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Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance Committee Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2018-19

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Session No. : 6

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB001

(Question Serial No. 1595)

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

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

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

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. (LegCo use): 20)

Reply:

On eliminating discrimination against people of different sexual orientation/gender identity, 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 2017-18, the revised estimate of expenditure of the GISOU is \$4.72 million, including \$1.19 million for staff costs and \$3.53 million for publicity and promotion expenses (including a one-off expenditure of \$1.63 million for the production of RTHK's television programme entitled "Rainbow Crossroad"). In 2018-19, the estimated expenditure of the GISOU is \$3.22 million, including \$1.22 million for staff costs and \$2 million for publicity and promotion expenses.

2. In 2018-19, 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; and the experience and management capability of the applicants. 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 the relevant staff cost shall not exceed 15% of the total budget of the project. With effect from 2018-19, successful applicants are provided with additional administrative overhead to defray indirect additional manpower cost and other administrative expenses incurred for the purpose of implementing the project.

3. In 2017-18, projects sponsored under the Funding Scheme are as follows:

Name of Applicant	Nature of Activities	Approved Sponsorship (\$)
Pride Lab	Production of documentary and screening	43,960
Bravo Theatre	Drama performances	149,890
Les Corner Empowerment Association	Production of publications	33,050
Yuen Long Town Hall Committee Ltd.	Support group and workshops	19,000
Post Gay Alliance	Support group, sharing sessions, production of publications and counselling services	56,915
Gay Harmony	Training for volunteers, support group, production of leaflets, outreach activities, hotline and counselling services	32,440
Gay Harmony	Training for volunteers, sharing sessions, production of leaflets and outreach activities	29,650
Neighbourhood & Worker's Education Centre Limited	Support group and workshops	24,780
Merit Minds Workshop	Drama performances	92,350
Association of World Citizens Hong Kong China	Workshops	4,200
Down to Earth	Support group, sharing sessions and counselling services	90,125
Gender Empowerment	Support group, production of publications, hotline and counselling services	35,269
AIDS Concern	Talks	35,300
The Boys' & Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong Jockey Club South Kwai Chung Children and Youth Integrated Services Centre	Workshops, Drama performances and production of short videos	105,400
Hong Kong Sex Culture Society Limited	Talks	5,700
GIA Theatre	Drama performances	133,060
Total		891,089

4. During the period from April 2017 to February 2018, Announcements in the Public Interest which promote the message "Eliminate Discrimination, Embrace Inclusion - Equal opportunities for people of different sexual orientation and transgender persons" were broadcast about 2 300 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 and railway stations, etc. in districts. The promotional filmlet launched in 2016 were broadcast more than 1.96 million times on digital panels installed outdoor/on the external wall of buildings and in the public transport network (including railway stations, train compartments and ferries), in addition to broadcasts in more than 200 government premises; on the Internet and other new media, about 6 million impressions were made. The Code of Practice against Discrimination in Employment on the Ground of Sexual Orientation was advertised on 3 websites relevant to commerce and industry and recruitment.

5. The GISOU received a total of 23 enquiries and 1 complaint in 2017. The complaint was related to employment relationship. The handling of the complaint 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. 1596)**

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

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

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

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, 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. (LegCo use): 21)

Reply:

The Government is committed to fostering the culture and values of inclusiveness and mutual respect and promoting equal opportunities for people of different sexual orientation and transgender persons. We are actively taking forward the strategies and measures recommended by the Advisory Group on Eliminating Discrimination against Sexual Minorities, which include enhancing publicity to promote the message of non-discrimination against sexual minorities, reviewing support services, providing training resources to personnel in specific fields in order to raise their sensitivity towards sexual

minorities, drawing up a charter on non-discrimination, and conducting a further study on the experience of other jurisdictions in implementing anti-discrimination measures. 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.

2. On the promotion of the Code of Practice against Discrimination in Employment on the Ground of Sexual Orientation (code of practice), at present over 330 public and private sector organisations which together engage about 530 000 employees locally have pledged to adopt the 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 and online publicity. The code of practice is of a voluntary nature; no information about any breach of it has been received.

3. 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 and implement the charter in phases. 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.

4. On the provision of support services for sexual minorities, we have collected views from service providers and users, including sexual minority users of support services provided by the Government or NGOs, professionals who have frequent contact with sexual minorities and NGOs with experience in this respect. As some sexual minorities expressed that they were unable to access information on counselling and support services, a 24-hour hotline for sexual minorities operated by the TWGHs under the sponsorship of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau was launched on 27 January 2018 to provide easily accessible support, counselling and follow-up services for sexual minorities and their families. As for the provision of sensitivity training resources for personnel in specific fields (including social workers, health care professionals, human resources professionals and teachers), we have gathered the views of training providers (including tertiary institutions, professional bodies and employers' organisations). The training resources are being developed by a psychologist with experience in designing and teaching related training programmes. Trial-runs of the draft training resources are being conducted to refine the training resources according to the feedback of the participants.

5. We are conducting a further study on the experience of other jurisdictions in tackling discrimination through legislative and non-legislative measures. We will examine the findings of the study and map out a plan for the next stage of work. 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. 1597)**

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

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

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

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (TANG Yun-kwong)

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 (EOC) 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 (EOC) for it to work towards the elimination of discrimination in this respect?

2. It is noted that the EOC has requested the Government to consider granting them a permanent office accommodation due to insufficient reserve over the years and increasing rent of the office. Although the EOC has relocated its office from Taikoo to Wong Chuk Hang to alleviate the pressure on operation caused by rental cost, the measure is short-term and the EOC does need a permanent office accommodation to maintain its operation in the long run. What is the stance of the Government on the issue of granting a permanent office accommodation to the EOC? Has the Government Property Agency been in contact with the EOC to negotiate the matter?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 22)

Reply:

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) enforces the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 480), Disability Discrimination Ordinance (DDO) (Cap. 487), Family Status Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 527) and Race Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 602); 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 30 cases (2015), 25 cases (2016) and 10 cases (2017) respectively. Based on the information provided by the EOC, its expenditure on enforcing the DDO in 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 are \$14.47 million,

\$15.28 million and \$15.82 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.

3. Each year, the Government provides a subvention in the form of a 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 provided a one-off special provision of \$9.5 million to support the EOC's expenditure on office relocation and fitting-out work of its new office. The Government will continue to liaise with the EOC on the provision of a permanent office accommodation with a view to meeting its long-term need.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB004****(Question Serial No. 1846)**

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

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

Question:

Under “Enhancing trade opportunities” and “Promotion of strengths of Hong Kong” by your Bureau, the estimated figures for a number of indicators are significantly lower than the actual figures in 2017. In particular, the estimate for “Mainland and Taiwan Offices” is 7.8% lower than the revised estimate of last year. In this connection, how would the Government seize the development opportunities afforded by the Belt and Road Initiative in terms of financial provision, staff establishment and specific policy?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Han-pan (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 45)

Reply:

In 2017-18, the Mainland Offices (namely the Beijing Office and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan) organised and participated in numerous activities in the Mainland to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, as well as prepared for the setting up of 3 liaison units (namely Zhejiang Liaison Unit under the Shanghai ETO, Guangxi Liaison Unit under the Guangdong ETO and Shaanxi Liaison Unit under the Chengdu ETO), thus contributing to a significant rise in the indicators under “enhancing trade opportunities” and “promotion of strengths of Hong Kong”. With the conclusion of the celebration activities and the commencement of operation of the 3 liaison units, corresponding adjustments have been made to the estimate of and the figures of some indicators in 2018-19.

2. The Belt and Road Initiative is an important national development strategy which brings about enormous opportunities for the development of both the Mainland and Hong Kong. The Mainland Offices and their liaison units have been complementing the efforts of relevant bureaux, the Belt and Road Office and 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 relevant bureaux, the Belt and Road Office and 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. As enhancing trade opportunities, promoting the strengths of Hong Kong, and assisting various industries in grasping the development opportunities presented by the Belt and Road Initiative mentioned above are an integral part of the work of the Mainland Offices, the manpower and expenditure involved cannot be separately singled out and itemised.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB005****(Question Serial No. 1848)**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
(TANG Yun-kwong)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

How would the services and staff establishment of the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) be affected as a result of the decrease in its revised estimate by 7.7% over the last financial year?

The number of visitors to EOC's website has greatly dropped from 1.64 million in 2016 to an estimate of 0.84 million this year. Has the Government studied the reasons for the drop and its implication on EOC's work to promote equal opportunities?

Would the Government consider deploying additional resources for the EOC to enhance online promotion and publicity?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Han-pan (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 46)Reply:

Each year, the Government provides a subvention in the form of a lump sum allocation to the Equal Opportunities Commission (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. The decrease in the financial provision of the EOC in 2018-19 is mainly due to a one-off special provision of \$9.5 million in 2017-18 to support the EOC's expenditure on office relocation and fitting-out work of its new office. Excluding one-off provisions, the financial provision for the EOC in 2018-19 has actually increased by 1.9% when compared with the one in 2017-18. We will continue to work with the EOC to ensure that it has adequate resources to discharge its functions and duties.

2. According to the information provided by the EOC, the surge in the total number of visitors to the EOC's website in 2016 is an isolated incident mainly caused by visitors' interest in and hence clicking on the link to the following 3 topics posted on the EOC's website during the year:

Date of posting	Topic
January to June 2016	Special project in relation to the 20th anniversary of EOC (including: the equal opportunities micro film competition, short video production competition, photography competition, poster design competition and slogan design competition)
March 2016	Report on Responses to the Public Consultation on Discrimination Law Review
April 2016	Assumption of office by the new Chairperson of the EOC

3. Therefore, there is no implication on the EOC's work to promote equal opportunities when the number of visits to the EOC's website resumed to its normal level in 2017.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB006

(Question Serial No. 1072)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In Programme (2) of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau, it is mentioned that the Government will set up a Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area Development Office and co-ordinate the work of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government in taking forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area (the Bay Area). Would the Government advise this Committee as to when the office will be set up? What are the details of the staff establishment involved? Moreover, how will the Government assist members of the public to take part in the Bay Area development? Will the Government strive for the grant of national status for the general public, professionals and enterprises to enable them to live, work and set up business in the Bay Area?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kin-por (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 22)

Reply:

The Development Plan of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area (the Development Plan) will be promulgated soon. After promulgation of the Development Plan, we will set up the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area Development Office (the Office) under the establishment of this Bureau as early as possible. The Office involves 6 additional posts under Programme (2), namely 1 officer at point three of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Administrative Officer, 1 Senior Executive Officer, 1 Personal Secretary I and 1 Assistant Clerical Officer.

2. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government has been actively reflecting views of Hong Kong people to the relevant Mainland authorities, with a view to striving for more facilitation for Hong Kong people to study, work and live in the Mainland. In particular, we hope that the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area Development can help improve people's livelihood through developing the Bay Area into a quality living circle and facilitating Hong Kong people and enterprises to develop in the Mainland and seize the opportunities brought about by this significant development strategy. Upon promulgation of the Development Plan, the HKSAR Government will

work closely with the Guangdong Province in the implementation of the Development Plan and seek policy breakthrough to facilitate the flow of people, goods, capital and information between Hong Kong and other Bay Area cities. The HKSAR Government will also continue to actively reflect views to the relevant Mainland authorities, with a view to striving for the implementation of more facilitation measures that will help Hong Kong people develop in the Mainland.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB007****(Question Serial No. 0721)**Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs BureauSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland AffairsControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

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 various offices/secretaries/policy bureaux and the departments under their purview have been involved.

- (a) For Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects or programmes, please provide information for the past 2 financial years, including: (1) project/programme, its details, objective and whether it is related to the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation, the Bay Area or the Belt and Road Initiative; and the expenditure and Mainland officials involved; (2) the department/organisation involved. Has any agreement been signed and whether it has been made public? If not, what are the reasons? Are there any notes of meeting? If so, have they been made public? What is the progress of the project (% 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? What are the details of the legislative amendments or policy changes involved in the project/programme?

Project / Programme	Details, objective and whether it is related to the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong / Guangdong Co-operation (the Framework Agreement),	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?	Are there any notes of meeting? If so, have they been made public?	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?	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
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	the Bay Area or the Belt and Road Initiative						If so, through what channels and what were the manpower and expenditure involved? If not, what are the reasons?		

- (b) Has provision been earmarked for Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects or programmes in this financial year? If so, please provide information in respect of Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects or programmes for this financial year 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), the Bay Area or the Belt and Road Initiative	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?	Are there any notes of meeting? If so, have they been made public?	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

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 13)

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 the “The 2016 Work Plan” and “The 2017 Work Plan” in 2016 and 2017 respectively, which set out the work programme of Hong Kong/Guangdong co-operation for the past 2 years.

4. As for taking forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area, witnessed by President Xi Jinping, the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), HKSAR Government, People’s Government of the Guangdong Province and Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) Government signed the Framework Agreement on Deepening Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Co-operation in the Development of the Bay Area (Framework Agreement on Bay Area Development) on 1 July 2017. The full text of the Framework Agreement on Bay Area Development was issued via a press release on the day it was signed.

5. The Development Plan of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area (the Development Plan) will be promulgated soon. After promulgation of the Development Plan, CMAB will set up the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area Development Office (the Office) under the establishment of this Bureau as early as possible. The work priorities of the Office for 2018-19 include the following: to carry out promotion and publicity work and disseminate information to deepen the understanding of the public and industries on the Bay Area Development; to co-ordinate with relevant central ministries/departments, the Guangdong Provincial Government and the Macao SAR Government, as well as the relevant bureaux/departments of the HKSAR Government in formulating an annual work plan to take forward the Bay Area Development; and to maintain close liaison with business associations, professional bodies and relevant stakeholders to gauge their views on implementation of the Development Plan. CMAB will also take forward the development of the Bay Area through the Mainland Offices of the HKSAR Government.

6. The Outline of the National 13th Five-Year Plan (13-5 Plan) was promulgated in March 2016. In 2018-19, CMAB will continue to provide support to the Steering Committee on Taking Forward Bay Area Development and Mainland Co-operation, 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.

7. To give impetus to Hong Kong in tapping new development opportunities under the Belt and Road Initiative, the Commerce and Economic Bureau has been tasked to lead and co-ordinate the work of the HKSAR Government on the Belt and Road Initiative with the support of the Belt and Road Office. The Government is stepping up co-operation with Mainland authorities on participating in the Belt and Road Initiative, and entered into an "Arrangement between the NDRC and the Government of the HKSAR for Advancing Hong Kong's Full Participation in and Contribution to the Belt and Road Initiative" (the "Arrangement") in end-2017 which served as a blueprint for co-operation. 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 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.

8. Policy matters on deepening regional co-operation are handled by staff in CMAB. In addition, the Beijing Office and the 4 Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan (the Mainland Offices) also play a facilitating and co-ordinating role in fostering closer ties with the Mainland at various levels.

9. 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 was incurred and \$172 million has been set aside (excluding staff cost) in 2017-18 and 2018-19 respectively for taking forward the relevant work.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB008

(Question Serial No. 2637)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (XRL) will be commissioned within 2018. Regarding the discussions on the specific arrangements for the “co-location of boundary control” (co-location arrangements) of the XRL as well as their impact on “one country, two systems” held between the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) and the relevant Mainland authorities since the implementation of the XRL project, please provide the specific details of the discussions including representatives attending the meetings, the dates, venues, discussion papers, minutes of the meetings and the expenditure involved. Please explain in detail if the Government is unable to provide the public with the above information.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 29)

Reply:

Advising bureaux and departments on the implementation of “one country, two systems” and the Basic Law is part of the regular duties of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB). A breakdown on the manpower resources/work involved in this respect cannot be separately singled out and itemised. Relevant bureaux/departments (including Transport and Housing Bureau, Security Bureau, Department of Justice and CMAB) have been examining the co-location arrangement and have discussed with relevant Mainland authorities to ensure that the co-location arrangement is implemented in compliance with the principle of “one country, two systems”, the Basic Law and the Co-operation Arrangement between the Mainland and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region on the Establishment of the Port at the West Kowloon Station of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link for Implementing Co-location Arrangement upon commissioning of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB009

(Question Serial No. 0465)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

What is the estimated total expenditure on the annual salary and allowance of the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs in 2018-2019?

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 10)

Reply:

This Bureau has set aside a provision of \$4.01 million in the 2018-19 estimates for the salary in respect of the position of Director of Bureau in the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB010

(Question Serial No. 1822)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In respect of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area, what are the estimate, staff establishment and performance measures involved?

What are the public engagement exercises to be carried out by the office in the coming year? In case there are conflicting views between the Central Government/Guangdong Provincial Government and the general public in Hong Kong, what criteria would the Bureau adopted to handle the conflict?

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 27)

Reply:

The Development Plan of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area (the Development Plan) will be promulgated soon. After promulgation of the Development Plan, we will set up the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area Development Office (the Office) under the establishment of this Bureau as early as possible. In 2018-19, the estimated expenditure for the Office is about \$13.5 million. The Office involves 6 additional posts, namely 1 officer at point three of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Administrative Officer, 1 Senior Executive Officer, 1 Personal Secretary I and 1 Assistant Clerical Officer.

2. The work priorities of the Office for 2018-19 include the following: to carry out promotion and publicity work and disseminate information to deepen the understanding of the public and industries on the Bay Area Development; to co-ordinate with relevant central ministries/departments, the Guangdong Provincial Government and the Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) Government, as well as the relevant bureaux/departments of the Hong Kong SAR Government in formulating an annual work plan to take forward the Bay Area Development; and to maintain close liaison with business associations, professional bodies and relevant stakeholders to gauge their views on implementation of the Development Plan. Since the work of the Office cannot be quantified, we have not set any performance indicators in this respect.

3. The HKSAR Government has been working with the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), the Guangdong Provincial Government and the Macao SAR Government in drawing up the Development Plan under the principle of “one country, two systems”. In the process of Hong Kong's participation in drawing up the Development Plan, the Hong Kong SAR Government has consulted industry sectors and relevant advisory committees and has already reflected views received to the NDRC in full. After the promulgation of the Development Plan, the Hong Kong SAR Government will continue to maintain close liaison with industries, business associations, professional bodies and relevant stakeholders to gauge their views on implementation of the Development Plan, as well as to take forward the Bay Area Development by leveraging Hong Kong's positioning and advantages under the principle of “one country, two systems”.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB011

(Question Serial No. 1823)

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

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

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

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the promotion of respecting personal data privacy among the business sector (in particular the micro, small and medium enterprises), has the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD) set any measure of performance in this respect? Large financial institutions have started to promote the use of biometric authentication. What is the view of PCPD on this development trend? Could the PCPD introduce relevant guidelines, legislative proposals or administrative measures within this year?

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 28)

Reply:

The publicity and education focus of the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD) in 2018-19 will be on raising the awareness of personal data privacy protection among small and medium enterprises, which include setting up a dedicated enquiry hotline and email account for micro, small and medium enterprises, organising industry-specific privacy campaigns, as well as staging education and publicity activities themed around the General Data Protection Regulation of the European Union.

2. Besides, the PCPD has noticed that many financial institutions have started to use biometric data to verify the identity of customers. Biometric data include congenital physiological data (such as fingerprints, iris, DNA) and acquired behavioural data (such as voiceprints, handwriting). Biometric data may contain sensitive data such as personal health, mental condition and race, and they are difficult or even impossible to be changed. Therefore, extra care must be taken in collecting and handling biometric data. Having considered the sensitivity of biometric data, the PCPD expects that data users (including financial institutions) will, before collecting biometric data, give due consideration to the necessity of doing so and whether there are alternatives that are less intrusive to privacy, while allowing data subjects (such as customers) to make an informed and voluntary choice. The PCPD also encourages data users to conduct privacy risk assessments in order to reduce or eliminate adverse impact of the collection and handling of biometric data on data

subjects. Besides, data users shall adopt all reasonably practicable measures to prevent the biometric data from unauthorised access, processing, erasure, loss or use.

3. The PCPD issued the Guidance on Collection and Use of Biometric Data in July 2015 to draw the attention of the persons who intend to collect and use biometric data to the points to note. The PCPD will continue to closely monitor the development of Fintech and promote the importance of personal data protection to relevant government departments and institutions. The PCPD has been maintaining close contact on this issue with the trades, such as banks, credit card companies, monetary authorities, etc. The PCPD will also keep abreast of the latest development through exchanges with relevant overseas institutions and trades through attending overseas seminars. The PCPD will publish guidelines or information leaflets as appropriate having regard to relevant developments.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB012

(Question Serial No. 2182)

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

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

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

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In examining the 2016-17 Estimates, the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) stated that it was conducting an internal review of the Code of Practice on Employment under the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (Code of Practice). The review was expected to be completed by the end of 2016, after which stakeholders and the public would be consulted (Question Serial No.: 0784, Controlling Officer's Reply No.: CMAB007). In this connection, would the Government advise on the following:

- (a) What are the progress of the internal review and the expenditure involved; and
- (b) Whether stakeholders and the public have been consulted on the review of the Code of Practice? If yes, what are the details and results of consultation, the expenditure involved in the consultation and the estimated time for submitting the proposed recommendations of amendments to the Code of Practice to the Legislative Council? If no, what are the reasons? Will the Government consult the stakeholders and the public in 2018-19? If yes, what are the details of the consultation and the estimated expenditure involved? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 2633)

Reply:

According to the information provided by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), the EOC is conducting an internal review of the Code of Practice on Employment under the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (Code of Practice). The direction of the review is to make reference to the experiences and precedents accumulated since the coming into force of the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 480) in 1996 in order to strengthen the guidelines. During the course of the review, the EOC has analysed different local and overseas precedents in detail, extensively collected and studied codes of practice on human resources management in workplaces in relation to sex discrimination before rewriting the Code of Practice. This process has taken longer than expected. The EOC expects that the first draft will be completed in 2018-19 and will then consult stakeholders including the

Legislative Council (the “LegCo”), relevant organisations and the public. The EOC will brief the LegCo on the relevant progress upon completion of the relevant work. The estimated expenditure of public consultation work is about \$600,000. Major expenditure covers printing and mailing public consultation documents, producing Announcement of Public Interest for public consultation (to be broadcast free of charge on various television channels through the arrangement of the Information Services Department of the Government), organising public consultation fora, as well as setting up and operating a dedicated website for public consultation.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB013

(Question Serial No. 2670)

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

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

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

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding issues on the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC)'s provision of legal assistance in the past 3 years, will the Government advise on the following:

- (a) the numbers of cases where the complainants had applied directly for legal assistance in each year. Amongst them, how many cases were granted legal assistance, granted limited assistance, refused legal assistance and withdrawn by complainants respectively?
- (b) the numbers of cases where the complainants had applied for legal assistance after conciliation in each year. Amongst them, how many cases were granted legal assistance, granted limited assistance, refused legal assistance and withdrawn by complainants respectively?
- (c) in respect of cases where legal assistance was granted (excluding limited assistance) in each year, what are the numbers of cases concluded without filing any proceedings; cases settled out of court after proceedings had been filed; and cases taken to court for trial respectively? For cases where no proceedings were filed, what are the numbers of cases withdrawn by the complainants; settled before proceedings were filed; and what are the numbers of cases where the provision of legal assistance was discontinued by the Legal Service Division (LSD) respectively?
- (d) in respect of cases where the provision of limited legal assistance was granted in each year, what are the numbers of cases where complainants were eventually granted legal assistance; where the provision of legal assistance was discontinued upon further investigation of the LSD; and where complainants had withdrawn the applications respectively?
- (e) among cases taken to court for trial in each year, how many of them were cases where legal proceedings were handled and represented by the EOC's in-house lawyers; and how many were handled and represented by external lawyers? What were the respective expenditures involved?

- (f) the numbers of cases where the EOC had engaged external lawyers to provide legal advice in each year and the respective expenditures involved; and
- (g) the year-by-year figures on the establishment of lawyers of the EOC (including those handling complaint investigations/legal assistance and other work of the EOC); the percentages of lawyers against the overall number of staff members; the actual number of lawyers employed by the EOC; and the expenditures involved respectively.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 2627)

Reply:

Based on the information provided by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), the response to the question is provided as follows:

2. Regarding part (a) of the question, pursuant to the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 480), the EOC may provide legal assistance. However, a complaint has to be first lodged by relevant persons with the EOC under the four anti-discrimination ordinances before an application for legal assistance is made. If the relevant complaint cannot be settled through conciliation, then an application may be made to the EOC for legal assistance. Therefore, the EOC does not have any case on direct applications for legal assistance by complainants.

3. Regarding part (b) of the question, cases where the complainants had applied to the EOC for legal assistance after conciliation in each of the past 3 years are set out in the table below:

	2015	2016	2017
Granted	20	14	18
Granted with limited assistance ^{Note 1}	2	2	8
Application refused	7	20	12
Application withdrawn by complainants	0	0	0
Total number of applications for legal assistance	29	38 ^{Note 2}	47 ^{Note 3}

Note 1: "Limited legal assistance" refers to the seeking of further information from parties concerned before assessing whether or not to continue to provide legal assistance to the case, including the provision of assistance in negotiation and conciliation among parties concerned.

Note 2: Separately, 2 applications received in 2016 were approved in 2017. They were included as part of the 18 applications approved in 2017.

Note 3: Separately, 9 applications received in 2017 were assessed in 2018. Amongst them, 6 applications were approved, 2 were refused and 1 was withdrawn by the complainant.

4. Regarding part (c) of the question, relevant cases where legal assistance was granted (excluding limited assistance) in each of the past 3 years are set out in the table below:

Cases where legal assistance (excluding limited assistance) was granted			
	2015	2016	2017
No proceedings were filed and the provision of legal assistance was discontinued by the Legal Service Division (LSD)*	2	1	0
No proceedings were filed and the complainant had withdrawn the application	1	2	1
No proceedings were filed and out-of-court settlement had been reached	13	7	11
Out-of-court settlement was reached after proceedings had been filed	2	0	0
Provision of legal assistance was discontinued after proceedings had been filed*	1	0	0
Legal proceedings were underway	0	1	2
Undergoing court trials	1	0	0
Still processing	0	3	4
Total number of cases	20	14	18

* Having regard to the further analysis of the legal basis of the case concerned, the EOC has decided to discontinue the provision of legal assistance.

5. Regarding part (d) of the question, relevant cases where limited legal assistance was granted in each of the past 3 years are set out in the table below:

Cases where limited legal assistance was granted			
	2015	2016	2017
Still seeking further information	0	0	3
Provision of legal assistance was continued after further information had been sought	0	1	2
Provision of legal assistance was discontinued after further information had been sought*	2	1	3
Application withdrawn by the complainant	0	0	0
Total number of cases	2	2	8

* Having regard to the further analysis of the legal basis of the case concerned, the EOC has decided to discontinue the provision of legal assistance.

6. Regarding parts (e) and (f) of the question, all cases taken to courts for trial in each year were handled and represented by in-house lawyers of the EOC. For hearings where the engagement of external counsels is required, the Legal Officer in charge of the case will also appear in court to provide support and new instructions to the external counsel. In the past 3 years, the numbers of cases where proceedings were handled and represented by the EOC's in-house lawyers as well as the numbers of cases where external lawyers were engaged to provide legal assistance are set out in the table below:

In-house/engaging external legal service	Nature of legal service	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Legal assistance provided by the LSD of the EOC	Number of cases where legal proceedings were handled and represented by the EOC's in-house lawyers	4	7	4
Legal assistance provided by external lawyers	Number of cases where external lawyers appeared in courts	3	2	1
	Expenditure	About \$101,000	About \$88,000	About \$107,800
	Number of cases where external lawyers provided legal advice	6	3	3
	Expenditure	About \$254,500	About \$173,000	About \$270,000
	Total amount of expenditure	About \$355,500	About \$261,000	About \$377,800
Seeking independent legal advice from external lawyers on institutional operation and individual complaint cases	Number of cases where external lawyers provided legal advice	1	1	1
	Total expenditure	A total of about \$270,000 in 3 years		

7. Regarding part (g) of the question, the LSD of the EOC has an establishment of 8 lawyers, including 1 Chief Legal Counsel, 5 Senior Legal Officers and 2 Legal Officers. Amongst them, 3 Senior Legal Officers and 2 Legal Officers are mainly responsible for handling legal assistance cases and providing legal advice on the handling of enquiries and complaints relating to discrimination. The remaining 2 Senior Legal Officers undertake work which falls outside the above, such as work relating to the review of anti-discrimination ordinances, drafting codes of practice and providing internal legal support. There are 7 local lawyers and 1 overseas lawyer in the LSD, which together represent around 8.5% of the overall number of staff. In the past 3 years, the staff costs of the aforementioned establishment of lawyers are \$9.06 million (2015-16), \$11.32 million (2016-17) and \$11.67 million (2017-18) respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB014****(Question Serial No. 2671)**Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs BureauSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal DataControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

Grateful if the Government would inform whether the in-house lawyers of the Equal Opportunities Commission have produced anti-discrimination guidelines for public and private organisations in the past 3 years. If yes, please list out the organisations and state the areas covered by the guidelines by year. If not, what the reasons are.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 2628)Reply:

Drawing up anti-discrimination guidelines for public and private organisations is part of the overall work of the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), instead of the exclusive duties of its in-house lawyers. The in-house lawyers will provide legal advice where necessary. In the past 3 years, the EOC has produced the following guidelines for public and private organisations:

Year of production	Guidelines
2015	Good Practices When Serving Minority Customers (in Banking Service) (English version only)
2016	Promotion of Racial Integration and Prevention of Racial Discrimination in Schools
	Framework for Corporate Policy on Sexual Harassment
	Preventing Sexual Harassment in the Workplace – Tips for SMEs
2017	Easy Guide on Promoting Racial Equality in Schools: Kindergarten Admission

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB015

(Question Serial No. 2672)

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

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

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

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the Equal Opportunities Commission's engagement of external lawyers in the provision of legal services, grateful if the Government would advise:

- (a) the criteria on which the determination of the need to engage external lawyers for the provision of legal services is based;
- (b) the criteria on which the selection of external lawyers (such as seniority, legal expertise, charges, etc.) is based; and
- (c) the number of times where external lawyers were engaged to provide legal services in each of the past 3 years, and the reason for engaging external lawyers, the nature of legal services concerned and the expenditure involved on each of such occasions.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 2630)

Reply:

According to the information provided by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), the EOC will consider engaging external lawyers' legal services under the following circumstances:

- (a) the case involves complex legal issues;
- (b) the case involves major social issues;
- (c) the level of court where the case is heard;
- (d) the standing of the other party's team of lawyers; and
- (e) the Legal and Complaints Committee of EOC responsible for deciding applications for legal assistance considers that independent legal advice is required.

2. The EOC selects and engages external lawyers based on the following criteria:
- (a) expertise in the relevant legal issues or litigation skills required in the case;
 - (b) familiarity with anti-discrimination ordinances and the EOC's procedures, practices and strategic concerns;
 - (c) availability of time to give advice or conduct the case;
 - (d) level of court where the case is heard if the case requires a hearing; and
 - (e) fees.

3. In the past 3 years, the number of times where external lawyers were engaged to provide legal services, the reasons for engaging external lawyers, the nature of legal services concerned and the expenditure involved are as follows:

Reasons for engaging external lawyers	Nature of legal services	Year		
		2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
To provide legal assistance	Number of cases where external lawyers appeared in courts	3	2	1
	Number of lawyers	3	2	1
	Number of cases where external lawyers provided legal advice	6	3	3
	Number of lawyers	6	3	3
	Expenditure ^{Note}	About \$490,000	About \$370,000	About \$500,000
To seek independent legal advice on institutional operation and individual complaint cases	Number of cases where external lawyers provided legal advice	1	1	1
	Number of lawyers	1	1	1
	Expenditure	A total of about \$270,000 in 3 years		

Note: The aforementioned expenditure incurred in seeking legal assistance between 2015 and 2017 mainly includes:

- (a) engaging external counsels to attend hearings in courts;
- (b) engaging external counsels to provide legal advice; and
- (c) engaging other professionals, including conciliators, engineers or other experts, to provide professional advice.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB016

(Question Serial No. 2673)

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

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

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

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

According to statutory provisions, the Equal Opportunities Commission may provide assistance other than by way of conciliation, including providing legal advice. In this connection, grateful if the Government would advise the number of cases where legal advice was given to complainants, the establishment of in-house lawyers who provide legal advice and the expenditure involved in each of the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 2631)

Reply:

According to the information provided by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), the Legal Service Division (LSD) of the EOC would provide legal advice to every complainant who has been granted legal assistance. In the past 3 years, EOC lawyers have provided legal advice to 22 (2015), 16 (2016) and 26 (2017) cases respectively.

