provinces/ municipalities in the central region	No. of subscribers: 1 699 Average monthly visits: 5 420	No	An average of 1 post every 2 to 3 days Average no. of interactions per post: 11	1 Executive Officer I and 1 Public Relations Assistant	Internally absorbed

Commencement of operation (month/year)	Status (keep on updating/ ceased updating)	Policy bureau/ subvented body	Name	Social media platform	Purpose of establishment and contents	No. of "Likes"/ subscribers/ average monthly visits	Regular compilation of summary of comments and follow-up (Yes/No)	Average no. of posts per day and average no. of interactions per post (total no. of "likes", comments and shares)	Rank and no. of officers responsible for the operation	Expenditure for setting up the platform and daily operational expenses
Jan 2016	Update as necessary	Beijing Office (BJO)	Official WeChat platform of BJO	WeChat	To provide business communities, non-government organisations, Mainland authorities and the general public with information including latest updates on policies/regulations and the economic developments in the provinces/ municipalities/ autonomous regions under the coverage of BJO, major economic and trade promotional activities, and investment projects. It also gives an account of Hong Kong's latest developments in different aspects	No. of subscribers: 864 Accumulated no. of times the graphical version is read: 225 069	No	An average of 1 post every 2 to 3 days Average no. of interactions per post: 1	1 Information Officer, 2 Executive Assistants, 1 Investment Promotion Manager and 1 Technical Support Officer	Internally absorbed

Commencement of operation (month/year)	Status (keep on updating/ ceased updating)	Policy bureau/ subvented body	Name	Social media platform	Purpose of establishment and contents	No. of “Likes”/ subscribers/ average monthly visits	Regular compilation of summary of comments and follow-up (Yes/No)	Average no. of posts per day and average no. of interactions per post (total no. of “likes”, comments and shares)	Rank and no. of officers responsible for the operation	Expenditure for setting up the platform and daily operational expenses
Mar 2016	Update as necessary	Chengdu ETO	Official WeChat platform of Chengdu ETO	WeChat	To provide business communities, non-government organisations, Mainland authorities and the general public with information about Hong Kong and Chengdu ETO. The content covers latest information on commerce and trade-related policies/regulations and the economic developments in the provinces/ municipalities/ autonomous region under the coverage of Chengdu ETO, as well as information about major economic and trade activities held. It also gives an account of Hong Kong’s latest developments in different aspects	No. of subscribers: 791 Average monthly visits: 2 318	Yes	An average of 1 post every 2 to 3 days Average no. of interactions per post: 11	1 Senior Information Officer, 1 Public Relations Officer and 1 Assistant Reconstruction Officer	Internally absorbed

Commencement of operation (month/year)	Status (keep on updating/ ceased updating)	Policy bureau/ subvented body	Name	Social media platform	Purpose of establishment and contents	No. of “Likes”/ subscribers/ average monthly visits	Regular compilation of summary of comments and follow-up (Yes/No)	Average no. of posts per day and average no. of interactions per post (total no. of “likes”, comments and shares)	Rank and no. of officers responsible for the operation	Expenditure for setting up the platform and daily operational expenses
Jun 2016	Update as necessary	Shanghai ETO	Official WeChat platform of Shanghai ETO	WeChat	To provide business communities, non-government organisations, Mainland authorities and the general public with information about Hong Kong and Shanghai ETO. The content covers latest information on commerce and trade-related policies/regulations and the economic developments in provinces/ municipalities under the coverage of Shanghai ETO, as well as information about major economic and trade activities held. It also gives an account of Hong Kong’s latest developments in different aspects	No. of subscribers: 1 795	Yes	An average of 1 post every 2 to 3 days Average no. of interactions per post: 23	1 Senior Information Officer, 1 Public Relations Manager and 1 Public Relations Assistant	Internally absorbed

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB135

(Question Serial No. 6700)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the work of the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data, please advise:

- (1) on the number of complaints (by category and frequency in tabular form) related to mobile applications, person-to-person telemarketing calls, direct marketing, and social networking last year;
- (2) on the number of complaints related to Government departments (by department and frequency in tabular form) last year;
- (3) on the number of complaints related to providers of mobile phone and Internet services last year;
- (4) on the number of notifications of data leakage incidents received from data users last year;
- (5) on the number of compliance investigations conducted, enforcement notices and warning notices issued, and prosecutions last year; and
- (6) whether there are plans in 2017-18 to raise awareness of privacy and transparency among Internet and telecommunication service providers and mobile application developers; if so, of the specific tasks, timetable, as well as manpower and expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon MOK Charles Peter (Member Question No. 70)

Reply:

According to the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD), a total of 1 838 complaint cases were received in 2016, among which 393 were related to direct marketing (including 300 cases concerned with person-to-person telemarketing calls), 86 were related to social networking, and 61 were related to mobile applications.

2. Of the 1 838 complaint cases mentioned above, 71 were related to providers of mobile phone and Internet services, while those related to Government departments totalled 112 with breakdown as follows:

Policy bureau/department	No. of cases#
Education Bureau	10
Buildings Department	2
Civil Aid Service	1
Correctional Services Department	3
Fire Services Department	3
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	8
Government Logistics Department	1
Department of Health	2
Hong Kong Police Force	25
Housing Department	9
Immigration Department	4
Inland Revenue Department	1
Department of Justice	1
Labour Department	3
The Land Registry	2
Lands Department	5
Legal Aid Department	1
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	5
Official Receiver's Office	1
Post Office	3
Registration and Electoral Office	1
Social Welfare Department	5
Transport Department	3
The Treasury	1
Water Supplies Department	3
Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency	2
Planning Department	1
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	1
Independent Commission Against Corruption	1
Civil Service Bureau	1
Food and Health Bureau	1
Transport and Housing Bureau	1
Efficiency Unit	2
Total:	113#

As there was one case involving two departments, the total sum of numbers in this column exceeds 112.

3. In 2016, notifications from data users in respect of 89 data leakage incidents were received by PCPD. In the same year, PCPD conducted 263 compliance checks/self-initiated investigations, issued 6 enforcement notices and 36 warning notices, and handled 5 prosecution cases.

4. Guidance issued by PCPD on collection and use of personal data through the internet and development of mobile applications is in place. PCPD has also been promoting the information technology sector's awareness of personal data privacy protection through various channels (such as training courses and a dedicated website). PCPD will also actively participate in and organise seminars and related activities, such as organising seminars during the International IT Fest 2017 for exchanges with the information technology sector on issues relating to personal data privacy. In addition, PCPD will host the 39th International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners in September 2017. Through the conference events, the sector will be able to grasp the global trends of development in privacy protection. Meanwhile, PCPD will continue to conduct random checks and compliance checks on mobile applications.

5. For 2017-18, PCPD has set aside \$4.9 million for promotion, publicity and educational activities (excluding staff cost), which covers the expenditure on activities mentioned in paragraph 4 above.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB136****(Question Serial No. 6718)**

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

- (1) Please provide the number of requests for information under the Code on Access to Information received by the Bureau/Department and its subvented bodies in 2016-17 and the relevant details as per the following table:

Bureau/ Department/ Subvented Body	Number of requests received	Information requested (items)	Number of requests being processed	Number of requests met in full	Number of requests met in part	Average processing time (working days)

- (2) the 3 most common types of information requested by the public and the number of such requests;
- (3) the 5 requests that took the longest time to process, the number of days taken to process such requests and the reasons; and
- (4) the details of refused requests and the reasons given, as well as the number of requests for reviews made by the public.

Asked by: Hon MOK Charles Peter (Member Question No. 135)

Reply:

During the period from January to September 2016, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau received 2 requests for information under the Code on Access to Information. The information requested for the 2 cases varied with each other with no duplication.

2. The above 2 requests were both met in full and processing of the requests was completed within 21 days after receipt of the requests.

3. As at 30 September 2016, we have no outstanding request for information and have not received any request for internal review of the processing of the above cases.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB137****(Question Serial No. 7192)**

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please advise this Committee of the following in table form:

- (1) the expenses of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau on publicity through Internet/social media, the manpower involved and the percentage of such expenses against the total expenditure in 2016-17 with a breakdown by publicity channel;
- (2) how the effectiveness of the above initiative is evaluated by the Bureau; whether the spending is effective;
- (3) the Bureau's estimated expenses in respect of the above initiative in 2017-18 and the manpower involved.

Asked by: Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael (Member Question No. 54)

Reply:

- (1) The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB)'s expenses on publicity through Internet/social media in 2016-17 are detailed below –

Publicity item	Publicity channel	Publicity expenses[#]
Elimination of discrimination against people of different sexual orientations/gender identities	website, mobile application and social media	\$940,000
Promotion of the Basic Law	network media	\$480,000
Promotion of messages of equal opportunities, racial integration, breaking gender stereotypes and barrier-free access	website, mobile application, social media and network media	\$550,000

[#] The publicity expenses do not include manpower expenditure

The above publicity expenses account for less than 1% of CMAB's total expenditure. Since the above work was performed as part of the daily duties of our staff, the manpower involved cannot be singled out or separately quantified.

- (2) We have evaluated the effectiveness of the above initiative with reference to the views and data (such as the number of visits, hit rates, etc.) collected through different channels, and consider the initiative has achieved the intended effect.
- (3) We have not set aside provision specifically for publicity through individual network organisations or social media in 2017-18.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB138

(Question Serial No. 5367)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Secretary for Security

Question:

Please set out the respective numbers of activities organised by the Beijing Office and all Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in the Mainland in the past 3 financial years and provide information on the date and theme, number of participants and local media coverage as well as expenditure incurred in respect of each activity.

Please also provide the respective numbers of requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents received by the Beijing Office and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in the Mainland in the past 3 financial years and give a breakdown of the related enquiries by nature.