2. The LSD is comprised of 1 Chief Legal Counsel, 5 Senior Legal Officers, 2 Legal Officers and 2 secretaries. Amongst them, 3 Senior Legal Officers and 2 Legal Officers are mainly responsible for handling legal assistance cases and providing legal advice on the handling of enquiry and complaint relating to discrimination. The remaining 2 Senior Legal Officers undertake work which falls outside the above, e.g. work relating to the review of anti-discrimination ordinances, drafting codes of practice and providing internal legal support. In 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18, the expenditures involved by the EOC in the aforementioned legal assistance work are about \$6.42 million, \$8.47 million and \$8.90 million (estimate) respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB017

(Question Serial No. 2674)

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

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

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

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

With respect to the work of the Policy, Research and Training Division of the Equal Opportunities Commission, will the Government advise this Committee that for the past 3 years:

- (a) whether any policy research studies (including in-house and consultancy ones) were conducted. If yes, please list the details of research, specific follow-up work upon completion of research and the expenditures involved for each project. If no, what are the reasons?
- (b) whether any assistance was provided to public, subvented or private organisations in formulating or reviewing policies against discrimination and harassment. If yes, please list the names of such organisations and the expenditures involved by year. If no, what are the reasons?
- (c) whether any seminars on equal opportunity issues were organised; if yes, please provide the dates, topics, list of target participants, number of attending participants and the expenditures involved for each seminar organised; if no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 2632)

Reply:

The research studies conducted by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) for formulating and assessing policies are as follows:

2. Internal research studies conducted by the EOC in the past 3 years are as follows:

Date of conducting studies	Internal research studies	Content of the studies	Specific follow-up work	Expenditure
October 2014 – May 2015	Sexual Harassment: Questionnaire Survey for the Sports Sector	To study whether the national sports associations in Hong Kong have developed anti-sexual harassment policies and the reasons, and whether they have implemented other measures to prevent sexual harassment.	<p>Held a press conference on 14 May 2015 to announce the findings of the research report.</p> <p>Co-organised with the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China the Seminar on Formulation of Anti-Sexual Harassment Policy in Sports Sector for national sports associations.</p> <p>Co-organised training on anti-sexual harassment for about 240 coaches with the Hong Kong Coaching Committee.</p>	Staff emoluments
May 2014 – July 2016	Study on the Difficulties Encountered in the Siting of Integrated Community Centres for Mental Wellness and Other Social Welfare Facilities in Hong Kong	<p>To interview the persons-in-charge/representatives of the 24 Integrated Community Centres for Mental Wellness (ICCMWs) in the territory to learn about the issues arising from providing services at temporary sites of the ICCMWs and discuss the difficulties in finding permanent sites for the ICCMWs, especially the challenges encountered in the public consultation on siting.</p> <p>To make recommendations with the aim of reducing misunderstanding of and prejudice against the service nature of the ICCMWs and patients with mental illness.</p>	<p>Held a press conference on 7 July 2016 to announce the findings of the research report.</p> <p>The Chairperson and the Director (Policy, Research and Training) of the EOC attended the regular Monthly Meeting with the District Council Chairmen and District Council Vice Chairmen in September 2016 to discuss the findings of the study and lobby for their support in the siting of social welfare facilities in the community.</p>	Staff emoluments
July 2016 – July 2017	Sexual Harassment – Questionnaire Survey for Social Service Sector	To study whether the social welfare organisations in Hong Kong have developed anti-sexual harassment policies and the reasons, and whether they have implemented other measures to prevent sexual harassment.	<p>Held a press conference on 11 July 2017 to announce the findings of the research report.</p> <p>Co-organised 4 Workshops on the Prevention and Handling of Sexual</p>	Staff emoluments

Date of conducting studies	Internal research studies	Content of the studies	Specific follow-up work	Expenditure
			Harassment for Social Welfare Agencies with the Hong Kong Council of Social Service to provide training for representatives of social welfare agencies and their service units on formulating anti-sexual harassment policies and handling complaints about sexual harassment.	
September 2016 – January 2017	Research Report on Barrier-free Taxis in Hong Kong	To study the proportion of barrier-free taxis in Hong Kong, draw comparisons with other countries and make recommendations.	The research report was uploaded onto the website of the EOC in the 4th quarter of 2017 and printed in February 2018 for distribution to major members of the public and major stakeholders.	Printing and miscellaneous expenses of about \$20,158 and staff emoluments
October – December 2017	Study on Kindergartens' Policies and Attitudes for Admission of Non-Chinese Speaking Applicants	Non-Chinese staff of the Ethnic Minorities Unit enquired about admission information in the capacity of parents and checked the websites of kindergartens.	The EOC announced the findings of the study on 14 March 2018 and will provide training for kindergartens.	Staff emoluments
Commenced in March 2018 (still in progress)	Sexual Harassment: Questionnaire Survey for University Students 2018	To explore the views of university students in Hong Kong on sexual harassment and the situation of sexual harassment on university campus.	Questionnaire survey is still in progress.	Questionnaire survey is still in progress. Relevant breakdown of expenditure is not available.

Notes: (1) As the relevant work is part of the regular duties of staff, the expenditure on manpower required cannot be calculated and quantified separately.

- (2) The Ethnic Minorities Unit originally planned to conduct the “Further Studies on Career Path of DSE Ethnic Minorities Graduates” in 2017-18. However, as an additional provision was obtained from the Government in October 2017 for the commencement of an integrated study on the education and career prospects of ethnic minority youths in 2018-19, the aforementioned survey was shelved and replaced by the Study on Kindergartens' Policies and Attitudes for Admission of Non-Chinese Speaking Applicants for better utilisation of resources.

3. Consultancy studies conducted by the EOC in the past 3 years are as follows:

Date of conducting the studies	Consultancy research studies	Content of the studies	Specific follow-up work	Expenditure
March 2014 – February 2016	Study on Legislation against Discrimination on the Grounds of Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Intersex Status	The study employs various research methods including both quantitative method in the form of telephone surveys and qualitative approach in the forms of, say, focus groups, interviews and opinion collection via online and postal channels. The purposes of the study are to understand discrimination encountered by people of different sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status (LGBTI), public awareness, level of acceptance of LGBTI people and perception of the discrimination encountered by them as well as views towards possible legislation against discrimination on the grounds of LGBTI status.	The study report has been uploaded onto the website of the EOC for public perusal; a press conference was also held on 21 January 2016.	\$648,609.20
June 2014 – January 2016	Exploratory Study on Age Discrimination in Workplace	The study employs both quantitative method in the form of telephone survey and qualitative method in the form of in-depth interviews to understand the phenomenon of age discrimination in workplace in Hong Kong and to explore the feasibility of legislation against age discrimination.	The study report has been uploaded onto the website of the EOC for public perusal; a press conference was also held on 7 January 2016.	\$280,000
December 2014 – June 2016	Study on Discrimination against Ethnic Minorities in the Provision of Goods, Services and Facilities, and Disposal and Management of Premises	In this study, data collection was from three sources, namely one-to-one in-depth interviews with ethnic minorities who experienced related discrimination, audit checks involving mystery shoppers, and focus group discussions with goods/services providers to evaluate the types and degrees of discrimination against ethnic minority groups with respect to the provision of goods, services and facilities, and disposal and management of premises.	The study report has been uploaded onto the website of the EOC for public perusal; a press conference was also held on 21 September 2016.	\$422,000

Date of conducting the studies	Consultancy research studies	Content of the studies	Specific follow-up work	Expenditure
May 2015 – August 2016	Equal Opportunities Awareness Survey 2015	Members of the general public aged 15 or above and people who have participated in activities organised by the EOC were interviewed via representative and territory-wide telephone interviews as well as self-administered questionnaires sent by e-mail or by post. The purposes of the survey are to understand public awareness of equal opportunities and the public perception of EOC's work.	The study report has been uploaded onto the website of the EOC for public perusal; a press conference was also held on 18 July 2016.	\$220,000
March 2015 – May 2016	Study on Pregnancy Discrimination and Negative Perceptions Faced by Working Mothers in Small and Medium Enterprises	The study was broken down into two parts, namely employee survey and employer survey. The purposes of the surveys are to assess the types and degrees of pregnancy discrimination and negative perceptions faced by pregnant women and working mothers in Small and Medium Enterprises; to ascertain whether job nature and organisational factors will have an impact on the likelihood of women being subject to unfair treatment during pregnancy as well as the post-natal stage; to explore the issues encountered by women who have to take care of young children under 6 years old when applying for leave; and to solicit views of both employers and employees with regard to the general perceptions of unfavorable treatments encountered by pregnant women.	The study report has been uploaded onto the website of the EOC for public perusal; a press conference was also held on 4 May 2016.	\$435,000
From January 2017 to March 2018	A Study on Knowledge of Sexual Harassment and Experience of being Sexually Harassed in the Service Industries: Comparing Recent Female Mainland	A mixed research approach of questionnaire surveys and focus group interviews was adopted to investigate the knowledge of female Mainland Chinese immigrants and locally-born women on sexual harassment, the prevalence	The study report has been uploaded onto the website of the EOC for public perusal; a press	\$476,675

Date of conducting the studies	Consultancy research studies	Content of the studies	Specific follow-up work	Expenditure
	Chinese Immigrants with Locally-born Women	of sexual harassment encountered by them and the relevant details in the service industry they serve.	<p>conference was also held on 2 March 2018.</p> <p>In the light of the findings of the study, the EOC contacted the organisations providing services to new arrivals from the Mainland to offer training courses on anti-sexual harassment to their service recipients. The research team was also invited to attend the Seminar on Enhancing Awareness of Sexual Harassment in Different Sectors co-organised by the EOC and the Gender Research Centre of the Chinese University of Hong Kong on 5 March 2018 to share the insights of the study.</p>	
From January 2017 to present	A Study on Family Status Discrimination in the Workplace	This study adopted the mixed research approach of questionnaire surveys, in-depth interviews and focus group discussions to understand the prevalence of family status discrimination in the workplace and the	The study will be completed by mid-2018.	\$600,999.20

Date of conducting the studies	Consultancy research studies	Content of the studies	Specific follow-up work	Expenditure
		awareness of the Family Status Discrimination Ordinance amongst employers and employees.		
From August 2017 to present	Identifying Effective Approaches to Reduce Opposition in the Siting of Integrated Community Centres for Mental Wellness and other Mental Health Facilities	This study adopted the mixed research approach of questionnaire survey, in-depth interviews and focus group discussions to examine and analyse the justifications both in favour of and against the siting and setting up of Integrated Community Centres for Mental Wellness (ICCMW) in public areas; and to investigate how the public make a choice in the face of conflicting options in respect of the setting up of ICCMWs and provision of mental wellness service in public areas.	The study will be completed by the third quarter of 2018.	\$592,968.75

4. The anti-discrimination and anti-sexual harassment policies formulated by the EOC for public, subvented and private organisations in the past 3 years are as follows:

Year	Anti-discrimination and anti-sexual harassment policies formulated by EOC	Target of assistance	Expenditure
2015	Framework for Sexual Harassment Policy in Sports Organisations	Sports organisations, including national sports associations	Staff emoluments
2016	Framework for Sexual Harassment Policy in Social Service Agencies	Social welfare organisations	Staff emoluments
2016	Autism: A Guide for Law Enforcement Officers Communicating with Persons with Autism Spectrum Disorders	Law enforcement agencies	Staff emoluments
2017	Easy-to-Read Guide for Accessible Air Travel in Hong Kong - Your Rights and Obligations To Air Travel	Airline companies	\$7,800 for printing and staff emoluments

Note: As the relevant work is part of the regular duties of staff, the expenditure on manpower required cannot be calculated and quantified separately.

5. In the past 3 years, the EOC reviewed or tendered advice on the following anti-discrimination and anti-sexual harassment policies for public, subvented and private organisations:

Year	Anti-discrimination and anti-sexual harassment policies reviewed/advised by EOC	Target of assistance	Expenditure
2016	Draft Policy on Prohibiting Sexual Harassment, Bully and Violence in the Workplace	Fire Services Department	Staff emoluments
2017	Guidelines on the Formulation of Policies for Preventing Sexual Harassment	Social welfare organisations	Staff emoluments
2018	Policy and Procedures against Sexual Harassment	Social welfare organisations	Staff emoluments

Note: As the relevant work is part of the regular duties of staff, the expenditure on manpower required cannot be calculated and quantified separately.

6. The EOC has organised a total of 21 seminars on equal opportunities issues as below in the past 3 years:

Date of seminar	Topic	Target	Attendance	Expenditure
7 February 2015	Sharing Session on An Equal Workplace for All for Small and Medium Enterprises	Operators and management personnel of small and medium enterprises	About 70 persons	Staff emoluments
5 June 2015	Workshop for University Student Leaders: "Play Smart: Say NO to Sexual Harassment"	University student leaders	47 persons	Staff emoluments
25 September 2015	Seminar on Formulation of Anti-Sexual Harassment Policy in Sports Sector	Representatives of national sports associations, the Hong Kong Sports Institute and the Leisure and Cultural Services Department	98 persons	Printing and miscellaneous expenses of about \$800 and staff emoluments
2 March 2016	Seminar on Gender & Violence	Representatives of the education sector, business sector, social welfare sector and non-governmental organisations	About 100 persons	Staff emoluments
22 June 2016	Workshop for University Student Leaders: "Play Smart: Say NO to Sexual Harassment"	University student leaders	50 persons	Staff emoluments
18 August 2016	Seminar on Anti-Sexual Harassment in Social Service Sector	Social welfare organisations and management personnel of the respective service units	90 persons	Charges of venue and equipment, hiring printing and refreshments expenses of about \$4,000 and staff emoluments

Date of seminar	Topic	Target	Attendance	Expenditure
4 November 2016	Road to Inclusive Education – Seminar on Supporting SEN Students	Representatives of the education sector	About 60 persons	Staff emoluments
30 November 2016	Seminar on Anti-Sexual Harassment in Social Service Sector	Social welfare organisations and management personnel of the respective service units	96 persons	Printing and refreshments expenses of about \$800 and staff emoluments
14 December 2016	Seminar on Protecting Persons with Intellectual Disabilities Against Sexual Harassment	Parents, carers and social workers of persons with intellectual disabilities	86 persons	Printing and refreshments expenses of about \$800 and staff emoluments
6 January 2017	Seminar on the Prevention of Sexual Harassment in Residential Care Homes for Persons with Disabilities	Operators and supervisors of private residential care homes for persons with disabilities	46 persons	Printing and refreshments expenses of about \$450 and staff emoluments
31 May 2017	Workshop for University Student Leaders: “Play Smart: Say NO to Sexual Harassment”	University student leaders	34 persons	Staff emoluments
4 July 2017	Seminar on Awareness of Gender Mainstreaming and Sexual Harassment	Representatives of the social welfare sector and business sector	About 100 persons	Staff emoluments
10 August 2017	Workshop on Preventing Sexual Harassment and Handling of Related Complaints for Social Welfare Agencies	Representatives of social welfare organisations and their service units	49 persons	Printing, refreshments and miscellaneous expenses of about \$650 and staff emoluments
1 September 2017	Workshop on Preventing Sexual Harassment and Handling Related Complaints for Social Welfare Agencies	Representatives of social welfare organisations and their service units	42 persons	Printing, refreshments and miscellaneous expenses of about \$650 and staff emoluments
15 September 2017	Workshop on Preventing Sexual Harassment and Handling Related Complaints for Social Welfare Agencies	Representatives of social welfare organisations and their service units, and representatives of non-subservent small and medium social welfare organisations	53 persons	Printing, refreshments and miscellaneous expenses of about \$650 and staff emoluments

Date of seminar	Topic	Target	Attendance	Expenditure
13 October 2017	Workshop on Preventing Sexual Harassment and Handling Related Complaints for Social Welfare Agencies	Representatives of social welfare organisations	45 persons	Printing, refreshments and miscellaneous expenses of about \$650 and staff emoluments
12 January 2018	Seminar on the Rights of and Challenges Faced by Persons with Disabilities	The social welfare sector and deputations for persons with disabilities	About 70 persons	Staff emoluments
30 January 2018	“To Foster the Olympic Spirit: Seminar on Eliminating Discrimination and Anti-Sexual Harassment in Sports Sector”	Representatives of national sports associations, the Hong Kong Sports Institute and the Leisure and Cultural Services Department	About 250 persons	Printing, photography and miscellaneous expenses of about \$4,400 and staff emoluments
5 March 2018	Seminar on Enhancing Awareness of Sexual Harassment in Different Sectors	Representatives of the education sector, social welfare sector, business sector, sports sector and other sectors	About 120 persons	Charges of venue and equipment, and hiring printing, photography, refreshments and miscellaneous expenses of about \$5,700 and staff emoluments
16 March 2018	Workshop on Preventing Sexual Harassment and Handling Related Complaints for Sports Organisations	Representatives of national sports associations, the Hong Kong Sports Institute and the Leisure and Cultural Services Department	About 50-60 persons	Printing and miscellaneous expenses of about \$600 and staff emoluments
23 March 2018	Workshop on Preventing Sexual Harassment and Handling Related Complaints for Sports Organisations	Representatives of national sports associations, the Hong Kong Sports Institute and the Leisure and Cultural Services Department	About 50-60 persons	Printing and miscellaneous expenses of about \$600 and staff emoluments

Note: As the relevant work is part of the regular duties of staff, the expenditure on manpower required cannot be calculated and quantified separately.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB018

(Question Serial No. 1643)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

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 2018-19. 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. (LegCo use): 1)

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) has organised various types of activities through different means to enable the public to have a more comprehensive and thorough understanding of the "one country, two systems" principle and the Basic Law. The CMAB has incurred an amount of about \$16 million in each of the financial years of 2015-16 and 2016-17 for promoting the "one country, two systems" principle and the Basic Law. In 2017-18, the relevant provision is \$17 million. In 2018-19, the CMAB will set aside about \$17 million for enabling the public to have a more comprehensive and thorough understanding of the "one country, two systems" principle and the Basic Law by organising various types of activities through different means. Our promotion strategies include:

- (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.

2. Under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (BLPSC) provides 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.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB019

(Question Serial No. 1644)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

One of the Matters Requiring Special Attention under the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau in this financial year is to set up a Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area Development Office and co-ordinate the work of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government in taking forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area. Would the Government advise on the expenditure and staff establishment involved in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area Development Office? What are the objectives and functions of the office? What plan does the office have to promote the financial services sector of Hong Kong?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 2)

Reply:

The Development Plan of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area (the Development Plan) will be promulgated soon. After promulgation of the Development Plan, we will set up the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area Development Office (the Office) under the establishment of this Bureau as early as possible. The Office involves 6 additional posts under Programme (2), namely 1 officer at point three of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Administrative Officer, 1 Senior Executive Officer, 1 Personal Secretary I and 1 Assistant Clerical Officer. In 2018-19, the estimated expenditure for the Office is about \$13.5 million.

2. The Office will be responsible for co-ordinating with the National Development and Reform Commission, relevant central ministries/departments, the Guangdong Provincial Government and the Macao Special Administrative Region Government, as well as the relevant bureaux/departments of the HKSAR Government in the implementation of the Development Plan. It will also proactively liaise with business associations, professional bodies and relevant stakeholders to publicise and promote the development opportunities for Hong Kong enterprises and talents brought about by the development of the Bay Area, and gauge their views on the implementation of the Development Plan to ensure that the relevant measures can best meet the needs of the industries.

3. Co-operation initiatives under individual policy areas to implement the Development Plan fall within the purview of the relevant policy bureaux of the HKSAR Government. On financial services, capitalising on the opportunities brought by the Bay Area Development, the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (FSTB) will continue to closely engage the industry and the relevant Mainland authorities to seek more policy headroom for promoting the channels for two-way cross-boundary RMB fund flows, including enhancement of the cross-boundary access of the financial markets (e.g. Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect, Bond Connect, etc.) in the Bay Area, and expanding financing channels and cross-boundary financial services. FSTB will also seek to relax the constraints for Hong Kong financial institutions entering other cities in the Bay Area such that they could better complement the development of the enterprises in the region.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB020

(Question Serial No. 1645)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In March 2018, the Legislative Council By-election was held to fill the vacancies for the geographical constituencies of Hong Kong Island, Kowloon West and New Territories East, and the vacancy for the Architectural, Surveying, Planning and Landscape functional constituency. Would the Government provide the financial expenses and items of expenditure involved in the By-election?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 3)

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 (including the 2018 Legislative Council By-election held in March this year) 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

CMAB021

(Question Serial No. 2732)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

It is mentioned in the Budget Speech that a sum of \$500 million will be earmarked to strengthen support for ethnic minorities. In this regard, would the Government advise this Committee:

1. of how the fund would be allocated to provide support for the ethnic minorities?
2. whether a certain percentage of ethnic minorities who have reached a specified level of language proficiency would be recruited into the civil service? If yes, what are the details; if not, what are the reasons?
3. whether policy would be formulated to support employment of ethnic minorities in the private sector? If yes, what are the details; if not, what are the reasons? and
4. whether a sub-committee would be set up under the steering committee chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration and invite youths from the ethnic minorities who are born and bred in Hong Kong to join the sub-committee? If yes, what are the details; if not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHIANG Lai-wan (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 31)

Reply:

The Government attaches great importance to efforts to support the ethnic minorities (EMs), and will set up an inter-departmental steering committee, to be chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration, to co-ordinate, review and monitor work in this area and to enhance internal collaboration. The Government has also earmarked \$500 million to strengthen support for EMs.

2. Our initial plan is for the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau to provide secretariat support to the steering committee. We will consider deploying additional staff based on actual needs. The steering committee will give due consideration to the specific

usage and modus operandi of the earmarked sum of \$500 million, including exploring new model of support, as well as making the best use of community wisdom and network to strengthen support for EMs. We will also listen to the views of different sectors and groups on the matter.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB022

(Question Serial No. 2608)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2018-19 under Programme (2) of this Head, the Government states that it will set up a "Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area Development Office". To ensure Hong Kong's global competitiveness, will the Government inform this Committee of the specific details of the work concerned, the administrative measures, the secretariat as well as the expenditure required for the work and posts concerned?

Asked by: Hon CHOW Ho-ding, Holden (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 50)

Reply:

The Development Plan of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area (the Development Plan) will be promulgated soon. After promulgation of the Development Plan, we will set up the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area Development Office (the Office) under the establishment of this Bureau as early as possible. The work priorities of the Office for 2018-19 include the following: to carry out promotion and publicity work and disseminate information to deepen the understanding of the public and industries on the Bay Area Development; to co-ordinate with relevant central ministries/departments, the Guangdong Provincial Government and the Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) Government, as well as the relevant bureaux/departments of the Hong Kong SAR Government in formulating an annual work plan to take forward the Bay Area Development; and to maintain close liaison with business associations, professional bodies and relevant stakeholders to gauge their views on implementation of the Development Plan. In 2018-19, the Office involves 6 additional posts, namely 1 officer at point three of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Administrative Officer, 1 Senior Executive Officer, 1 Personal Secretary I and 1 Assistant Clerical Officer. The estimated expenditure of the Office is about \$13.5 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB023****(Question Serial No. 0612)**

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

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

Question:

Under this programme, matters requiring special attention in 2018-19 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, and foster economic and cultural exchanges with Taiwan. Would the Government advise this Committee of the substantive results of the work done in the past financial year and the expenditure involved? What are the specific work plans and estimated expenditure for the 2018-19 financial year?

Asked by: Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 54)

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 counterparts in the areas under their coverage; representing and promoting Hong Kong's trade and commercial interests; encouraging and attracting investments to Hong Kong and promoting Hong Kong as a desirable platform to develop markets along the Belt and Road; 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 2017-18, 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. A roving exhibition entitled "Together · Progress · Opportunity - Exhibition in Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Return of Hong Kong to the Motherland" was held in various

Mainland cities. The “2017 China Tianjin Investment and Trade Fair & PECC International Trade and Investment Fair” held by the Tianjin Liaison Unit under the Beijing Office was attended by about 40,000 participants. The “Seminar on Policy Measures of the China (Shaanxi) Pilot Free Trade Zone” held by the Chengdu ETO in Xian was attended by over 130 participants. The “Hong Kong and Zhejiang cooperation: Capitalising on the advantages of Hong Kong” seminar held by the Shanghai ETO in Hangzhou was attended by over 200 participants. The “Belt and Road, Together We Grow” investment promotion seminar held by the Wuhan ETO in Taiyuan attracted the attendance of nearly 40 enterprises. The “2017 Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic Co-operation Forum” organised by the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan was attended by over 200 professionals.

3. In 2018-19, the Mainland and Taiwan Offices will continue to promote Hong Kong through appropriate channels, including attending meetings, calling on counterparts; organising/participating in seminars, exhibitions and workshops; organising/participating in cultural exchange 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.

5. In promoting inward investment, the Investment Promotion Units of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices, working together with Invest Hong Kong, will continue to liaise with potential Mainland and Taiwan enterprises in the areas that they cover; 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. 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 2017-18 and estimated expenditure for 2018-19 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 2017-18 and estimated expenditure for 2018-19 in this respect are \$290 million and \$260 million respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB024

(Question Serial No. 0355)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

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

Question:

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region provides assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland through its Economic and Trade Offices in the Mainland. In this regard, will the Government advise this Committee of:

- (1) the number of requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland with breakdown details in the past 5 years;
- (2) the specific figures on the services provided by relevant government departments to assist them; and
- (3) the staff establishment and estimated expenditure of the departments for handling the assistance requests?

Asked by: Hon IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 28)

Reply:

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

2. In 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017, a total of 353, 340, 407, 319 and 415 requests for assistance were received respectively from Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. The requests were related to loss of travel documents or money; persons involved in accidents, injuries or other incidents. The Immigration Divisions had rendered practical assistance in the light of actual circumstances.

3. As the work on providing assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland is an integral part of the duties and functions of the Mainland Offices, the staff establishment and estimated expenditure involved cannot be singled out and itemized.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB025

(Question Serial No. 2164)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

- (1) Please list out in table form the promotion and education activities organised by the Government in relation to human rights and democracy and the expenditure involved in the past 5 years. Please provide relevant information, including description, date and number of participants of the activities.
- (2) In respect of the submission of Universal Periodic Review (UPR) reports and reports under human right treaties by the Government, please provide information on the expenditure (including publicity, consultation and education expenses) involved, staff establishment and number of people involved in consultation etc.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 3)

Reply:

The Government's public education and promotion activities on human rights are taken forward by a number of policy bureaux, including the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (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.

2. Education and promotion activities in respect of children, sexual minorities, ethnic minorities and fundamental human rights organised by this Bureau in the past 5 years are detailed at the **Annex**.

3. Under Programme (4), the CMAB is committed to increasing the community's awareness of, respect for and protection of the rights of the individual. Relevant initiatives include continuing to promote children's rights through the Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme and the Children's Rights Forum, and eliminating discrimination against sexual minorities by sponsoring worthwhile community projects through the Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme and organising various publicity and promotion programmes. 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 relevant expenditure in the past 5 years is as follows:

Year	Relevant expenditure (\$ million)	
	Programme (4)	Programme (5)
2013-14	19.4	158.8
2014-15	26.0	179.9
2015-16	26.6	179.2
2016-17	25.3	185.4
2017-18	30.4 (revised estimate)	198.0 (revised estimate)

4. Hard copies of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region's (HKSAR) reports as required under the Universal Periodic Review mechanism of the United Nations (UN) and 7 human rights treaties are published in accordance with the reporting cycles of the respective mechanism and treaties, and are distributed to stakeholders including the Executive Council, the Legislative Council and interested non-governmental organisations through various channels. They are also available to members of the public upon request. The expenditures on publishing promotional materials on the human rights treaties concerned in hard copy (including texts of the treaties, the HKSAR's reports and other promotional materials) in the past 5 years are as follows:

Year	Publication cost (\$)
2013-14	52,000
2014-15	91,000
2015-16 (Note)	-
2016-17	115,000
2017-18	113,000

Note: In 2015-16, no such expenditure was incurred as there was no need to publish the HKSAR's reports.

5. 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.

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

Year: 2017-18

Date and description of activities	Responsible organisation(s)	Target and No. of participants (if applicable)
<i>Children</i>		
Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme (February to December 2017)	Sponsored organisations	Members of the public (about 47 900 persons)
Publication and distribution of comic booklets of the Convention on the Rights of the Child	CMAB	Members of the public
<i>Sexual minorities</i>		
Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme (June 2017 to March 2018)	Sponsored organisations	Members of the public (about 12 300 persons)
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) (Whole year)	CMAB	Members of the public
Co-operation with RTHK to produce a TV programme which makes reference to real-life scenarios encountered by the sexual minorities (August to September 2017)	CMAB and RTHK	Members of the public
<i>Ethnic minorities</i>		
Co-operation with RTHK to produce/organise - (a) a TV series on integration with ethnic minorities (broadcasted from July to September 2017); and (b) media experience / school outreach programme and website design on racial equality (March to July 2017).	CMAB and RTHK	Members of the public (about 350 primary and secondary school students)
<i>Fundamental human rights</i>		
Conducting fora, including: (a) Human Rights Forum (held on 20 December 2017); and (b) Children's Rights Forum (held on 16 June and 3 November 2017 and 12 January 2018).	CMAB	Mainly interested non-governmental organisations; also open to interested members of the public

Date and description of activities	Responsible organisation(s)	Target and No. of participants (if applicable)
Various publicity measures such as API and advertisement to promote the Code on Access to Information (Whole year)	CMAB	Members of the public

Year: 2016-17

Date and description of activities	Responsible organisation(s)	Target and No. of participants (if applicable)
<i>Children</i>		
Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme (January to December 2016)	Sponsored organisations	Members of the public (about 42 100 persons)
<i>Sexual minorities</i>		
Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme (June 2016 to January 2017)	Sponsored organisations	Members of the public (about 10 200 persons)
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) (Whole year)	CMAB	Members of the public
<i>Ethnic minorities</i>		
Co-operation with RTHK to produce a TV series on integration with ethnic minorities (Broadcasted from September to November 2016)	CMAB and RTHK	Members of the public
<i>Fundamental human rights</i>		
Publication and distribution of United Nations human rights reports	CMAB	Members of the public
Conducting fora, including: (a) Human Rights Forum (held on 12 July 2016); and (b) Children's Rights Forum (held on 27 May and 13 October 2016 and 3 March 2017).	CMAB	Mainly interested non-governmental organisations; also open to interested members of the public
Various publicity measures such as API and advertisement to promote the Code on Access to Information (Whole year)	CMAB	Members of the public

Year: 2015-16

Date and description of activities	Responsible organisation(s)	Target and No. of participants (if applicable)
<i>Children</i>		
Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme (January to December 2015)	Sponsored organisations	Members of the public (about 39 500 persons)
Co-operation with RTHK to produce a TV programme on promotion of children's rights (Broadcasted from August to September 2015)	CMAB and RTHK	Members of the public
<i>Sexual minorities</i>		
Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme (June 2015 to January 2016)	Sponsored organisations	Members of the public (about 10 700 persons)
Various publicity measures such as API and advertisement to promote equal opportunities for the sexual minorities (Whole year)	CMAB	Members of the public
<i>Fundamental human rights</i>		
Conducting fora, including: (a) Human Rights Forum (held on 4 November 2015); and (b) Children's Rights Forum (held on 1 April, 9 October and 4 December 2015 and 21 January 2016).	CMAB	Mainly interested non-governmental organisations; also open to interested members of the public
Various publicity measures such as API and advertisement to promote the Code on Access to Information (Whole year)	CMAB	Members of the public

Year: 2014-15

Date and description of activities	Responsible organisation(s)	Target and No. of participants (if applicable)
<i>Children</i>		
Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme (January to December 2014)	Sponsored organisations	Members of the public (about 69 800 persons)
Co-operation with RTHK to produce a TV programme on promotion of children's rights (Broadcasted from November 2014 to January 2015)	CMAB and RTHK	Members of the public
<i>Sexual minorities</i>		
Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme (June 2014 to January 2015)	Sponsored organisations	Members of the public (about 15 000 persons)

Date and description of activities	Responsible organisation(s)	Target and No. of participants (if applicable)
Various publicity measures such as API and advertisement to promote equal opportunities for the sexual minorities (Whole year)	CMAB	Members of the public
<i>Ethnic minorities</i>		
Co-operation with RTHK to produce/organise - (a) a TV series on integration with ethnic minorities (broadcasted from July to September 2014); and	CMAB and RTHK	Members of the public
(b) school outreach programme (October 2014 to January 2015).		(about 1 150 secondary and primary school students)
<i>Fundamental human rights</i>		
Publication and distribution of United Nations human rights reports	CMAB	Members of the public
Conducting fora, including: (a) Human Rights Forum (held on 31 July 2014); and (b) Children's Rights Forum (held on 12 August 2014).	CMAB	Mainly interested non-governmental organisations; also open to interested members of the public
Various publicity measures such as API and advertisement to promote the Code on Access to Information (Whole year)	CMAB	Members of the public

Year: 2013-14

Date and description of activities	Responsible organisation(s)	Target and number of participants (if applicable)
<i>Children</i>		
Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme (February 2013 to February 2014)	Sponsored organisations	Members of the public (about 59 000 persons)
Co-operation with RTHK to produce/organise: (a) a TV programme on promotion of children's rights (broadcasted from September to October 2013); and (b) a school outreach programme for the promotion of children's rights.	CMAB and RTHK	Members of the public (about 410 secondary and primary school students)
API to promote children's rights (Whole year)	CMAB	Members of the public
Publication and distribution of comic booklets of the Convention on the Rights of the Child	CMAB	Members of the public

Date and description of activities	Responsible organisation(s)	Target and number of participants (if applicable)
<i>Sexual minorities</i>		
Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme (June 2013 to January 2014)	Sponsored organisations	Members of the public (about 12 200 persons)
Various publicity measures such as API and advertisement to promote equal opportunities for the sexual minorities (Whole year)	CMAB	Members of the public
<i>Fundamental human rights</i>		
Publication and distribution of United Nations human rights reports	CMAB	Members of the public
Conducting fora, including: (a) Human Rights Forum (held on 24 January 2014); and (b) Children's Rights Forum (held on 20 April and 30 July 2013 and 17 January 2014).	CMAB	Mainly interested non-governmental organisations; also open to interested members of the public
Various publicity measures such as API and advertisement to promote public understanding of the new regulation on the use of personal data for direct marketing activities enacted under the Personal Data (Privacy) (Amendment) Ordinance 2012 and implemented on 1 April 2013 (April to September 2013)	CMAB	Members of the public
Various publicity measures such as API and advertisement to promote the Code on Access to Information (Whole year)	CMAB	Members of the public

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB026

(Question Serial No. 2177)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please list out the number of visits to the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in HKSAR each year by vehicles of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau in the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 16)

Reply:

Staff of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau routinely use office vehicles to get to various destinations to attend official functions, etc. according to operational needs. A large number of trip records are involved. The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau has not compiled a breakdown of such trip records by destination.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB027****(Question Serial No. 3046)**

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please list out in table form the promotion and education activities organised by the Government in relation to human rights and democracy and the expenditure involved in the past 5 years. Please provide relevant information, including description, date and number of participants of the activities.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 48)

Reply:

Education and promotion activities in respect of children, sexual minorities, ethnic minorities and fundamental human rights organised by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) in the past 5 years are detailed at the **Annex**.

2. Under Programme (4), the CMAB is committed to increasing the community's awareness of, respect for and protection of the rights of the individual. Relevant initiatives include continuing to promote children's rights through the Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme and the Children's Rights Forum, and eliminating discrimination against sexual minorities by sponsoring worthwhile community projects through the Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme and organising various publicity and promotion programmes. 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 relevant expenditure in the past 5 years is as follows:

Year	Relevant expenditure (\$ million)	
	Programme (4)	Programme (5)
2013-14	19.4	158.8
2014-15	26.0	179.9
2015-16	26.6	179.2
2016-17	25.3	185.4
2017-18	30.4 (revised estimate)	198.0 (revised estimate)

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

Year: 2017-18

Date and description of activities	Responsible organisation(s)	Target and No. of participants (if applicable)
<i>Children</i>		
Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme (February to December 2017)	Sponsored organisations	Members of the public (about 47 900 persons)
Publication and distribution of comic booklets of the Convention on the Rights of the Child	CMAB	Members of the public
<i>Sexual minorities</i>		
Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme (June 2017 to March 2018)	Sponsored organisations	Members of the public (about 12 300 persons)
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) (Whole year)	CMAB	Members of the public
Co-operation with RTHK to produce a TV programme which makes reference to real-life scenarios encountered by the sexual minorities (August to September 2017)	CMAB and RTHK	Members of the public
<i>Ethnic minorities</i>		
Co-operation with RTHK to produce/organise - (a) a TV series on integration with ethnic minorities (broadcasted from July to September 2017); and (b) media experience / school outreach programme and website design on racial equality (March to July 2017).	CMAB and RTHK	Members of the public (about 350 primary and secondary school students)
<i>Fundamental human rights</i>		
Conducting fora, including: (a) Human Rights Forum (held on 20 December 2017); and (b) Children's Rights Forum (held on 16 June and 3 November 2017 and 12 January 2018).	CMAB	Mainly interested non-governmental organisations; also open to interested members of the public
Various publicity measures such as API and advertisement to promote the Code on Access to Information (Whole year)	CMAB	Members of the public

Year: 2016-17

Date and description of activities	Responsible organisation(s)	Target and No. of participants (if applicable)
<i>Children</i>		
Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme (January to December 2016)	Sponsored organisations	Members of the public (about 42 100 persons)
<i>Sexual minorities</i>		
Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme (June 2016 to January 2017)	Sponsored organisations	Members of the public (about 10 200 persons)
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) (Whole year)	CMAB	Members of the public
<i>Ethnic minorities</i>		
Co-operation with RTHK to produce a TV series on integration with ethnic minorities (Broadcasted from September to November 2016)	CMAB and RTHK	Members of the public
<i>Fundamental human rights</i>		
Publication and distribution of United Nations human rights reports	CMAB	Members of the public
Conducting fora, including: (a) Human Rights Forum (held on 12 July 2016); and (b) Children's Rights Forum (held on 27 May and 13 October 2016 and 3 March 2017).	CMAB	Mainly interested non-governmental organisations; also open to interested members of the public
Various publicity measures such as API and advertisement to promote the Code on Access to Information (Whole year)	CMAB	Members of the public

Year: 2015-16

Date and description of activities	Responsible organisation(s)	Target and No. of participants (if applicable)
<i>Children</i>		
Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme (January to December 2015)	Sponsored organisations	Members of the public (about 39 500 persons)
Co-operation with RTHK to produce a TV programme on promotion of children's rights (Broadcasted from August to September 2015)	CMAB and RTHK	Members of the public

Date and description of activities	Responsible organisation(s)	Target and No. of participants (if applicable)
<i>Sexual minorities</i>		
Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme (June 2015 to January 2016)	Sponsored organisations	Members of the public (about 10 700 persons)
Various publicity measures such as API and advertisement to promote equal opportunities for the sexual minorities (Whole year)	CMAB	Members of the public
<i>Fundamental human rights</i>		
Conducting fora, including: (a) Human Rights Forum (held on 4 November 2015); and (b) Children's Rights Forum (held on 1 April, 9 October and 4 December 2015 and 21 January 2016).	CMAB	Mainly interested non-governmental organisations; also open to interested members of the public
Various publicity measures such as API and advertisement to promote the Code on Access to Information (Whole year)	CMAB	Members of the public

Year: 2014-15

Date and description of activities	Responsible organisation(s)	Target and No. of participants (if applicable)
<i>Children</i>		
Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme (January to December 2014)	Sponsored organisations	Members of the public (about 69 800 persons)
Co-operation with RTHK to produce a TV programme on promotion of children's rights (Broadcasted from November 2014 to January 2015)	CMAB and RTHK	Members of the public
<i>Sexual minorities</i>		
Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme (June 2014 to January 2015)	Sponsored organisations	Members of the public (about 15 000 persons)
Various publicity measures such as API and advertisement to promote equal opportunities for the sexual minorities (Whole year)	CMAB	Members of the public
<i>Ethnic minorities</i>		
Co-operation with RTHK to produce/organise - (a) a TV series on integration with ethnic minorities (broadcasted from July to September 2014); and	CMAB and RTHK	Members of the public

Date and description of activities	Responsible organisation(s)	Target and No. of participants (if applicable)
(b) school outreach programme (October 2014 to January 2015).		(about 1 150 secondary and primary school students)
<i>Fundamental human rights</i>		
Publication and distribution of United Nations human rights reports	CMAB	Members of the public
Conducting fora, including: (a) Human Rights Forum (held on 31 July 2014); and (b) Children's Rights Forum (held on 12 August 2014).	CMAB	Mainly interested non-governmental organisations; also open to interested members of the public
Various publicity measures such as API and advertisement to promote the Code on Access to Information (Whole year)	CMAB	Members of the public

Year: 2013-14

Date and description of activities	Responsible organisation(s)	Target and number of participants (if applicable)
<i>Children</i>		
Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme (February 2013 to February 2014)	Sponsored organisations	Members of the public (about 59 000 persons)
Co-operation with RTHK to produce/organise: (a) a TV programme on promotion of children's rights (broadcasted from September to October 2013); and (b) a school outreach programme for the promotion of children's rights.	CMAB and RTHK	Members of the public (about 410 secondary and primary school students)
API to promote children's rights (Whole year)	CMAB	Members of the public
Publication and distribution of comic booklets of the Convention on the Rights of the Child	CMAB	Members of the public
<i>Sexual minorities</i>		
Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme (June 2013 to January 2014)	Sponsored organisations	Members of the public (about 12 200 persons)
Various publicity measures such as API and advertisement to promote equal opportunities for the sexual minorities (Whole year)	CMAB	Members of the public
<i>Fundamental human rights</i>		
Publication and distribution of United Nations human rights reports	CMAB	Members of the public

Date and description of activities	Responsible organisation(s)	Target and number of participants (if applicable)
Conducting fora, including: (a) Human Rights Forum (held on 24 January 2014); and (b) Children's Rights Forum (held on 20 April and 30 July 2013 and 17 January 2014).	CMAB	Mainly interested non-governmental organisations; also open to interested members of the public
Various publicity measures such as API and advertisement to promote public understanding of the new regulation on the use of personal data for direct marketing activities enacted under the Personal Data (Privacy) (Amendment) Ordinance 2012 and implemented on 1 April 2013 (April to September 2013)	CMAB	Members of the public
Various publicity measures such as API and advertisement to promote the Code on Access to Information (Whole year)	CMAB	Members of the public

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB028

(Question Serial No. 1143)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

A provision of \$529,000 is allocated to the Equal Opportunities Commission for replacement of telephone system and improvement of information technology environment. Is the implementation of measures on telephone recording included in the project? If yes, what are the details? Please state the circumstances under which telephone conversation will be recorded.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wing-hang, Dennis (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 1)

Reply:

The Government has allocated a provision of \$529,000 to the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) for replacement of telephone system and improvement of information technology (IT) environment. The purposes of the provision are as follows:

- (a) installation of a new telephone system in terms of hardware and software to replace the existing system whose performance has deteriorated severely; and
- (b) provision of a new modular infrastructure server to ensure the reliability of IT network and file security of the EOC.

2. According to the information provided by the EOC, the above provision is not related to the implementation of the measure on telephone recording.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB029****(Question Serial No. 1144)**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
(TANG Yun-kwong)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

What is the current establishment of the Complaint Services Division? How many staff members of the Complaint Services Division have resigned in each of the past 5 years (as at 7 March 2018)? Please give a yearly breakdown on the number of resignation and new appointment by rank.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wing-hang, Dennis (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 16)Reply:

Based on the information provided by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), the Complaint Services Division (CSD) of the EOC currently has an establishment of 26 staff, including 1 director, 21 officers and 4 clerical support staff.

2. In the past 5 years (up to March 2018), the number and rank of the resignees and new appointees in the CSD are set out in the table below ^{Note 1:}

Rank		Director	Chief Officer	Senior Officer	Officer	Assistant Officer/ Assistant Enquiry Officer	Total
Year							
2013	Resignees	-	-	-	-	2	2
	New appointees	-	-	-	-	9	9
2014	Resignees	1	1 ^{Note 3}	-	-	2	4
	New appointees	-	-	1**	-	-	1
2015	Resignees	-	-	-	4	3	7
	New appointees	1	-	-	5	2	8

2016	Resignees	-	-	1	3	2	6
	New appointees	-	-	-	3	3	6
2017	Resignees	1 ^{Note 2}	-	3	2*	4	10
	New appointees	-	-	2	3	2	7
2018 (up to March 2018)	Resignees	-	-	1	1	-	2
	New appointees	-	-	1	-	3	4

* Including 1 staff member who transferred from the CSD to another division/unit.

** Including 1 staff member who transferred to the CSD upon promotion from another division/unit.

Note 1: No resignation from clerical support staff is recorded in the past 5 years.

Note 2: The resignation of 1 Director in 2017 took effect on 30 December 2017.

Note 3: The vacancy of 1 Chief Officer occurred in November 2014 was filled by 1 Senior Officer by way of internal promotion in 2015.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB030

(Question Serial No. 1145)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) provides “assistance other than by way of conciliation” to victims under the Sex Discrimination Ordinance, the Disability Discrimination Ordinance, the Family Status Discrimination Ordinance and the Race Discrimination Ordinance, which may include:

- (a) giving advice;
- (b) arranging for the giving of advice or assistance by a solicitor or counsel;
- (c) arranging for representation by any person, including all such assistance as is usually given by a solicitor or counsel in the steps preliminary or incidental to any proceedings, or in arriving at or giving effect to a compromise to avoid or bring to an end any proceedings; and
- (d) any other form of assistance which the EOC may consider appropriate.

Please provide a breakdown of the forms of assistance offered to victims by year and by ordinance in the past 5 years. Please also provide indications if the same victim has received more than one form of assistance in the same case.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wing-hang, Dennis (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 18)

Reply:

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) may provide legal assistance to persons who have taken legal actions under the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (SDO) (Cap. 480), Disability Discrimination Ordinance (DDO) (Cap. 87), Family Status Discrimination Ordinance (FSDO) (Cap. 527) and Race Discrimination Ordinance (RDO) (Cap. 602). A complaint has to be first lodged by relevant persons with the EOC under the four anti-discrimination ordinances before an application for legal assistance is made. If the relevant complaint cannot be settled through conciliation, then an application could be

made to the EOC for legal assistance. EOC will consider providing assistance other than by way of conciliation to successful applicants of legal assistance, including:

- (a) giving advice (i.e. legal advice given by lawyers of the Legal Service Division (LSD) of the EOC);
- (b) arranging for the giving of advice or assistance by a solicitor or counsel (i.e. advice or assistance given by external solicitors or counsel engaged by the EOC. In the past 5 years, the EOC only engaged external counsels to provide advice or assistance);
- (c) arranging for representation by any person, including all such assistance as is usually given by a solicitor or counsel in the steps preliminary or incidental to any proceedings, or in arriving at or giving effect to a compromise to avoid or bring to an end any proceedings; and
- (d) any other form of assistance which the EOC may consider appropriate (e.g. engaging other professionals including engineers, doctors or other experts to provide professional advice on cases).

2. According to the information provided by the EOC, figures on assistance other than by way of conciliation provided to victims in the breakdown in years and ordinances in the past 5 years are as follows:

3. In 2013, a total of 18 cases were granted legal assistance by the EOC (4 were claims were related to the SDO, 13 claims were related to the DDO and 1 claim was related to the RDO). The respective forms of assistance other than by way of conciliation given in these cases are set out in the table below:

2013				
Case	Giving advice	Arranging for the giving of advice or assistance by a solicitor or counsel	Arranging for representation by any person in legal proceedings	Any other form of assistance
Claims made under the SDO				
Case 1	✓		✓	
Case 2	✓	✓	✓	
Case 3	✓	✓	✓	
Case 4	✓	✓	✓	
Claims made under the DDO				
Case 5	✓	✓	✓	
Case 6	✓	✓	✓	✓
Case 7	✓		✓	✓
Case 8	✓		✓	✓
Case 9	✓		✓	
Case 10	✓	✓	✓	
Case 11	✓		✓	✓
Case 12	✓		✓	
Case 13	✓		✓	
Case 14	✓		✓	✓
Case 15	✓		✓	✓

Case 16	✓	✓	✓	
Case 17	✓		✓	✓
Claims made under the RDO				
Case 18	✓	✓	✓	

4. In 2014, a total of 17 cases were granted legal assistance by the EOC (9 claims were related to the SDO and 8 claims were related to the DDO). The respective forms of assistance other than by way of conciliation given in these cases are set out in the table below:

2014				
Case	Giving advice	Arranging for the giving of advice or assistance by a solicitor or counsel	Arranging for representation by any person in legal proceedings	Any other form of assistance
Claims made under the SDO				
Case 1	✓	✓	✓	
Case 2	✓	✓	✓	
Case 3	✓		✓	
Case 4	✓		✓	
Case 5	✓		✓	
Case 6	✓		✓	
Case 7	✓		✓	
Case 8	✓		✓	
Case 9	✓		✓	
Claims made under the DDO				
Case 10	✓	✓	✓	
Case 11	✓	✓	✓	
Case 12	✓	✓	✓	
Case 13	✓		✓	
Case 14	✓		✓	
Case 15	✓	✓	✓	✓
Case 16	✓	✓	✓	
Case 17	✓		✓	

5. In 2015, a total of 22 cases were granted legal assistance by the EOC (6 claims were related to the SDO, 15 claims were related to the DDO and 1 claim was related to the RDO). The respective forms of assistance other than by way of conciliation given in these cases are set out in the table below:

2015				
Case	Giving advice	Arranging for the giving of advice or assistance by a solicitor or counsel	Arranging for representation by any person in legal proceedings	Any other form of assistance
Claims made under the SDO				
Case 1	✓		✓	
Case 2	✓		✓	
Case 3	✓	✓	✓	
Case 4	✓	✓	✓	

Case 5	✓		✓	
Case 6	✓		✓	
Claims made under the DDO				
Case 7	✓	✓	✓	
Case 8	✓	✓	✓	
Case 9	✓		✓	
Case 10	✓	✓	✓	✓
Case 11	✓	✓	✓	✓
Case 12	✓		✓	
Case 13	✓		✓	
Case 14	✓	✓	✓	
Case 15	✓		✓	
Case 16	✓		✓	
Case 17	✓		✓	
Case 18	✓		✓	
Case 19	✓		✓	✓
Case 20	✓		✓	
Case 21	✓		✓	
Claims made under the RDO				
Case 22	✓		✓	

6. In 2016, a total of 16 cases were granted legal assistance by the EOC (7 claims were related to the SDO, 7 claims were related to the DDO, 1 claim was related to the FSDO and 1 claim was related to the RDO). The respective forms of assistance other than by way of conciliation given in these cases are set out in the table below:

2016				
Case	Giving advice	Arranging for the giving of advice or assistance by a solicitor or counsel	Arranging for representation by any person in legal proceedings	Any other form of assistance
Claims made under the SDO				
Case 1	✓		✓	
Case 2	✓		✓	
Case 3	✓		✓	
Case 4	✓		✓	
Case 5	✓		✓	
Case 6	✓		✓	
Case 7	✓		✓	
Claims made under the DDO				
Case 8	✓		✓	
Case 9	✓		✓	
Case 10	✓		✓	✓
Case 11	✓		✓	
Case 12	✓		✓	
Case 13	✓		✓	
Case 14	✓		✓	
Claims made under the FSDO				
Case 15	✓		✓	

Claims made under the RDO				
Case 16	✓		✓	

7. In 2017, a total of 26 cases were granted legal assistance by the EOC (11 claims were related to the SDO, 14 claims were related to the DDO and 1 claim was related to the RDO). The respective forms of assistance other than by way of conciliation given in these cases are set out in the table below:

2017				
Case	Giving advice	Arranging for the giving of advice or assistance by a solicitor or counsel	Arranging for representation by any person in legal proceedings	Any other form of assistance
Claims made under the SDO				
Case 1	✓		✓	
Case 2	✓		✓	
Case 3	✓		✓	
Case 4	✓		✓	
Case 5	✓		✓	
Case 6	✓		✓	
Case 7	✓		✓	
Case 8	✓		✓	
Case 9	✓	✓	✓	
Case 10	✓		✓	
Case 11	✓		✓	
Claims made under the DDO				
Case 12	✓	✓	✓	
Case 13	✓		✓	
Case 14	✓		✓	
Case 15	✓		✓	
Case 16	✓		✓	
Case 17	✓		✓	
Case 18	✓		✓	
Case 19	✓		✓	
Case 20	✓		✓	
Case 21	✓		✓	
Case 22	✓		✓	
Case 23	✓		✓	
Case 24	✓		✓	
Case 25	✓		✓	
Claims made under the RDO				
Case 26	✓		✓	✓

Remark : Depending on the circumstances of the case, the LSD of the EOC may provide legal assistance and seek the advice or assistance by an external counsel for the same case in different years. In addition, the LSD will also seek the advice of an external senior counsel on a number of cases involving the same complex legal issue.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB031****(Question Serial No. 1146)**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
(TANG Yun-kwong)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

A number of Codes of Practice have been drawn up by the Equal Opportunities Commission. Please set out the respective number of copies of each of the Codes of Practice issued in the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wing-hang, Dennis (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 19)Reply:

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) has drawn up 5 Codes of Practice, namely the Code of Practice on Employment issued under the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (SDO), Code of Practice on Employment issued under the Disability Discrimination Ordinance (DDO), Code of Practice on Education issued under the DDO, Code of Practice on Employment issued under the Family Status Discrimination Ordinance (FSDO) and Code of Practice on Employment issued under the Race Discrimination Ordinance (RDO). All Codes of Practice are available in both Chinese and English and uploaded to the EOC's website. In the past 5 years, the respective number of Codes of Practices issued is as follows:

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Code of Practice on Employment issued under the SDO	1 650	1 550	1 700	1 850	1 650
Code of Practice on Employment issued under the DDO	2 600	2 750	2 550	2 650	2 520
Code of Practice on Education issued under the DDO	1 850	2 050	2 250	1 750	1 850
Code of Practice on Employment issued under the FSDO	1 450	1 150	1 350	1 500	1 200
Code of Practice on Employment issued under the RDO	2 450	3 000	2 150	2 250	2 530
Total	10 000	10 500	10 000	10 000	9 750

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB032****(Question Serial No. 1147)**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
(TANG Yun-kwong)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

Please set out the respective number of complaints successfully conciliated before and after investigation in the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wing-hang, Dennis (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 20)Reply:

According to the information provided by the Equal Opportunities Commission, in the past 5 years (2013 to 2017), the number of complaints successfully conciliated after investigation was 124 in total whereas the number of complaints successfully conciliated before investigation totaled 618. A breakdown of figures by year is given below:

	Complaints successfully conciliated after investigation	Complaints successfully conciliated before investigation
2013	22	149
2014	23	129
2015	24	88
2016	24	124
2017	31	128
Total	124	618

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB033

(Question Serial No. 1148)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please provide the criteria adopted by the Equal Opportunities Commission for classifying cases into enquiries and complaints. If changes have been made to the criteria in the past 5 years, please advise when the revision was made and the original and revised criteria.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wing-hang, Dennis (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 21)

Reply:

According to the information provided by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), an Internal Operating Procedures Manual (the Manual) is in place and the current version was issued in 2013.

2. As set out in the Manual, all incoming written correspondence should be assessed by a Chief Equal Opportunities Officer. The EOC determines whether or not the correspondence is of the nature of a complaint based on the following criteria:

- (a) the complaint should be made in written form;
- (b) the person who submits the correspondence should be “the aggrieved person” or the authorised representative of “the aggrieved person”; and
- (c) “the aggrieved person” should make an allegation of commission of “an unlawful act” by a certain person in accordance with the relevant ordinances. If the content of correspondence is not clear, the EOC will give the benefit of the doubt to “the aggrieved person”, thereby treating and processing the correspondence as a complaint.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB034

(Question Serial No. 1337)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Government states that “to enhance collaboration within the Government on support for ethnic minorities, the Chief Secretary for Administration will set up a steering committee to co-ordinate, review and monitor work in this area. The Government will also earmark \$500 million to strengthen support for ethnic minorities.” In this regard, please advise on the specific work plan, estimated expenditure and staff establishment in 2018-19.

Asked by: Hon KWONG Chun-yu (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 50)

Reply:

The Government attaches great importance to efforts to support the ethnic minorities (EMs), and will set up an inter-departmental steering committee, to be chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration, to co-ordinate, review and monitor work in this area and to enhance internal collaboration. The Government has also earmarked \$500 million to strengthen support for EMs.

2. Our initial plan is for the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau to provide secretariat support to the steering committee. We will consider deploying additional staff based on actual needs. The steering committee will give due consideration to the specific usage and modus operandi of the earmarked sum of \$500 million, including exploring new model of support, as well as making the best use of community wisdom and network to strengthen support for EMs. We will also listen to the views of different sectors and groups on the matter.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB035

(Question Serial No. 2009)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding issues on the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), please advise the following:

1. What is the scope of work for which the team of lawyers of the EOC is responsible? What are the expenditure and manpower arrangement involved?
2. In the past 2 years, the complaints where legal assistance was granted account for less than 5% of the complaints handled by the EOC. Why is the number of complaints where legal assistance was granted so minimal?
3. In the past 3 years, what are the number of times where external lawyers were engaged, the number of lawyers engaged, the expenditure involved and the reasons for engaging external lawyers by the EOC?

Asked by: Hon LAM Cheuk-ting (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 20)

Reply:

According to the information provided by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), the Legal Service Division (LSD) of the EOC is mainly responsible for handling applications for legal assistance and acting as the legal representative of those who have been granted legal assistance. In addition, the LSD is also responsible for providing internal legal advice and support to the EOC, such as providing legal advice on handling enquiries and complaints relating to discrimination, providing advice on legal issues arising from the daily operation of the EOC, reviewing contracts/agreements, drafting codes of practice, providing legal support in cases where the EOC is the defendant and providing legal support to issues relating to the corporate governance of the EOC. The division also undertakes matters relating to the review of the four anti-discrimination ordinances.

2. The LSD is comprised of 1 Chief Legal Counsel, 5 Senior Legal Officers, 2 Legal Officers and 2 secretaries. Amongst them, 3 Senior Legal Officers and 2 Legal Officers

are mainly responsible for handling legal assistance cases and providing legal advice on the handling of enquiries and complaints relating to discrimination. The remaining 2 Senior Legal Officers undertake work which falls outside the above, e.g. work relating to the review of anti-discrimination ordinances, drafting codes of practice and providing internal legal support. In 2018-19, the expenditure incurred by the EOC on the above work is about \$13.03 million. This includes expenditure on emoluments of the staff involved but excludes the expenditure arising from the engagement of external lawyers to provide legal advice.

3. Pursuant to the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 480), the EOC may provide legal assistance. However, a complaint has to be first lodged by relevant persons with the EOC under the four anti-discrimination ordinances before an application for legal assistance is made. If the relevant complaint cannot be settled through conciliation, then an application could be made to the EOC for legal assistance. Since each case bears its unique circumstances which may directly affect the EOC's decision on whether or not legal assistance is granted, the number of legal assistance granted by the EOC varies each year. Take 2017 as an example, 26 out of 47 applications for legal assistance received by the EOC were granted assistance, which accounts for more than half of the total (55%). From 2015 to 2017, the number of cases where legal assistance was granted has been increasing. Relevant figures are set out in the table below:

	2015	2016	2017
Applications for legal assistance	29	38	47*
Granted ^{Note 1}	22	16	26
Not granted	7	20	12
Under consideration	0	2 ^{Note 2}	9 ^{Note 3}

* Including cases transferred from the previous year

Note 1 : All cases where legal assistance is granted are handled by EOC lawyers. For example, 26 new cases were handled in 2017 while 16 new cases were handled in 2016.

Note 2 : The figure indicates the situation at the beginning of 2017.

Note 3 : The figure indicates the situation at the beginning of 2018.

4. The EOC exercises statutory discretion through the Legal and Complaints Committee in deciding whether or not to grant legal assistance. In doing so, the EOC considers a wide range of factors, including:

- (a) whether the case raises a question of principle;
- (b) whether the complexity of the case or parties' relative positions makes it difficult for the applicant to deal with his/her case;
- (c) strength of the evidence and the likelihood of success of the case;
- (d) whether the case can establish important legal precedents;
- (e) whether the applicant can obtain effective remedy through legal proceedings, and whether the case can effectively enhance public awareness of equal opportunities and promote equal opportunities;

- (f) the attitude and behavior of both parties (for instance, the EOC is more likely to grant assistance if the respondent / organisation declines to co-operate); and
- (g) the EOC may consider any other matters which may be relevant on a case by case basis (for example, the applicant has already been granted Legal Aid for the same case; compensation has already been granted in relevant proceedings; and the respondent has applied for bankruptcy).

5. In the past 3 years, the number of times that external lawyers were engaged to provide legal services, the reasons for engaging external lawyers and the expenditure involved are as follows:

Reasons for engaging external lawyers	Nature of legal services	Year		
		2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
To provide legal assistance	Number of cases where external lawyers appeared in courts	3	2	1
	Number of lawyers	3	2	1
	Number of cases where external lawyers provided legal advice	6	3	3
	Number of lawyers	6	3	3
	Expenditure ^{Note}	About \$490,000	About \$370,000	About \$500,000
To seek independent legal advice on institutional operation and individual complaint cases	Number of cases where external lawyers provides legal advice	1	1	1
	Number of lawyers	1	1	1
	Expenditure	A total of about \$270,000 in 3 years		

Note: The aforementioned expenditure incurred in seeking legal assistance between 2015 and 2017 mainly includes:

- (1) engaging external counsels to attend hearings in courts;
- (2) engaging external counsels to provide legal advice; and
- (3) engaging other professionals, including conciliators, engineers or other experts, to provide professional advice.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB036****(Question Serial No. 0903)**Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs BureauSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland AffairsControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

- A) Please provide information on the full text versions of the Basic Law printed, date of printing, number of copies, as well as the target and method of distribution.
- B) When new version with added contents is printed, how is the old version disposed of?
- C) What measures has the Government adopted to facilitate the general public to obtain and read the full text of the Basic Law and the related constitutional documents?

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 52)Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) seeks to enhance the public to have a more comprehensive and thorough understanding of the “one country, two systems” principle and the Basic Law via different means, which includes publishing printed copies of the Basic Law for distribution to the public. The printed copies of the Basic Law are available at places including the Public Enquiry Service Centres of District Offices in all districts in Hong Kong, the Civic Education Resource Centre and the Basic Law Library, etc. Moreover, the CMAB also distributes printed copies of the Basic Law at Basic Law promotional activities such as roving exhibitions, mobile resource centres and seminars.

2. Details on the printing and distribution of printed copies of the Basic Law by the CMAB in the past 3 financial years are as follows:

Financial year	No. of printed copies	Date of publication
2015-16	58 000	March 2015
2016-17	45 000	March 2015 and September 2016
2017-18	75 000	April 2017

3. The CMAB will update the contents of the printed copy of the Basic Law timely by incorporating documents related to the Basic Law. When a new version of the printed copy is published, we will attach loose pages containing new contents to the printed copies of the last version if there is still stock left.

4. To facilitate the public to obtain and read the Basic Law, the CMAB has uploaded the full text of the Basic Law and relevant documents onto the dedicated website and smart-phone application of the Basic Law to allow easy and convenient browsing by the public.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB037

(Question Serial No. 0911)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

According to the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2018-19, the Bureau will set up a Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area Development Office and co-ordinate the work of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) in taking forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area (the Bay Area).

- (1) Will an office be set up and staff be recruited in Hong Kong? What are the estimated expenditure involved?
- (2) Will an office be set up and staff be recruited in the Mainland? What are the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 3)

Reply:

The Development Plan of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area (the Development Plan) will be promulgated soon. After promulgation of the Development Plan, we will set up the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area Development Office (the Office) under the establishment of this Bureau as early as possible. In terms of establishment, the Office involves 6 additional posts, namely 1 officer at point three of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Administrative Officer, 1 Senior Executive Officer, 1 Personal Secretary I and 1 Assistant Clerical Officer. In 2018-19, the estimated expenditure of the Office is about \$13.5 million.

2. This Bureau will also take forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area with the assistance of Mainland Offices of the HKSAR Government. As the work in this respect is an integral part of the duties and functions of the officers concerned at the Mainland Offices, the manpower and provision required cannot be separately singled out and itemised.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB038

(Question Serial No. 0912)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau is responsible for, amongst others, 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 2018-19, 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. (LegCo use): 4)

Reply:

In 2018-19, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) will set aside about \$17 million for enabling the public to have a more comprehensive and thorough understanding of the “one country, two systems” principle and the Basic Law by organising various types of activities through different means. The strategies to promote the Basic Law include:

- (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.

2. Under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (BLPSC) provides 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.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB039

(Question Serial No. 0260)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the promotion of the Basic Law, please advise this Committee of:

- (1) the expenditure and staff establishment involved in the promotion of the Basic Law to the public through various means (e.g. large-scale seminar, electronic media, exhibition and mobile resources centre) in the past 5 years; and
- (2) the recurrent expenditure and staff establishment for maintaining the Basic Law Court Case Database, as well as the number of visits and access to Basic Law provisions and contents since the introduction of the database.

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 1)

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) has organised various types of activities through different means to enable the public to have a more comprehensive and thorough understanding of the “one country, two systems” principle and the Basic Law, and has incurred an amount of about \$16 million in each of the financial years of 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 in this respect. In 2017-18, the relevant provision is \$17 million.

2. Under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (BLPSC) provides 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. As the above work is the regular duties of the relevant bureaux and departments, the manpower involved cannot be separately singled out and itemised.

3. The CMAB is responsible for managing the Basic Law Court Case Database which was launched in April 2017. The Database contains court cases, judgments and judicial explanations related to the Basic Law, so that members of the public can understand the provisions and contents of the Basic Law through court cases. The Database also includes “Basic Law Questions and Answers” and a “Basic Law Time Capsule” to enhance the understanding of various sectors of the community on the Basic Law. As at end February 2018, the Database has recorded more than 120 000 visits. Since the database contractor will bear the operating and maintenance costs for the first 3 years of operation, no additional recurrent expenditure will be incurred by the Government during this period.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB040****(Question Serial No. 0292)**Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs BureauSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland AffairsControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

In view of the plan to develop the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area, the Government will set up a Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area Development Office to carry out research and studies, organise seminars and conferences, and take forward promotion and publicity programmes in this respect. Will the Government inform this Committee:

1. of the progress of setting up the office, the estimated staff establishment and the estimated expenditure of the office in 2018-19;
2. of the work priorities of the office in 2018-19;
3. whether the 7 posts under Programme (2) are created for the office; and
4. whether performance objectives and indicators will be established to measure the performance of the office?

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 12)Reply:

The Development Plan of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area (the Development Plan) will be promulgated soon. After promulgation of the Development Plan, we will set up the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area Development Office (the Office) under the establishment of this Bureau as early as possible. Among the 7 additional posts under Programme (2), 6 are under the Office, namely 1 officer at point three of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Administrative Officer, 1 Senior Executive Officer, 1 Personal Secretary I and 1 Assistant Clerical Officer. In 2018-19, the estimated expenditure of the Office is about \$13.5 million.

2. The work priorities of the Office for 2018-19 include the following: to carry out promotion and publicity work and disseminate information to deepen the understanding of the public and industries on the Bay Area Development; to co-ordinate with relevant central

ministries/departments, the Guangdong Provincial Government and the Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) Government, as well as the relevant bureaux/departments of the Hong Kong SAR Government in formulating an annual work plan to take forward the Bay Area Development; and to maintain close liaison with business associations, professional bodies and relevant stakeholders to gauge their views on implementation of the Development Plan. Since the work of the Office cannot be quantified, we have not set any performance indicators in this respect.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB041

(Question Serial No. 1290)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

To address the emerging advocacy for an “independent Hong Kong”, will the Government set up a dedicated study project to explore on the ways to safeguard the Basic Law in order to resist the spread of the advocacy at all levels? If yes, what are the details; if no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LAU Kwok-fan (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 40)

Reply:

The Preamble of the Basic Law clearly states that Hong Kong has been part of the territory of China since ancient times. Article 1 of the Basic Law points out that the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (the HKSAR) is an inalienable part of the People's Republic of China. Article 12 of the Basic Law also states that the HKSAR shall be a local administrative region of the People's Republic of China, which shall enjoy a high degree of autonomy and come directly under the Central People's Government. These provisions have made clear that Hong Kong has all along been an inalienable part of China.

2. In 2018-19, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau has set aside about \$17 million for organising various promotional activities via different means to enable the public to have a more comprehensive and thorough understanding of the “one country, two systems” principle and the Basic Law. This Bureau has not specifically earmarked dedicated provision regarding the subject of “independent Hong Kong”.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB042****(Question Serial No. 1291)**

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

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

Question:

The aims of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices set up by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government (i.e. the Beijing Office; the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETO) in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan; and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan) are to enhance liaison, communication, trade and commercial relations 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) 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) 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; and
- (3) Set out in table form the number and nature of requests for assistance and enquiries received by the offices in the past year, and advise on the number of cases to be followed up, being processed and resolved.