Asked by: Hon YEUNG Alvin (Member Question No. 157)

Reply:

The Mainland Offices (namely the Beijing Office (BJO) and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan) proactively serve as important bridges between Hong Kong and the Mainland, including enhancing liaison and communication with the counterparts in the areas under their coverage; representing and promoting Hong Kong's trade and commercial interests; encouraging and attracting investments to Hong Kong; promoting Hong Kong's many advantages as an investment and business hub in Asia; and gathering relevant information on new laws and regulations, policies and significant regional development, and disseminating such information to the Hong Kong business sector through various channels.

2. In performing the above functions, the Mainland Offices took forward a number of initiatives. In 2014-15, the "Harbin Hong Kong Week 2014" launched in Harbin attracted over 60 000 participants, and the "Shanghai-Hong Kong Co-operation Summit" was attended by some 300 people from different sectors. In 2015-16, the series of "Creative Hong Kong • Tianjin" promotional events held in Tianjin Municipality were attended by about 300 000 participants; the Hong Kong Exhibition at the China-South Asia Expo in Kunming recorded an attendance of over 210 000; and the "Hong Kong Professional

Services for ‘Belt and Road’ Seminar: Chongqing - Hong Kong Logistics Co-operation” held in Chongqing Municipality attracted the attendance of some 180 representatives from the professional services sector. In 2016-17, the “Belt and Road Initiative – Joining Hands for Mutual Benefits” Thematic Exhibition, which was held as one of the events of the “Savouring Hong Kong • Liaoning 2016” by the Liaoning Liaison Unit under the BJO, was attended by about 50 000 participants; the “China Food and Catering Expo 2016” held by the Hunan Liaison Unit under the Wuhan ETO attracted an attendance of over 20 000; the “Seminar on Town Planning and Construction” held by the Chengdu ETO in Xi’an was attended by over 160 members of the professional sectors; the “2016 Workshop on Mainland’s Tax and Customs Policies” organised by the Guangdong ETO in Guangzhou was attended by about 150 Hong Kong-invested enterprises in the Guangdong Province; and the “Belt and Road, Together We Grow” investment promotion seminar held by the Shanghai ETO in Changzhou attracted an attendance of nearly 70 enterprises. Such initiatives engaged different sectors and received extensive media coverage and positive feedback from the community. As organising activities is part of the regular duties of the Mainland Offices, the related expenditures incurred cannot be singled out and itemised.

3. In the past 3 years, the numbers of enquiries and requests for assistance received by the Mainland Offices are set out in the table below:

Year	Office	General enquiries handled (excluding those relating to immigration matters)	Enquiries handled by the Immigration Divisions in the Mainland	Requests for assistance relating to immigration and personal safety matters	Other assistance cases
2014	BJO	3 592	20 678	136	24
	Guangdong ETO	5 470	1 227	166	79
	Chengdu ETO	5 537	514	38	7
	Shanghai ETO	1 074	Covered by the Immigration Division of BJO	Covered by the Immigration Division of BJO	20
	Wuhan ETO ^{Note 1}	250			14
2015	BJO	2 805	23 224	154	32
	Guangdong ETO	5 423	1 252	211	50
	Chengdu ETO	2 594	834	42	11
	Shanghai ETO	1 509	Covered by the Immigration Division of BJO	Covered by the Immigration Division of BJO	13
	Wuhan ETO	909			7
2016	BJO	2 820	23 492	69	29
	Guangdong ETO	4 448	2 370	185	74
	Chengdu ETO	2 151	1 044	48	5
	Shanghai ETO	1 466	931	17 ^{Note 2}	33
	Wuhan ETO	158	Covered by the Immigration Division of BJO	Covered by the Immigration Division of BJO	6

Note 1 The Wuhan ETO commenced operation on 1 April 2014 with no Immigration Division. We plan to set up an Immigration Division under this ETO before the end of 2017.

Note 2 The Immigration Division of Shanghai ETO commenced operation on 25 October 2016.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB139

(Question Serial No. 5208)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

As the Hong Kong economy has become more diversified, local industries in the environmental protection, scientific and technological and cultural and creative sectors have played an increasingly important role in our economic development. Factors such as the quality of life, liveability, educational standards, environmental protection, air quality, fair systems and the attainment of democracy are all vital for promoting further economic development and are major considerations of investors. Have the various Taiwan and Mainland Offices conducted regular exchanges as well as experience learning and sharing with their counterparts in the public sector, private sector or non-government organisations (NGOs) in the specific areas of (1) social security, livelihood-related policies, education, science and technology and overseas studies; (2) environmental protection, science and technology, climate change and conservation; and (3) system alignment, governance and government operation? Have they also conducted an overall analysis of their own stationing points for inclusion in the work reports which are submitted regularly to this Council? If yes, please set out the details by using the table below the objectives, counterparts and their nature (whether they belong to the government/public sector, private sector or NGOs) of the above work carried out by the Taiwan and Mainland Offices over the past year. If no, please explain the reasons and state whether considerations will be given to enhance the scope of duties of these Offices in future.

Names of Taiwan or Mainland Offices	Social security, livelihood-related policies, education, science & technology and overseas studies (projects organised; objectives and details of exchanges; counterparts and their nature)	Environmental protection, science and technology, climate change and conservation (projects organised; objectives and details of exchanges; counterparts and their nature)	System alignment, governance and government operation (projects organised; objectives and details of exchanges; counterparts and their nature)
Taiwan			
Beijing			
Guangzhou			
Shanghai			
Chengdu			
Wuhan			
Shenyang			
Tianjin			
Fujian			
Shenzhen			
Shandong			
Chongqing			
Hunan			
Henan			

Please provide information on the staff establishment and ranks of officers responsible for the dedicated projects on cultural exchanges in each of the Mainland Offices, as well as the respective operating expenses and estimated expenditures on salaries involved for the above work in the past 3 years and in the 2017-18 Estimates.

Asked by: Hon YIU Chung-yim (Member Question No. 120)

Reply:

The Mainland and Taiwan Offices (namely the Beijing Office (BJO) and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan, and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan) serve as bridges between Hong Kong and the Mainland/Taiwan. Their major responsibilities include enhancing liaison and communication with the counterparts in the areas under their coverage to represent and promote Hong Kong's trade and commercial interests; encouraging and attracting investments to Hong Kong; promoting Hong Kong's many advantages as an investment and business hub in Asia; promoting the strengths of Hong Kong through appropriate channels; providing assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress

in the Mainland/Taiwan; and providing information and other appropriate support to Hong Kong residents. The liaison units will assist their respective ETOs in liaising with the province/region under their coverage, including strengthening liaison and communication with the provincial/regional government authorities, enhancing economic and trade relations, fostering co-operation between Hong Kong and the relevant province/region and promoting Hong Kong, and supporting Hong Kong residents and enterprises in the service area, etc.

2. The Mainland and Taiwan Offices submit work reports to the Legislative Council (LegCo) regularly. These reports, including the bi-monthly reports and annual reports, give an account of the progress of work undertaken by the respective Offices on enhancing liaison with the counterparts in their service areas, fostering economic and trade relations investment promotion, culture promotion and public relations, immigration-related matters/providing assistance to Hong Kong residents. The Mainland and Taiwan Offices will continue to perform the above duties and functions, and submit work reports to the LegCo regularly.

3. The Mainland Offices have taken continuous efforts to assist in enhancing cultural and arts exchange between Hong Kong and the Mainland. The work on promoting cultural and arts exchange is an integral part of the duties and functions of the ETOs in the Mainland. The expenditure and manpower involved cannot be separately singled out and itemised. As for the BJO, we created the post of Head (Cultural Exchange) in July 2016; the 2016-17 revised estimated expenditure and 2017-18 estimated expenditure for this post are around \$1.6 million and \$2.1 million respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB140

(Question Serial No. 5210)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau has mentioned in the work of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices that they will “foster economic and cultural exchanges with Taiwan”. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the achievements of the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan (HKETCO) in promoting cultural exchanges over the past 3 years? With reference to the indicators set by the Government, please set out in detail the numbers of (1) calls on senior officials/personnel/organisations, (2) public relations/cultural functions/events organised, (3) public relations/cultural functions/events participated in, (4) public speeches given and (5) media interviews/ briefings given, with the aim of promoting cultural exchanges in the past 3 years.

Please also provide information on the target output of the above work of the HKETCO for 2017-18, as well as the staff establishment and ranks of officers responsible for the dedicated work on cultural exchanges in the HKETCO. What are the respective operating expenses and estimated expenditures on salaries involved for the above work in the past 3 years and in the 2017-18 Estimates?

Asked by: Hon YIU Chung-yim (Member Question No. 122)

Reply:

Since its establishment in December 2011, the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan (HKETCO) has been leveraging on its local presence to enhance liaison and provide services. Through organising and participating in a wide range of activities, it promotes Hong Kong’s arts and culture to the Taiwan community and fosters cultural exchanges between the two places. Efforts made in the past 3 years included assisting the Hong Kong-Taiwan Cultural Co-operation Committee in organising a series of events for the “Hong Kong Week” to showcase Hong Kong’s unique culture and arts to the Taiwan community through different types of arts programmes, performances and exhibitions; supporting cultural groups such as the Asian Youth Orchestra, the Hong Kong Publishing Federation and the Hong Kong Printers Association to stage performances or

participate in events in Taiwan; participating in the large-scale lantern festivals in Taiwan and presenting lantern displays which reflected Hong Kong's cultural characteristics; arranging cultural personalities from Hong Kong to give media interviews and publishing the annual publication "Art & Culture@Hong Kong" to deepen the understanding of the general public of Taiwan in Hong Kong's living styles, arts and culture; and actively meeting with members and organisations of various fields of the cultural sector in Taiwan. In the past 3 years, the HKETCO made nearly 120 calls on Taiwan authorities/personnel/organisations; organised over 60 public relations/cultural functions/events; participated in over 50 public relations/cultural functions/events; gave nearly 40 speeches; and gave nearly 100 media interviews/briefings.

2. In the coming year, the HKETCO will continue to promote Hong Kong's cultural characteristics and foster cultural exchanges between the two places through various activities. The HKETCO is also planning to collaborate with the Taiwan Office of the Hong Kong Tourism Board to organise activities to promote Hong Kong's cultural characteristics and local attractions to attract the people of Taiwan to visit Hong Kong and experience our culture. As the work on promoting cultural exchange is an integral part of the duties and responsibilities of the HKETCO, the expenditure and manpower involved cannot be separately singled out and itemised.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB141****(Question Serial No. 5211)**

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau has mentioned in the work of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices that they will “foster economic and cultural exchanges with Taiwan”. The work on cultural exchanges is not mentioned in the work of other Mainland and overseas Offices. In this connection, will the CMAB inform this Committee whether the 5 Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) and other 8 liaison units in the Mainland have handled any matters on cultural exchanges with provinces and municipalities in the Mainland? If not, what are the reasons?

If so, please set out in detail, with reference to the indicators set by the Government, the numbers of (1) calls on senior officials/personnel/organisations, (2) public relations/cultural functions/events organised, (3) public relations/cultural functions/events participated, (4) public speeches given and (5) media interviews/briefings given, with the aim of promoting cultural exchanges, by each of the Mainland Offices in the past 3 years. Please also advise the expected achievement of each of the Mainland Offices in the above work in 2017-18.

Name of Taiwan or Mainland Office	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Taiwan					
Beijing					
Guangzhou					
Shanghai					
Chengdu					
Wuhan					
Shenyang					
Tianjin					
Fujian					

Shenzhen					
Shandong					
Chongqing					
Hunan					
Henan					

Please also provide information on the staff establishment and ranks of officers responsible for the dedicated work on cultural exchanges in each of the Mainland Offices, as well as the respective operating expenses and estimated expenditures on salaries involved for the above work in the past 3 years and in the 2017-18 Estimates.

Asked by: Hon YIU Chung-yim (Member Question No. 123)

Reply:

The Mainland Offices (namely the Beijing Office (BJO) and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan) have taken continuous efforts to assist in enhancing cultural and arts exchange between Hong Kong and the Mainland. Past initiatives taken have included organising, co-organising or supporting the launching of film festivals, dance performances, theatrical shows, concerts, arts exhibitions, photo exhibitions, lantern carnivals, talks, radio programmes, etc., to showcase Hong Kong's unique culture and arts.

2. The general performance indicators for promotion of strengths of Hong Kong cover the work on cultural and arts exchange, and are not separately singled out and itemised. General performance indicators for the Mainland and Taiwan Offices' work on promotion of strengths of Hong Kong from 2014-16 are set out in the table below:

	2014* (Actual)	2015 (Actual)	2016 (Actual)
Call on senior officials/personnel/ organisations	2 137	2 320	2 650
Public relations/cultural functions/ events organised	403	483	562
Public relations/cultural functions/ events participated	471	736	639
Public speeches given	133	167	213
Media interviews/briefings given	474	323	341

* Starting from 2014, the figures also cover the Wuhan ETO which was set up in April 2014.

3. The work on promoting cultural and arts exchange is an integral part of the duties and functions of the ETOs in the Mainland. The expenditure and manpower involved cannot be separately singled out and itemised. As for the BJO, we created the post of Head (Cultural Exchange) in July 2016; the 2016-17 revised estimated expenditure and 2017-18 estimated expenditure for this post are around \$1.6 million and \$2.1 million respectively.

4. In 2017-18, the Mainland Offices will continue to assist relevant Hong Kong cultural and arts organisations in liaising with local authorities and bodies as necessary, and in promoting the related events as appropriate to support the performances of these cultural and arts organisations and further promote Hong Kong's unique culture and arts.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB142****(Question Serial No. 5412)**

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Government sets out several work programmes for its Taiwan and Mainland Offices, including (1) enhancing trade opportunities, (2) promotion of strengths of Hong Kong, (3) investment promotion, and (4) immigration-related matters. In this connection, please inform this Committee, using the table below, of the respective estimated expenditures and staff establishment for these work programmes and other work areas with regard to the 14 stationing points, viz. the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan, the 5 Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Beijing, Guangzhou, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan, and the 8 liaison units in Shenyang, Tianjin, Fujian, Shenzhen, Shandong, Chongqing, Hunan and Henan:

Name of Taiwan or Mainland Office	Estimated expenditure and manpower for (1)	Estimated expenditure and manpower for (2)	Estimated expenditure and manpower for (3)	Estimated expenditure and manpower for (4)	Other or shared resources and manpower	Total estimated expenditure and manpower
Taiwan						
Beijing						
Guangzhou						
Shanghai						
Chengdu						
Wuhan						
Shenyang						
Tianjin						
Fujian						
Shenzhen						

Shandong						
Chongqing						
Hunan						
Henan						
Shared or unclassifiable						
Total expenditure						

Asked by: Hon YIU Chung-yim (Member Question No. 128)

Reply:

The Mainland and Taiwan Offices (namely the Beijing Office (BJO) and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan, and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan (HKETCO)) serve as bridges between Hong Kong and the Mainland/Taiwan. Their major responsibilities include enhancing liaison and communication with the counterparts in the areas under their coverage; representing and promoting Hong Kong's trade and commercial interests; encouraging and attracting investments to Hong Kong; promoting Hong Kong's many advantages as an investment and business hub in Asia; promoting the strengths of Hong Kong through appropriate channels; providing assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland/Taiwan; and providing information and other appropriate support to Hong Kong residents. The liaison units will assist their respective ETOs in liaising with the province/region under their coverage, including strengthening liaison and communication with the provincial/regional government authorities, enhancing economic and trade relations, fostering co-operation between Hong Kong and the relevant province/region and promoting Hong Kong, and supporting Hong Kong residents and enterprises in the service area, etc.

2. As the work on enhancing trade opportunities, promotion of strengths of Hong Kong, investment promotion and immigration-related matters is an integral part of the duties and functions of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices, the expenditure and manpower involved cannot be separately singled out and itemised. The respective estimated total expenditures and staff establishments of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices for 2017-18 are set out as follows.

3. The establishment of the BJO in 2017-18 will comprise 3 directorate officers (namely 1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade A, 1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade B1 and 1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade C) and 19 non-directorate officers (namely 2 Senior Administrative Officers, 1 Chief Curator, 2 Principal Trade Officers, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer, 3 Immigration Officers, 1 Chief Information Officer, 1 Information Officer, 1 Senior Executive Officer, 1 Executive Officer I and 1 Senior Personal Secretary). The estimated expenditure of the BJO in 2017-18 will be \$95.59 million. The above figures have included the manpower

for, as well as estimated expenditure of the Liaoning Liaison Unit, and the Tianjin Liaison Unit which was set up in February this year.

4. The establishment of the Guangdong ETO in 2017-18 will comprise 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade B) and 17 non-directorate officers (namely 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Chief Executive Officer, 4 Principal Trade Officers, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer, 2 Immigration Officers, 1 Principal Information Officer and 2 Senior Executive Officers). The estimated expenditure of the Guangdong ETO in 2017-18 will be \$69.58 million. The above figures have included the manpower for, as well as estimated expenditure of the Shenzhen Liaison Unit, the Fujian Liaison Unit and a liaison unit to be set up in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

5. The establishment of the Shanghai ETO in 2017-18 will comprise 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade B) and 15 non-directorate officers (namely 2 Senior Administrative Officers, 1 Chief Executive Officer, 1 Principal Trade Officer, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer, 3 Immigration Officers, 1 Senior Information Officer and 1 Senior Executive Officer). The estimated expenditure of the Shanghai ETO in 2017-18 will be \$63.9 million. The above figures have included the manpower for, as well as estimated expenditure of the Shandong Liaison Unit and a liaison unit to be set up in Zhejiang Province.

6. The establishment of the Chengdu ETO in 2017-18 will comprise 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade C) and 13 non-directorate officers (namely 2 Senior Administrative Officers, 1 Chief Executive Officer, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Senior Information Officer, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer, 2 Immigration Officers and 1 Senior Executive Officer). The estimated expenditure of the Chengdu ETO in 2017-18 will be \$54.5 million. The above figures have included the manpower for, as well as estimated expenditure of the Chongqing Liaison Unit and a liaison unit to be set up in Shaanxi Province.

7. The establishment of the Wuhan ETO in 2017-18 will comprise 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade C) and 10 non-directorate officers (namely 2 Senior Administrative Officers, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Principal Trade Officer, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Senior Information Officer and 1 Senior Executive Officer). The estimated expenditure of the Wuhan ETO in 2017-18 will be \$46.02 million. The above figures have included the manpower for, as well as estimated expenditure of the Hunan Liaison Unit and Henan Liaison Unit.

8. The establishment of the HKETCO in 2017-18 will comprise 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade B) and 7 non-directorate officers (namely 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Principal Trade Officer, 2 Trade Officers, 1 Senior Information Officer, 1 Executive Officer I and 1 Personal Secretary I). The estimated expenditure of the HKETCO in 2017-18 will be \$24.97 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB143

(Question Serial No. 5441)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office
(2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices
(4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the records management work of the bureau and the department under its purview over the past year –

Please provide information on the number and rank of officers designated to perform such work. If there is no officer designated for such work, please provide information on the number of officers and the hours of work involved in records management duties, and the other duties they have to undertake in addition to records management;

Please provide information on programme and administrative records which have been closed pending transfer to the Government Records Service (GRS) for appraisal, including category of records, years covered by the records, number and linear metres of records, retention period approved by GRS, whether they are confidential documents, reasons for records yet to be transferred

Please provide information on programme and administrative records which have been transferred to GRS for retention, including category of records, years covered by the records, number and linear metres of records, years that records were transferred to GRS, retention period approved by GRS, whether they are confidential documents

Please provide information on records which have been approved for destruction by GRS, including category of records, name of records, years covered by the records, number and linear metres of records, years that records were transferred to GRS, retention period approved by GRS, whether they are confidential documents, reasons for records yet to be transferred, reasons for destruction

Asked by: Hon YIU Chung-yim (Member Question No. 202)

Reply:

Regarding records management work in the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) and the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) under the CMAB's purview over the past year, the relevant information is provided below –

1. A Senior Executive Officer in each of CMAB and REO performs the role of Departmental Records Manager as part of the officer's duties, to establish and implement a departmental records management programme in accordance with the guidelines of the Government Records Service (GRS). Staff of individual teams/offices are responsible for their day-to-day records management activities.