Asked by: Hon LAU Kwok-fan (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 41)

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) proactively serve as important bridges between Hong Kong and the Mainland/Taiwan, including enhancing

liaison and communication with counterparts in the areas under their coverage; representing and promoting Hong Kong's trade and commercial interests; encouraging and attracting investments to Hong Kong and promoting Hong Kong as a desirable platform to develop markets along the Belt and Road; 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; providing practical assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland/Taiwan; and providing information and other appropriate support to Hong Kong residents.

2. The 2017-18 revised estimated expenditure and 2018-19 estimated expenditure of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices are set out in the table below:

Office	Revised estimated expenditure for 2017-18 (\$ million)	Estimated expenditure for 2018-19 (\$ million)
BJO and its liaison units	89.36	80.21
Guangdong ETO and its liaison units	67.21	62.03
Shanghai ETO and its liaison units	61.01	56.70
Chengdu ETO and its liaison units	51.40	42.67
Wuhan ETO and its liaison units	47.74	45.95
Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan	24.99	27.40

3. For the BJO and its liaison offices, the establishment in 2017-18 and 2018-19 comprises 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 2018-19 will be \$36.58 million.

4. For the Guangdong ETO and its liaison offices, the establishment in 2017-18 and 2018-19 comprises 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 2018-19 will be \$28.18 million.

5. For the Shanghai ETO and its liaison offices, the establishment in 2017-18 and 2018-19 comprises 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade B) and 14 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, 2 Immigration Officers, 1 Senior Information Officer and 1 Senior Executive Officer). The estimated expenditure on salaries and allowances for the above posts in 2018-19 will be \$23.21 million.

6. For the Chengdu ETO and its liaison offices, the establishment in 2017-18 and 2018-19 comprises 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade C) and 12 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, 1 Immigration Officer and 1 Senior Executive Officer). The estimated expenditure on salaries and allowances for the above posts in 2018-19 will be \$18.38 million.

7. For the Wuhan ETO and its liaison offices, the establishment in 2017-18 and 2018-19 comprises 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade C) and 12 non-directorate officers (namely 2 Senior Administrative Officers, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Principal Trade Officer, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Senior Information Officer, 2 Immigration Officers and 1 Senior Executive Officer). The estimated expenditure on salaries and allowances for the above posts in 2018-19 will be \$16.65 million.

8. For the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan, the establishment in 2017-18 and 2018-19 comprises 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 2018-19 will be \$13.09 million.

9. The numbers of enquiries and requests for assistance received by the Mainland Offices (including the liaison units under their purview) in 2017 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	1 970	23 802	88	21
Guangdong ETO	4 242	8 134	177	76
Chengdu ETO	2 102	1 993	78	8
Shanghai ETO	1 005	5 783	59	22
Wuhan ETO ^{Note}	156	115	13	8

^{Note} The Immigration Division of Wuhan ETO commenced operation on 27 November 2017.

10. 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.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB043

(Question Serial No. 1665)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2018-19 under this Programme include: to collate practical and useful information and disseminate to Hong Kong people living in the Mainland and Taiwan. Would the Government advise this Committee of the areas of information provided, the specific work carried out in the past, the effectiveness of the work done and the expenditure involved? What are the specific work plans and estimated expenditure for the 2018-19 financial year?

Asked by: Hon LAU Kwok-fan (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 42)

Reply:

To support Hong Kong residents in the Mainland and Taiwan, the Mainland and Taiwan Offices collect and update from time to time practical information, including medical care, education and 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, Hangzhou, Shandong, Chengdu, Chongqing, Xi'an, Guiyang, Wuhan, Changsha, Zhengzhou and Taiwan. The Mainland and Taiwan Offices also liaise closely with organisations of Hong Kong residents, business associations, enterprises and student groups from time to time to better understand the situations of Hong Kong residents working, studying and living in the Mainland and 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, and providing information on further study and job opportunities and holding career talks etc. to address the needs of Hong Kong students. In 2018-19, the Mainland and Taiwan Offices will continue with the above work.

2. Since August 2017, the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council has announced two batches of policy measures introduced by the relevant central authorities to facilitate Hong Kong residents studying, working and living in the Mainland. The measures announced cover areas of education, employment, setting up business and daily

life matters, etc., and enable Hong Kong people in the Mainland to enjoy in these areas the same treatment as residents of the Mainland. Since the introduction of the two batches of facilitation measures, the Mainland Offices have, through various channels such as websites, WeChat public accounts, emails and gatherings of Hong Kong people, disseminated information in relation to the facilitation measures. In 2018-19, the Mainland Offices will keep a close watch on the facilitation measures for Hong Kong residents with a view to disseminating relevant information to Hong Kong people living in the Mainland in a timely manner.

3. As the work of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices in providing practical and useful information to Hong Kong people living in the Mainland and Taiwan is an integral part of their roles and functions, the estimated expenditure involved cannot be separately singled out and itemised.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB044

(Question Serial No. 0216)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The financial provision for the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) in 2018-19 is 6.1% lower than the original estimate in 2017-18. What are the reasons? How will the Government ensure that adequate resources are available for the EOC to discharge its functions?

Asked by: Hon LEE Kok-long, Joseph (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 27)

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 a 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. The decrease in the financial provision of the EOC in 2018-19 is mainly due to a one-off special provision of \$9.5 million in 2017-18 to support the EOC's expenditure on office relocation and fitting-out work of its new office. Excluding one-off provisions, the financial provision for the EOC in 2018-19 has actually increased by 1.9% when compared with the one in 2017-18.

3. 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

CMAB045

(Question Serial No. 0217)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention that the Government will advocate equal opportunities in education and employment for ethnic minorities. What are the specific work plans in this respect? What are the resources and manpower involved?

Asked by: Hon LEE Kok-long, Joseph (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 28)

Reply:

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) enforces the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 480), Disability Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 487), Family Status Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 527) and Race Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 602) (RDO); and carries out respective publicity and education programmes and enforcement work under these Ordinances. Based on the information provided by the EOC, its expenditure on publicity and public education (including staff costs) for 2018-19 is estimated to be \$27.93 million, about 25% of the aforementioned expenditure is used for publicity and education efforts on the elimination of race discrimination.

2. Starting from 2014-15, the Government has been providing a recurrent funding of \$4.69 million each year to the EOC for enhancing publicity and public education of the RDO. The Ethnic Minorities Unit (EM Unit) set up for this purpose promotes equal opportunities in education and employment for EMs through advocacy, training and promotional efforts. Besides, the Government provided a one-off funding of \$2 million to the EOC in 2014-15 for promoting the RDO and provided another one-off funding of \$3 million to the EOC in 2017-18 for promoting equal opportunities of EMs. The funded programmes include media campaigns, production of educational publications, implementation of partnership projects to explore the feasibility of introducing qualification accreditation for EM language interpreters and conducting integrated research on EMs education, academic and employment pathway with a view to drawing up practical guidebooks for EM youth.

3. Currently, the EM Unit is comprised of 1 Senior Equal Opportunities Officer, 1 Training Officer, 2 Equal Opportunities Officers, 2 Assistant Equal Opportunities Officers and 1 Assistant Information Technology Officer. The Assistant Information Technology Officer also concurrently supports the work of other divisions.

4. In 2018-19, the EOC will advocate the rights of EMs to education and employment through the following publicity and public education efforts:

- (a) on education, the EOC has set up the Working Group on Education for EMs to conduct a systematic study on the current position of Chinese language learning by EM students, and to collate the opinions of the major stakeholders with a view to submitting comprehensive recommendations to the Government. To promote fair admission policies and an inclusive learning environment, the EOC will also publish easy guides and organise training programmes for teaching staff, parents and students in schools; and
- (b) on employment, the EOC has set up a working group on “Mainstreaming Employment Opportunities in Residential Care and Healthcare Industries for EMs” to explore the feasibility of introducing a set of entry and registration requirements on Chinese proficiency having regard to the job requirement for registration and training of healthcare workers. In addition, the EOC has rolled out two programmes, namely the Charter for Racially Inclusive Workplace and Racially Inclusive Employer Award, with a view to encouraging employers to learn from those exemplary enterprises by adopting good practices in the employment of EMs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB046

(Question Serial No. 0218)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention that the Government will foster a friendly environment free from discrimination and harassment. In this respect, what are the numbers of requests for assistance and complaints received in the past 3 years? What are the specific plans for the improvement of the situation concerned in 2018-19, and what are the resources and manpower involved?

Asked by: Hon LEE Kok-long, Joseph (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 29)

Reply:

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) enforces the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 480), Disability Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 487) (DDO), Family Status Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 527) and Race Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 602) (RDO); and carries out publicity and public education programmes and enforcement work under these ordinances. During the period from 2015 to 2017, the EOC received a total of 1 534 complaints lodged under the four anti-discrimination ordinances. Amongst these complaints, 926 were related to discrimination; 332 to harassment; 238 to vilification; and 38 to other matters. At present, the Complaint Services Division has an establishment of 26 staff and its estimated expenditure for 2018-19 is \$21.20 million.

2. According to the information provided by the EOC, the EOC will work to advocate the rights of ethnic minorities (EMs) and persons with disabilities to education and employment opportunities and access to services through the following activities and programmes in 2018-19:

- (a) on education, the EOC has set up the Working Group on Education for EMs to conduct a systematic study on the current position of Chinese language learning by EM students, and to collate the opinions of the major stakeholders with a view to submitting comprehensive recommendations to the Government. To promote fair admission policies and an inclusive learning environment, the EOC will also publish easy guides and organise

training programmes for teaching staff, parents and students in schools. Furthermore, through the cooperation platform established a few years ago, regular meetings are held between the EOC and representatives from 10 local universities to study the formulation of policies and measures to support and facilitate students with special education needs in local higher institutes;

- (b) on employment, the EOC has set up a working group on “Mainstreaming Employment Opportunities in Residential Care and Healthcare Industries for EMs” to explore the feasibility of introducing a set of entry and registration requirements on Chinese proficiency having regard to the job requirement for registration and training of healthcare workers. In addition, the EOC has rolled out two programmes, namely the Charter for Racially Inclusive Workplace and Racially Inclusive Employer Award, with a view to encouraging employers to learn from those exemplary enterprises by adopting good practices in the employment of EMs; and
- (c) on the provision of goods, services and facilities, the EOC has been providing training concerning the RDO and cultural sensitivity to service providers in both public and private sectors such as Government departments, public bodies (including the Hospital Authority and the Estate Agents Authority) and industry associations (including the Hong Kong Association of Banks and the Hong Kong Institute of Bankers). Furthermore, the EOC will collaborate with a local university to explore the possibility of introducing a feasible mechanism for the qualification accreditation of interpreters in order to enhance the professionalism of community interpretation service. In 2017, the EOC published a study report on barrier-free taxis in Hong Kong and put forth recommendations and measures for the consideration of relevant government departments on how to improve local barrier-free taxi services. In 2018, the EOC will continue to cooperate with the Government, stakeholders of public transport services and training organisations to provide recommendations and relevant information with respect to the provision of training courses for taxi drivers and enhance their awareness of matters relating to disability discrimination, disability harassment and vilification. The EOC will also promote the rights of persons with disabilities by means of the “Funding Programme of Research Projects on Equal Opportunities”.

3. The estimated numbers of beneficiaries of each programme are as follows:

Area	Programme	Estimated number
Education	Easy guide	All schools in the territory
	Training courses	2 000 teaching staff, parents and students
	Roving drama performances in schools	65 000 students
Employment	Charter on Inclusive Workplace and Racially Inclusive Employer Award	Employees of 50 participating business organisations
Provision of goods, facilities and services	Training courses	1 000 employees of the services industry

Area	Programme	Estimated number
Public education	Contributing feature articles to a number of newspapers, Community Participation Funding Programme on Equal Opportunities, radio programmes, essay competitions, youth mentorship programmes and multimedia publicity programmes	All Hong Kong residents

4. In order to build a pluralistic and inclusive society and to create a friendly environment which is free from discrimination and harassment, the EOC will continue to take forward the Anti-Sexual Harassment Campaign with a focus on the following four sectors, namely sports, higher education, female new arrivals and social services in 2018-19.

5. On the sports sector, the EOC organised a seminar entitled “To Foster the Olympic Spirit: Seminar on Eliminating Discrimination and Anti-Sexual Harassment in Sports Sector” in collaboration with the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China (SF&OC) in January 2018. After the seminar, the EOC and the SF&OC joined hands again in March 2018 and co-organised 2 more workshops for different sports organisations focusing on the topic of prevention of sexual harassment and the handling of related complaints. In mid-2018, both parties will conduct a joint questionnaire survey on the formulation of anti-sexual harassment policies by different sports organisations.

6. On new arrivals to Hong Kong, the EOC issued research findings of a study entitled “A Study on Knowledge of Sexual Harassment and Experience of being Sexually Harassed in the Service Industries: Comparing Recent Female Mainland Chinese Immigrants with Locally-born Women” on 2 March 2018. The study reveals that women newly arrived to Hong Kong have greater difficulties in identifying sexual harassment acts than women born locally. Having regard to the findings of the study, the Working Group on Anti-Sexual Harassment Campaign of the EOC is now inviting organisations providing services to new arrivals to offer training courses jointly with the EOC to their service users so as to enhance their awareness on sexual harassment.

7. On higher education, despite the fact that all the 10 universities in the territory have developed anti-sexual harassment policies on their own, the prevalence of sexual harassment incidents within university campuses remains largely unknown and no evaluation has ever been conducted to assess the effectiveness of the anti-sexual harassment policies of these institutions. The EOC will carry out a survey entitled “Sexual Harassment - Questionnaire Survey for University Students 2018” from late March to end-April 2018. The 9 local universities taking part in the survey will send emails containing a hyperlink to an online questionnaire to all full-time undergraduates and post-graduate students. The purpose of the questionnaire survey is to collect data in order to fathom the prevalence and nature of sexual harassment in campus and to evaluate the effectiveness of the sexual harassment handling policies and services of the universities. Upon obtaining the latest data and information, the EOC will make recommendations to the universities for the improvement of anti-sexual harassment measures. Based on the research findings, the EOC will also conduct a review on how related training to teaching staff and students of higher education should be provided in the future.

8. On the social services sector, 4 seminars and 4 workshops were organised for non-government organisations providing social services and other stakeholders in 2016 and 2017 respectively. In addition, the EOC will, at the invitation of the Hong Kong Association of Gerontology, continue to organise talks on equal opportunities (contents include anti-discrimination ordinances, sexual harassment and disability harassment, etc.) for its members working in residential care homes for the elderly in 2018.

9. Furthermore, the EOC will continue its efforts in promoting the creation of a friendly environment which is free of discrimination and harassment through a series of programmes and activities in 2018-19, including contributing feature articles to a number of newspapers; the Community Participation Funding Programme on Equal Opportunities; radio programmes; roving drama performances in schools; advertisements on MTR light-boxes; exhibitions; YouTube short video production; youth mentorship programmes and multi-media publicity plans, etc. to promote a friendly environment free from discrimination and harassment. The EOC will launch a brand new radio programme for 1 year in collaboration with Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK)'s Radio 1 to promote pluralistic inclusion, enhance the integration of persons with disabilities into the community and promote awareness and understanding of the DDO of the general public. The initiative, which is entitled "Employment Equality Project", has enlisted the support of 22 rehabilitation institutions. Under the initiative, a 52-episode radio drama series entitled "Life without Barriers" covering messages such as the introduction of DDO provisions and the rights and employment of persons with disabilities, etc. will be broadcast in "Care for Disabled" on RTHK Radio 1 at 1 pm every Sunday. In addition, a dedicated Facebook page will also be set up under the initiative to upload the latest broadcast of the radio drama. The Facebook page will also be used as a platform for updating information and activities on promoting pluralistic inclusion such as in-depth radio interviews and territory-wide essay competitions. On 19 May 2018, the EOC and RTHK Radio 1 will join hands to hold a large scale outdoor activity to promote the message of integration of persons with disabilities as well as pluralistic inclusion values in the community.

10. The EOC will continue to make use of online platforms such as YouTube channels to draw the attention of the public to issues concerning equal opportunities and social inclusion. Since the launch of the YouTube channel in 2008, a total of 290 short videos have been uploaded which have attracted more than 447 500 views. Based on the 12-episode YouTube short video series, the EO Documentaries, the EOC produced an education kit to promote the basic concepts of anti-discrimination ordinances for the use during training conducted by schools and institutions. The EOC will continue to produce more YouTube short videos based on equal opportunity issues that are of concern to the public in order to promote the message of anti-discrimination and pluralistic inclusion.

11. As the work mentioned above is part of the overall work of the EOC, a breakdown of the manpower and resources involved is not available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB047****(Question Serial No. 3504)**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
(TANG Yun-kwong)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

Regarding the percentage of concluding a complaint case within 6 months, the plan for 2018 is 78%. What are the reasons? Would the Government allocate additional resources and manpower to increase the percentage of concluding a complaint case within 6 months to the target level? If yes, what are the details; if no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEE Kok-long, Joseph (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 135)Reply:

Based on the information provided by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), the calculation method that has all along been adopted by the EOC is by making reference to figures in the previous year, thereby projecting the percentage of complaint cases that are expected to be concluded within 6 months in 2018. Moreover, whether a complaint case is expected to be concluded by the EOC within 6 months depends on various factors, such as whether the parties involved in the complaint actively provide information to facilitate the handling of the case. The EOC projects that the percentage of concluding a complaint case within 6 months in 2018 is similar to the actual percentages in the past 5 years. Details are set out in the table below:

Year	2013 (Actual)	2014 (Actual)	2015 (Actual)	2016 (Actual)	2017 (Actual)	2018 (Projected)
Percentage of concluding a complaint case within 6 months (%)*	78	77	77	76	78	78

* The performance indicator of the EOC is 75%.

2. Each year, the Government provides a subvention in the form of a 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.

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**CMAB048****(Question Serial No. 3505)**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
(TANG Yun-kwong)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

The estimated number of complaints to be handled in 2018 (795) is higher than the actual number in 2017 (696). In this regard, would the Government allocate additional resources and manpower to cope with the increased workload? If yes, what are the details; if no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEE Kok-long, Joseph (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 136)Reply:

Based on the information provided by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), the calculation method that has all along been adopted by the EOC is by making reference to figures in the previous year, thereby projecting the number of complaint cases that are expected to be handled in 2018. The EOC projects that the number of complaint cases to be handled in 2018 is similar to the actual numbers in the past 5 years. Details are set out in the table below:

Year	2013 (Actual)	2014 (Actual)	2015 (Actual)	2016 (Actual)	2017 (Actual)	2018 (Projected)
No. of cases	869	742	649	772	696	795

2. Each year, the Government provides a subvention in the form of a 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. 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

CMAB049

(Question Serial No. 1865)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

It is stated in paragraph 180 of the Budget Speech that “(t)o enhance collaboration within the Government on support for the ethnic minorities, the Chief Secretary for Administration will set up a steering committee to co-ordinate, review and monitor work in this area. I will earmark \$500 million to strengthen support for ethnic minorities.” What are the details and timetable of work in this respect and the items of expenditure in relation to the \$500 million?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 52)

Reply:

The Government attaches great importance to efforts to support the ethnic minorities (EMs), and will set up an inter-departmental steering committee, to be chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration, to co-ordinate, review and monitor work in this area and to enhance internal collaboration. The Government has also earmarked \$500 million to strengthen support for EMs.

2. Our initial plan is for the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau to provide secretariat support to the steering committee. We will consider deploying additional staff based on actual needs. The steering committee will give due consideration to the specific usage and modus operandi of the earmarked sum of \$500 million, including exploring new model of support, as well as making the best use of community wisdom and network to strengthen support for EMs. We will also listen to the views of different sectors and groups on the matter.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB050

(Question Serial No. 1869)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

At the Question and Answer Session on 11 January 2018, the Chief Executive Mrs Carrie Lam indicated that the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government would take the initiative to follow up on the facilitation measures for Hong Kong people to study, work and live in the Mainland, and that she would actively seek, in her visit to Beijing later, to have national treatment accorded to Hong Kong people in various aspects. To facilitate the implementation of national treatment to Hong Kong people in the Mainland, it is necessary for the HKSAR Government to put in place follow-up and support measures on areas including the portability of welfare benefits, mandatory provident fund, social insurance, as well as complementary measures to tie in with retirement care. What are the details of the work plan in this aspect and the expenditures involved for 2018-19?

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

Reply:

Since August 2017, the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council (HKMAO) has announced two batches of policy measures introduced by the relevant central authorities to facilitate Hong Kong and Macao residents studying, working and living in the Mainland. The measures announced cover areas of education, employment, setting up businesses and daily life matters, etc., and enable Hong Kong people in the Mainland to enjoy in these areas the same treatment as residents of the Mainland. The relevant new measures include:

- (a) on education, it is specified in clear terms that to protect the rights and interests of Hong Kong and Macao students, Mainland higher education institutions and relevant authorities must accord equal treatment for Hong Kong and Macao students in admission, nurture, management and supporting services. Furthermore, to facilitate their job search and employment, Mainland authorities also require higher education institutions to issue Employment Agreements and Employment Registration Certificates to students from Hong Kong and Macao upon their graduation. For

scholarships open to Hong Kong and Macao students as well as overseas Chinese students studying at Mainland higher education institutions, both the quota and amount have been increased;

- (b) on employment, the people of Hong Kong and Macao working in the Mainland can join the Housing Provident Fund and enjoy the same treatment accorded to Mainland residents in terms of base deposit, deposit ratio, processing procedures, as well as the drawing of money from the Housing Provident Fund, and the application for personal housing loans under the Housing Provident Fund, etc. People from Hong Kong/Macao leaving the Mainland to relocate back to Hong Kong/Macao will be allowed to draw any remaining balance in their Housing Provident Fund accounts, thereby facilitating them to plan for the longer term and achieve personal goals. Moreover, the Mainland authorities are actively studying issues including cancellation of the requirement for Hong Kong and Macao people to apply for work permit and participation in the social security scheme in the Mainland; and
- (c) on daily life matters, the China Railway Corporation has installed automatic ticket vending and issuing machines to read and verify Home Visit Re-entry Permits at train stations of various provinces and cities with relatively large demand for ticketing services from Hong Kong people. These ticketing machines can reduce the amount of time otherwise spent on queuing and processing for tickets at the counter.

2. Since the introduction of the two batches of facilitation measures, the Mainland Offices have, through various channels such as websites, WeChat public accounts, emails and gatherings of Hong Kong people, disseminated information in relation to the facilitation measures. Meanwhile, the Mainland Offices have been actively reflecting the views of Hong Kong people through day-to-day liaison with HKMAO and the relevant Mainland authorities. The aim is to strive for the provision of more facilitation for Hong Kong people studying, working and living in the Mainland and to promote the smooth implementation of the measures at the local level, thereby enabling Hong Kong people to capitalise on the opportunities brought about by the development of the country. In 2018-19, the Mainland Offices will continue to take forward the above work.

3. As the work of the Mainland Offices in promoting the introduction and implementation of facilitation measures by relevant Mainland authorities for Hong Kong people studying, working and living in the Mainland is an integral part of their roles and functions, the estimated expenditure involved cannot be separately singled out and itemised.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB051

(Question Serial No. 1881)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration provides the necessary steer on the overall programme and strategy for promoting the Basic Law, and provides an organisational focus for coordinating the efforts of various parties concerned, both in the Government and in the community. In this regard, would the Government advise this Committee on the following;

1. What are the expenditures incurred on the promotion of the Basic Law in the past 3 years?
2. How is the effectiveness of promotional programmes evaluated?
3. What are the evaluation results in each of the past 3 years?
4. Has the Government assessed the effectiveness of the current evaluation method? If yes, what are the results of assessment; if no, what are the reasons?
5. Would the Government strengthen promotion of the relationship between the Constitution of our country and the Basic Law? If yes, what are the details; if no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 16)

Reply:

The Constitution of the People's Republic of China (the Constitution) and the Basic Law form the constitutional basis of the HKSAR. The HKSAR Government has the responsibility to encourage the general public to have a comprehensive understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law. We have all along placed equal emphasis on the concepts of "one country" and "two systems" in our Basic Law publicity and promotional activities, including the relationship between the Constitution and the Basic Law.

2. The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) has been organising various types of activities through different means to enable the public to have a more comprehensive and thorough understanding of the “one country, two systems” principle and the Basic Law. In this respect, an actual expenditure of about \$16 million was incurred in each of the financial years of 2015-16 and 2016-17. In 2017-18, the relevant provision is \$17 million.

3. Under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (BLPSC) provides views and steer on the overall strategy and key aspects for promoting the Basic Law, and monitors, evaluates and reviews Basic Law promotional programmes undertaken by government departments and non-governmental organisations. 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, Education Bureau, Civil Service Bureau, Trade and Industry Department and Information Services Department respectively in planning and organising various types of activities to promote the Constitution and the Basic Law on various fronts. The BLPSC and its working groups will review the format, content and effectiveness of promotional activities in relation to the Constitution and the Basic Law from time to time through evaluating their popularity based on the number and feedbacks of participants, and will give due regard to the development and trend of promotional media and information technology with a view to optimising our promotion strategy.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB052

(Question Serial No. 1908)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. In respect of providing practical assistance and support to Hong Kong residents in the Mainland, what is the specific work involved? Please provide information on the activities or projects undertaken by the Mainland Offices, the number of staff and amount of expenditures involved in the past 3 years.
2. Do the above activities or projects include the work of driving Hong Kong residents to enjoy the same treatment as Mainland residents? If yes, what are the items of expenditures involved in the past 3 years? What is the estimated expenditure in this respect in 2018-19, including the activities or projects to be carried out and the number of staff involved? If the above activities or projects do not include the work or its items of expenditure of driving Hong Kong residents to enjoy the same treatment as Mainland residents, what are the reasons?

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

Reply:

To support Hong Kong residents in the Mainland, the Mainland Offices collect and update from time to time practical information including medical care, education and 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 Offices have published booklets on living in Beijing, Tianjin, Shenyang, Guangdong, Shanghai, Hangzhou, Shandong, Chengdu, Chongqing, Xi'an, Guiyang, Wuhan, Changsha and Zhengzhou. The Mainland Offices also liaise closely with organisations of Hong Kong residents, business associations, enterprises and student groups from time to time to better understand the situations of Hong Kong residents working, studying and living in the Mainland, 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, and providing information on further study and job opportunities and holding career talks etc. to address the needs of Hong Kong students. In 2018-19, the Mainland Offices will continue with the above work.

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

3. In addition, the Mainland Offices also relay the opinions or requests of Hong Kong residents in the Mainland to the relevant Mainland authorities for follow-up. The Guangdong ETO 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. In 2015, 2016 and 2017, 2 251, 1 993 and 2 389 requests for free legal advisory service were received respectively.

4. Since August 2017, the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council has announced two batches of policy measures introduced by the relevant central authorities to facilitate Hong Kong residents studying, working and living in the Mainland. The measures announced cover areas of education, employment, setting up business and daily life matters, etc., and enable Hong Kong people in the Mainland to enjoy in these areas the same treatment as residents of the Mainland. Since the introduction of the two batches of facilitation measures, the Mainland Offices have, through various channels such as websites, WeChat public accounts, emails and gathering of Hong Kong people, disseminated information in relation to the facilitation measures. Meanwhile, the Mainland Offices have been actively reflecting the views of Hong Kong people through day-to-day liaison with the relevant Mainland authorities, with a view to striving for the provision of more facilitation for Hong Kong people studying, working and living in the Mainland, thereby enabling Hong Kong people to capitalise on the opportunities brought about by the development of the country. In 2018-19, the Mainland Offices will continue to take forward the above work.

5. As the work of the Mainland Offices in providing support to Hong Kong people living in the Mainland is an integral part of their roles and functions, the estimated expenditure involved cannot be separately singled out and itemised.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB053****(Question Serial No. 1910)**

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

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. (LegCo use): 50)

Reply:

Immigration Divisions of the Beijing Office (BJO) and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETO) in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan provide HKSAR passport replacement service to Hong Kong residents in the Mainland with effect from 7 November 2016. The estimated numbers of applications to be received and passports to be issued by the above Mainland Offices in 2018-19 are as follows:

	BJO	Guangdong ETO	Chengdu ETO	Shanghai ETO	Wuhan ETO	Total
No. of applications received	760	1 040	1 520	90	35	3 445
No. of passports issued	740	1 030	1 510	85	30	3 395

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

2. There are a total of 5 Principal Immigration Officers, 4 Chief Immigration Officers and 10 Immigration Officers in the BJO, Guangdong ETO, Shanghai ETO, Chengdu ETO and Wuhan 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

CMAB054

(Question Serial No. 1254)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Bureau will set up a Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area Development Office and co-ordinate the work of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government in taking forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area. What are the plan and indicators of work in this area, and the manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Che-cheung (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 20)

Reply:

The Development Plan of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area (the Development Plan) will be promulgated soon. After promulgation of the Development Plan, we will set up the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area Development Office (the Office) under the establishment of this Bureau as early as possible. The work priorities of the Office for 2018-19 include the following: to carry out promotion and publicity work and disseminate information to deepen the understanding of the public and industries on the Bay Area Development; to co-ordinate with relevant central ministries/departments, the Guangdong Provincial Government and the Macao Special Administrative Region Government, as well as and the relevant bureaux/departments of the HKSAR Government in formulating an annual work plan to take forward the Bay Area Development; and to maintain close liaison with business associations, professional bodies and relevant stakeholders to gauge their views on implementation of the Development Plan. Since the work of the Office cannot be quantified, we have not set any performance indicators in this respect.

2. In 2018-19, the Office involves 6 additional posts, namely 1 officer at point three of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Administrative Officer, 1 Senior Executive Officer, 1 Personal Secretary I and 1 Assistant Clerical Officer. The estimated expenditure of the Office is about \$13.5 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB055

(Question Serial No. 1543)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

To protect freedom of religion and freedom of sexual orientation, as well as the varied values and beliefs held by people with different background, the Government has been conducting study on discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation. However, the Government has not taken any follow-up action on the Study on Legislation against Discrimination on the Grounds of Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Intersex Status published by the Equal Opportunities Commission. In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. How much resources would the Government allocate to follow up on the Study?
2. Would the Government allocate resources to follow up on the Study in collaboration with schools, especially religious schools? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 8)

Reply:

The Government has been promoting the message of “Eliminate Discrimination, Embrace Inclusion” through public education and publicity, with a view to fostering in the community the culture and values of diversity, inclusiveness and mutual respect. The Advisory Group on Eliminating Discrimination against Sexual Minorities (the Advisory Group) and the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) published reports on elimination of discrimination against sexual minorities in 2015 and 2016 respectively. It is pointed out in both reports that the society is divided as to whether legislation should be introduced to prohibit discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity and recommended the Government consider further studying the concern expressed by some religious groups. The Government is conducting a further study on the experience of legislative and administrative measures of other jurisdictions to eliminate discrimination against sexual minorities which will include the experience of handling the concerns of religious groups as one of the study areas. We shall examine the findings of the study and map out the way forward for the next stage of work, including exploring the way to

co-operate with schools to eliminate discrimination on ground of sexual orientation while at the same time protecting the freedom of religion. Besides, we are also developing training resources for personnel in specific fields (including teachers) to enhance their sensitivity towards sexual minorities.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB056

(Question Serial No. 1544)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) is committed to handling cases in an impartial, just, fair and objective manner, and the situation of the ethnic minorities has become a cause for concern. In this connection, would the Government advise on:

1. the amount of resources to be deployed for solving the poverty problem of ethnic minorities;
2. the number of requests for assistance from ethnic minorities in relation to discrimination received by the EOC in the past 3 years; and
3. the amount of resources to be deployed for the education service of ethnic minorities to facilitate their integration into community? Please provide details on the expenditures for students and the public.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 9)

Reply:

The Government has all along been providing support measures to the ethnic minorities (EMs) through various bureaux and departments to facilitate their integration into the community. As long as they meet the eligibility criteria of the various social welfare and support services, EMs have equal access to the relevant services. We have no estimation of the amount of resources dedicated for ethnic minorities.

2. To enhance internal collaboration on support for EMs, the Government will set up a steering committee to be chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration to co-ordinate, review and monitor work in this area. \$500 million has been earmarked in the 2018-19 Budget to strengthen support for EMs.

3. The Equal Opportunities Commission received a total of 49 complaints concerning discrimination against EMs in the past 3 years, with an annual breakdown of 24, 10 and 15 in 2015, 2016 and 2017 respectively.

4. The Government is committed to encouraging and supporting the early integration of non-Chinese speaking (NCS) students* (notably EM students) into the community, including facilitating their adaptation to the local education system and mastery of the Chinese language. Education support measures provided to NCS students by the Education Bureau (EDB) and the relevant expenditure from the 2015/16 to 2017/18 school years are tabulated at **Annex**.

5. The Government also provides Vocational and Professional Education and Training (VPET) for different people through various VPET courses of the Vocational Training Council (VTC). All applicants meeting the admission requirements may enroll in VTC courses irrespective of their race or ethnicity. To meet the needs of NCS students, VTC runs a wide array of subsidised VPET courses, including part-time short courses such as Vocational Chinese and Workplace Chinese Communication to help them enhance their language proficiency and integrate into the local community. VTC provides various support services for NCS students taking pre-employment training courses to facilitate their effective learning and adaptation to campus life, including academic and learning support, career advice and counselling services, etc. Besides, VTC actively promotes extra-curricular activities with elements of cultural integration. VTC does not maintain a breakdown of the amount of resources deployed for courses designed for NCS students.

* For the planning of education support measures, students whose spoken language at home is not Chinese are broadly categorised as non-Chinese speaking students.

**Educational support measures for non-Chinese speaking (NCS) students
from the 2015/16 to 2017/18 school years**

Support measures	Actual expenditure in the 2015/16 school year \$ million	Actual expenditure in the 2016/17 school year \$ million	Estimated expenditure in the 2017/18 school year \$ million
Enhanced funding support and enhanced school-based professional support have been provided to facilitate schools' implementation of the "Chinese Language Curriculum Second Language Learning Framework" ("Learning Framework") and support of NCS students in learning Chinese language as well as creation of an inclusive environment in schools. Eligible schools may also apply for funding to provide after-school support for NCS students' learning of the Chinese language	224.0 (Note 1)	245.1 (Note 1)	258.5 (Note 1)
Development of the "Learning Framework" and the supporting learning and teaching materials for implementation starting from the 2014/15 school year	3.0 (Note 1)	3.0 (Note 1)	3.0 (Note 1)
Training programmes for Chinese Language teachers teaching NCS students	The programmes are subsumed under the overall professional development programme of EDB and a breakdown of expenditure by item is not available.	The programmes are subsumed under the overall professional development programme of EDB and a breakdown of expenditure by item is not available.	The programmes are subsumed under the overall professional development programme of EDB and a breakdown of expenditure by item is not available.

Support measures	Actual expenditure in the 2015/16 school year \$ million	Actual expenditure in the 2016/17 school year \$ million	Estimated expenditure in the 2017/18 school year \$ million
Chinese Language Learning Support Centres to offer remedial programmes after school hours and during holidays for those NCS students who have a late start in the learning of the Chinese language, to develop teaching resources, and to organise workshops for experience sharing with teachers and workshops for parents of NCS students with a view to strengthening collaboration with parents of NCS students in the support for NCS students' learning of Chinese	3.7	3.9	4.4
Summer Bridging Programme for NCS students in primary schools Starting from 2013, the programme has been refined to allow parents of NCS students to accompany their children with a view to enhancing their exposure to, and use of, Chinese and support for their children	2.6	2.6	2.3
Student grant for Applied Learning Chinese (for NCS students) starting from the 2014/15 school year	4.4	6.7	7.4

Support measures	Actual expenditure in the 2015/16 school year \$ million	Actual expenditure in the 2016/17 school year \$ million	Estimated expenditure in the 2017/18 school year \$ million
<p>Subsidising eligible school candidates sitting for the General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) (Chinese) Examination since 2010 to the effect that the fee level of the examination payable by the subsidised school candidates is on par with the Chinese Language paper in the Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination or Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education</p> <p>Starting from 2013, the examination subsidy coverage has been expanded to other non-local Chinese examinations including the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE), and the General Certificate of Education (GCE) Advanced Subsidiary (AS)-Level and Advanced (A)-Level</p>	2.09	2.58	2.95
District-based programmes in collaboration with non-governmental organisations since the 2012/13 school year to motivate NCS children to learn Chinese through fun activities such as games and creative art under the Language Fund	2.35	1.18	3.50
<p>Support for kindergartens admitting NCS students -</p> <p>University-School Support Programmes financed by the Education Development Fund:</p> <p>(i) a 3-year project to support kindergartens to enhance the learning and teaching of Chinese for NCS children from the 2012/13 to 2014/15 school years</p>	-	0.7	-

Support measures	Actual expenditure in the 2015/16 school year \$ million	Actual expenditure in the 2016/17 school year \$ million	Estimated expenditure in the 2017/18 school year \$ million
(ii) 2 projects to support NCS students in kindergartens in the transition to primary schools from the 2015/16 to 2016/17 school years and from the 2017/18 to 2018/19 school years respectively	(Note 2)	(Note 2)	(Note 2)
School-based professional support services	(Note 1)	(Note 1)	(Note 1)
(c) With the implementation of the new kindergarten education policy starting from the 2017/18 school year:			
(i) a grant comparable to the recommended salary of one kindergarten teacher has been provided to kindergartens admitting 8 or more NCS students for supporting NCS students	-	-	56.0
(ii) specific training courses for kindergarten teachers on support of NCS students	-	-	1.4

Notes:

- (1) These measures are provided by different sections of the EDB and deployment of staff may be adjusted having regard to the needs of individual schools. The relevant manpower resources and expenses are subsumed under the overall expenditure of EDB and/or different Funds including University-School Support Programme (USP) projects funded under the Education Development Fund and a breakdown of expenditure by item is not available.
- (2) Regarding the USP projects, the actual expenditure is \$2.25 million and \$8.33 million for the 2015/16 and 2016/17 school years respectively; and the estimated expenditure is \$2.88 million and \$5.46 million for the 2017/18 and 2018/19 school years respectively. As this USP project is provided for both kindergartens and primary schools, a breakdown of expenditure for kindergartens and primary schools is not available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB057

(Question Serial No. 1545)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Currently, the Government is making great efforts to promote the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area (the Bay Area). In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee of:

1. the amount of resources deployed by the HKSAR Government to the infrastructure development of the Bay Area; and
2. of the amount of legal support offered by the Government in relation to the Bay Area?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 10)

Reply:

The Hong Kong Section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (XRL), Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) and the Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point (BCP) are key infrastructure projects for linking up Hong Kong with other cities in the Bay Area.

2. According to the information provided by the Transport and Housing Bureau, after the commissioning of the Hong Kong Section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (XRL) in the third quarter of 2018, the commuting time between Hong Kong and cities in the Bay Area will be greatly shortened. The Approved Project Estimate of the XRL project is \$86.42 billion. As regards the HZMB, it is an unprecedented cross-boundary transport infrastructure connecting Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao. With HZMB, travelling time between Hong Kong and western Pearl River Delta (PRD) will be reduced significantly and thereby bringing western PRD into the area that is accessible from Hong Kong within 3 hours' drive. The approved project estimates for Hong Kong side's contribution to the construction of the HZMB Main Bridge and the Hong Kong section projects (i.e. Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities & Hong Kong Link Road projects) are as follows:

Project	Approved project estimate (\$ billion)
HZMB Main Bridge (within Mainland waters)	9.28 (Hong Kong side's contribution) ^{Note}
Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities	35.895
Hong Kong Link Road	25.047

^{Note} According to the approval of the Ministry of Transport, the latest approved project estimate of the HZMB Main Bridge is RMB48.068 billion, i.e. the cost overrun of the Main Bridge is about RMB9.95 billion. In accordance with this latest project estimate as approved by the Ministry of Transport, it is expected that the three sides would have to contribute a capital cost of about RMB4.6 billion; as for the contribution from Hong Kong, it is expected to be about RMB2.0 billion. Transport and Housing Bureau will seek LegCo's approval for the required additional funding as appropriate.

3. As regards the Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai BCP and associated works, according to the information provided by the Development Bureau, the total Approved Project Estimate is \$35.3597 billion in money-of-the-day prices, including the construction of the boundary control point buildings, the roads connecting the boundary control point with Fanling Highway, the regulation of Shenzhen River stage IV and the other associated works as well as the consultants services.

4. In addition, according to the information provided by the Department of Justice (DoJ), the promotion of international legal and dispute resolution services in the Bay Area primarily falls within the purview of the China Law Unit of the Legal Policy Division of DoJ. The Joint Dispute Resolution Strategy Office established in September 2016 is also responsible for the overall strategies over the promotion of Hong Kong's international legal and dispute resolution services, including that in relation to the Bay Area. The above DoJ Unit and Office undertake the promotional work in the Bay Area in addition to their other duties. The expenditure involved in this specific area cannot therefore be separately identified.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB058

(Question Serial No. 1546)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

With increasing exchanges between Guangdong and Hong Kong/Macao, more and more Hong Kong residents are now living in the Mainland. In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee as to whether:

1. it has kept statistics on the number of Hong Kong residents living in the Mainland;
2. additional resources will be deployed to provide assistance to Hong Kong residents living in the Mainland (including Hong Kong students in the Mainland); and
3. measures will be taken or resources will be allocated to cater for the essential needs of Hong Kong residents living in the Mainland, including policy support as well as legal, medical and housing needs?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 11)

Reply:

To support Hong Kong residents in the Mainland, the Mainland Offices collect and update from time to time practical information including medical care, education and legal services, and disseminate such information through information booklets and the offices' websites to assist Hong Kong residents to adapt to living in the area. The Mainland Offices have published booklets on living in Beijing, Tianjin, Shenyang, Guangdong, Shanghai, Hangzhou, Shandong, Chengdu, Chongqing, Xi'an, Guiyang, Wuhan, Changsha and Zhengzhou. Moreover, the Mainland Offices also liaise closely with organisations of Hong Kong residents, business associations, enterprises and student groups in the area from time to time to better understand the situations of Hong Kong residents working, studying and living in the Mainland, 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, and providing information on further study and job opportunities and holding career talks etc. to address the needs of Hong Kong students.

2. Since August 2017, the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council has announced two batches of policy measures to facilitate Hong Kong residents to develop in the Mainland. The facilitation measures announced cover areas of education, employment, starting businesses and daily lives, and allow Hong Kong people in the Mainland to enjoy in these areas the same treatment as residents of the Mainland. Since the promulgation of the two batches of facilitation measures, the Mainland Offices have, through various channels such as websites, WeChat public accounts, emails and gatherings of Hong Kong residents, disseminated information in relation to the facilitation measures. In 2018-19, the Mainland Offices will keep a close watch on facilitation measures for Hong Kong residents with a view to providing the related information to Hong Kong residents living in the Mainland in a timely manner.

3. In 2018-19, the Mainland Offices will continue to take forward the above work using existing resources.

4. The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau does not keep statistics on the number of Hong Kong residents living in the Mainland.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB059

(Question Serial No. 1553)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The disqualification of Agnes CHOW Ting of Demosistō from running in the election last month by a Returning Officer (RO) has become the talk of the town. Some agree with the RO's decision while some others consider ROs are vested with excessive power. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee:

1. Whether it has allocated resources to look into the arrangement of charging ROs or even members of the Electoral Affairs Commission (EAC) with the responsibility of deciding on the eligibility of a candidate? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
2. Whether it has allocated resources to study the formulation of clear guidelines for frontline civil servants? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 18)

Reply:

In accordance with the Legislative Council Ordinance and the Electoral Affairs Commission (Electoral Procedure) (Legislative Council) Regulation, whether a candidate's nomination is valid or not is determined by the Returning Officer according to the legal requirements and relevant procedures.

2. Depending on the actual circumstances of each case, the Returning Officer may seek legal advice and may, where necessary, require the candidate to furnish additional information that he/she considers appropriate according to the Electoral Affairs Commission (Electoral Procedure) (Legislative Council) Regulation, so as to satisfy himself/herself as to the eligibility of the candidate or the validity of the nomination. The Returning Officer shall, in accordance with the law and having considered the relevant information, decide whether or not a person is validly nominated as a candidate.

3. The Government will, in light of the latest developments, including the Court's judgment in respect of a relevant election petition lodged against the result of the

2016 Legislative Council Election, as well as the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress's interpretation of Article 104 of the Basic Law, examine the relevant legislation. These tasks are Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau's election-related work and are carried out by the staff in the existing establishment of the Bureau.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB060

(Question Serial No. 1554)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Standing Committee of the National People's Congress adopted the decision to add the National Anthem Law to Annex III of the Basic Law of Hong Kong and Macao in November 2017, which has kick-started the process of legislation for the National Anthem Law in Hong Kong. In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee as to whether:

1. additional resources will be deployed to publicise the consequences of acting in an offensive manner when the national anthem is played on large occasions; and
2. resources will be deployed to design curriculum for primary and secondary school students to promote the National Anthem Law or national identity?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 19)

Reply:

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region has already commenced work on the local legislation to implement the National Anthem Law. To complement the legislative work, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau will broadcast Announcements in the Public Interests (APIs) on television and radio in the second quarter of this year to promote the background of the national anthem, as well as the etiquette for the performance and singing of the national anthem using existing resources.

2. With respect to primary and secondary education, the learning contents of the national anthem have already been incorporated into the subject curricula (such as General Studies and Music) at primary and secondary levels and in Moral, Civic and National Education. Starting from the junior primary level, students have ample opportunities in and outside lessons to sing the national anthem. Schools generally play the national anthem during the flag-raising ceremony on important days and special occasions, such as speech day and sports day. The Education Bureau will give due attention to the local legislation process for the National Anthem Law, take prompt action to review the curriculum and administrative arrangements, and update the learning and teaching resources

so as to support schools in the effective implementation of Constitution and Basic Law Education, as well as to develop in students a respect for the national anthem.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB061

(Question Serial No. 0817)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

For the financial provision in 2017-18, the estimate for the Director of Bureau's Office has increased by 17.2% but the revised provision has reduced by 8.6%. Please explain why the provision is reduced. The estimate for 2018-19 has increased by 13.2% (\$1.4 million), mainly due to the increased provision for salary expenses. In this regard, please give details on the distribution of the above expenditure, staff establishment and post, salary and operating expenses, as well as the work programmes involved?

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 1)

Reply:

The revised estimate for 2017-18 is \$1 million (8.6%) lower than the original estimate for the same financial year. This is mainly due to the fact that the position of Political Assistant was left vacant for a period of time in 2017-18. The estimate for 2018-19 is 13.2% (\$1.4 million) higher than the revised estimate for 2017-18. This is mainly due to the full-year provision for the salary of the position of Political Assistant and salary increment of the Politically Appointed Officials.

2. In the 2018-19 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 \$4.01 million, \$3.01 million and \$1.2 million respectively. Apart from Director of Bureau, Deputy Director of Bureau and Political Assistant, 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. In 2018-19, the total estimated provision for their salaries, allowances and related expenditure is about \$3.72 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB062****(Question Serial No. 0818)**

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2018-19 include setting up a Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area Development Office and co-ordinate the work of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government in taking forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area, which involves an increased provision of \$18.8 million (16.2%) and 7 additional posts. In this regard, please give details of the estimated expenditure. What are the staff establishment and post, and salary and operating expenses involved? What are the specific work programmes and performance targets?

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 2)

Reply:

The Development Plan of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area (the Development Plan) will be promulgated soon. After promulgation of the Development Plan, we will set up the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area Development Office (the Office) under the establishment of this Bureau as early as possible. Of the increased provision under Programme (2), about \$13.5 million is the estimated expenditure of the Office. As for the 7 additional posts under Programme (2), 6 are under the Office, namely 1 officer at point three of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Administrative Officer, 1 Senior Executive Officer, 1 Personal Secretary I and 1 Assistant Clerical Officer.

2. The work priorities of the Office for 2018-19 include the following: to carry out promotion and publicity work and disseminate information to deepen the understanding of the public and industries on the Bay Area Development; to co-ordinate with relevant central ministries/departments, the Guangdong Provincial Government, and the Macao Special Administrative Region Government, as well as the relevant bureaux/departments of the HKSAR Government in formulating an annual work plan to take forward the Bay Area Development; and to maintain close liaison with business associations, professional bodies and relevant stakeholders to gauge their views on implementation of the Development Plan.

Since the work of the Office cannot be quantified, we have not set any performance indicators in this respect.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB063

(Question Serial No. 0819)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

For the financial provision in 2017-18, the estimated provision for the Mainland and Taiwan Offices has increased by 26.9% but the revised provision has reduced by 3.6%. Please explain why the provision is reduced. Provision for 2018-19 has further reduced by 7.8%, mainly due to the conclusion of the activities in the Mainland to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. However, this year marks the 40th anniversary of China's reform and opening up policy. In this regard, will the Government organise any publicity and celebration programmes, and what are the manpower arrangement and estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 3)

Reply:

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 organised 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, and film festivals, hence contributing to the significant increase in the estimate for 2017-18. As, there are slight adjustments based on market conditions in the expenditures for organising the above events, and their actual operating expenditures of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices are slightly lower than the estimated expenditure, there is a slight downward adjustment in the revised estimate over the original one.

2. 2018 marks the 40th anniversary of China's reform and opening up policy. The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region will deploy manpower and resources as required to organise publicity and celebration programmes in relation to the occasion.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB064****(Question Serial No. 0820)**

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

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

Question:

Regarding the “unreferred visa/entry permit applications” for the Immigration Divisions of the Beijing Office and Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Shanghai, the estimated number of applications received for 2017 is 2 640 while the actual number is 5 018, and the estimated number for 2018 has however reduced significantly to 2 580. In this regard, would the Government explain the reasons of the drastic changes in above two years? What are the staff establishment and estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 4)

Reply:

The estimated number of “unreferred visa/entry permit applications” processed by the Immigration Division of the Beijing Office (BJO) and the Economic and Trade Office in Shanghai (Shanghai ETO) for 2017 is a projection adjusted on the basis of the actual figure for 2016. The actual figure may vary with the situation throughout the year. In 2017, there was a significant increase in the number of people applying for relevant visa/entry permit to Hong Kong to participate in a series of programmes in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, resulting in a higher number of applications as compared to the estimate. Since the celebration programmes have been concluded, the number of applications in 2018 is estimated to be similar to that in 2016.

2. There are a total of 2 Principal Immigration Officers, 2 Chief Immigration Officers and 5 Immigration Officers in the Immigration Divisions of BJO and Shanghai ETO. As the work on processing “unreferred visa/entry permit applications” is an integral part of the duties and functions of the Immigration Division of the above Mainland Offices, the manpower involved cannot be separately singled out and itemized.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB065

(Question Serial No. 0821)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The estimated number of self-initiated investigations to be carried out by the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD) in 2018 is two only, with the assumption that most data users nowadays would take immediate remedial actions after data breach incidents, and hence further follow up by way of investigations will not be required. In this regard, would PCPD provide details of the saving in manpower and expenditure, how the resources saved would be redeployed? Please specify details of the work involved.

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 5)

Reply:

In the event of a data breach or where there is a non-compliance with the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance by organisations, it is the established practice of the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD) to first follow up by conducting compliance checks. The procedures of the checks include obtaining facts, identifying root cause of the incident, evaluating the effectiveness of remedial measures to be taken or already taken, and providing advice or assistance. Since the majority of the organisations concerned would readily take on board the advice of the PCPD and would swiftly rectify the irregularities, or make improvements to their personal data handling systems or practices in accordance with PCPD's advice, most of the cases could be resolved by way of compliance checks without the need for the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data to exercise the power under the Ordinance to further investigate.

2. In fact, conducting compliance checks involves the same professional knowledge of personal data protection, and the PCPD also needs to undertake assessment and follow-up on the incident. Therefore, the resources that the PCPD has to put in are broadly comparable with that required for conducting statutory investigations. In 2017, the PCPD effectively handled a number of incidents which affected quite a large number of people by way of compliance checks. In 2018, the PCPD will continue to conduct compliance checks and investigations in accordance with the aforementioned approach. Since the

resources involved will be similar with that of 2017, no saving of manpower and expenditure is expected and redeployment of resources will not be involved.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB066

(Question Serial No. 0822)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2018-19, it is mentioned that the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data will engage the business sector (in particular the mirco, small and medium enterprises) to participate in the promotion of protecting and respecting personal data privacy, with a view to enhancing the culture of respecting personal data privacy among the trades. In this regard, what are the specific work plan, manpower arrangement and estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 6)

Reply:

In 2018-19, the promotion, publicity and education work to be carried out by the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD) for the trades will include the following:

- (a) Setting up enquiry hotline and email account for mirco, small and medium enterprises;
- (b) Organising Industry-specific Privacy Campaigns to help mirco, small and medium enterprises understand their legal obligations and comply with the requirements under the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance through talks, promotional articles, online self-learning courses and code of practices, etc.;
- (c) Organising educational and promotional activities on the European Union (EU)'s General Data Protection Regulation, and issuing information leaflet to raise awareness of this new EU regulation among the trades;
- (d) Privacy Awareness Week 2018 – activities to be organised this year include talks for mirco, small and medium enterprises, welcome reception of the Data Protection Officers' Club and radio promotional programmes targeted at mirco, small and medium enterprises, etc.;

- (e) Organising award presentation ceremony to recognise organisations which have adopted good practices in personal data protection; and
- (f) Promoting Privacy Management Programme (PMP) – advocating the trades to establish and maintain a comprehensive PMP and make personal data and privacy protection part of their corporate governance responsibilities through issuing information leaflets, organising talks and other educational and promotional activities.

2. In 2018-19, the PCPD has set aside \$3.5 million for promotion, publicity and education work (excluding manpower expenditure). As for manpower arrangement, the work will be carried out by staff responsible for promotion, publicity and education activities. The PCPD will also flexibly deploy resources for handling the relevant work.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB067****(Question Serial No. 0823)**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
(TANG Yun-kwong)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2018-19, the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) would assist public and private organisations to acquire an in-depth understanding of equal opportunities ordinances through training programmes and public education. Please list out the number of training programmes (with their number of participants) organised by various divisions of the EOC for public and private organisations in the past 3 years, the number of public and private organisations that have repeatedly participated in the training programmes and whether these organisations are the target of the training programmes in the next financial year and why?

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 7)Reply:

Based on the information provided by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), the number of training programmes that the EOC has organised for public and private organisations with their number of participants in the past 3 years are as follows:

Year and number of participants Type of organisations	2015		2016		2017	
	Number of training	Number of participants	Number of training	Number of participants	Number of training	Number of participants
Public organisations*	386	44 540	402	43 135	419	45 339
Private organisations	158	5 824	182	6 609	189	7 771

2. The number of public and private organisations that have repeatedly participated in the training programmes is as follows:

Year and number of participants Type of organisation	2015-2017	
	Total number of organisations	Number of organisations that have repeatedly participated
Public organisations*	194	104
Private organisations	168	96

* Including government departments, non-governmental organisations, medical institutions, as well as public and private education providers.

3. The EOC is committed to joining hands and establishing partnership with all sectors of the community. Through conducting regular training as well as conducting training programmes and public education activities upon receiving invitations from time to time, the EOC facilitates public and private organisations to acquire an in-depth understanding of equal opportunities ordinances. Other than those training and education activities organised to complement the EOC's strategic work focuses, the EOC would not specifically identify targets for training and education. Upon receiving such requests from organisations and confirming that the EOC's training staff would be available, the EOC would accede to such requests and arrange for training and education. As such, the targets of training may overlap.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB068

(Question Serial No. 2549)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

One of the main functions of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) is to promote public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law. The Constitution of the Nation is the “root” and “origin” of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR). On 4 December last year, the Secretary for Administration stated at an promotional event marking the National Constitution Day that ‘it is necessary for each and every Hong Kong citizen to understand and respect the “root” and “origin”, i.e., the Constitution of the Nation’. In this connection, will the Government please inform the Committee of the following:

1. Whether there were any expenses incurred in 2017-18 for the promotion of the Constitution of the Nation in the community and whether the Government has earmarked any estimated provision for such purpose for 2018-19. If yes, what are the details of the promotional activities and the expenses involved? If no, what are the reasons?
2. Is there any plan for the government to organise official promotional events to mark the National Constitution Day this year? If yes, what are the details and what is the estimated amount of provision? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 27)

Reply:

The Constitution of the People's Republic of China (the Constitution) and the Basic Law form the constitutional basis of the HKSAR. The HKSAR Government has the responsibility to encourage the general public to have a comprehensive understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law. We have all along placed equal emphasis on the concepts of “one country” and “two systems” in our Basic Law publicity and promotional activities, including the relationship between the Constitution and the Basic Law.

2. The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) will continue to organise various types of activities through different means to enable the public to have a more comprehensive and thorough understanding of the “one country, two systems” principle and the Basic Law, including a correct understanding of the relationship between the Constitution and the Basic Law. The relevant expenditure in 2017-18 and the estimate for 2018-19 in this respect are about \$17 million each. The promotion strategies include:

- (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 Constitution and the Basic Law by the general public and students through promotional activities at the district level (such as organising roving exhibitions and arranging 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.

3. Under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (BLPSC) provides 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, Education Bureau, Civil Service Bureau, Trade and Industry Department and Information Services Department respectively in planning and organising various types of activities to promote the Constitution and the Basic Law on various fronts.

4. To celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), the BLPSC organised the “Basic Law Seminar in Commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR” in November last year and invited Mr LI Fei, Chairman of the HKSAR Basic Law Committee under the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress, to be the keynote speaker on the topic of “The role and mission of Hong Kong, as a special administrative region of China, under the Constitution and the Basic Law” to elucidate the relationship between the Constitution and the Basic Law as well as the legal status of the Constitution. The Government will continue its work in this respect and organise promotional activities for the National Constitution Day with existing resources.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB069

(Question Serial No. 2550)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) is responsible for taking forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area (Bay Area) to provide new impetus for Hong Kong's economic growth. The Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs has also greatly encouraged Hong Kong young people to pursue development in the Bay Area. In this regard, will the Government inform this Committee:

1. What are the estimated expenditure and details of the publicity and promotional efforts in relation to the Bay Area development for this year?
2. Whether it has grasped the level of awareness on the Bay Area among the community, particularly among the young people? If yes, what are the details and how will it adjust accordingly its publicity and promotional efforts?

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 31)

Reply:

The Development Plan of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area (the Development Plan) will be promulgated soon. After promulgation of the Development Plan, we will set up the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area Development Office (the Office) under the establishment of this Bureau as early as possible. One of the work priorities of the Office in 2018-19 is to carry out promotion and publicity work and disseminate information to deepen the understanding of the public and industries on the Bay Area Development. In 2018-19, the estimated expenditure for the Office is about \$13.5 million, of which about \$6.3 million is for manpower establishment and about \$7.2 million is for other expenses including promotion and publicity expenses.

2. Targeting at young people, the promotion and publicity programmes aim at providing relevant information to enable them to understand the development opportunities brought by the Bay Area Development. For example, innovation and technology, as well as creative industry will be major areas of co-operation in the Bay Area. These industries will offer opportunities for young people to fully develop their potentials. The Bay Area is vast in

area and located closely to the enormous Mainland market. The three places will join hands to take forward development of young entrepreneur bases for young talents, providing them with opportunities to start business and career. Moreover, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government will work closely with the Guangdong Province in the implementation of the Development Plan and seek policy breakthrough to facilitate the flow of people, goods, capital and information between Hong Kong and other Bay Area cities. The HKSAR Government will also continue to actively reflect views to the relevant Mainland authorities, with a view to striving for the implementation of more facilitation measures that will help Hong Kong people develop in the Mainland.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB070

(Question Serial No. 0848)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) will set up a Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area Development Office and co-ordinate the work in taking forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area (the Bay Area). In this regard, please advise of:

- (1) the estimated expenditure and staff establishment involved in 2018-19; and
- (2) whether there is any priority list of work programmes and implementation timetable to take forward the development of the Bay Area? If yes, what are the details; if no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LO Wai-kwok (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 35)

Reply:

The Development Plan of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area (the Development Plan) will be promulgated soon. After promulgation of the Development Plan, we will set up the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area Development Office (the Office) under the establishment of this Bureau as early as possible. The Office involves 6 additional posts under Programme (2), namely 1 officer at point three of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Administrative Officer, 1 Senior Executive Officer, 1 Personal Secretary I and 1 Assistant Clerical Officer. In 2018-19, the estimated expenditure of the Office is about \$13.5 million.

2. To take forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area, the HKSAR Government and Guangdong Provincial Government have agreed on the priority areas of co-operation, including the following: to develop the Bay Area into an international technological innovation centre, leverage the complementary strengths of Hong Kong and Guangdong, and transfer the research results to industries to facilitate commercialization of the results; to enhance the connectivity of the Bay Area cities through policy innovation, and foster the convenient flow of factors of production; and to facilitate development of industries in which Hong Kong enjoys strengths in the Bay

Area, and make use of the rich resources of the Bay Area to solve Hong Kong's shortage of land and manpower, etc., in turn allowing the Mainland to develop new industries and to raise the standards of its professional services. Hong Kong and Guangdong are discussing specific co-operation projects under the abovementioned priority areas and will implement relevant co-operation projects after the Development Plan is promulgated, in order to progressively take forward the development of the Bay Area.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB071****(Question Serial No. 2196)**Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs BureauSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan OfficesControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

- (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) Please list out in the following table the details of cultural and arts or sports activities (e.g. film festivals, cultural performances, roving exhibitions etc.) organised by the Beijing Office, other Mainland Offices and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan in the past year.

Name	Date	Hong Kong organisation(s) involved (if any)	Expenditure

- (c) 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?
- (d) 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 year 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?
- (e) 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?

- (f) 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 relevant figures? How were such requests handled by the Offices concerned?

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 23)

Reply:

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) have taken continuous efforts to assist in enhancing cultural and arts exchange between Hong Kong and the Mainland/Taiwan.

2. In 2017-18, the initiatives taken by the Mainland Offices and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan included organising, co-organising, participating in or supporting 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. The cultural and arts activities organised by the Mainland Offices also included various events held during March to November 2017 in celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. These activities included theatre dramas *Tuesdays with Morrie*, *The Last Supper* and *The Sin Family*; a series of ballet performances themed around "east meets west" and *Swan Lake*, grand dance drama "*L'Amour Immortel*", "*Hong Kong Episodes*" multi-media cross-over concert, *China Tour 2017, Mahler and Mendelssohn Concert*, cello recitals by cellist Trey Lee, *Dessiner la Musique – Cheng Wai Recital China Tour* and cappella concert by *Yao Po Singers*. The Hong Kong organisations involved in the above included Drip Music, Chung Ying Theatre Company, Hong Kong Repertory Theatre, Hong Kong Philharmonic, Hong Kong Ballet, Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra, Trey Lee, Cheng Wai, Yat Po Singers, etc. The Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan promoted cultural exchanges between Hong Kong and Taiwan through organising and participating in various activities. Such activities included assisting the Hong Kong-Taiwan Cultural Co-operation Committee in organising the annual "Hong Kong Week" to showcase Hong Kong's unique culture and arts; supporting cultural groups such as Asian Youth Orchestra, Hong Kong Publishing Federation, the Hong Kong Printers Association, etc. to stage performances or participate in events in Taiwan; participating in the large-scale lantern festivals in Taiwan; arranging cultural personalities from Hong Kong to give media interviews and publishing the annual magazine *Art & Culture @ Hong Kong*; and meeting with members and organisations of the cultural sector in Taiwan. As the work on promoting cultural exchange is an integral part of the duties and functions of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices, the expenditure involved cannot be separately singled out and itemised. Expenditure for the cultural and arts activities organised by the Mainland Offices in celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region was about \$12.7 million.

3. In 2017-18, many local cultural and arts organisations approached the Mainland and Taiwan Offices to engage in cultural exchanges in the Mainland and Taiwan. These organisations included Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra, Chung Ying Theatre Company, City Contemporary Dance Company, Hong Kong Repertory Theatre, Hong Kong Ballet, Hong

Kong Publishing Federation, the Hong Kong Printers Association, etc. The Mainland and Taiwan Offices would handle their requests as appropriate, such as assisting in the promotion of the related performances, liaising and communicating with local authorities in the Mainland and Taiwan, etc. In 2018-19, 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 help publicise 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.

4. In July 2016, we created the post of Head (Cultural Exchange) under 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. The Head (Cultural Exchange) of BJO maintains close liaison and regular communication with the Ministry of Culture and enhances contact with museums and cultural authorities under the governments of relevant provinces and municipalities; visits performing arts and exhibition venues in Beijing and other provinces and municipalities under its purview to establish networks, explore opportunities of performances and exhibitions for Hong Kong artists and arts groups, and pass relevant information to the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) and the Leisure and Cultural Services Department via work reports in good time; offers advice and assistance from time to time to Hong Kong artists, arts institutes or groups participating in cultural exchange events with the Mainland; co-organises cultural exchange events in Beijing with Hong Kong arts institutes or groups, including performances, campus film activities, youth exchange camps, post-performance talks, seminars and master classes; provides suitable support to meet the needs of arts groups locally, specifically including arranging interviews with local radio channels, newspapers or electronic media, inviting the Ministry of Culture and local government authorities to attend the performances, promoting the events via BJO's networks, disseminating information of the events and inviting Hong Kong people or students living there to join, and organising forums for the industry or pre-performance exchange cocktail receptions. In 2017-18, the Head (Cultural Exchange) took forward and completed a number of initiatives, including supporting the performances of the Hong Kong Repertory Theatre, Hong Kong Ballet, Hong Kong Dance Company, Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra, Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, and City Contemporary Dance Company in Beijing and other places; supporting the staging of an experimental Cantonese opera of West Kowloon Cultural District in Beijing; supporting the exchange and performances of Hong Kong Youth Symphony Orchestra in Daqing and Harbin; organising the screening of Hong Kong classic films and talks at Tsinghua University, Renmin University of China and Beijing Normal University, etc. The revised estimated expenditure for the above post in 2017-18 is around \$1.7 million. Together with HAB, we will review the effectiveness of deploying dedicated staff for handling cultural matters and the way forward in due course.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB072

(Question Serial No. 2217)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

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 2018-19? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 67)

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 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, through the Information Services Department, promoting Hong Kong in the Mainland 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. As the above work is the regular duties of the relevant bureaux and departments, the expenditure involved cannot be separately singled out and itemised.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB073

(Question Serial No. 0403)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 180 of the Budget Speech that the Government will strengthen support for ethnic minorities. In this respect, would the Government advise this Committee:

- (a) whether there is any initial plan for using the sum of \$500 million earmarked for strengthening support for ethnic minorities? If yes, what are the details?
- (b) whether the Government will consider using part of the sum of \$500 million to set up an Employment Programme for Ethnic Minorities by modelling on the Employment Programme for the Middle-aged, under which employers who employ ethnic minorities having employment difficulties may apply for training allowance of up to \$4,500 per month for a period of 6 months? If yes, what are the details; if no, what are the reasons?
- (c) of the composition of membership and functions of the steering committee to be set up by the Chief Secretary for Administration; and
- (d) whether the post of Commissioner of Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minorities will be created under the Office of the Chief Secretary for Administration to co-ordinate and follow up on issues related to ethnic minorities?

Asked by: Hon MAK Mei-kuen, Alice (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 1)

Reply:

The Government attaches great importance to efforts to support the ethnic minorities (EMs), and will set up an inter-departmental steering committee, to be chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration, to co-ordinate, review and monitor work in this area and to enhance internal collaboration. The Government has also earmarked \$500 million to strengthen support for EMs.