Since the work is performed as part of the daily duties of the above officers, we do not have a separate record on the number of hours of work involved in records management.

2. CMAB and REO do not have programme and administrative records which were closed pending transfer to the GRS for appraisal in the past year.
3. Information on records which were transferred to GRS for retention in the past year is provided below –

Name of Bureau/ Department	Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Years that the records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents
REO	Programme records	2002-2016	681 265 records in 167.83 linear metres	2016	Permanent retention or further appraised by GRS 3 years after action completed	Some are confidential documents

4. Information on records which were approved for destruction by GRS in the past year is provided below –

Name of Bureau/ Department	Category of records	Name of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Years that the records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents	Reasons for records yet to be transferred	Reasons for destruction
CMAB	Administrative records	Personnel records	1989-2015	112 records in 2.52 linear metres	Direct destruction, no need to transfer to GRS	12 months after the employees have left service	No	Not applicable	These records were no longer possessing any administrative, operational, fiscal and legal values and were appraised by GRS as having no archival value. After they became time-expired according to the retention periods as set out in the corresponding records retention and disposal schedules, they were destroyed after the prior agreement of the GRS Director was obtained.
REO	Programme records	Voter Registration of Functional Constituencies and Election Committee Subsectors, Electoral Forms and Documents of Ordinary Elections, General Elections and By-elections, Transaction Reports on Voter Registration and Change of Particulars, Ballot Papers and Marked Copies of Final Registers of District Council/ Legislative Council Elections, Electors' Replies to the Enquiry and Inquiry Letters and Undelivered Letters returned from the Post Office, Voter Registration Forms for Geographical Constituencies, Application Forms Relating to Polling and Counting Staff for Elections	1995-2016	983 764 records in 435.64 linear metres	Some were transferred to GRS for appraisal in 2013 and were destroyed in 2016, while the others were destroyed directly, no need to transfer to GRS	6 months to 5 years after action completed	Some are confidential documents	Not applicable	
	Administrative records	Committees, Councils and Commissions; Plans and Programmes; Circulars and Directives; Management Services; Office Services; Transportation; Accommodation; Canteen and Pantry Equipment and Supplies; Vehicles; Health and Safety; Information Services; Information Services – Books and Publications	1998-2012	91 records in 5.97 linear metres	Direct destruction, no need to transfer to GRS	2 to 3 years after action completed	No	Not applicable	

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB144

(Question Serial No. 5442)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office
(2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices
(4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the expenses on entertainment and gifts of your bureau and the departments under your purview in the past 2 years, please provide details of the following: the office of the Secretary of Department or Director of Bureau/bureau/branch/department and the year concerned; the estimated expenses on entertainment and gifts; the actual expenses on entertainment and gifts; the expenditure limit on entertainment expenses (including beverages) per head; the expenditure limit on gift expenses per guest; the number of receptions held and total number of guests entertained.

Regarding the expenses on entertainment and gifts of your bureau and the departments under its purview incurred on each occasion in the past year, please provide details of the following: the office of the Secretary of Department or Director of Bureau/bureau/branch/department concerned; the date of reception; the departments/organisations and titles of the guests entertained (grouped by department/organisation and indicating the number of guests); the food expenses incurred; the beverage expenses incurred; the gift expenses incurred; and the venue of the reception (department office/restaurant in government facilities/private restaurant/others (please specify)).

Please provide the estimated expenses on entertainment and gifts for this financial year, with details of the following: the office of the Secretary of Department or Director of Bureau/bureau/branch/department concerned; the estimated provision for expenses on entertainment and gifts; the expenditure limit on entertainment expenses per guest; and the expenditure limit on entertainment expenses per guest.

Asked by: Hon YIU Chung-yim (Member Question No. 203)

Reply:

All politically appointed officials and civil servants should observe the relevant regulations and administrative guidelines in the provision of official meals. According to the existing guidelines, the expenditure limits on entertainment in the form of official meals should not exceed \$450 per person for lunch or \$600 per person for dinner, inclusive of all expenses incurred on food and beverages consumed on the occasion, service charges and tips. Official entertainment provided by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) and the Registration and Electoral Office (REO), which is under the purview of CMAB, is also subject to the same principles and guidelines. In 2015-16 and 2016-17 (as at 28 February 2017), the expenses under the Departmental Entertainment Vote for local entertainment incurred by CMAB are \$140,000 and \$80,000 respectively, while the estimated expenditure for 2017-18 is \$143,000. As for REO, the expenses on official entertainment in 2015-16 and 2016-17 (as at 28 February 2017) are \$2,300 and \$5,300 respectively. The Office has not particularly earmarked any provision for official entertainment in 2017-18.

2. In line with the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government's green policy, public officers have as far as possible refrained from bestowing gifts/souvenirs to others during the conduct of official activities. According to the existing guidelines, where bestowal of gifts/souvenirs is necessary or unavoidable due to operational, protocol or other reasons, the gift/souvenir items should not be lavish or extravagant and the number should be kept to a minimum. Also, the exchange of gifts/souvenirs should only be made on an organisation-to-organisation basis. CMAB and REO do not specifically maintain separate accounts for the expenses on the procurement of gifts and souvenirs, nor do they maintain a separate breakdown.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB145

(Question Serial No. 5444)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office
(2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices
(4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please provide information on the studies (if any) conducted by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau and the department under its purview for the purpose of formulating and assessing policies.

Please provide information about studies on public policy and strategic public policy for which funds were allocated in the past 2 financial years in terms of the following:

Name of consultant, mode of award (public bidding/tender/others (please specify)), title; content and objectives of project; consultancy fee (\$); start date; progress of study (under planning/in progress/completed); follow-ups taken by the Government on the study reports and their progress (if any); for completed projects, have they been made public? If yes, through what channel(s)? If no, what are the reasons?

Are there any projects for which funds have been reserved for conducting internal studies this year? If yes, please provide the following information: title, content and objectives of project; start date; progress of study (under planning/in progress/completed), follow-ups taken by the Government on the study reports and their progress (if any); for the projects that are expected to be completed this year, is there any plan to make them public? If yes, through what channel(s)? If no, what are the reasons?

Are there any projects for which funds have been reserved for conducting consultancy studies this year? If yes, please provide the following information: name of consultant; mode of award (public bidding/tender/others (please specify)); title, content and objectives of project; consultancy fee (\$); start date; progress of study (under planning/in progress/completed); follow-ups taken by the Government on the study reports and their progress (if any); for the projects that are expected to be completed this year, is there any plan to make them public? If yes, through what channel(s)? If no, what are the reasons? What are the criteria for considering the award of consultancy projects to the research institutions concerned?

Asked by: Hon YIU Chung-yim (Member Question No. 204)

Reply:

Consultancy studies commissioned by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) for the purpose of formulating and assessing policies in 2015-16 and 2016-17 are detailed as follows:

Name of consultant	Mode of award (public bidding/tender/others (please specify))	Title, content and objectives of project	Con-sultancy fee (\$)	Start date	Progress of study (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Follow-ups taken by the Government on the study reports and their progress (if any)	For completed projects, have they been made public? If yes, through what channel(s)? If no, what are the reasons?
Deloitte Consulting (Hong Kong) Limited	Selection of quotation	Evaluative study on conditions necessary for implementing section 33 of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance	HK\$ 1,428,000	May 2015	In progress	Not applicable, the study is yet to be completed	Same as the left
Pricewaterhouse-Coopers Consultants (Shenzhen) Limited Beijing Branch	Selection of quotation	Study report on business opportunities brought about by Guangdong, Fujian and Tianjin Pilot Free Trade Zones and their impact on Hong Kong enterprises To study the business opportunities brought about by various policies and rules and regulations of the Guangdong, Fujian and Tianjin Pilot Free Trade Zones and their impact on Hong Kong enterprises	RMB¥ 128,000	Oct 2015	Completed in Mar 2016	The report has been passed to relevant Government departments in Hong Kong and related trade and industrial organisations (including major business associations) for reference	Same as the left

2. In 2017-18, we will conduct an internal study on the experience of legislative and non-legislative measures of other jurisdictions for addressing discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity. The relevant study is in progress and upon its completion, we will give a brief summary to the Legislative Council Panel on Constitutional Affairs.

3. Generally speaking, the consultancy projects were awarded to the research institutions concerned after considering the following criteria –

- (a) the research institution's background and relevant past experience on the research topic;
- (b) the research team's understanding and knowledge of the research topic; and
- (c) whether the quoted consultancy fee is reasonable.

4. The Registration and Electoral Office, which is under the purview of CMAB, has not commissioned any consultancy study, and currently has no plan for new internal or consultancy studies to be conducted in 2017-18.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB146

(Question Serial No. 5445)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office
(2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices
(4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please give details of the duty visits of the Secretary and Under Secretary in the past 2 years by setting out certain information of the trips, including the number of visits, objectives and places of visits, number of officers joining the visits, air ticket expenses, local transportation expenses, hotel expenses, subsistence allowance and other expenses, banquet and entertainment expenses, gift expenses as well as the total expenses.

If the above information covers trips to Mainland China, please give details of the meetings with, visits to or exchanges with the relevant Mainland authorities by the Bureau and department under its purview in the past year (including the total number of such trips) by setting out in chronological order certain information of each trip, including (1) the objective and place of the trip, number and post titles of Hong Kong officers joining the trip, and post titles of the Mainland officials met; (2) whether announcement was made prior to the trip and, if not, the reasons for keeping confidence; (3) whether minutes of the meetings have been filed and, if not, the reasons for that; and (4) whether agreements were reached and, if yes, the details and progress of their implementation.