2. Our initial plan is for the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau to provide secretariat support to the steering committee. We will consider deploying additional staff based on actual needs. The steering committee will give due consideration to the specific usage and modus operandi of the earmarked sum of \$500 million, including exploring new model of support, as well as making the best use of community wisdom and network to strengthen support for EMs. We will also listen to the views of different sectors and groups on the matter.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB074

(Question Serial No. 0404)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

It is mentioned under this Programme that the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau focuses attention on the rights of the individual in respect of protection for personal data privacy and human rights, and promotion of equal opportunities on the ground of gender, family status, race and sexual orientation. On the promotion of racial equality, will the Government inform this Committee:

- (a) of the measures to be carried out in 2018-19 to promote racial equality and the estimated expenditure for such measures; and
- (b) whether a comprehensive review will be conducted in 2018-19 on the Administrative Guidelines on Promotion of Racial Equality issued by the Government in response to the advice of the Subcommittee on Rights of Ethnic Minorities of the Legislative Council? If yes, what are the details; if no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon MAK Mei-kuen, Alice (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 3)

Reply:

The Government attaches great importance to efforts to support the ethnic minorities (EMs), and will set up an inter-departmental steering committee, to be chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration, to co-ordinate, review and monitor work in this area and to enhance internal collaboration. The Government has also earmarked \$500 million to strengthen support for EMs.

2. Our initial plan is for the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau to provide secretariat support to the steering committee. We will consider deploying additional staff based on actual needs. The steering committee will give due consideration to the specific usage and modus operandi of the earmarked sum of \$500 million, including exploring new model of support, as well as making the best use of community wisdom and network to strengthen support for EMs. We will also listen to the views of different sectors and groups on the matter.

3. Meanwhile, the Government will continue to safeguard the equal rights of people with different ethnic origins, and enhance the sensitivity among public officers serving EMs through education and publicity as well as the application of the Administrative Guidelines on Promotion of Racial Equality (“the Guidelines”). The Guidelines is administrative in nature and the relevant public authorities are required to comply. At present, different bureaux and departments and public authorities (hereinafter referred to as “the relevant authorities”) are responsible for implementing and monitoring the implementation of the Guidelines in areas relevant to their purview. In accordance with the Guidelines, the relevant authorities have drawn up checklist of measures within their respective policy and programme areas that would assist in the promotion of racial equality, equal access to key public services and transparency of their work. The checklists have been uploaded onto the website of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) and are subject to the monitoring of the Legislative Council and the public.

4. The CMAB and relevant authorities will continue to keep the Guidelines under regular review, especially in the context of how to enhance existing measures and introduce new measures that would promote racial equality. In this connection, the Government will continue to request the relevant authorities to collect data and set indicators for the continuous improvement of services provision to EMs having regard to their own actual operational circumstances. Besides, the Government will keep the scope and coverage of the Guidelines under review.

5. The work in relation to the Guidelines is absorbed within CMAB’s internal resources, and a separate breakdown on the related expenditure is not available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB075

(Question Serial No. 2416)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

With respect to the work of the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) mentioned under this Programme, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) The specific plans and estimates for the EOC in advocating education and employment opportunities and access to services for Ethnic Minorities and Persons with Disabilities in 2018-19; and
- (b) It is mentioned under performance targets and indicators that 69% of the parties involved in the complaints were satisfied with the service provided to them by the EOC. Will the EOC take any measures to enhance the degree of customer satisfaction with respect to its complaint handling service? If yes, of the details; and if no, of the reasons.

Asked by: Hon MAK Mei-kuen, Alice (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 33)

Reply:

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) enforces the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 480), Disability Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 487), Family Status Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 527) and Race Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 602) (RDO); and carries out respective publicity and education programmes and enforcement work under these Ordinances. Based on the information provided by the EOC, its expenditure on publicity and public education (including staff costs) for 2018-19 is estimated to be \$27.93 million, about 25% of the aforementioned expenditure is used for publicity and education efforts on the elimination of race discrimination.

2. In 2018-19, the EOC will work to advocate the rights of ethnic minorities (EMs) and persons with disabilities to education and employment opportunities and access to services through the following activities and programmes:

- (a) on education, the EOC has set up the Working Group on Education for EMs to conduct a systematic study on the current position of Chinese language learning by EM students, and to collate the opinions of the major stakeholders with a view to submitting comprehensive recommendations to the Government. To promote fair admission policies and an inclusive learning environment, the EOC will also publish easy guides and organise training programmes for teaching staff, parents and students in schools. Furthermore, through the cooperation platform established a few years ago, regular meetings are held between the EOC and representatives from 10 local universities to study the formulation of policies and measures to support and facilitate students with special education needs in local higher institutes;
- (b) on employment, the EOC has set up a working group on “Mainstreaming Employment Opportunities in Residential Care and Healthcare Industries for EMs” to explore the feasibility of introducing a set of entry and registration requirements on Chinese proficiency having regard to the job requirement for registration and training of healthcare workers. In addition, the EOC has rolled out two programmes, namely the Charter for Racially Inclusive Workplace and Racially Inclusive Employer Award, with a view to encouraging employers to learn from those exemplary enterprises by adopting good practices in the employment of EMs; and
- (c) on the provision of goods, services and facilities, the EOC has been providing training concerning the RDO and cultural sensitivity to service providers in both public and private sectors such as Government departments, public bodies (including the Hospital Authority and the Estate Agents Authority) and industry associations (including the Hong Kong Association of Banks and the Hong Kong Institute of Bankers). Furthermore, the EOC will collaborate with a local university to explore the possibility of introducing a feasible mechanism for the qualification accreditation of interpreters in order to enhance the professionalism of community interpretation service. In 2017, the EOC published a study report on barrier-free taxis in Hong Kong and put forth recommendations and measures for the consideration of relevant government departments on how to improve local barrier-free taxi services. In 2018, the EOC will continue to cooperate with the Government, stakeholders of public transport services and training organisations to provide recommendations and relevant information with respect to the provision of training courses for taxi drivers and enhance their awareness of matters relating to disability discrimination, disability harassment and vilification. The EOC will also promote the rights of persons with disabilities by means of the “Funding Programme of Research Projects on Equal Opportunities”.

3. According to the information provided by the EOC, the estimated numbers of beneficiaries of each programme are as follows:

Area	Programme	Estimated number
Education	Easy guide	All schools in the territory
	Training courses	2 000 teaching staff, parents and students
	Roving drama performances in schools	65 000 students
Employment	Charter on Inclusive Workplace and Racially Inclusive Employer Award	Employees of 50 participating business organisations
Provision of goods, facilities and services	Training courses	1 000 employees of the services industry
Public education	Contributing feature articles to a number of newspapers, Community Participation Funding Programme on Equal Opportunities, radio programmes, essay competitions, youth mentorship programmes and multimedia publicity programmes	All Hong Kong residents

4. Since 2016, the EOC has been conducting users' satisfaction surveys on a bi-annual basis. In 2017, 69% of the parties involved in complaints were satisfied with services provided by the EOC, which is higher than 59% espoused in the same survey previously conducted in 2015.

5. In 2018-19, the EOC will continuously enhance the satisfaction of users of complaint services through the following initiatives:

- (a) updating the Announcement of Public Interest of the EOC to provide service users a better understanding of the EOC's complaint handling mechanism and services, and hence enable them to have a more pragmatic understanding of and expectation on the EOC's services;
- (b) conducting reviews on the process of handling complaints and providing legal assistance to streamline complaint handling procedures and enhance its efficiency and effectiveness; and
- (c) stepping up training for staff to foster their sensitivity and empathy towards the needs of service users, such that they could handle complaints in an impartial manner.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB076****(Question Serial No. 2687)**Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs BureauSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: Not specifiedControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

It is stated in the Budget Speech that “to enhance collaboration within the Government on support for the ethnic minorities, the Chief Secretary for Administration will set up a steering committee to co-ordinate, review and monitor work in this area. I will earmark \$500 million to strengthen support for ethnic minorities.” In this regard, would the Government advise this Committee:

1. of work plan and whether there would be a timetable for the work? If yes, what are the details; if not, what are the reasons?
2. of the purpose of the earmarked fund? Please give breakdown details of the estimated expenditure; and
3. of the membership composition of the steering committee and whether members from different sectors of the community would be involved? If yes, what are the details; if not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 13)Reply:

The Government attaches great importance to efforts to support the ethnic minorities (EMs), and will set up an inter-departmental steering committee, to be chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration, to co-ordinate, review and monitor work in this area and to enhance internal collaboration. The Government has also earmarked \$500 million to strengthen support for EMs.

2. Our initial plan is for the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau to provide secretariat support to the steering committee. We will consider deploying additional staff based on actual needs. The steering committee will give due consideration to the specific usage and modus operandi of the earmarked sum of \$500 million, including exploring new model of support, as well as making the best use of community wisdom and network to strengthen support for EMs. We will also listen to the views of different sectors and groups on the matter.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB077****(Question Serial No. 2713)**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
(TANG Yun-kwong)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

1. Please provide information on the amount of financial assistance received by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) for each work item and by each division over the past 5 years.

In the 2018-19 financial year, the estimates of the EOC has decreased by 7.7%. What are the work items and divisions that are going to be affected by the decrease in estimates? Will the respective work items and the scale of services of divisions be affected?

2. Please provide information on the amount of financial assistance received by and the staff establishment of the Ethnic Minorities (EM) Unit under the EOC since its establishment till now.

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 29)Reply:

In the past 5 years, the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) has received the following financial assistance (including the Government's provision for recurrent expenditure and other income) for each work item and by each division:

Year	Enquiry, complaint and conciliation services (million dollars)	Legal service (million dollars)	Publicity and public education services (million dollars)	Training and consultancy services (million dollars)	Policy support and research services (million dollars)	Advocacy services for ethnic minorities (EM) (million dollars)	Total (million dollars)
2013-14	31.39	20.25	25.31	8.10	16.20	-	101.25
2014-15	33.37	19.82	26.08	8.34	16.69	-	104.30
2015-16	34.66	19.81	24.21	8.25	15.41	7.70	110.04

2016-17	38.07	21.92	24.23	9.23	13.85	8.08	115.38
2017-18 (estimate)	37.90	22.10	25.38	12.08	13.35	9.28	120.09

2. Each year, the Government provides a subvention in the form of a 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. The decrease in the financial provision of the EOC in 2018-19 is mainly due to a one-off special provision of \$9.5 million in 2017-18 to support the EOC's expenditure on office relocation and fitting-out work of its new office. Excluding one-off provisions, the financial provision for the EOC in 2018-19 has actually increased by 1.9% when compared with the one in 2017-18.

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

4. Starting from 2014-15, the Government has been providing a recurrent funding of \$4.69 million each year to the EOC for enhancing publicity and public education of the Race Discrimination Ordinance (RDO) (Cap. 602). The EM Unit set up for this purpose promotes equal opportunities in education and employment for EM through advocacy, training and promotional efforts. Besides, the Government provided a one-off funding of \$2 million to the EOC in 2014-15 for promoting the RDO and provided another one-off funding of \$3 million to the EOC in 2017-18 for promoting equal opportunities of EM.

5. Currently, the EM Unit is comprised of 1 Senior Equal Opportunities Officer, 1 Training Officer, 2 Equal Opportunities Officers, 2 Assistant Equal Opportunities Officers and 1 Assistant Information Technology Officer. The Assistant Information Technology Officer also concurrently supports the work of other divisions.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB078****(Question Serial No. 2714)**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
(TANG Yun-kwong)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

- (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
2015				
2016				
2017				
2018 (as at March)				

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

	No. of complaints on racial discrimination against public organisations	No. of complaints on racial discrimination against private organisations	No. of complaints on racial discrimination against actions of individuals	Others (please specify)
2015				
2016				
2017				
2018 (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 2018-19?

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 28)

Reply:

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) enforces the Race Discrimination Ordinance (RDO) (Cap. 602); and carries out respective publicity and education programmes and enforcement work to promote public awareness of the Ordinance 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
2015	42	54	Conciliation attempted	13	0
			Investigation discontinued	29	
2016	202	213	Conciliation attempted	7	0
			Investigation discontinued	195	
2017	65	73	Conciliation attempted	6	0
			Investigation discontinued	9	
			Investigation in progress	50	
2018 (as at 8 March)	11	64	Conciliation attempted	0	0
			Investigation discontinued	3	
			Investigation in progress	8	

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

	No. of complaints on racial discrimination against public organisations (Note 3)	No. of complaints on racial discrimination against private organisations	No. of complaints on racial discrimination against actions of individuals	Others (please specify)
2015	3	28	11	0
2016	2	20	180	0
2017	1	10	54	0
2018 (as at 8 March)	1	6	4	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 present figures provided are based on the progress of follow-up actions taken/outcomes of cases received in that year.

Note 3: Public organisations include government departments.

3. Over the past 3 years, the EOC has continued its efforts to promote awareness and understanding among the public and stakeholders of the rights of the EMs 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; advertisements on MTR light-boxes; roving drama performances in schools; the Equal Opportunities Drama Project; micro film competitions and slogan design competitions; short video production competitions; photography competitions; writing competitions; poster design competitions and promotion activities on the EOC smartphone apps; seminars and trainings for education institutions, non-government organisations and community organisations, etc.

4. Based on the information provided by the EOC, its expenditures on publicity and public education (including staff costs) in 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 were \$23.89 million, \$21.55 million and \$26.12 million (revised estimate) respectively, and the expenditure for 2018-19 is estimated to be \$27.93 million; about 25% of the aforementioned expenditures are used for publicity and education efforts on the elimination of race discrimination.

5. The Ethnic Minorities Unit (EM Unit) set up for this purpose promotes equal opportunities in education and employment for EMs through advocacy, training and promotional efforts. Besides, the Government provided a one-off funding of \$2 million to the EOC in 2014-15 for promoting the RDO and provided another one-off funding of \$3 million to the EOC in 2017-18 for promoting equal opportunities of EMs. The funded programmes include media campaigns, production of educational publications, implementation of partnership projects to explore the feasibility of introducing qualification accreditation for EM language interpreters and conducting integrated research on EM education, academic and employment pathway with a view to drawing up practical guidebooks for EM youth.

6. Moreover, the EM Unit has developed a total of 3 guidance materials for the banking and education sectors. For the banking sector, the Unit distributed to all banking corporations through the Hong Kong Association of Banks a list of suggested good practices on serving EM customers in 2015. For the education sector, the Unit published and sent to all schools in the territory a guidance booklet entitled Promotion of Racial Integration & Prevention of Racial Discrimination in Schools in 2016. In 2017, in view of the fact that the Education Bureau has implemented the Free Quality Kindergarten Policy was implemented, an Easy Guide on Fair Kindergarten Admission was issued to advise kindergartens on upholding non-discriminatory admission policies and measures.

7. Regarding community outreach, apart from participation in 324 network meetings and 242 community events since April 2015, the Unit has also tried to expand its scope of outreach through social media and corporate connections under the “EMBRACE” Campaign launched in March 2017. Riding on these efforts, 5 leadership groups,

including a Nepalese Community group, a Pakistani women's group, a Sikh women's group, a Filipino and an Indonesian foreign domestic helpers' group, have been formed within these specific communities with the objective of creating a team of ambassadors who can raise awareness and provide information to community members as well as channel feedback to the EOC on their concerns which include sexual harassment, domestic violence, support for EM children with special educational needs, workplace discrimination and housing issues.

8. Recently, the EM Unit has also formed a Youth Consultative Group on Racial Equality and Integration and selected 29 Youth Members, including 9 Chinese and 20 non-Chinese, through nomination from schools and universities. Through their participation, the EOC could incorporate youth's perspective into policy recommendations and public education; in the meantime, these youth members would also be empowered and encouraged to express their views and participate in discussions on race-related issues in the public fora.

9. In 2018-19, the EOC will work to advocate the rights of EMs to education and employment opportunities and access to services through the following activities and programmes:

- (a) on education, the EOC has set up the Working Group on Education for EMs to conduct a systematic study on the current position of Chinese language learning by EM students, and to collate the opinions of the major stakeholders with a view to submitting comprehensive recommendations to the Government. To promote fair admission policies and an inclusive learning environment, the EOC will also publish easy guides and organise training programmes for teaching staff, parents and students in schools;
- (b) on employment, the EOC has set up a working group on "Mainstreaming Employment Opportunities in Residential Care and Healthcare Industries for EMs" to explore the feasibility of introducing a set of entry and registration requirements on Chinese proficiency having regard to the job requirement for registration and training of healthcare workers. In addition, the EOC has rolled out two programmes, namely the Charter for Racially Inclusive Workplace and Racially Inclusive Employer Award, with a view to encouraging employers to learn from those exemplary enterprises by adopting good practices in the employment of EMs; and
- (c) on the provision of goods, services and facilities, the EOC has been providing training concerning the RDO and cultural sensitivity to service providers in both public and private sectors such as Government departments, public bodies (including the Hospital Authority and the Estate Agents Authority) and industry associations (including the Hong Kong Association of Banks and the Hong Kong Institute of Bankers). Furthermore, the EOC will collaborate with a local university to explore the possibility of introducing accreditation for interpreters in order to enhance the professionalism of community interpretation service.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB079****(Question Serial No. 0696)**

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

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

Question:

According to Programme (3), in respect of the indicators for promotion of strengths of Hong Kong, the number of calls on senior officials/organisations in 2018-19 is estimated to be 2 925, which has reduced by 269 over this financial year. The number of public relations/cultural functions/events participated in the next financial year is estimated to be 650, down by 263 when compared with this financial year. Why does the Government reduce the estimated figures for the work to promote the strengths of Hong Kong? Would it pose an adverse impact on Hong Kong's economy? If yes, what are the details? What are the staff establishment and expenditure involved in the promotion of Hong Kong's strengths in this financial year? Will there be any changes in the staff establishment and expenditure in the next financial year? If yes, what are the details? Will the Government adjust the estimated figures in order to step up the promotion of strengths of Hong Kong? If yes, what are the details; if no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 3)

Reply:

In 2017-18, the Mainland Offices (namely the Beijing Office and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan) organised and participated in numerous activities in the Mainland to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, as well as prepared for the setting up of 3 liaison units (namely Zhejiang Liaison Unit under the Shanghai ETO, Guangxi Liaison Unit under the Guangdong ETO and Shaanxi Liaison Unit under the Chengdu ETO), thus contributing to a significant rise in the number of calls on senior officials/organisations and public relations/cultural functions/events participated. With the conclusion of the celebration activities and the commencement of operation of the 3 liaison units, corresponding adjustments have been made to the estimate of and the figures of some indicators in 2018-19.

2. The Mainland Offices 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 counterparts in the areas under their coverage; representing and promoting Hong Kong's trade and commercial interests; encouraging and attracting investments to Hong Kong and promoting Hong Kong as a desirable platform to develop markets along the Belt and Road; 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. We will continue to take forward the relevant work with the existing manpower. As promoting Hong Kong's advantages is 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**CMAB080****(Question Serial No. 0697)**

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

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

Question:

According to Programme (3), in respect of the indicators for enhancing trade opportunities, the number of meetings on trade-related matters attended in 2018-19 is estimated to be 620, which has reduced by 111 over this financial year. The number of visits to the Mainland/Taiwan authorities and trade organisations in the next financial year is estimated to be 935, down by 91 when compared with this financial year. Why does the Government reduce the estimated figures in this respect? What are the staff establishment and expenditure involved in enhancing trade opportunities in this financial year? Will there be any changes in the staff establishment and expenditure in the next financial year? If yes, what are the details? Will the Government assess the possible impact of reducing the number of meetings on trade-related matters attended and visits to Mainland/Taiwan authorities and trade organisations in the next financial year on enhancing trade opportunities? If yes, what are the details; if no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 5)

Reply:

In 2017-18, the Mainland Offices (namely the Beijing Office and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan) organised and participated in numerous activities in the Mainland to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, as well as prepared for the setting up of 3 liaison units (namely Zhejiang Liaison Unit under the Shanghai ETO, Guangxi Liaison Unit under the Guangdong ETO and Shaanxi Liaison Unit under the Chengdu ETO), thus contributing to a significant rise in the number of meetings on trade-related matters participated and visits to the Mainland authorities/trade organisations. With the conclusion of the celebration activities and the commencement of operation of the 3 liaison units, corresponding adjustments have been made to the estimate of and the figures of some indicators in 2018-19.

2. The Mainland Offices 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 counterparts in the areas under their coverage; representing and promoting Hong Kong's trade and commercial interests; encouraging and attracting investments to Hong Kong and promoting Hong Kong as a desirable platform to develop markets along the Belt and Road; 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. We will continue to take forward the relevant work with the existing manpower. As enhancing trade opportunities is 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**CMAB081****(Question Serial No. 0698)**

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

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

Question:

According to Programme (3), 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 in the next financial year. What are the staff establishment and expenditure involved? Apart from publishing the "Newsletter on Economic and Trade Policies and Regulations in the Mainland" and the "Newsletter on Business Promotion, Investment and Economic and Trade Activities in the Mainland" on a regular basis, will the Mainland and Taiwan Offices provide relevant information through more different channels in the next financial year? If yes, what are the details; if no, what are the reasons? How many cases where the concerns of Hong Kong business sector are relayed to relevant departments by the Mainland and Taiwan Offices in this financial year? What are the specific areas involved? Among them, how many cases have been handled and improved in this financial year? What are the details?

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 4)

Reply:

The Mainland Offices 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 counterparts in the areas under their coverage; representing and promoting Hong Kong's trade and commercial interests; encouraging and attracting investments to Hong Kong and promoting Hong Kong as a desirable platform to develop markets along the Belt and Road; 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 by, amongst others, giving public speeches, media interviews and briefings, and issuing information circulars, newsletters and press releases.

2. Apart from publishing the “Newsletter on Economic and Trade Policies and Regulations in the Mainland” and the “Newsletter on Business Promotion, Investment and Economic and Trade Activities in the Mainland”, 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. As dissemination of information to Hong Kong business sector is an integral part of the work of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices, the expenditure involved cannot be separately singled out and itemised. As for relaying concerns to relevant departments by the Mainland Offices, since the nature of cases varies, the Mainland Offices do not maintain records of the work in this respect.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB082

(Question Serial No. 0842)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

According to Programme (2), the Bureau will set up a Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area Development Office and co-ordinate the work of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government in taking forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area. In this regard, would the Government advise on the following:

1. What is the current progress of setting up the above office, when will the office come into operation, and what are the staff establishment and expenditure involved in this financial year?
2. One of the responsibilities of the office is to assist Hong Kong enterprises to exploit greater opportunities in the development of the Bay Area. How will the office assist the small and medium enterprises in Hong Kong to strengthen business co-operation with private enterprises in the Bay Area? Are there any concrete measures? Will the office negotiate with the relevant Mainland departments for more facilitation measures for Hong Kong business sector to enter the Mainland domestic markets? If yes, what are the details; if no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 2)

Reply:

The Development Plan of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area (the Development Plan) will be promulgated soon. After promulgation of the Development Plan, we will set up the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area Development Office (the Office) under the establishment of this Bureau as early as possible. The Office involves 6 additional posts under Programme (2), namely 1 officer at point three of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Administrative Officer, 1 Senior Executive Officer, 1 Personal Secretary I and 1 Assistant Clerical Officer. In 2018-19, the estimated expenditure for the Office is about \$13.5 million.

2. According to the information provided by the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (CEDB), tremendous business opportunities will be brought about by the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area (Bay Area). CEDB will propose a series of measures to enhance the funding schemes so as to help small and medium enterprises (SMEs), including start-ups, capture economic opportunities and boost their competitiveness.

3. The 2018-19 Budget proposes to inject \$1 billion into the SME Export Marketing and Development Funds and introduce enhancement measures to strengthen the support for SMEs. CEDB proposes to increase the cumulative funding ceiling under the SME Export Marketing Fund for individual SMEs from \$200,000 currently to \$400,000, increase the maximum grant for each application from \$50,000 to \$100,000 and remove the existing condition on the use of the last \$50,000 of grants to fully support SMEs in exploring new markets (including those in the Bay Area) and new business opportunities.

4. The Budget also proposes to inject \$1.5 billion into the Dedicated Fund on Branding, Upgrading and Domestic Sales to, amongst which, increase the cumulative funding ceiling for individual enterprises under the Enterprise Support Programme for undertaking projects in the Mainland from \$500,000 to \$1 million.

5. CEDB conducted a briefing on 5 March 2018 to brief the trade, including members of Trade and Industry Advisory Board, Small and Medium Enterprises Committee, representatives of local major trade and industrial organisations, SME associations, professional bodies and trade associations on the proposed enhancement measures. The trade supported our proposals in general. CEDB consulted the Legislative Council Panel on Commerce and Industry on the proposals and will seek funding approval of the Finance Committee.

6. The Hong Kong Trade Development Council (TDC) will continue to organise a variety of activities to help Hong Kong companies tap business opportunities under the Bay Area development. TDC will continue to organise investment and business missions for Hong Kong companies to cities in the Bay Area, and explore organising joint overseas missions with Bay Area cities to explore investment and cooperation opportunities.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB083****(Question Serial No. 1027)**

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

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

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

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

According to Programme (5), the estimate for the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD) in 2018-19 is \$7.55 billion, 6.2% lower than the revised estimate of \$8.05 billion in 2017-18. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- 1) In the face of rapid development of technologies, any types of electronic device have the risk of leaking personal data. The PCPD receives nearly 20 000 complaints and enquiries every year and the trend is on the rise. In this connection, how can the office ensure there are sufficient manpower and resources to handle relevant matters despite the reduced estimate? Will internal re-deployment of staff be used as a means to increase relevant manpower? And will staff establishment and expenditure on manpower be further expanded as and when circumstances require? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
- 2) As regards promotional and educational activities, the PCPD has reduced the number of major promotional activities (number of participants) from last year's 18 (258 147 participants) to 15 (100 000 participants) in 2018, and the number of talks, seminars and workshops from last year's 314 (24 623 participants) to 240 (25 000 participants). Has the work in this area been affected by the decrease in the overall estimate? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
- 3) As explained by the PCPD, the decrease in the estimated number of major promotional activities is due to the PCPD's plan to enhance promotion through online platforms and to reduce traditional promotional activities that are more resource-intensive. If that is the case, then why is there a drop instead of an increase in the number of participants (including online courses)? Will the office please provide a breakdown of participants by category, i.e., participants in person versus online participants? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Reply:

(1) Taking out the 1 968 complaints relating to the reported loss of two notebook computers by the Registration and Electoral Office, the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD) received 17 127 cases of complaints and enquiries in 2017, which represented a decrease as compared with 20 427 cases in 2015 and 18 018 cases in 2016. The decrease in the number of complaints and enquiries could be attributed to the enhanced training for frontline staff, in particular staff handling enquiries, and streamlined procedures. In fact, excluding the extra non-recurrent subvention for PCPD in 2017-18 for, amongst others, hosting the 39th International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners, the provision for the PCPD has increased from \$64.64 million in 2013-14 to \$75.47 million in 2018-19. The resources allocated are also used for promoting and educating the public and trades on the risks of personal data leakage relating to electronic devices. In 2017, the PCPD implemented a series of target-oriented promotional and educational activities, which include publishing a new book “Watch out! This is My Personal Data Privacy” and guidelines, and releasing media statements and responses timely to let the public and trades to understand relevant issues as early as possible and grasp knowledge on privacy data protection more easily. Moreover, the PCPD proactively assists organisational data users of different industries in complying with the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance through inspections, compliance checks, multilateral discussions, seminars, workshops, talks and lectures. The PCPD will continue to cope with the changing trend of personal data protection through flexible deployment of resources.

(2) & (3)

2. The decrease in the estimated number of major promotional activities and participants in 2018 is due to the PCPD’s plan to enhance promotion and education through online platforms and to reduce traditional promotional activities that are more resource-intensive. The number of participants of online promotional and educational activities, such as visits to the website, self-learning online assessment tool, viewing of publications and downloading of education materials, is not captured in the estimate.

3. Although there is a decrease in the estimated number of talks, seminars and workshops in 2018, the estimated number of participants will increase slightly by 1.5% when compared with last year. The change is due to the fact that PCPD plans to organise talks, seminars and workshops of a larger scale to accommodate more participants. Moreover, the PCPD also plans to optimise the existing online courses with a view to further increasing the number of participants of the online courses.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB084****(Question Serial No. 2667)**Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs BureauSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan OfficesControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

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. (LegCo use): 48)

Reply:

In the past 3 years (2015-17), 7 liaison units have been set up under the Mainland Offices, namely:

Liaison Unit	Date of establishment	City in which the Liaison Unit is located
Shandong Liaison Unit under the Economic and Trade Office (ETO) in Shanghai	April 2015	Jinan City of Shandong Province
Hunan Liaison Unit under the Wuhan ETO	May 2016	Changsha City of Hunan Province
Henan Liaison Unit under the Wuhan ETO	September 2016	Zhengzhou City of Henan Province
Tianjin Liaison Unit under the Beijing Office	February 2017	Tianjin City

Shaanxi Liaison Unit under the Chengdu ETO	April 2017	Xi'an City of Shaanxi Province
Zhejiang Liaison Unit under the Shanghai ETO	April 2017	Hangzhou City of Zhejiang Province
Guangxi Liaison Unit under the Guangdong ETO	April 2017	Nanning City of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region

2. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government has fully enhanced the networks and functions of its Mainland Offices. At present, the 5 Mainland Offices and 11 liaison units of HKSAR Government cover all provinces/municipalities and autonomous regions. In the coming year, we will enhance government-to-government co-operation and step up promotion of Hong Kong in the Mainland through the existing network of Mainland Offices, in order to foster a closer tie between Hong Kong and the Mainland and provide support to Hong Kong people and enterprises to help them better grasp the development opportunities in the Mainland.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB085

(Question Serial No. 2668)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

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. (LegCo use): 49)

Reply:

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

2. In 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017, a total of 353, 340, 407, 319 and 415 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

CMAB086

(Question Serial No. 1978)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2018-19 that the Government will set up a Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area Development Office. What are the details, and the staff establishment and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 16)

Reply:

The Development Plan of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area (the Development Plan) will be promulgated soon. After promulgation of the Development Plan, we will set up the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area Development Office (the Office) under the establishment of this Bureau as early as possible. The Office will be responsible for co-ordinating with the National Development and Reform Commission, relevant central ministries/departments, the Guangdong Provincial Government and the Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) Government, as well as the bureaux/departments of the Hong Kong SAR Government in the implementation of the Development Plan. It will also proactively liaise with business associations, professional bodies and relevant stakeholders to publicise and promote the development opportunities for Hong Kong enterprises and talents brought about by development of the Bay Area, and gauge their views on the implementation of the Development Plan to ensure that the relevant measures can best meet the needs of the industries.

2. In 2018-19, the Office involves 6 additional posts under Programme (2), namely 1 officer at point three of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Administrative Officer, 1 Senior Executive Officer, 1 Personal Secretary I and 1 Assistant Clerical Officer. The estimated expenditure for the Office is about \$13.5 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB087****(Question Serial No. 0079)**Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs BureauSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: Not specifiedControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

According to paragraph 180 of the Budget Speech, to enhance collaboration within the Government on support for the ethnic minorities, the Chief Secretary for Administration will set up a steering committee to co-ordinate, review and monitor work in this area. A sum of \$500 million will be earmarked to strengthen support for ethnic minorities. In this connection, please advise on:

1. the timetable for setting up the steering committee and its staff establishment (e.g. composition of the committee, background of members, and the required expenditure for setting up the steering committee with breakdown details);
2. the relevant expenditure of support measures by different Government departments in the past 3 years with breakdown details;
3. the number of ethnic minorities employed by the Government in the past 3 years with details of their positions and salaries; and
4. the usage of the earmarked sum of the \$500 million to support ethnic minorities, and the top 3 measures with the largest share of expenditure.

Asked by: Hon SHEK Lai-him, Abraham (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 17)Reply:

The Government attaches great importance to efforts to support the ethnic minorities (EMs), and will set up an inter-departmental steering committee, to be chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration, to co-ordinate, review and monitor work in this area and to enhance internal collaboration. The Government has also earmarked \$500 million to strengthen support for EMs.

2. Our initial plan is for the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) to provide secretariat support to the steering committee. We will consider deploying additional staff based on actual needs. The steering committee will give due consideration to the specific usage and modus operandi of the earmarked sum of \$500 million, including

exploring new mode of support, as well as making best use of community wisdom and network to strengthen support for EMs. We will also listen to the views of different sectors and groups on the matter.

3. The relevant policy bureaux, departments and public authorities have all along been providing support measures to the EMs. For instance, the Home Affairs Department provides support services for EMs to facilitate their integration into the community; the Labour Department provides employment support services; the Social Welfare Department provides welfare services including financial assistance, family services, etc.; the Education Bureau introduces measures to facilitate non-Chinese speaking (NCS) students'¹ adaptation to the local education system and mastery of the Chinese language; the Working Family Allowance Office under the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency grants low-income working family allowances to eligible EM household applicants; public hospitals/clinics under the Department of Health and Hospital Authority provide interpretation services for EMs; the CMAB and the Radio Television Hong Kong have co-operated to produce TV series on EMs and organise a school outreach programme with a view to promoting cultural integration through these public education initiatives. Regarding the expenditure incurred, after consulting relevant policy bureaux, departments and public authorities, a breakdown of information that could be provided by them is set out at **Annex**.

4. In addition, the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) enforces the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 480), Disability Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 487), Family Status Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 527) and Race Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 602); and carries out respective publicity and public education programmes and enforcement work under these Ordinances. Based on the information provided by the EOC, its expenditure on publicity and public education (including staff costs) in 2016-17 was \$21.55 million, its revised estimate in 2017-18 was \$26.12 million, the estimated expenditure for 2018-19 is \$27.93 million; about 25% of the aforementioned expenditure is used for the publicity and education efforts on elimination of race discrimination. In October 2017, the Bureau provided a one-off funding of \$3 million to the EOC for promoting equal opportunities of EMs. The funded programmes include media campaigns, production of educational publications, implementation of partnership projects to explore the feasibility of introducing qualification accreditation for EM language interpreters and conducting integrated research on EMs education, academic and employment pathway with a view to drawing up practical guidebooks for EM youth.