Asked by: Hon YIU Chung-yim (Member Question No. 205)

Reply:

The relevant summary information on official duty visits outside Hong Kong made by the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs and Under Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs in 2015-16 and 2016-17 is provided below –

Date of visits (Number of visits)	Place of visits	Departments/ organisations visited	No. of officers in Director of Bureau's Office joining the visits	Objectives of visits	Hotel accommo- dation expendi- ture ^{Note 1}	Flight/ train/ vessel ticket expendi- ture ^{Note 2}	Other expenses ^{Note 3}	Total expenditure
					(\$ (A))	(\$ (B))	(\$ (C))	(\$ (A)+(B)+(C))
2015-16 (17)	Mainland (Hubei, Shanghai, Liaoning, Guangdong, Beijing, Tianjin, Hunan, Henan, Shaanxi, Fujian) and Macao, Taiwan	Central ministries and departments of local governments	0-4 officers per visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> promoting exchanges and co-operation with the Mainland, Macao and Taiwan 	40,550	148,110	47,040	235,700
2016-17 (8)	Mainland (Shanghai, Shandong, Beijing, Guangdong, Jiangxi, Zhejiang) and Macao, Australia, New Zealand	Central ministries and departments of local governments	0-2 officers per visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> promoting exchanges and co-operation with the Mainland and Macao studying issues related to electoral arrangements in overseas places 	31,220	213,630	42,660	287,510

Notes:

- (1) The arrangement of hotel accommodation was provided to officers concerned in accordance with the relevant Civil Service Regulations and guidelines.
- (2) Proper class of air passages was provided to officers concerned in accordance with the relevant Civil Service Regulations which take into account ranking of their offices, flying time, flight schedule and details.
- (3) Other expenses include subsistence allowance for duty outside Hong Kong and local transportation expenses, but exclude the expenditure which was sponsored by the hosting government (if any).

2. All politically appointed officials and civil servants should observe the relevant regulations and administrative guidelines in the provision of official meals. According to the existing guidelines, the expenditure limits on entertainment in the form of official meals should not exceed \$450 per person for lunch or \$600 per person for dinner, inclusive of all expenses incurred on food and beverages consumed on the occasion, service charges and tips. Official entertainment provided by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) is also subject to the same principles and guidelines. We do not maintain separate accounts for official entertainment expenses incurred by the Director of Bureau and Deputy Director of Bureau during their duty visits outside Hong Kong.

3. In line with the Government's green policy, public officers should as far as possible refrain from bestowing gifts/souvenirs to others during the conduct of official activities. According to the existing guidelines, where bestowal of gifts/souvenirs is necessary or unavoidable due to operational, protocol or other reasons, the gift/souvenir items should not be lavish and the number should be kept to a minimum. Also, the exchange of gifts/souvenirs should only be made on an organisation-to-organisation basis. CMAB does not specifically maintain separate accounts for the expenses on the procurement of gifts and souvenirs, nor does it maintain a separate breakdown.

4. A total of 32 official duty visits to the Mainland, Macao and Taiwan were undertaken by officers of CMAB in 2016-17, the relevant information is provided below –

Content/objective	Number of officers	Expenditure (\$)^{Note}
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promoting regional co-operation with the Mainland in places including Beijing, Shanghai, Henan, Guangdong, Shandong, Sichuan, Jiangxi, Zhejiang, etc. • enhancing co-operation and exchanges with Macao and Taiwan 	1-12 officers per visit	264,480

The above duty visits lasted for 1 to 7 days per trip, joined by officers of different ranks and led by a senior officer or directorate officer. The Registration and Electoral Office under CMAB's purview did not undertake any official duty visit in 2016-17.

Note:

- (1) The above expenditure includes expenditure on hotel accommodation and flight tickets, but excludes–
 - (a) overseas subsistence allowance provided to officers concerned, expenses on communication, etc.; and
 - (b) the expenditure which was sponsored by the hosting government.
- (2) The arrangement of hotel accommodation was provided to officers concerned in accordance with the relevant Civil Service Regulations and guidelines.
- (3) Proper class of air passages was provided to officers concerned in accordance with the relevant Civil Service Regulations which take into account ranking of their offices, flying time, flight schedule and other relevant details.

5. CMAB conducts exchanges and discussions with the relevant Mainland authorities on issues of mutual co-operation and concern from time to time as and when necessary. Generally speaking, the meetings are recorded as appropriate, having regard to the different circumstances and factors such as nature of the meeting and subject matter, consensus reached by both sides, development of the subject matter, etc. We will decide whether and how the trips and the agreements concluded should be made public in the light of the circumstances and needs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB147

(Question Serial No. 5448)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office
(2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices
(4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In regard to the growing cross-boundary co-operation between Hong Kong and the Mainland in recent years, please provide relevant information on Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects or programmes in which your offices/secretaries of departments/bureau and the departments under your purview have been involved:

For Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects or programmes undertaken in the past 2 years, please provide information, including: (1) the title, details and objective of the project/programme, and whether it is related to the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation or the Belt and Road Initiative; the expenditure, Mainland official(s) and department(s)/organisation(s) involved; (2) Has any agreement been signed and made public? If not, what are the reasons? Have any minutes of the meetings been taken? If so, have they been made public? What is the progress (percentage completed, commencement date, target completion date)? Have the details, objectives, amount involved or impact on the public, society, culture and ecology been released to the public? If yes, through what channel(s) and what were the manpower and expenditure involved? If not, what were the reasons? Has any public consultation on the cross-boundary project been conducted in Hong Kong? What are the details of the legislative amendments or policy changes involved in the programme?

Apart from the projects or programmes mentioned above, were there any other modes of Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary co-operation involving your bureau and the departments under your purview in the past 2 years? If yes, in what modes were they taken forward? How were the manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon YIU Chung-yim (Member Question No. 206)

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) attaches great importance to enhancing co-operation between Hong Kong and the Mainland. Our co-operation with Guangdong is conducted on a mutually beneficial and complementary basis. In fact, the Legislative Council (LegCo) reaffirmed its strong support by passing 2 motions entitled “Proactively implementing the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation” and “Promoting regional economic integration between Guangdong and Hong Kong” on 26 May 2010 and 5 May 2011 respectively. The motions urged the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government to formulate and implement the specific policies and measures outlined in the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation (Framework Agreement) as early as possible, and to promote economic integration between Guangdong and Hong Kong on various fronts.

2. The Government has briefed the House Committee and different Panels of LegCo on individual aspects of the Framework Agreement on various occasions. The full text of the Framework Agreement was issued via a press release on the day it was signed (7 April 2010). While CMAB is responsible for co-ordinating the efforts of the HKSAR Government in promoting co-operation with Guangdong, specific projects are initiated and taken forward by the relevant policy bureaux and departments. Where necessary, relevant parties such as advisory boards and LegCo would be briefed or consulted in accordance with established practice.

3. Since the Framework Agreement was signed in 2010, good progress has been made in its implementation. Both sides signed in 2015 and 2016 respectively “The 2015 Work Plan” and “The 2016 Work Plan”, which set out the work programme of Hong Kong/Guangdong co-operation for the past 2 years.

4. To give impetus to Hong Kong in tapping new development opportunities under the Belt and Road Initiative, the Chief Executive set up the Belt and Road Office in 2016. The Mainland Offices and their liaison units have been complementing the efforts of the relevant bureaux, the Belt and Road Office and the departments concerned in this regard and have been keeping a close watch on the Country’s strategies and plans for implementing the Belt and Road Initiative and the latest developments at the central, regional co-operation platform and district levels, as well as enhancing government-to-government liaison and communication to provide timely update of the latest situation to the relevant bureaux, the Belt and Road Office and the departments concerned, and also disseminating the information to relevant industries of Hong Kong. In addition, the Mainland Offices and their liaison units also support the efforts of relevant bureaux and departments in promoting the strengths of various industries of Hong Kong in the Mainland through different means (such as seminars, exhibitions and workshops), and assist various industries in grasping the development opportunities presented by the Belt and Road Initiative.

5. Policy matters on deepening regional co-operation are mainly handled by 2 divisions of staff in CMAB. In addition, the Beijing Office and the 4 Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan (Mainland Offices) also play a facilitating and co-ordinating role in fostering closer ties with the Mainland at various levels.

6. As the above work is an integral part of the duties and functions of the officers concerned in CMAB and the Mainland Offices, the manpower provision cannot be separately singled out and itemised. Broadly speaking, about \$149 million and \$154 million (excluding staff cost) was incurred in 2015-16 and 2016-17 respectively for taking forward the relevant work.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB148

(Question Serial No. 5449)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office
(2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices
(4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In regard to the growing cross-boundary co-operation between Hong Kong and the Mainland in recent years, please provide relevant information on Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects or programmes in which your offices/secretaries of departments/bureau and the departments under your purview have been involved:

Have provisions been earmarked for the Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects or programmes for this year? If yes, for each of the Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects or programmes for this year, please provide information, including: (1) the title, details and objective of the project/programme, and whether it is related to the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation or the Belt and Road Initiative; the expenditure, Mainland official(s) and department(s)/organisation(s) involved; (2) Has any agreement been signed and made public? If not, what are the reasons? Have any minutes of the meetings been taken? If so, have they been made public? What is the progress (percentage completed, commencement date, target completion date)? Have the details, objectives, amount involved or impact on the public, society, culture and ecology been released to the public? If yes, through what channel(s) and what were the manpower and expenditure involved? If not, what were the reasons? Has any public consultation on the cross-boundary project been conducted in Hong Kong? What are the details of the legislative amendments or policy changes involved in the programme?

Apart from the projects or programmes mentioned above, are there any other modes of Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary co-operation involving your bureau and the departments under your purview this year? If yes, in what modes are they taken forward? How much financial and manpower resources have been earmarked in the Estimates this year?

Asked by: Hon YIU Chung-yim (Member Question No. 207)

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) attaches great importance to enhancing co-operation between Hong Kong and the Mainland. Our co-operation with Guangdong is conducted on a mutually beneficial and complementary basis. In fact, the Legislative Council (LegCo) reaffirmed its strong support by passing 2 motions entitled “Proactively implementing the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation” and “Promoting regional economic integration between Guangdong and Hong Kong” on 26 May 2010 and 5 May 2011 respectively. The motions urged the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government to formulate and implement the specific policies and measures outlined in the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation (Framework Agreement) as early as possible, and to promote economic integration between Guangdong and Hong Kong on various fronts.

2. The Government has briefed the House Committee and different Panels of LegCo on individual aspects of the Framework Agreement on various occasions. The full text of the Framework Agreement was issued via a press release on the day it was signed (7 April 2010). While CMAB is responsible for co-ordinating the efforts of the HKSAR Government in promoting co-operation with Guangdong, specific projects are initiated and taken forward by the relevant policy bureaux and departments. Where necessary, relevant parties such as advisory boards and LegCo would be briefed or consulted in accordance with established practice.

3. Since the Framework Agreement was signed in 2010, good progress has been made in its implementation. Both sides signed in February this year “The 2017 Work Plan”, which sets out the work programme of Hong Kong/Guangdong co-operation for the year.

4. To give impetus to Hong Kong in tapping new development opportunities under the Belt and Road Initiative, the Chief Executive set up the Belt and Road Office in 2016. The Mainland Offices and their liaison units have been complementing the efforts of the relevant bureaux, the Belt and Road Office and the departments concerned in this regard and have been keeping a close watch on the Country’s strategies and plans for implementing the Belt and Road Initiative and the latest developments at the central, regional co-operation platform and district levels, as well as enhancing government-to-government liaison and communication to provide timely update of the latest situation to the relevant bureaux, the Belt and Road Office and the departments concerned, and also disseminating the information to relevant industries of Hong Kong. In addition, the Mainland Offices and their liaison units also support the efforts of relevant bureaux in promoting the strengths of various industries of Hong Kong in the Mainland through different means (such as seminars, exhibitions and workshops), and assist various industries in grasping the development opportunities presented by the Belt and Road Initiative.

5. Policy matters on deepening regional co-operation are mainly handled by 2 divisions of staff in CMAB. In addition, the Beijing Office and the 4 Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan (Mainland Offices) also play a facilitating and co-ordinating role in fostering closer ties with the Mainland at various levels.

6. As the above work is an integral part of the duties and functions of the officers concerned in CMAB and the Mainland Offices, the manpower provision cannot be separately singled out and itemised. Broadly speaking, about \$171 million (excluding staff cost) has been set aside in 2017-18 for taking forward the relevant work.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB149****(Question Serial No. 5201)**Head: (163) Registration and Electoral OfficeSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: Electoral ServicesControlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

Please provide, in tabular form, the respective expenditure of the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) on seeking legal advice for reviewing the qualifications of candidates in the Legislative Council (LegCo) elections and its staff responsible for such work in the past 5 years.

Year	Candidates of LegCo elections whose qualifications were reviewed	Expenditure on seeking legal advice	Staff in the REO responsible for the reviewing work

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. 30)Reply:

Regarding the 2012 Legislative Council (LegCo) general election, the 2016 LegCo New Territories East Geographical Constituency by-election and the 2016 LegCo general election held between 2012 and 2016, the total numbers of candidates (including candidates whose nominations were invalid or whose nominations were withdrawn) are 301, 7 and 298 respectively. The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) provides Returning Officers (ROs) with administrative support in their determination of whether candidates are validly nominated in accordance with the relevant legislation.

2. As stipulated in the law, the Electoral Affairs Commission may appoint Nominations Advisory Committees (NACs) to provide advice, on request, to ROs on whether a candidate is eligible to be nominated. Where necessary, an RO may, in accordance with section 6 of the Electoral Affairs Commission (Nominations Advisory Committees (Legislative Council)) Regulation (Cap. 541C), seek advice from the NAC as to whether a candidate who has submitted a nomination form is eligible to be, or disqualified from being, nominated as a candidate.

3. The expenditure incurred by ROs in seeking the advice of NACs was covered by the operational expenses of the respective elections mentioned above. As provision of administrative support for ROs forms part of the duties of REO staff, the REO does not have a breakdown of the relevant manpower involved.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB150****(Question Serial No. 5202)**Head: (163) Registration and Electoral OfficeSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: Electoral ServicesControlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

1. Please provide, in tabular form, the details of the Legislative Council (LegCo) and District Council by-elections conducted by the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) in the past 5 years:

Year	Constituency	Date of publishing the vacancy in the Gazette	Date of by-election	Expenditure involved	Number of staff involved
2012-2013					
2013-2014					
2014-2015					
2015-2016					
2016-2017					

2. In 2016, 2 LegCo Members from the Kowloon West and New Territories East geographical constituencies were removed from their offices as a result of judicial review cases. So far, no by-election has been arranged by the REO. Is this an abnormal arrangement? Is it in compliance with section 36 of the Legislative Council Ordinance (Cap.542) which reads:

By-election (is) to be held to fill vacancy in membership of LegCo. However, a by-election to fill a vacancy occurring in the membership of the LegCo is not to be held—

a. within the 4 months preceding the end of that Council's current term of office; or

b. if the Chief Executive has published in the Gazette an order dissolving that Council in accordance with the Basic Law.

3. Will REO organise LegCo by-elections for the Kowloon West and New Territories East geographical constituencies in 2017-18? If so, please provide the dates of by-elections and the expenditure and number of staff involved.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. 78)

Reply:

Details of the Legislative Council (LegCo) and District Council (DC) by-elections held between 2012 and 2016 are as follows:

Election/Constituency	Date of publishing the vacancy in the Gazette	Date of by-election
Sha Tin DC On Tai Constituency	3 August 2012	4 November 2012
Sha Tin DC Tin Sum Constituency	4 January 2013	10 March 2013
Kwun Tong DC Ping Shek Constituency	15 March 2013	26 May 2013
Yau Tsim Mong DC King's Park Constituency	12 July 2013	27 October 2013
Southern DC South Horizons West Constituency	20 December 2013	23 March 2014
Islands DC Tung Chung North Constituency	10 January 2014	27 April 2014
Eastern DC Nam Fung Constituency	21 February 2014	18 May 2014
Islands DC Peng Chau and Hei Ling Chau Constituency	2 May 2014	7 September 2014
Tai Po DC San Fu Constituency	24 April 2015	19 July 2015
LegCo New Territories East Geographical Constituency	2 October 2015	28 February 2016

2. As far as a LegCo or DC by-election is concerned, it may span 2 financial years from the preparation to the completion of all winding up work (depending on the date and scale of the by-election). The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) will allocate sufficient manpower resources to prepare and conduct by-elections. Details of the expenditure on the above by-elections from 2012-13 to 2016-17 are as follows:

Year	Expenditure
2012-13	\$1.11 million
2013-14	\$1.55 million
2014-15	\$1.98 million
2015-16	\$25.34 million
2016-17	\$26.86 million (revised estimate)

3. When vacancies arise in the membership of the LegCo, the Electoral Affairs Commission will arrange for by-election to be held in accordance with the legislation and actual situation.

4. The REO has reserved about \$320 million in 2017-18 for the preparation and conduct of any possible by-elections. Should there be a need to organise LegCo by-election, the REO will, depending on the timing, scale and practical arrangements, provide adequate manpower and commence early preparatory work to ensure that the by-election will be smoothly conducted in an open, fair and honest manner.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB151

(Question Serial No. 5428)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

What is the expenditure of the Registration and Electoral Office on publicising and promoting the Chief Executive election this year? Through what channels or platforms will the election be publicised? What kinds of publicity programmes are they? What are their respective expenditures?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. 41)

Reply:

The expenditure on publicity for the 2017 Chief Executive (CE) election is estimated to be \$1.3 million, which is mainly for the production and publication of advertisements (such as Announcements in the Public Interests on radio, advertisements placed at MTR stations and bus shelters), other publicity materials (such as posters), etc. to publicise the nomination period and polling day of the CE election. As the 2017 CE election is to be held in March, the expenses related to publicity will be settled in 2017-18.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB152****(Question Serial No. 5656)**Head: (163) Registration and Electoral OfficeSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: Electoral ServicesControlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

1. Please provide the numbers of disabled persons registered as electors in the past 10 years by their types of disability.
2. Please provide the numbers of accessible polling stations in the past 10 years and their ratios against the total number of polling stations.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 3057)Reply:

The numbers of electors using residential care homes for persons with disabilities as registered addresses as set out in the final registers from 2012 to 2016 are listed as follows:

Final register	Number of electors
2012	69
2013	696
2014	572
2015	812
2016	678

2. The Registration and Electoral Office does not have information of electors by types of disabilities.
3. For the ordinary or general elections conducted by the Electoral Affairs Commission in the past 5 years, the numbers of ordinary polling stations which were accessible to persons with mobility difficulties and wheelchair users, and their respective percentages out of the total numbers of ordinary polling stations are as follows:

Election	Total number of ordinary polling stations	Number of ordinary polling stations accessible to persons with mobility difficulties and wheelchair users (percentage out of total number of ordinary polling stations)
2012 Legislative Council general election	549	512 (93%)
2015 District Council ordinary election	495	466 (94%)
2016 Legislative Council general election	571	538 (94%)
2016 Election Committee subsector ordinary elections	110	110 (100%)

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB153

(Question Serial No. 4020)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: Electoral Services
Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

“The provision reserved for the preparation and conduct of any possible by-elections” is mentioned under the “Analysis of Financial Provision” in the Estimates of Expenditure. However, nothing is said about “possible by-elections” under “Targets” in paragraph 5 of the document. In this connection, will the Government advise this Committee of the following:

- (1) What is the latest time by which the Legislative Council (LegCo) by-elections are expected to be held?
- (2) How is the preparatory work for the LegCo by-elections progressing? How many organisations have been contacted and what are their responses?
- (3) Will the Government review the remuneration of electoral positions to attract more civil servants with experience in handling electoral matters to apply? If so, will the review be conducted before the by-elections? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LAU Siu-lai (Member Question No. 1040)

Reply:

When vacancies arise in the membership of the Legislative Council (LegCo), the Electoral Affairs Commission (EAC) will arrange for by-election to be held in accordance with the legislation and actual situation.