5. As for the recruitment of civil servants, bureaux/departments would select suitable candidates on an objective basis by taking into account their ability, performance, character, and requisites set according to the job requirements. Race is not a relevant consideration. Given that neither job applicants nor serving civil servants are required to declare their ethnic origins, we are not able to provide the relevant statistical information.

¹ For the planning of education support measures, students whose spoken language at home is not Chinese are broadly categorized as non-Chinese speaking students.

Support Measures Provided for Ethnic Minorities
by Some Policy Bureaux, Departments and Public Authorities

Support Measures	2015-16 Actual Expenditure (\$Million)	2016-17 Actual Expenditure (\$Million)	2017-18 Revised Estimates (\$Million)
Home Affairs Department Community integration services, including support service centres for EMs, community support teams, ambassador schemes, district-based integration programmes, radio programmes, etc.	51.1	49.9	49.9
Labour Department (Note 1) 1. Implementing the Employment Services Ambassador Programme for EMs, organising large-scale inclusive job fairs, and producing publications on employment services (e.g. leaflets and posters) in major EM languages	2.37	2.18	—
2. Implementing the Employment Services Ambassador Programme for EMs, engaging Employment Assistants proficient in EM languages to provide employment services, organising large-scale inclusive job fairs, and producing publications on employment services (e.g. leaflets and posters) in major EM languages	—	—	2.88

Support Measures	2015-16 Actual Expenditure (\$Million)	2016-17 Actual Expenditure (\$Million)	2017-18 Revised Estimates (\$Million)
The Working Family Allowance Office of the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency Disbursement of allowance to EM households whose applications under the Low-income Working Family Allowance Scheme were successful	— (The scheme has started receiving application from May 2016)	15.58	18.77 (as at 28 February 2018)
Department of Health Interpretation Services	0.092	0.124	0.138
Hospital Authority Interpretation Services	6.20	7.31	5.79 (April to November 2017)
Education Bureau (Expenditure by School Years) 1. Enhanced funding support and enhanced school-based professional support have been provided to facilitate schools' implementation of the "Chinese Language Curriculum Second Language Learning Framework" ("Learning Framework") and support of NCS students in learning Chinese language as well as creation of an inclusive environment in schools. Eligible schools may also apply for funding to provide after-school support for NCS students' learning of the Chinese language.	224.0 (Note 2)	245.1 (Note 2)	258.5 (Note 2)
2. Development of the "Learning Framework" and the supporting learning and teaching materials for implementation starting from the 2014/15 school year	3.0 (Note 2)	3.0 (Note 2)	3.0 (Note 2)

Support Measures	2015-16 Actual Expenditure (\$Million)	2016-17 Actual Expenditure (\$Million)	2017-18 Revised Estimates (\$Million)
3. Training programmes for Chinese Language teachers teaching NCS students	The programmes are subsumed under the overall professional development programme of Education Bureau and a breakdown of expenditure by item is not available.	The programmes are subsumed under the overall professional development programme of Education Bureau and a breakdown of expenditure by item is not available.	The programmes are subsumed under the overall professional development programme of Education Bureau and a breakdown of expenditure by item is not available.
4. Chinese Language Learning Support Centres to offer remedial programmes after school hours and during holidays for those NCS students who have a late start in the learning of the Chinese language, to develop teaching resources, and to organise workshops for experience sharing with teachers and workshops for parents of NCS students with a view to strengthening collaboration with parents of NCS students in the support for NCS students' learning of Chinese	3.7	3.9	4.4
5. Summer Bridging Programme for NCS students in primary schools Starting from 2013, the programme has been refined to allow parents of NCS students to accompany their children with a view to enhancing their exposure to, and use of, Chinese and support for their children.	2.6	2.6	2.3
6. Student grant for Applied Learning Chinese (for NCS students) starting from the 2014/15 school year	4.4	6.7	7.4

Support Measures	2015-16 Actual Expenditure (\$Million)	2016-17 Actual Expenditure (\$Million)	2017-18 Revised Estimates (\$Million)
<p>7. Subsidising eligible school candidates sitting for the General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) (Chinese) Examination since 2010 to the effect that the fee level of the examination payable by the subsidised school candidates is on par with the Chinese Language paper in the Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination or Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education</p> <p>Starting from 2013, the examination subsidy coverage has been expanded to other non-local Chinese examinations including the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE), and the General Certificate of Education (GCE) Advanced Subsidiary (AS)-Level and Advanced (A)-Level.</p>	2.09	2.58	2.95
8. District-based programmes in collaboration with non-governmental organisations since the 2012/13 school year to motivate NCS children to learn Chinese through fun activities such as games and creative art under the Language Fund.	2.35	1.18	3.50
9. Support for kindergartens admitting NCS students -			
<p>(a) University-School Support Programmes financed by the Education Development Fund:</p> <p>(i) a 3-year project to support kindergartens to enhance the learning and teaching of Chinese for NCS children from the 2012/13 to 2014/15 school years</p>	-	0.7	-

Support Measures	2015-16 Actual Expenditure (\$Million)	2016-17 Actual Expenditure (\$Million)	2017-18 Revised Estimates (\$Million)
(ii) 2 projects to support NCS students in kindergartens in the transition to primary schools from the 2015/16 to 2016/17 school years and from the 2017/18 to 2018/19 school years respectively	(Note 3)	(Note 3)	(Note 3)
(b) School-based professional support services	(Note 2)	(Note 2)	(Note 2)
(c) With the implementation of the new kindergarten education policy starting from the 2017/18 school year:			
(i) a grant comparable to the recommended salary of one kindergarten teacher has been provided to kindergartens admitting 8 or more NCS students for supporting NCS students	-	-	56.0
(ii) specific training courses for kindergarten teachers on support of NCS students	-	-	1.4
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau			
1. Co-operation with Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) to produce TV series on topics related to integration of ethnic minorities	2.86	—	—
2. Co-operation with RTHK to produce TV series on topics related to integration of EMs and to organise media experience / school outreach programme and webpage design on racial equality.	—	3.94	0.90
Social Welfare Department			
Welfare services including financial assistance, family services, etc.	(Note 4)	(Note 4)	(Note 4)

Note:

- (1) Apart from the above support measures, the Labour Department (LD) also provides a wide range of dedicated employment services that cater to the special needs of EM job seekers. The expenditure on providing these services was absorbed within the recurrent operational expenses of LD and cannot be separately identified.
- (2) These measures are provided by different sections of the Education Bureau (EDB) and deployment of staff may be adjusted having regard to the needs of individual schools. The relevant manpower resources and expenses are subsumed under the overall expenditure of EDB and/or different Funds including University-School Support Programme (USP) projects funded under the Education Development Fund and a breakdown of expenditure by item is not available.
- (3) Regarding the USP projects, the actual expenditure is \$2.25 million and \$8.33 million for the 2015/16 and 2016/17 school years respectively; and the estimated expenditure is \$2.88 million and \$5.46 million for the 2017/18 and 2018/19 school years respectively. As this USP project is provided for both kindergartens and primary schools, a breakdown of expenditure for kindergartens and primary schools is not available.
- (4) SWD does not have funding allocation specifically for supporting EMs.

- End -

CMAB088

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0095)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

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

1. the programmes and related activities to be organised in 2018-19, as well as the expenditure and staff establishment involved;
2. the estimated number of beneficiaries of such activities;
3. the public education or promotion activities organised for EMs, as well as their responsible organisations, targets and relevant costs in the past 3 years?

Asked by: Hon SHEK Lai-him, Abraham (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 33)

Reply:

The Government's measures and plans to support ethnic minorities (EMs) 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 (Cap. 480), Disability Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 487), Family Status Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 527) and Race Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 602) (RDO); and carries out respective publicity and public education programmes and enforcement work under these Ordinances. Based on the information provided by the EOC, its expenditure on publicity and public education (including staff costs) in 2016-17 was \$21.55 million, its revised estimate in 2017-18 was \$26.12 million, the estimated expenditure for 2018-19 is \$27.93 million; about 25% of the aforementioned expenditure is used for the publicity and education efforts on elimination of race discrimination. In October 2017, the Bureau provided a one-off funding of \$3 million to the EOC for promoting equal opportunities of EMs. The funded programmes include media campaigns,

production of educational publications, implementation of partnership projects to explore the feasibility of introducing qualification accreditation for EM language interpreters and conducting integrated research on EMs education, academic and employment pathway with a view to drawing up practical guidebooks for EM youth.

3. Starting from 2014-15, the EOC has set up an Ethnic Minorities Unit (the Unit) with 7 full-time staff for enhancing publicity and public education on the RDO.

4. In 2018-19, the EOC will work to advocate the rights of EMs and persons with disabilities to education and employment opportunities and access to services through the following activities and programmes:

- (a) on education, the EOC has set up the Working Group on Education for EMs to conduct a systematic study on the current position of Chinese language learning by EM students, and to collate the opinions of the major stakeholders with a view to submitting comprehensive recommendations to the Government. To promote fair admission policies and an inclusive learning environment, the EOC will also publish easy guides and organise training programmes for teaching staff, parents and students in schools. Furthermore, through the cooperation platform established a few years ago, regular meetings are held between the EOC and representatives from 10 local universities to study the formulation of policies and measures to support and facilitate students with special education needs in local higher institutes;
- (b) on employment, the EOC has set up a working group on “Mainstreaming Employment Opportunities in Residential Care and Healthcare Industries for EMs” to explore the feasibility of introducing a set of entry and registration requirements on Chinese proficiency having regard to the job requirement for registration and training of healthcare workers. In addition, the EOC has rolled out 2 programmes, namely the Charter for Racially Inclusive Workplace and Racially Inclusive Employer Award, with a view to encouraging employers to learn from those exemplary enterprises by adopting good practices in the employment of EMs; and
- (c) on the provision of goods, services and facilities, the EOC has been providing training concerning the RDO and cultural sensitivity to service providers in both public and private sectors such as Government departments, public bodies (including the Hospital Authority and the Estate Agents Authority) and industry associations (including the Hong Kong Association of Banks and the Hong Kong Institute of Bankers). Furthermore, the EOC will collaborate with a local university to explore the possibility of introducing a feasible mechanism for the qualification accreditation of interpreters in order to enhance the professionalism of community interpretation service. In 2017, the EOC published a study report on barrier-free taxis in Hong Kong and put forth recommendations and measures for the consideration of relevant government departments on how to improve local barrier-free taxi services. In 2018, the EOC will continue to cooperate with the Government, stakeholders of public transport services and training organisations to provide recommendations and relevant information with respect to the provision of training courses for taxi drivers and enhance their awareness of matters relating to disability discrimination,

disability harassment and vilification. The EOC will also promote the rights of persons with disabilities by means of the “Funding Programme of Research Projects on Equal Opportunities”.

5. According to the information provided by the EOC, the estimated numbers of beneficiaries of each programme are as follows:

Area	Programme	Estimated number
Education	Easy guide	All schools in the territory
	Training courses	2 000 teaching staff, parents and students
	Roving drama performances in schools	65 000 students
Employment	Charter on Inclusive Workplace and Racially Inclusive Employer Award	Employees of 50 participating business organisations
Provision of goods, facilities and services	Training courses	1 000 employees of the services industry
Public education	Contributing feature articles to a number of newspapers, Community Participation Funding Programme on Equal Opportunities, radio programmes, essay competitions, youth mentorship programmes and multimedia publicity programmes	All Hong Kong residents

6. Over the past 3 years, the EOC has continued its efforts to promote awareness and understanding among the public and stakeholders of the rights of the EMs 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; advertisements on MTR light-boxes; roving drama performances in schools; the Equal Opportunities Drama Project; micro film competitions and slogan design competitions; short video production competitions; photography competitions; writing competitions; poster design competitions and promotion activities on the EOC smartphone apps; seminars and trainings for education institutions, non-government organisations and community organisations, etc.

7. Moreover, the Unit has developed a total of 3 guidance materials for the banking and education sectors. For the banking sector, the Unit distributed to all banking corporations through the Hong Kong Association of Banks a list of suggested good practices on serving EM customers in 2015. For the education sector, the Unit published and sent to all schools in the territory a guidance booklet entitled Promotion of Racial Integration & Prevention of Racial Discrimination in Schools in 2016. In 2017, in view of the fact that the EDB has implemented the Free Quality Kindergarten Policy was implemented, an Easy Guide on Fair Kindergarten Admission was issued to advise kindergartens on upholding non-discriminatory admission policies and measures.

8. Regarding community outreach, apart from participation in 324 network meetings and 242 community events since April 2015, the Unit has also tried to expand its scope of outreach through social media and corporate connections under the “EMBRACE” Campaign launched in March 2017. Riding on these efforts, 5 leadership groups, including a Nepalese Community group, a Pakistani women’s group, a Sikh women’s group, a Filipino and an Indonesian foreign domestic helpers’ group, have been formed within these specific communities with the objective of creating a team of ambassadors who can raise awareness and provide information to community members as well as channel feedback to the EOC on their concerns which include sexual harassment, domestic violence, support for EM children with special educational needs, workplace discrimination and housing issues.

9. Recently, the Unit has also formed a Youth Consultative Group on Racial Equality and Integration and selected 29 Youth Members, including 9 Chinese and 20 non-Chinese, through nomination from schools and universities. Through their participation, the EOC could incorporate youth’s perspective into policy recommendations and public education; in the meantime, these youth members would also be empowered and encouraged to express their views and participate in discussions on race-related issues in the public fora.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB089

(Question Serial No. 3094)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. How has the Bureau publicised, provided guidance on and supervised the implementation of the Administrative Guidelines on Promotion of Racial Equality (Guidelines) in all policy bureaux, government departments and public organisations over the past year?
2. Have all policy bureaux, government departments and public organisations set up a dedicated fund for the provision of relevant measures and services in respect of the Guidelines over the past year? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
3. Further to the above question, have all policy bureaux, government departments and public organisations set up a dedicated office or deployed dedicated staff to follow up on the Guidelines? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
4. It is stated in the Budget that \$500 million will be earmarked to strengthen support for ethnic minorities. In the coming year, is it expected that steps will be taken by the Bureau to strengthen supervision on the work of various policy bureaux, government departments and public organisations in formulating policies and measures in respect of the Guidelines so as to provide enhanced support for ethnic minorities? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-chun (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 55)

Reply:

In 2010, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) issued the Administrative Guidelines on Promotion of Racial Equality ("the Guidelines") to provide general guidance to relevant government bureaux and departments and public authorities (hereafter referred to as "relevant authorities") to promote racial equality and ensure equal access by ethnic minorities ("EMs") to public services in key areas concerned, and to take this into account in their formulation, implementation and review of relevant policies and

measures. The Guidelines cover the key public services which are particularly relevant to meeting the needs of EMs and facilitating their integration into the community, namely, medical, education, vocational training, employment and major community services.

2. In accordance with the Guidelines, the relevant authorities have drawn up checklist of measures within their respective policy and programme areas that would assist in the promotion of racial equality, equal access to key public services and transparency of their work. The checklists, which contain contact information of the relevant authorities, have been uploaded onto the CMAB website and are available in 6 EM languages, namely Bahasa Indonesia, Hindi, Nepali, Tagalog, Thai and Urdu. The relevant authorities will draw up and issue updates on the contents of the checklists according to their respective programme areas where necessary. As relevant authorities are responsible for implementing and monitoring the implementation of the Guidelines in areas relevant to their purview, this Bureau does not have separate breakdown of the manpower and expenditure involved.

3. The Government attaches great importance to efforts to support the EMs, and will set up an inter-departmental steering committee, to be chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration, to co-ordinate, review and monitor work in this area and to enhance internal collaboration. The Government has also earmarked \$500 million to strengthen support for EMs.

4. Our initial plan is for the CMAB to provide secretariat support to the steering committee. We will consider deploying additional staff based on actual needs. The steering committee will give due consideration to the specific usage and modus operandi of the earmarked sum of \$500 million, including exploring new model of support, as well as making the best use of community wisdom and network to strengthen support for EMs. We will also listen to the views of different sectors and groups on the matter.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB090

(Question Serial No. 3096)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. In the past 3 years, did the Government collect data and information as well as conduct studies on the races of stakeholders in accordance with the Administrative Guidelines on Promotion of Racial Equality (Guidelines) when implementing policies and measures on education, employment, health care, housing, social welfare or security and providing related public services? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
2. Further to the above question, please list the names of the surveys or research projects the relevant policy bureaux, government departments and public organisations conducted targeting local residents of different races, the time of survey or research, the responsible government departments or organisations and the expenditures involved. If they have been completed, what are the results thereof? If no such surveys or research projects have been conducted, what are the reasons?
3. It is stated in the Budget that \$500 million will be earmarked to strengthen support for ethnic minorities. Will the Government conduct regular surveys and research projects on the use of various public services by ethnic minorities? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-chun (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 57)

Reply:

In accordance with the Administrative Guidelines on Promotion of Racial Equality (“the Guidelines”), relevant government bureaux and departments and public authorities (hereafter referred to as “relevant authorities”) should consider taking appropriate steps to assess the impact of their policies and measures on racial equality or provision of equal access to key public services. These steps may include collection of relevant information and statistics, consultation with relevant stakeholders and other appropriate measures. Moreover, to facilitate assessment by the public, the relevant authorities should consider setting indicators and/or targets as appropriate.

2. The relevant authorities, having regard to their own policy considerations and needs, may collect data and statistics on the races of stakeholders and conduct related studies. For example:

- (a) the Hospital Authority conducts annual questionnaire surveys to garner the views of ethnic minorities (EM) patients and its staff on the interpretation services provided by the service contractor. For the year of 2015-16, a total of 10 499 requests for interpretation services were handled by the Centre. Based on the results of a questionnaire survey conducted among a sample of 338 EM patients, it was found that service users were generally very satisfied with the interpretation services provided in hospitals and clinics;
- (b) the Employees Retraining Board collects feedbacks from trainees and training bodies through class visits, course evaluation surveys and course review questionnaires with a view to continuously improving the quality of the training and services for the EM groups. During the period from 2015-16 to 2016-17, about 560 trainees completed the dedicated courses for the EMs and 97% of them were satisfied with the training services. Training bodies are aware of the surveys of trainees' satisfaction and required to follow up trainees' feedback; and
- (c) the Construction Industry Council (CIC) conducted a survey among 380 EM practitioners in 2016 to collect information on the reasons and means of EMs joining construction industry, as well as their job duties and profile. The survey results would enable CIC to have a better understanding on the background of EM practitioners to arrange more suitable courses and service for them.

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) will continue to request the relevant authorities to collect data and set indicators for the continuous improvement of services provision to EMs.

3. The Government attaches great importance to efforts to support the EMs, and will set up an inter-departmental steering committee, to be chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration, to co-ordinate, review and monitor work in this area and to enhance internal collaboration. The Government has also earmarked \$500 million to strengthen support for EMs.

4. Our initial plan is for the CMAB to provide secretariat support to the steering committee. We will consider deploying additional staff based on actual needs. The steering committee will give due consideration to the specific usage and modus operandi of the earmarked sum of \$500 million, including exploring new model of support, as well as making the best use of community wisdom and network to strengthen support for EMs. We will also listen to the views of different sectors and groups on the matter.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB091

(Question Serial No. 3345)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. Please advise on the provision of telephone and on-site interpretation services for ethnic minorities at public hospitals and clinics under the Hospital Authority, government departments and public organisations (including Integrated Family Service Centres and Social Security Field Units under the Social Welfare Department). How many staff members are involved in providing telephone and on-site interpretation services for ethnic minorities?
2. At present, what is the general waiting time for the telephone and on-site interpretation services for ethnic minorities?

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-chun (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 179)

Reply:

Relevant government bureaux and departments and public authorities have all along been providing specific services, such as interpretation services, to meet the practical needs of ethnic minorities (EMs) under their respective policy areas, with a view to facilitating their integration into society and ensuring equal access to public services.

2. Under the Home Affairs Department, there are 6 support service centres and 2 sub-centres for EMs which provide Cantonese classes, designated learning classes and integration programmes for EMs to facilitate their integration into the community. Among them, the Centre for Harmony and Enhancement of Ethnic Minority Residents ("CHEER") operated by the Hong Kong Christian Service provides general interpretation and translation services in addition to a variety of basic services. Interpretation and translation services in specialised or professional areas do not fall within the service scope of the CHEER. The interpretation services provided by the CHEER consist mainly of instant telephone interpretation and enquiry services. Depending on the availability of resources, on-site interpretation or simultaneous interpretation services can also be arranged. At present, there are 17 EMs working in the CHEER responsible for providing a variety of services, including interpretation and translation services. Almost all of the telephone interpretation and enquiry cases were handled instantly. Over 90% of on-site interpretation services

were performed on the date requested by the user departments while the rest were performed after rescheduling. Since the interpretation needs of EMs vary depending on what public services they sought, the relevant authorities will consider the actual situation and adopt suitable procedures to provide interpretation services to EMs in need.

3. Interpretation services covering 18 EM languages are provided in public hospitals and clinics under the Hospital Authority (HA) primarily through a service contractor, the HKSKH Lady MacLehose Centre (the Centre), part-time court interpreters and relevant consulates. At present, the Centre employs more than 100 interpreters who have all received training in medical-related knowledge as well as communication skills. Moreover, the Department of Health (DH) has also engaged the Centre to provide both telephone and on-site interpretation services in 18 EM languages to patients since 1 September 2017 as a pilot for 1 year, in addition to the ongoing interpretation services provided by the CHEER and part-time judiciary interpreters. Depending on the needs of individual patients, DH staff will arrange on-site or telephone interpretation service in advance or urgently. DH will continue to monitor and review the usage of the interpretation services provided by the Centre and other service providers.

4. The HA has put in place guidelines on the arrangement of interpretation services. HA staff will contact the contractor's 24-hour call centre to arrange on-site or telephone interpretation services according to the needs of each case or upon request of patients. For scheduled services (such as medical appointment at the general outpatient and specialist clinics), patients may request the hospital/clinic concerned to arrange interpretation services in advance. For non-scheduled service (such as emergency hospital admission), hospital staff will arrange immediate provision of telephone interpretation services or on-site interpretation services as soon as possible.

5. Social Welfare Department (SWD) (including its Integrated Family Service Centres and Social Security Field Units) will arrange appropriate interpretation service for EMs from various sources, such as court interpretation service, as well as interpretation service as provided by the service contractor of the HA, the CHEER and other non-governmental organisations. SWD has installed web-cam facilities in 10 service units for conducting tripartite video conferencing among service users, social workers/social security staff and interpreters of CHEER when required. Besides, SWD Hotline has provided callers of EM groups to have instant access to telephone interpretation service in 7 common ethnic minority languages so as to facilitate their welfare service enquiry.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB092

(Question Serial No. 0999)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau will set up a Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area Development Office in 2018-19. What are the specific work plan, staff establishment and estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 37)

Reply:

The Development Plan of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area (the Development Plan) will be promulgated soon. After promulgation of the Development Plan, we will set up the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area Development Office (the Office) under the establishment of this Bureau as early as possible. The work priorities of the Office for 2018-19 include the following: to carry out promotion and publicity work and disseminate information to deepen the understanding of the public and industries on the Bay Area Development; to co-ordinate with relevant central ministries/departments, the Guangdong Provincial Government, and the Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) Government, as well as the relevant bureaux/departments of the Hong Kong SAR Government in formulating an annual work plan to take forward the Bay Area Development; and to maintain close liaison with business associations, professional bodies and relevant stakeholders to gauge their views on implementation of the Development Plan.

2. In 2018-19, the Office involves 6 additional posts under Programme (2), namely 1 officer at point three of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Administrative Officer, 1 Senior Executive Officer, 1 Personal Secretary I and 1 Assistant Clerical Officer. The estimated expenditure of the Office is about \$13.5 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB093

(Question Serial No. 1718)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In the 2017-18 estimate of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau, how much is set aside for the areas and projects in relation to the Bay Area? In the 2018-19 estimate, what is the estimated expenditure for areas and projects in related to the Bay Area?

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 528)

Reply:

In 2017-18, the policy matters of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area were mainly taken up by a team responsible for Hong Kong/Mainland regional co-operation under this Bureau. As the work in taking forward the development of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area is an integral part of the overall duties of the staff concerned, the expenditure involved cannot be separately itemised.

2. The Development Plan of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area (the Development Plan) will be promulgated soon. After promulgation of the Development Plan, we will set up the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area Development Office (the Office) under the establishment of this Bureau as early as possible. The Office will be responsible for co-ordinating with the National Development and Reform Commission, relevant central ministries/departments, the Guangdong Provincial Government and the Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) Government, as well as the relevant bureaux/departments of the Hong Kong SAR Government in the implementation of the Development Plan. It will also proactively liaise with business associations, professional bodies and relevant stakeholders to publicise and promote the development opportunities for Hong Kong enterprises and talents brought about by the development of the Bay Area, and gauge their views on the implementation of the Development Plan to ensure that the relevant measures can best meet the needs of the industries. In 2018-19, the estimated expenditure of the Office is about \$13.5 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB094****(Question Serial No. 1140)**Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs BureauSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: Not specifiedControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

Please advise this Committee of:

- (a) 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 2017-18 with a breakdown by publicity channel;
- (b) how the effectiveness of the above initiative is evaluated by the Bureau, and whether the spending is effective; and
- (c) the Bureau's estimated expenses in respect of the above initiative in 2018-19 and the manpower involved.

Asked by: Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 52)Reply:

- (a) The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB)'s expenses on publicity through Internet/social media in 2017-18 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	\$560,000
Promotion of the Basic Law	network media	\$600,000
Promotion of messages of equal opportunities, racial integration, breaking gender stereotypes and barrier-free access	website, mobile application, social media and network media	\$250,000
Code on Access to Information	website and mobile application	\$180,000

[#] 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.

- (b) 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.
- (c) The estimated expenses of CMAB on the above initiative in 2018-19 are detailed below:

Publicity item	Publicity channel	Estimated publicity expenses*
Promotion of the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area	website, social media and network media	\$500,000
Promotion of the Basic Law	network media	\$600,000

* The estimated publicity expenses do not include manpower expenditure

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB095

(Question Serial No. 3053)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

It is mentioned in the Brief Description of this Programme that the Government will promote public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law. In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee of:

- (a) the work plan to promote public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law;
- (b) the specific programmes carried out in the past year through electronic media, promotional activities and enhanced co-operation with community organisations in taking forward the above work; and
- (c) the amount of provision to be deployed for the above work in 2018-19?

Asked by: Hon WONG Kwok-kin (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 19)

Reply:

In 2018-19, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) will set aside about \$17 million for enabling the public to have a more comprehensive and thorough understanding of the “one country, two systems” principle and the Basic Law by organising various types of activities through different means. The promotion strategies include:

- (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.

2. Under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (BLPSC) provides 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.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB096

(Question Serial No. 3192)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding co-operation and exchange between Hong Kong and the Mainland under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2018-19 of this Programme, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

- (a) What are the estimate and staff establishment for setting up the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area Development Office? What are the duties and functions of the office; and
- (b) 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 mentioned in the Estimates, what are the measures to be taken and the areas of co-operation?

Asked by: Hon WONG Kwok-kin (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 20)

Reply:

The Development Plan of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area (the Development Plan) will be promulgated soon. After promulgation of the Development Plan, we will set up the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area Development Office (the Office) under the establishment of this Bureau as early as possible. In 2018-19, the estimated expenditure of the Office is about \$13.5 million and the Office involves 6 additional posts, namely 1 officer at point three of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Administrative Officer, 1 Senior Executive Officer, 1 Personal Secretary I and 1 Assistant Clerical Officer.

2. The Office will be responsible for co-ordinating with the National Development and Reform Commission, relevant central ministries/departments, the Guangdong Provincial Government and the Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) Government, as well as the relevant bureaux/departments of the Hong Kong SAR Government in the implementation of the Development Plan. It will also proactively liaise with business associations, professional bodies and relevant stakeholders to publicise and promote the

development opportunities for Hong Kong enterprises and talents brought about by the development of the Bay Area, and gauge their views on the implementation of the Development Plan to ensure that relevant measures can best meet the needs of the industries.

3. Policy matters on deepening regional co-operation with the Mainland under Programme (2) “Constitutional and Mainland Affairs” are handled by CMAB staff. 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 the development of the Belt and Road as well as the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area, commerce, trade and investment, financial services, innovation and technology, professional services, aviation, shipping, logistics, tourism, cultural and creative industries, youth development, education, environmental protection, food safety, sports, urban management, medical and health services, etc. Specific measures 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.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB097

(Question Serial No. 1403)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. Regarding the setting up of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area Development Office, what are the staff establishment and estimated expenditure involved in 2018-19?
2. What are the work programmes in the coming year, and what are the estimated expenditures for each of the programmes?

Asked by: Hon WONG Pik-wan, Helena (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 16)

Reply:

The Development Plan of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area (the Development Plan) will be promulgated soon. After promulgation of the Development Plan, we will set up the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area Development Office (the Office) under the establishment of this Bureau as early as possible. The Office involves 6 additional posts, namely 1 officer at point three of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Administrative Officer, 1 Senior Executive Officer, 1 Personal Secretary I and 1 Assistant Clerical Officer.

2. The work priorities of the Office for 2018-19 include the following: to carry out promotion and publicity work and disseminate information to deepen the understanding of the public and industries on the Bay Area Development; to co-ordinate with relevant central ministries/departments, the Guangdong Provincial Government, and the Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) Government, as well as the relevant bureaux/departments of the Hong Kong SAR Government in formulating an annual work plan to take forward the Bay Area Development; and to maintain close liaison with business associations, professional bodies and relevant stakeholders to gauge their views on implementation of the Development Plan.

3. In 2018-19, the estimated expenditure of the Office is about \$13.5 million, of which about \$6.3 million is for manpower establishment and about \$7.2 million is for other expenses.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB098

(Question Serial No. 1404)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. In respect of the priority co-operation areas agreed between Taiwan and Hong Kong, what areas are included?

Asked by: Hon WONG Pik-wan, Helena (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 17)

Reply:

Since their establishment in 2010, the Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic and Cultural Cooperation and Promotion Council and the Taiwan-Hong Kong Economic and Cultural Co-operation Council have 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, and promotion of water saving, etc.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB099

(Question Serial No. 1405)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): (700) General non-recurrent
Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Under Subhead 700, the general non-recurrent expenditure in 2018-19 has increased substantially by \$4.53 million when compared with the revised estimate in 2017-18. What are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon WONG Pik-wan, Helena (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 18)

Reply:

We set up 4 liaison units in 2017 to expand the network of the Mainland Offices. They are Tianjin Liaison Unit under the Beijing Office, Zhejiang Liaison Unit under the Shanghai Economic and Trade Office (ETO), Guangxi Liaison Unit under the Guangdong ETO and Shaanxi Liaison Unit under the Chengdu ETO.

2. Under Subhead 700 "General non-recurrent" expenditure, the revised estimate for 2017-18 is about \$1.99 million while the estimate for 2018-19 is about \$6.53 million. The increase is mainly due to a provision set aside for one-off expenditures for the relocation of the above liaison units to long-term office accommodation.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB100

(Question Serial No. 1406)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. What is the base of calculation of the disturbance allowance? What are the eligibility criteria for drawing the allowance?
2. Please set out the respective numbers of recipients in 2016 and 2017, and the estimated number of recipients in 2018.
3. The estimated expenditure for disturbance allowance in 2018-19 is \$3.32 million higher than the revised estimate in 2017-18. What are the reasons?

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

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 2016-17 and 2017-18 are 55 and 40 respectively, while the number of officers eligible for drawing the allowance in 2018-19 is estimated to be 74. As more officers will complete their tour in the Mainland and Taiwan Offices in 2018-19 and that these officers and their successors are eligible to apply for disturbance allowance, the estimated expenditure for disturbance allowance in 2018-19 is higher than that in 2017-18.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB101****(Question Serial No. 0532)**

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

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 5 years, the outcome of the cases, as well as the financial resources and manpower involved.

Asked by: Hon WONG Ting-kwong (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 16)

Reply:

The numbers of enquiries as well as assistance cases and complaints which were not related to immigration and personal safety matters received by the Mainland Offices (namely the Beijing Office and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan) from 2013 to 2017 are as follows:

Year	Enquiries	Assistance cases and complaints which were not related to immigration and personal safety matters
2013	15 652	143
2014	15 923	144
2015	13 060	113
2016	11 043	147
2017	9 475	145

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

CMAB102

(Question Serial No. 1193)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Does the Government have any plan to launch publicity against an “independent Hong Kong”? If yes, what are the specific details and expenditure of the publicity work? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ting-kwong (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 32)

Reply:

The Preamble of the Basic Law clearly states that Hong Kong has been part of the territory of China since ancient times. Article 1 of the Basic Law points out that the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (the HKSAR) is an inalienable part of the People's Republic of China. Article 12 of the Basic Law also states that the HKSAR shall be a local administrative region of the People's Republic of China, which shall enjoy a high degree of autonomy and come directly under the Central People's Government. These provisions have made clear that Hong Kong has all along been an inalienable part of China.

2. In 2018-19, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau has set aside about \$17 million for organising various promotional activities via different means to enable the public to have a more comprehensive and thorough understanding of the “one country, two systems” principle and the Basic Law. This Bureau has not specifically earmarked dedicated provision regarding the subject of “independent Hong Kong”.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB103

(Question Serial No. 0970)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In paragraph 5 of Programme (2) under Head 144, it is mentioned that the main responsibilities of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) are, amongst others, “to advise bureaux and departments on matters relating to the implementation of the Basic Law”. In this regard, would the Government advise this Committee whether:

- (1) the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) has sought advice from the CMAB on the implementation of the Basic Law in 2017-18? If yes, please give a detailed account;
- (2) the Department of Justice (DoJ) has sought advice from the CMAB on the implementation of the Basic Law in 2017-18? If yes, please give a detailed account;
- (3) bureaux and departments other than the REO and DoJ have sought advice from the CMAB on the implementation of the Basic Law in 2017-18? If yes, please give a detailed account; and
- (4) the CMAB has sought advice from the DoJ on the implementation of the Basic Law in 2017-18? If yes, please give a detailed account.