2. The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) has reserved about \$320 million in 2017-18 for the preparation and conduct of any possible by-elections. Should there be a need to organise LegCo by-election, the REO will, depending on the timing, scale and practical arrangements, provide adequate manpower and commence early preparatory work to ensure that the by-election will be smoothly conducted in an open, fair and honest manner.

3. Should there be a need to organise by-election, the EAC will review the remuneration of various electoral positions at an appropriate time, and the REO will then issue a circular memorandum to invite applications from serving civil servants for the relevant positions.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB154

(Question Serial No. 4021)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

(1) In terms of “the conduct of cross-matching exercise with other government departments on electors’ registration particulars” in the past 5 years, which departments that the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) has conducted this cross-matching exercise with? How many cases were involved? How many electors were removed in the cross-matching exercise?

(2) In terms of the “cross-matching exercise” conducted in the past 5 years, how many cases were conducted by the REO on its own initiative, and in response to complaints? What manpower and resources were deployed in conducting the “cross-matching exercise”?

(3) The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau expressed concern over “cross-checking electors’ addresses with other government departments” in paragraph 9.05 of the Consultation Report on Enhancement of Voter Registration System published in January 2016. Has the REO dealt with the concern raised in the Report? What were the relevant justifications or handling methods used?

Asked by: Hon LAU Siu-lai (Member Question No. 1041)

Reply:

In the light of public concern over the accuracy of residential addresses recorded in the voter register in recent years, the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) has stepped up publicity since the 2012 voter registration (VR) cycle to remind the public about the importance of providing true and accurate information for registration and updating their registration particulars, especially the principal residential addresses. Besides, the REO continues to implement various checking measures including the conduct of cross-matching exercise with other government departments on the registered particulars of electors, and inquiry process to improve the accuracy and completeness of VR records. The checking measures include follow-up inquiries on undelivered poll cards arising from elections; cross-matching of the residential addresses of electors with the Housing Department, the Hong Kong Housing Society and the Home Affairs Department; checks on residential

addresses with multiple electors or multiple surnames of electors; random sample checks on registered and newly registered electors; checks on addresses with incomplete information or suspected non-residential addresses; and checks on addresses situated at buildings already demolished or vacant buildings to be demolished. After implementing or following up with the checking measures, if the REO has reasonable grounds to suspect that registered residential addresses might not be the only or principal residence of certain electors, it will issue inquiry letters to the electors concerned to request confirmation or updating of the registered addresses. Upon the completion of the statutory inquiry procedures, electors failing to respond will be removed from the final register.

2. In the 5 VR cycles from 2012 to 2016, the numbers of electors covered by the above checking measures on registration particulars conducted by the REO, electors included in the statutory inquiry procedures and electors removed from the register because of their failure to respond to the statutory inquiry procedures upon checking are as follows:

Cycle	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Number of electors covered by the checking measures [#]	about 1.7 million	about 140 000	about 140 000	about 1.6 million	about 1.6 million
Number of electors included in the statutory inquiry procedures [#]	296 590	35 335	24 242	82 655	103 802
Number of electors removed from the register because of their failure to respond to statutory inquiry procedures	218 199	26 281	13 740	41 661	67 509

The REO does not keep record of the number of electors included in checking measures or statutory inquiry procedures due to receipt of complaints.

3. From 2012-13 to 2016-17, the establishment and operational expenses (including publicity expenses on VR Campaign) in respect of VR and checking work are detailed below:

Year	Establishment*	Number of contract staff employed [@]	Expenditure on staff remuneration and related operational expenses
2012-13	78	330	\$71 million
2013-14	86	46	\$40 million
2014-15	90	152	\$47 million
2015-16	92	404	\$97 million
2016-17	95	about 400	\$112 million (revised estimate)

* Including time-limited civil service posts created in the relevant year.

@ Contract staff are employed according to actual needs. These figures represent the number of staff employed during the peak period of the VR cycle in the relevant year.

4. The REO will continue to explore the feasibility and usefulness of widening the scope of cross-checking with other government departments, with a view to enhancing the verification of electors' address information and the accuracy of the information. In examining the relevant procedures, the REO will take into account the factors that the address of a person provided by the department is the only or principal residence of that person in Hong Kong, and such information is accurate and up-to-date, in order to ensure that checking is carried out effectively. In conducting any matching exercise, the REO needs to comply with the relevant provisions of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (Cap. 486) and the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD) has to be consulted. The REO will seek the PCPD's approval for the proposed checking procedures before putting them into practice.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB155****(Question Serial No. 5195)**Head: (163) Registration and Electoral OfficeSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: Electoral ServicesControlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

Regarding voter registration in residential care services under various rehabilitation services, please provide a breakdown of the numbers of registered voters in residential care services by category of rehabilitation services in the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon LAU Siu-lai (Member Question No. 3146)Reply:

The numbers of electors with various categories of rehabilitation homes as registered addresses as set out in the final registers from 2012 to 2016 are listed as follows:

Final register	Number of electors	
	Residential care homes for persons with disabilities	Drug treatment centre
2012	69	0
2013	696	0
2014	572	0
2015	812	16
2016	678	0

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB156

(Question Serial No. 5091)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please give a breakdown of the estimated number of staff, annual emoluments, housing allowance and allowances for the expenses on duty visits and entertainment pertaining to the following posts in the Registration and Electoral Office in the coming year.

Chief Electoral Officer
Senior Project Officer
Deputy Chief Electoral Officer
Senior Electoral Officer
Electoral Officer
Assistant Electoral Officer
Senior Clerical Officer
Clerical Officer
Senior Supplies Officer
Supplies Officer
Assistant Supplies Officer
Supplies Supervisor I
Principal Information Officer
Senior Information Officer
Head (Information Technology Management Unit)
Systems Manager
Analyst/Programmer I
Analyst/Programmer II

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung (Member Question No. 2025)

Reply:

There are 265 posts (including 1 supernumerary post) in the establishment of the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) as at 31 March 2017. It is expected that there will be a net decrease of 8 posts in 2017-18 to 257 posts as at 31 March 2018. The estimated expenditure on salaries and allowances for 2017-18 is about \$86.21 million. Details of the 257 posts are as follows:

Post	Number of posts (projected up to 31 March 2018)
Senior Principal Executive Officer	1
Chief Executive Officer	7
Senior Executive Officer	22
Executive Officer I	50
Executive Officer II	20
Senior Clerical Officer	1
Clerical Officer	26
Assistant Clerical Officer	88
Clerical Assistant	17
Office Assistant	2
Personal Secretary I	2
Personal Secretary II	2
Senior Systems Manager	1
Systems Manager	1
Analyst/Programmer I	2
Analyst/Programmer II	2
Senior Information Officer	1
Information Officer	1
Senior Supplies Officer	1
Supplies Officer	2
Assistant Supplies Officer	2
Supplies Supervisor I	1
Supplies Supervisor II	1
Chauffeur	1
Workman II	3
Total	257

2. The REO has no plan for duty visits or official entertainment in 2017-18.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB157

(Question Serial No. 3403)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: Electoral Services
Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Does your department provide sign language interpretation services? If yes, what are the manpower and expenditure involved? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung (Member Question No. 206)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) provided the option of sign language interpretation services for candidates in the candidates' briefings arranged for each public election in the current election cycle, and provided sign language interpretation services in two of the briefings at the request of candidates. Each briefing was served by 1 sign language interpreter, involving a total of 2 sign language interpreters. The expenditure incurred was covered by the operational expenses of the relevant elections.

2. In addition, the REO provides sign language interpretation in all its Announcements of Public Interest (APIs) on television. Contents of the APIs in 2016-17 include the promotion of the voter registration campaign; public consultations conducted on the proposed guidelines on election-related activities in respect of the Legislative Council (LegCo) election, the Election Committee subsector (ECSS) elections and the Chief Executive election; the 2016 LegCo general election and the 2016 ECSS ordinary elections. The expenditure involved was covered by the operational expenses of the respective elections.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB158

(Question Serial No. 6871)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding outsourcing of service in your department, please inform this Committee of the following in respect of the past 3 years:

1. the total number of outsourced service staff employed by your department and the percentage of outsourced service staff against the total number of staff with the same types of duties in your department;
2. the total expenditure on staff of your department; the total amount paid to outsourced service providers; and the percentage of amount paid to outsourced service providers against the total expenditure on staff of your department; and
3. the nature of your department's outsourced services and the duration of the relevant contracts.

In addition, according to the Government's guidelines for tendering of outsourced services revised last year, if the procured service relies heavily on the deployment of non-skilled workers, and a marking scheme for assessing the tenders is adopted, the procuring department, when assessing the tenders, should include in the assessment criteria the evaluation of tenderers' proposed wage rates and working hours for non-skilled workers. In this regard, please inform this Committee of the following:

4. the current number of outsourced service contracts involving a large number of non-skilled workers awarded by your department since implementation of the guidelines;
5. the departments which have adjusted their assessment criteria in respect of wage rates and working hours for the outsourced service contracts involving a large number of non-skilled workers in the light of the new guidelines since their implementation; how your department has made adjustment; and if no relevant information is available, the reasons for it;

6. whether there have been any rises in the average wage rates for workers in the contracts of outsourced services that rely heavily on deployment of non-skilled workers since the implementation of the guidelines; if yes, the number of contracts with rises in wage rates; if no relevant information is available, the reasons for it;
7. your department's measures to evaluate the effectiveness of the new tendering guidelines;
8. whether your department is required to adopt the existing mechanism of two-envelope assessment of the technical and price aspects when evaluating tenders for contracts of outsourced service; if no, the number of contracts awarded without adopting the existing mechanism of two-envelope assessment of the technical and price aspects in the past 3 years;
9. the annual number of cases of government service contractors breaching the service contracts, the Employment Ordinance or the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance as revealed by the inspections conducted by your department, and the annual number of complaints lodged by the outsourced service staff;
10. the details of follow-up actions on the aforementioned non-compliance and complaint cases;
11. the number and details of cases involving contractors being punished for non-compliance or substantiated complaints.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung (Member Question No. 127)

Reply:

In the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17), most of the outsourcing service contracts of the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) were arranged to meet short-term or even one-off service needs in relation to the preparation and conduct of elections and election-related activities, of which only 21 specified the number of staff employed. The post titles of staff specified in the service contracts concerned are cleaner, security guard and porter, with the number of staff employed ranging from 1 to 345 and the duration of the contracts ranging from 1 day to 2 years, amounting to a total value of about \$3 million.

2. Should there be a need to outsource its services, the REO will adopt appropriate assessment mechanism in accordance with the Stores and Procurement Regulations and the relevant government guidelines. In the past 3 years, the REO did not award any outsourcing contracts with employment of large number of non-skilled workers in the specification of the service contracts through tendering.

3. In the past 3 years, the REO did not find any breaches of the terms of the contracts, the Employment Ordinance or the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance by the outsourced contractors, and neither did it receive any complaints on matters relating to outsourcing lodged by staff employed by outsourced contractors.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB159****(Question Serial No. 4862)**Head: (163) Registration and Electoral OfficeSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: Electoral ServicesControlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

1. Please provide the total number of election returns submitted by candidates which were processed by the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) during the 2015 District Council ordinary election, and the manpower arrangement and expenditure involved in the processing of these returns.
2. Please provide the total number of election returns submitted by candidates which were processed by the REO during the 2016 Legislative Council general election, and the manpower arrangement and expenditure involved in the processing of these returns.
3. Please provide the total number of election returns submitted by candidates which were processed by the REO during the 2016 Election Committee subsector ordinary elections, and the manpower arrangement and expenditure involved in the processing of these returns.

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (Member Question No. 19)Reply:

According to the Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Conduct) Ordinance (Cap. 554) (the Ordinance), each candidate must lodge with the Chief Electoral Officer an election return within the statutory period after an election. The number of election returns submitted to the Chief Electoral Officer by candidates of the 2015 District Council (DC) ordinary election, the 2016 Legislative Council (LegCo) general election and the 2016 Election Committee subsector (ECSS) ordinary elections are set out below:

Election	No. of election returns submitted by candidates
2015 DC ordinary election	948
2016 LegCo general election	154
2016 ECSS ordinary elections	1 549

2. The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) will allocate adequate manpower resources to make copies of the election returns available for public inspection within the inspection period stipulated in the Ordinance and to examine all the returns submitted by candidates. Any irregularities found will be referred to relevant law enforcement agencies for investigation.

3. In the 2016-17 revised estimate for the REO, the provisions for the 2015 DC ordinary election, the 2016 LegCo general election and the 2016 ECSS ordinary elections are \$17 million, \$596 million and \$125 million respectively. Processing election returns is one of the tasks involved, hence a breakdown of the expenditure is not available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB160

(Question Serial No. 4486)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

“On the electoral front, the Legislative Council (LegCo) general election was conducted in September 2016, the Election Committee subsector (ECSS) ordinary elections were conducted in December 2016 and the election of the fifth term Chief Executive (CE) will be conducted in March 2017.” What was the respective increase in expenditure for each of these elections as compared with the previous one? Please list in table form the specific expenditure of each election, including publicity expenses, relevant administrative costs and recruitment expenses, etc.

	Increase in expenditure	Publicity expenses	Administrative costs	Recruitment expenses
LegCo general election				
ECSS elections				
CE election				

Asked by: Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael (Member Question No. 36)

Reply:

In the 2016-17 revised estimate for the Registration and Electoral Office (REO), the breakdown of the provision for the preparation and conduct of the 2016 Legislative Council (LegCo) general election, the 2016 Election Committee subsector (ECSS) ordinary elections and the 2017 Chief Executive (CE) election is as follows:

2016-17 revised estimate for the preparation and conduct of elections	2016 LegCo general election # (\$ million)	2016 ECSS ordinary elections (\$ million)	2017 CE election (\$ million)
(1) Staff cost	140	48	34
(2) Publicity	44	2	0
(3) Other expenses (including the costs for public consultation, hire of venue, honorarium for polling and counting staff, financial assistance for candidates (if applicable), transportation, postage, free mailing, printing, rental cost of temporary offices, etc.)	412	76	36
Total	596	125	70

Including the provision for the preparation and conduct of the 2016 Voter Registration Campaign.

2. The actual expenditure for the preparation and conduct of the 2012 LegCo general election, the 2011 ECSS ordinary elections and the 2012 CE election is \$503 million, \$88 million and \$28 million respectively.

3. To cater for various electoral work required of the public elections conducted in the whole election cycle from 2015 to 2017, the REO needs to rent temporary offices and increase the number of staff in the light of the experience gained in the last election cycle. Besides, the budgeted provision for other operational expenses relating to the elections is also higher than the actual expenditure for the last election cycle due to actual operational needs, pay rise and inflation, etc. Therefore, the estimated provision for the preparation and conduct of the above 3 elections is higher than the actual expenditure for the respective elections conducted in the last election cycle.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB161

(Question Serial No. 4487)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

With respect to “continue to follow up and implement measures to enhance the voter registration system”, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) In 2016-17, how much resources were allocated by the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) for the updating of the register of electors, including manpower, expenditure, publicity expenses and the details of the work?
- (b) Regarding expenses on checks on electors in 2016-17, did the REO allocate resources for the investigation of vote-rigging cases and the handling of complaints against vote-rigging? If yes, what were the details?
- (c) Regarding the implementation of the checks in the 18 districts and the estimated expenditure involved, please provide a breakdown of the statistics in table form.
- (d) Will there be new initiatives to verify electors' registration particulars, conduct investigations and handle complaints?

Asked by: Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael (Member Question No. 37)

Reply:

In the light of public concern over the accuracy of residential addresses recorded in the voter register in recent years, the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) has stepped up publicity since the 2012 voter registration (VR) cycle to remind the public about the importance of providing true and accurate information for registration and updating their registration particulars, especially the principal residential addresses. Besides, the REO continues to implement various checking measures including the conduct of cross-matching exercise with other government departments on the registered particulars of electors, and inquiry process to improve the accuracy and completeness of VR records. The checking measures include follow-up inquiries on undelivered poll cards arising from elections; cross-matching of the residential addresses of electors with the Housing Department, the

Hong Kong Housing Society and the Home Affairs Department; checks on residential addresses with multiple electors or multiple surnames of electors; random sample checks on registered and newly registered electors; checks on addresses with incomplete information or suspected non-residential addresses; and checks on addresses situated at buildings already demolished or vacant buildings to be demolished. After implementing or following up with the checking measures, if the REO has reasonable grounds to suspect that registered residential addresses might not be the only or principal residence of certain electors, it will issue inquiry letters to the electors concerned to request confirmation or updating of the registered addresses. Upon the completion of the statutory inquiry procedures, electors failing to respond will be removed from the final register. In the 2016 VR cycle, 103 802 geographical constituency electors were included in the statutory inquiry procedures, and 67 509 electors were removed from the register because of failure to respond to inquiry letters. The REO does not have a breakdown of the number of electors who have been included in the statutory inquiry procedures or removed from the register as well as the expenditure on the relevant work by District Council constituency.

2. In 2016-17, the work of the REO in checking and verifying the registration particulars of electors and implementing the VR campaign is carried out by a team comprising 95 civil servants and around 400 contract staff. The revised estimate for the expenditure on staff remuneration and the operational expenses (including the publicity expenses on VR Campaign) is around \$112 million.

3. The REO further strengthened verification of address information with other government departments in the 2016 VR cycle to enhance the accuracy of electors' registration particulars, which included:

- (a) enhancing liaison with the Buildings Department to collect the latest list of buildings that are demolished or vacated pending demolition;
- (b) liaising with the Urban Renewal Authority to collect the information on buildings with acquisition and resident removal completed; and
- (c) implementing the collaborative arrangement with District Offices to identify buildings that will soon be demolished or are already vacated.

The relevant work will continue to be carried out in the 2017 VR cycle.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB162

(Question Serial No. 5379)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

There was no such document as a confirmation form in the past few elections. In this connection, please advise this Committee on the research and printing expenses for the confirmation form used in the 2016 Legislative Council general election. In which constituencies will such a confirmation form be used? Has the related expenditure been budgeted for future elections?

Asked by: Hon YEUNG Alvin (Member Question No. 153)

Reply:

In the 2016-17 revised estimate for the Registration and Electoral Office (REO), the provision for the preparation and conduct of the 2016 Legislative Council general election is \$596 million, covering the printing cost of confirmation forms. No extra research expenses for the preparation of confirmation forms were incurred by the REO.

2. Regarding public elections in future, the Electoral Affairs Commission will, as always, review the relevant electoral arrangements, and will review the arrangement for the confirmation form at an appropriate time. The REO will also allocate sufficient resources to prepare and conduct elections.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB163****(Question Serial No. 5380)**

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In view of the enormity of electoral affairs, please advise this Committee of the expenditure incurred by overtime allowance granted for the preparation for elections in the past 3 years. Please give a detailed breakdown of the total time, expenditure, number of days and purposes of overtime work undertaken by each grade during the preparation for elections.

Asked by: Hon YEUNG Alvin (Member Question No. 152)

Reply:

Under the prevailing civil service policy, overtime work should be undertaken only when it is unavoidable, meaning that the duties to be performed at the time are essential and the duties must be performed immediately without deferral. The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) will ensure that overtime work is kept to the absolute minimum compatible with operational requirements, and that it is at all times strictly controlled and properly supervised.

2. Time-off in lieu is the normal recompense for overtime work performed by staff in all grades in the REO, except for the Chauffeur Grade staff. The expenditure for overtime work by Chauffeur Grade staff in the REO in 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 is as follows:

Year	Actual expenditure
2014-15	\$180,000
2015-16	\$120,000
2016-17	about \$120,000 (revised estimate)

- End -