Asked by: Hon YEUNG Alvin (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 7)

Reply:

Advising bureaux and departments on the implementation of the Basic Law is part of the regular duties of the CMAB. Statistical information on the departments involved is therefore not kept.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB104

(Question Serial No. 0971)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the work undertaken by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) to promote the Basic Law to civil servants, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

- (1) the total number of seminar, workshop or related activities organised by CMAB in 2017-18 to promote the Basic Law to civil servants;
- (2) in relation to (1), please list out in table form the number of seminar, workshop or related activities organised by CMAB for various bureaux and departments to promote the Basic Law and their number of participants; and
- (3) the expenditure incurred by CMAB for organising the above seminar, workshop or related activities.

Asked by: Hon YEUNG Alvin (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 8)

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) seeks to enhance the public to have a more comprehensive and thorough understanding of the “one country, two systems” principle and the Basic Law through organising various types of activities via different means.

2. Under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (BLPSC) provides views and steer on the overall strategy and key aspects for promoting the Basic Law. The CMAB provides secretariat support to the BLPSC. In 2017-18, the BLPSC organised the “Basic Law Seminar in Commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region” in November last year to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, which was attended by members from different sectors of the community, including civil servants.

3. Moreover, 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, Education Bureau, Civil Service Bureau (CSB), Trade and Industry Department and Information Services Department respectively in planning and organising various types of activities to promote the Basic Law on various fronts. The Working Group on Civil Servants assisted by the CSB is responsible for taking forward the strategy of, drawing up action plans for as well as monitoring, evaluating and reviewing activities for promotion of the Basic Law among civil servants.

4. In 2017, the CSB organised about 110 Basic Law training courses, and 3 Basic Law thematic seminars to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. About 8 900 civil servants at various ranks from different Bureaux/Departments participated in these events. The CSB also provides multimedia learning resources for civil servants at our dedicated Basic Law web portal. In 2017, the number of visits to the portal is about 90 000. In 2017-18, the estimated expenditure for local Basic Law training is about \$0.9 million. The CSB and Mainland institutions also jointly organise national studies programmes in the Mainland, which include a Basic Law module. In 2017, about 700 civil servants attended the related programmes.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB105

(Question Serial No. 0973)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area Development Office to be set up under the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau, would the Government advise this Committee of:

- (1) the staff establishment of the office;
- (2) the operating expenditure of the office; and
- (3) the main responsibilities of the office.

Asked by: Hon YEUNG Alvin (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 9)

Reply:

The Development Plan of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area (the Development Plan) will be promulgated soon. After promulgation of the Development Plan, we will set up the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area Development Office (the Office) under the establishment of this Bureau as early as possible. The Office involves 6 additional posts under Programme (2), namely 1 officer at point three of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Administrative Officer, 1 Senior Executive Officer, 1 Personal Secretary I and 1 Assistant Clerical Officer. In 2018-19, the estimated expenditure of the Office is about \$13.5 million.

2. The Office will be responsible for co-ordinating with the National Development and Reform Commission, relevant central ministries/departments, the Guangdong Provincial Government and the Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) Government, as well as the relevant bureaux/departments of the Hong Kong SAR Government in the implementation of the Development Plan. It will also proactively liaise with business associations, professional bodies and relevant stakeholders to publicise and promote the

development opportunities for Hong Kong enterprises and talents brought about by the development of the Bay Area, and gauge their views on the implementation of the Development Plan to ensure that relevant measures can best meet the needs of the industries.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB106

(Question Serial No. 0938)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

One of the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2018-19 under the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau is to set up a Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area Development Office and co-ordinate the work of Hong Kong in taking forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area. In this regard, would the Government advise on the specific work plan in 2018-19, and the expenditure and manpower involved?

Asked by: Hon YUNG Hoi-yan (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 42)

Reply:

The Development Plan of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area (the Development Plan) will be promulgated soon. After promulgation of the Development Plan, we will set up the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area Development Office (the Office) under the establishment of this Bureau as early as possible. The work priorities of the Office for 2018-19 include the following: to carry out promotion and publicity work and disseminate information to deepen the understanding of the public and industries on the Bay Area Development; to co-ordinate with relevant central ministries/departments, the Guangdong Provincial Government and the Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) Government, as well as the relevant bureaux/departments of the Hong Kong SAR Government in formulating an annual work plan to take forward the Bay Area Development; and to maintain close liaison with business associations, professional bodies and relevant stakeholders to gauge their views on implementation of the Development Plan.

2. In 2018-19, the Office involves 6 additional posts under Programme (2), namely 1 officer at point three of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Administrative Officer, 1 Senior Executive Officer, 1 Personal Secretary I and 1 Assistant Clerical Officer. The estimated expenditure of the Office is about \$13.5 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB107****(Question Serial No. 1598)**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	2015 register of electors	2016 register of electors	2017 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	2015 register of electors	2016 register of electors	2017 register of electors

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

18 DCs	2015 register of electors	2016 register of electors	2017 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 the VR Campaigns and what are the details of the review?
- (5) What organisations were commissioned by the Government to take charge of the VR Campaigns in the past 3 years? What indicators did these organisations use to evaluate the effectiveness of the VR work? What were the manpower and expenditures involved?

- (6) What are the manpower and expenditure allocated 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	2015 register of electors	2016 register of electors	2017 register of electors

- (8) Please list in the following table, by the 18 DCs in the territory, the numbers of “electors removed 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	2015 register of electors	2016 register of electors	2017 register of electors

- (9) What were the actual manpower and expenditures allocated for the conduct of the Chief Executive Election in the past year?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 23)

Reply:

According to the 2015, 2016 and 2017 final registers, the number of registered geographical constituency (GC) electors in each District Council (DC) constituency is set out below:

	2015 final register	2016 final register	2017 final register
Central & Western	104 547	105 004	104 086
Wan Chai	71 787	71 646	70 658
Eastern	304 503	307 381	305 231
Southern	142 637	143 776	143 298
Yau Tsim Mong	117 881	120 035	119 515
Sham Shui Po	176 706	181 079	183 019
Kowloon City	184 293	187 015	186 917
Wong Tai Sin	245 855	249 024	248 706
Kwun Tong	346 347	352 543	359 952
Tsuen Wan	148 577	152 965	153 132
Tuen Mun	267 604	271 290	271 839

	2015 final register	2016 final register	2017 final register
Yuen Long	296 957	308 865	314 400
Kwai Tsing	278 855	284 752	285 952
Islands	67 053	68 639	69 378
North	170 900	175 072	176 375
Tai Po	169 829	175 720	177 342
Sai Kung	235 100	245 808	249 662
Sha Tin	364 511	378 471	385 607
Total	3 693 942	3 779 085	3 805 069

2. According to the 2015, 2016 and 2017 final registers, the number of newly registered GC electors in each DC constituency is set out below:

	2015 final register	2016 final register	2017 final register
Central & Western	6 933	4 572	2 077
Wan Chai	4 335	2 731	1 315
Eastern	18 479	11 789	4 485
Southern	7 939	5 046	2 221
Yau Tsim Mong	10 043	6 705	3 343
Sham Shui Po	15 444	9 479	4 631
Kowloon City	17 483	8 982	4 774
Wong Tai Sin	15 789	9 484	4 671
Kwun Tong	26 779	15 498	8 251
Tsuen Wan	12 436	7 615	2 918
Tuen Mun	15 242	11 154	5 144
Yuen Long	22 365	16 177	8 808
Kwai Tsing	21 102	11 993	5 880
Islands	5 219	3 287	1 754
North	12 618	9 499	4 657
Tai Po	10 281	9 724	3 865
Sai Kung	17 651	13 829	5 989
Sha Tin	22 495	19 939	8 378
Total	262 633	177 503	83 161

3. In the light of public concern over the accuracy of residential addresses recorded in the register of electors 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 2015 to 2017, the numbers of electors included in statutory inquiry procedures were 82 655, 103 802 and 43 577 respectively, of which the numbers of electors with registered addresses at residential care homes for the elderly were 2 318, 3 405 and 260 respectively. A breakdown of the numbers of GC electors removed from the respective register because of loss of eligibility for registration in the above 3 VR cycles is as follows:

Cycle Reason for removal and number of electors	2015	2016	2017
Failure to respond to statutory inquiry procedures [#]	41 661	67 509	29 576
Death	34 038	24 163	26 950
Other reasons (such as voluntary de-registration, loss of Hong Kong permanent resident status, objection cases allowed by the Revising Officer, etc.)	778	688	651
Total	76 477	92 360	57 177

[#] In the VR cycles from 2015 to 2017, among the electors removed due to failure to respond to statutory inquiry procedures, 819, 2 563 and 170 electors were those with registered addresses at residential care homes for the elderly.

4. The REO did not commission any individual organisation to undertake VR Campaigns. 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. From 2015-16 to 2017-18, the establishment and operational expenses (including publicity expenses on VR Campaign) in respect of VR and checking work are detailed below:

Year	Civil service establishment*	Number of NCSC staff employed[@]	Expenditure on staff remuneration and related operational expenses
2015-16	92	404	\$97 million
2016-17	93	394	\$87 million
2017-18	107	about 120	\$49 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 2017 final register, there are about 3.8 million GC electors, representing a registration rate of 79.5%. 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 2018-19 to sustain the checking work. It will also continue to strengthen the publicity measures to encourage eligible persons to register as electors, remind existing electors to submit address proofs when applying for change of registered residential addresses, 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. During the peak period of the VR cycle, the above work will be carried out by a team comprising 123 civil servants (including 16 time-limited civil service posts) and around 340 NCSC staff. The expenditure on staff remuneration and the related operational expenses is estimated to be around \$61 million. The relevant work will continue to be carried out in the 2018 and 2019 VR cycles.

6. In 2017-18, the revised estimate for the conduct of the 2017 Chief Executive Election is \$105 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB108

(Question Serial No. 1608)

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 were the actual manpower and expenditure allocated by the Government for the Legislative Council (LegCo) By-election held on 11 March this year?

The central counting station for the LegCo By-election held on 11 March was set up at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre in Wan Chai. Was there any fallback central counting station for the By-election? If so, who were responsible for the relevant venue and security arrangements, and whether any sensitive data was stored in the venue that may increase the risk of electors' data being stolen?

In the past, ballot papers were passed beforehand to the Presiding Officers, who would keep the ballot papers at home for a period of as long as one week, before bringing them to the polling stations on the polling day. Were there any measures in place to ensure that the ballot papers and electors' data would be safe from tampering during the process?

There were long queues of electors outside some of the polling stations in the last LegCo General Election, including the polling stations in Tai Koo Shing West, Wan Shing in Tai Wai, The Belcher's, Amoy and Whampoa West, among which the queue in Tai Koo Shing West was the longest. It is known that new arrangements had been introduced for these polling stations during the LegCo By-election held on 11 March. What were the details? Please list the constituencies with an increased number of polling stations, the venues that were arranged to be additional polling stations, as well as the increase in manpower and the ancillary arrangements in this election due to this reason.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 33)

Reply:

The total expenditure for the Legislative Council (LegCo) By-election for the Hong Kong Island, Kowloon West and New Territories East Geographical Constituencies (GCs) and the Architectural, Surveying, Planning and Landscape Functional Constituency (2018 LegCo By-election) held on 11 March 2018 is estimated to be about \$312 million. The relevant preparatory and winding up work of the By-election has been carried out by around

300 additional non-civil service contract staff as well as staff in the establishment of the Registration and Electoral Office (REO).

2. As far as the By-election is concerned, the REO hired the Hang Hau Sports Centre as the fallback central counting station. The REO did not store any personal data in that venue. All personal data required to be used in the central counting station (e.g., personal data of counting staff for verification of identity) would be delivered to the fallback venue only after its activation. Besides, the REO had arranged security guards to station at the venue and put in place closed-circuit television (CCTV) surveillance to monitor the area.

3. In the 2018 LegCo By-election, all ballot papers were delivered to the REO's office for storage after completion of printing by the Government Logistics Department. Proper security measures were put in place by the REO at its office concerned, including round-the-clock stationing by security guards and CCTV surveillance. In view of the large number of polling stations involved, the Presiding Officers (PROs) 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 ballot papers for their respective polling stations, and bring them along to their polling stations on the polling day.

4. When collecting the ballot papers, the polling staff had to undergo specified procedures, including checking the quantity and serial numbers of the ballot papers against the "Summary of ballot paper stock allocated to individual polling station" (the Summary) of the REO. Both the REO and the polling staff concerned had to sign on the Summary to confirm the quantity of ballot papers distributed, and each of them was given a signed copy of the Summary for record.

5. To ensure that ballot papers were free from tampering, all ballot papers collected by the polling staff were required to be put in plastic bags sealed with tamper proof tapes. Both the REO and the polling staff concerned were required to sign against the seals. It would be easily spotted if a plastic bag had been torn open. All sealed ballot papers had to be put into a locked suitcase. The REO had repeatedly reminded the polling staff concerned that the sealed packets of ballot papers could only be opened after they had arrived at their respective polling stations on the polling day.

6. The polling staff involved in the collection of ballot papers, after arriving at their respective polling stations on the polling day, were required to report to the PRO the quantity and serial numbers of the ballot papers concerned. The PRO, on the other hand, would check the quantity and serial numbers of the ballot papers against the entries in the Summary. Before the start of the poll, the polling staff at the ballot paper issuing desks also had to conduct random checks of the ballot papers to ensure that they were unmarked. The PRO would inform the candidates or their agents who were present at the polling station of the quantity of ballot papers kept by him/her and where the ballot papers were placed, and allow them to observe the unsealing of the packets of ballot papers. They might also request checking the ballot papers, if necessary.

7. In view of the long queuing time of electors waiting to collect ballot papers at some polling stations during the 2016 LegCo General Election, a series of improvement measures were adopted by the REO for the 2018 LegCo By-election. They include:

- (a) increasing the numbers of ballot paper issuing desks and voting compartments in the polling stations concerned and deploying additional manpower to these stations;
- (b) securing larger venues for use as polling stations as far as possible;
- (c) increasing the number of polling stations; and
- (d) re-allocating some of the electors from polling stations with long queues to a nearby station.

8. Meanwhile, to prevent the reoccurrence of electors queuing for a long time at the polling stations to collect their ballot papers, the REO set up additional polling stations in the Hong Kong Island, Kowloon West and New Territories East GCs, and deployed additional manpower to the polling stations after taking into account the number of electors. Details are as follows:

GC	District	Code of additional polling station	Additional polling station	Number of polling staff
Hong Kong Island	Central and Western	A0902	HKSKH Western District Elderly Community Centre	24
	Eastern	C0202	Delia School of Canada	33
Kowloon West	Sham Shui Po	F2303	Portion No.1, Recreation and Leisure Centre, Chak On Estate (near Fu Chak House)	20
New Territories East	Tai Po	P1804	Joint Village Office for Villages in Shuen Wan	19
	Sai Kung	Q2402	Chi Lin Buddhist Primary School	29
	Sha Tin	R2701	Ma On Shan Ling Liang Primary School	44

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB109****(Question Serial No. 2639)**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 and specific expenditures on seeking legal advice for verifying the eligibility of candidates in Legislative Council (LegCo) and District Council (DC) elections (including general elections and by-elections) conducted by the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) in the past 5 years.

Name of candidate	Nature of election (DC/ LegCo general election/ by-election)	Date of election	Name of candidate	Returning Officer (RO)'s grounds for questioning the eligibility of the candidate	Specific date on which the RO sought external legal advice	Persons/ Organisations providing legal advice	Date on which the RO obtained legal advice and the details of the advice	Date on which the RO informed the candidate of making a defence and the deadline for the candidate to submit the defence	Date on which the RO made the final decision and the details	Actual expenditure incurred in seeking legal advice

2. Are selective verification of the eligibility of candidates and making decision on whether or not to seek external legal advice part of the statutory functions of the RO? Why didn't the RO conduct an across-the-board verification of the eligibility of all candidates? What was the legal basis for that?
3. Based on what criteria did the RO decide whether or not to accept the legal advice obtained? Based on what criteria did the RO decide whether or not to accept the candidate's defence? Did the RO seek legal advice again upon receipt of the candidate's defence?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 31)

Reply:

In accordance with the Legislative Council Ordinance (Cap. 542), the District Councils Ordinance (Cap. 547), the Electoral Affairs Commission (Electoral Procedure) (Legislative Council) Regulation (Cap. 541D) and the Electoral Affairs Commission (Electoral Procedure) (District Councils) Regulation (Cap. 541F), in Legislative Council and District Council elections, whether a candidate's nomination is valid is determined by the Returning Officer (RO) according to the legal requirements and relevant procedures.

2. Depending on the actual circumstances of each case, the RO may seek legal advice and may, where necessary, require the candidate to furnish additional information that he/she considers appropriate according to the Regulation concerned, so as to satisfy himself/herself as to the eligibility of the candidate or the validity of the nomination. The RO shall, in accordance with the law and having considered the relevant information, decide whether or not a person is validly nominated as a candidate.

3. In accordance with section 6 of the Electoral Affairs Commission (Nominations Advisory Committees (Legislative Council)) Regulation (Cap. 541C) or section 6 of the Electoral Affairs Commission (Nominations Advisory Committees (District Councils)) Regulation (Cap. 541E), an RO may seek the advice of the Nominations Advisory Committee (NAC) as to whether a particular candidate who has submitted a nomination form is eligible to be, or disqualified from being, nominated as a candidate. However, it is also stipulated in the Regulations that the Regulations do not empower or require the NAC to advise on any matter relating to the requirements under section 40 of the Legislative Council Ordinance or section 34 of the District Councils Ordinance. The expenditure incurred by ROs in seeking the advice of the NACs was covered by the operational expenses of the respective elections.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB110

(Question Serial No. 1648)

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 Registration and Electoral Office's provision for 2018-19 is 107.8% higher than the revised estimate for 2017-18. What are the reasons for the substantial increase? Please list out in detail a breakdown of the specific expenditure items involved in the increased provision.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 7)

Reply:

The increase in provision for the Registration and Electoral Office in 2018-19 is mainly due to the payment of part of the expenditure of the Legislative Council By-election for the Hong Kong Island, Kowloon West and New Territories East Geographical Constituencies and the Architectural, Surveying, Planning and Landscape Functional Constituency in 2018-19; the preparation for the 2019 District Council Ordinary Election, as well as the preparation and conduct of any possible by-elections. The provisions reserved for these purposes are around \$202 million, \$148 million and \$211 million respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB111

(Question Serial No. 1649)

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 respect of the Registration and Electoral Office, it is mentioned in the Estimates that one of the matters requiring special attention in 2018-19 is the conduct of a voter registration exercise, including updating the registers of electors and the related publicity measures to encourage eligible persons (including young persons in particular) to register as electors. In this connection:

1. Will 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 register as functional constituency electors to boost voter registration rate in functional constituencies?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 8)

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, newspapers and magazines and public transport system), new media that are more popular among young people (such as websites and mobile applications for smartphone), etc. Publicity expenses for the 2015 to 2017 Voter Registration (VR) Campaigns were \$13.79 million, \$17.24 million and \$5.78 million respectively.

2. 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 geographical constituency (GC) and functional constituency (FC) electors, reminding existing electors to submit address proofs when applying for change of registered residential addresses, and reminding electors to update their registration particulars in a

timely manner while strengthening the public awareness and knowledge of VR. To strengthen VR and remind existing electors about the new requirement of submitting address proofs when applying for change of registered residential addresses, an estimated provision of about \$8.5 million has been set aside for the 2018 VR Campaign, which is slightly higher than the publicity expenses earmarked for previous non-election years. The REO has no breakdown of the expenses in respect of the publicity measures for GC and FC respectively as the VR publicity measures are applicable to both constituencies.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB112****(Question Serial No. 2483)**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:

How many meetings did the Nominations Advisory Committees of the Electoral Affairs Commission convene in connection with matters related to the Legislative Council (LegCo) Election in September 2016 and the LegCo By-election in March 2018? How many cases involving matters related to the nomination of candidates for the LegCo elections were handled? To which constituencies did the candidates involved in these cases belong?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wing-hang, Dennis (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 90)

Reply:

Information with respect to the cases handled by the Nominations Advisory Committees (NACs) during the 2016 Legislative Council (LegCo) General Election and the 2018 LegCo By-election for the Hong Kong Island, Kowloon West and New Territories East Geographical Constituencies and the Architectural, Surveying, Planning and Landscape Functional Constituency (2018 LegCo By-election) is tabulated as follows :

Election	Constituencies concerned	No. of cases
2016 LegCo General Election	Hong Kong Island, Kowloon West, Kowloon East, New Territories West and New Territories East Geographical Constituencies, Catering, Health Services, Legal, Medical and Wholesale and Retail Functional Constituencies	15
2018 LegCo By-election	Architectural, Surveying, Planning and Landscape Functional Constituency	1

2. The NACs did not convene any meeting in connection with the above elections.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB113

(Question Serial No. 1877)

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 a breakdown of the revised estimate for and details of the Legislative Council By-election for the Hong Kong Island, Kowloon West and New Territories East Geographical Constituencies and the Architectural, Surveying, Planning and Landscape Functional Constituency; and the reserved provision for and details of the preparation and conduct of other possible by-elections (please give a breakdown if there is more than 1 item).

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

Reply:

The total expenditure for the Legislative Council By-election for the Hong Kong Island, Kowloon West and New Territories East Geographical Constituencies and the Architectural, Surveying, Planning and Landscape Functional Constituency held on 11 March 2018 is estimated to be around \$312 million, including staff cost, publicity and other election-related expenses (such as costs for hiring venues, postage, printing, etc.).

2. Besides, the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) has reserved about \$211 million in 2018-19 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

CMAB114

(Question Serial No. 1879)

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. (LegCo use): 14)

Reply:

In the light of public concern over the accuracy of residential addresses recorded in the register of electors 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 process, 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 2015 to 2017 is as follows:

Cycle Reason for removal and number of electors	2015	2016	2017
Failure to respond to statutory inquiry process	41 661	67 509	29 576
Death	34 038	24 163	26 950
Other reasons (such as voluntary de-registration, loss of Hong Kong permanent resident status, objection cases allowed by the Revising Officer, etc.)	778	688	651
Total	76 477	92 360	57 177

3. In 2018-19, the REO will continue to strengthen the publicity measures to encourage eligible persons to register as electors, remind existing electors to submit address proofs when applying for change of registered residential addresses, 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**CMAB115****(Question Serial No. 1903)**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, 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 3 years.

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 43)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 2015 and 2017 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 as follows:

VR cycle	2015	2016	2017
Number of electors involved in cases referred to the law enforcement agencies by the REO for follow-up and investigation*	482	631	15
Number of electors prosecuted and convicted after investigation in the VR cycle	2	0	0

VR cycle	2015	2016	2017
Number of electors removed from the register of electors after investigation by the REO in the VR cycle	9	12	0
Number of newly registered electors cancelled after investigation by the REO in the VR cycle	110	170	5

* The REO does not keep record of the numbers of cases investigated by the law enforcement agencies during the above 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 2015-16 to 2017-18 are as follows:

Year	Expenditure on staff remuneration and other operational expenses
2015-16	\$97 million
2016-17	\$87 million
2017-18	\$49 million (revised estimate)

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB116

(Question Serial No. 1550)

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:

No electioneering campaign nowadays can go without online publicity. During the District Council and Legislative Council elections held previously, a lot of electors' particulars were collected online in some so-called "civil referenda". SMSs appealing to vote for certain candidates were sent to electors during an election in an attempt to influence the election results. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee:

1. whether the Government has allocated resources for studying this kind of incidents?
2. whether the relevant departments have resources for following up on the use and handling of information as the collection of such information involves personal privacy?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 15)

Reply:

Under the existing legislation, there is no regulation on election surveys conducted outside the No Canvassing Zones on the polling day, or on election surveys conducted through different channels (e.g. by phone, on the Internet) prior to the polling day. However, if the election survey concerned involves a breach of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (Cap. 486), the Electoral Affairs Commission (EAC) will refer the case to the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data, Hong Kong for follow-up action.

2. In accordance with the current arrangements, the EAC is responsible for handling election-related complaints and the EAC Secretariat provides the EAC with administrative support. As the operation of the EAC Secretariat is part of the regular work of the Registration and Electoral Office (REO), the resources involved in handling the aforementioned complaint cases are included in the estimated operational expenses of the REO.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB117

(Question Serial No. 0815)

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 Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2018-19 of the Registration and Electoral Office include the conduct and supervision of the Legislative Council and District Council by-elections, if any. In this connection, please advise on the allocation of the estimated expenditure and manpower arrangement.

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 8)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) has reserved about \$211 million in 2018-19 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

CMAB118

(Question Serial No. 0816)

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 Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2018-19 of the Registration and Electoral Office include the conduct of a voter registration exercise in which electors applying for change of registered addresses will be reminded about the new requirement of submitting address proofs. What are the specific publicity and education programmes to be implemented by the Government as well as the details of the manpower arrangement and estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 9)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) will launch the following multi-pronged publicity programmes in the 2018 voter registration (VR) cycle to remind existing electors of the arrangement of submitting address proofs when applying for change of registered residential addresses:

- (a) broadcasting Announcements in the Public Interest on television, radio and the Internet;
- (b) placing advertisements or disseminating information on newspapers, popular websites and mobile applications;
- (c) displaying posters at universities, tertiary institutions and secondary schools;
- (d) issuing appeal letters, publicity leaflets and application forms on reporting change of registrations particulars to households which have moved into newly developed private residential buildings and public housing estates; and
- (e) displaying posters at the advertising light boxes of bus stops and in MTR stations over the territory, displaying advertisements on MTR train compartments and displaying posters and distributing application forms on reporting change of registration particulars at district offices, public housing estate management offices, government departments and social services institutions.

The REO will also encourage eligible persons who have not yet registered as electors to do so and strengthen the public awareness and knowledge of VR through the aforementioned channels.

2. The expenditure on publicity for the 2018 VR campaign is estimated to be about \$8.5 million. In 2018-19, the work of the REO in checking and verifying the registration particulars of electors and implementing the VR campaign will be carried out by a team comprising 123 civil servants (including 16 time-limited civil service posts) and around 340 contract staff during the peak period of the year.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB119

(Question Serial No. 3200)

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 “encourage eligible persons (including young persons in particular) to register as electors”, please answer the following questions:

- (a) What were the publicity measures and related expenditure for the 2017-18 Voter Registration (VR) Campaign? 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;
- (b) What are the publicity measures and estimated expenditure for the 2018-19 VR Campaign?

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 66)

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 2017 to 2018 VR Campaigns are as follows:

<div> <div>Cycle</div> <div>Measure</div> </div>	Publicity expenses for VR Campaign (\$'000)	
	2017	2018 [#]
Publicity on television and radio	400	1,430
Newspapers and magazines	1,120	1,100
Websites and mobile applications for smartphone	680	1,200
Public transport system	2,000	2,450
Employing VR Assistants and conducting various publicity activities in the community	1,440	1,500
Production and distribution of leaflets, posters, banners, appeal letters, souvenirs and miscellaneous items	140	820
Total	5,780	8,500

[#] Figures for the 2018 VR Campaign represent estimated expenses.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB120

(Question Serial No. 2415)

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 the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2018-19 under this programme, it is 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:

- (a) the total number of electors whose registered particulars were checked in 2017-18; and the percentage of the electors checked against the total number of electors in Hong Kong;
- (b) the amount of provision to be used for the above checking exercise in 2018-19; and
- (c) the manpower to be involved in the above checking exercise in 2018-19; and the estimated number of electors whose registered particulars will be checked.

Asked by: Hon MAK Mei-kuen, Alice (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 32)

Reply:

In the light of public concern over the accuracy of residential addresses recorded in the register of electors 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 number of electors covered by the checking measures in the 2017 VR cycle was around 140 000, representing about 4% of electors contained in the register. The REO will continue with the above checking work in the 2018 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 2018-19 to sustain the checking work. It will also continue to strengthen the publicity measures to encourage eligible persons to register as electors, remind existing electors to submit address proofs when applying for change of registered residential addresses, 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. During the peak period of the VR cycle, the above work will be carried out by a team comprising 123 civil servants (including 16 time-limited civil service posts) and around 340 contract staff. The expenditure on staff remuneration and the related operational expenses is estimated to be around \$61 million. The relevant work will continue to be carried out in the 2018 and 2019 VR cycles and it is estimated that the registration particulars of around 140 000 and 1 600 000 electors will be verified respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB121

(Question Serial No. 2696)

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 the respective details of the publicity measures taken for the conduct of the by-elections of the current-term Legislative Council (LegCo) and those taken for the past 3 LegCo terms. What are the expenditures involved for implementing these measures?

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 22)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) launched a series of activities to publicise both the 2016 Legislative Council (LegCo) New Territories East Geographical Constituency By-election and the 2018 LegCo By-election for the Hong Kong Island, Kowloon West and New Territories East Geographical Constituencies and the Architectural, Surveying, Planning and Landscape Functional Constituency (2018 LegCo By-election). These activities include:

- (a) producing Announcements in the Public Interest (APIs) on nomination, voter turnout and polling procedures, and making arrangements for them to be broadcast on television and radio; and providing sign language interpretation for APIs on television;
- (b) setting up dedicated websites for the elections to facilitate public access of the election-related information;
- (c) producing and posting promotional posters on nomination and voter turnout;
- (d) displaying outdoor giant wall banners and railing banners on voter turnout; and
- (e) publicising the elections through radio programmes for ethnic minorities.

2. Apart from the abovementioned publicity activities, the REO has also placed advertisements on the Internet and newspapers to encourage the electors concerned to vote during the 2018 LegCo By-election.

3. The actual expenditure for publicising the 2016 LegCo New Territories East Geographical Constituency By-election is around \$430,000, and the estimated expenditure for publicising the 2018 LegCo By-election is around \$1.25 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB122

(Question Serial No. 2298)

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:

Notebook computers containing the addresses and Hong Kong Identity Card numbers of all electors in Hong Kong were found missing after the 2017 Chief Executive Election. Regarding the incident, please inform this Committee of the policies and measures for making improvements and preventing recurrence of similar incidents, the timetable involved, and the required expenditure and manpower in 2017-18.

Asked by: Hon MOK Charles Peter (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 28)

Reply:

The Task Force on the Computer Theft Incident of the Registration and Electoral Office (Task Force) set up by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) published its report on 13 June 2017. In its report, the Task Force set out a number of observations and recommended a series of improvement measures on the handling of personal data, information technology (IT) security, general security of election venues as well as the permanent establishment of the Registration and Electoral Office (REO). The REO has completed the majority of the recommendations made by the Task Force and implemented such measures in the 2018 Legislative Council (LegCo) By-election for the Hong Kong Island, Kowloon West and New Territories East Geographical Constituencies and the Architectural, Surveying, Planning and Landscape Functional Constituency held on 11 March 2018.

2. On the handling of personal data, the REO has updated the relevant internal guidelines and procedures which will be re-circulated to staff on a regular basis. To ensure that all the security arrangements as detailed in the departmental guidelines would be carried out properly, the REO will provide sufficient training to its staff. The REO will also provide briefings and training to the electoral staff before the conduct of each of the large-scale elections. The REO is now working in parallel on the formulation of a long-term Privacy Management Programme (PMP), including commissioning a suitable consultant through tendering to assist in the development and implementation of the PMP.

3. In respect of IT security, all staff members of the REO are prohibited from using the Electors Information Enquiry System (one of the notebook computers suspected to be stolen in the 2017 Chief Executive Election was loaded with such system) for the purpose of verifying the identity of electors and handling enquires in election venues. The REO has also updated its internal guidelines on IT security, and will ensure that its IT systems comply with the latest requirements of the Government's IT security policies, procedures and guidelines.
4. As for the general security of election venues, the REO will formulate a venue security plan for each election, and seek comments from the Police and the Electoral Affairs Commission on the relevant security arrangements. The arrangements for the usage of personal data, together with the security arrangements, will be personally endorsed by the Chief Electoral Officer. The REO will also avoid storing any personal data in fallback venues before their actual activation.
5. The implementation of the above measures will be absorbed by existing manpower and resources of the REO.
6. Besides, as regards the establishment, the CMAB has already submitted a proposal to the LegCo for converting the supernumerary post of the Principal Electoral Officer (PEO) of the REO into a permanent one, so that the planning and operational aspects of electoral activities can be overseen effectively, and that valuable experience can be retained for sustainable review and improvement of the electoral system. In addition, the REO will also convert 21 time-limited non-directorate posts into permanent posts to retain some core staff with electoral experience to assist in conducting a detailed review of the electoral arrangements and to explore feasible improvement measures, so that electoral work will be better organised and administrative support better provided in the next election cycle. The proposed creation of one PEO post and 21 non-directorate permanent posts will bring an additional notional annual salary cost at mid-point of \$17.91 million in total.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB123****(Question Serial No. 2300)**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 the 2018 Legislative Council By-election, will the Government provide this Committee with:

- (1) the number of poll cards issued by and the total number of poll cards returned to the Registration and Electoral Office with respect to the various districts and constituencies;
- (2) the details and timetable of, and the expenditure and manpower requirement for the enhancement of checking of electors in the current register in respect of their registered addresses in 2017-18; and
- (3) a breakdown, by district and constituency, of the reasons for the return of poll cards and the number of poll cards returned: no such person, not occupied, refusal of receipt, unclaimed, moved and no redirection arranged, incomplete address, no such address.

	Number of poll cards returned						
District	No such person	Not occupied	Refusal of receipt	Unclaimed	Moved and no redirection arranged	Incomplete address	No such address

Reply:

Regarding the 2018 Legislative Council By-election, the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) issued poll cards to about 2.1 million electors. As at 13 March 2018, the number of poll cards returned relating to the above election involved 24 389 electors (the numbers of poll cards returned from the Hong Kong Island, Kowloon West and New Territories East Geographical Constituencies are 8 875, 7 102 and 8 412 respectively) and the breakdown by reason for return as indicated by the Hongkong Post is as follows (the REO does not maintain a breakdown by reason for return by district):

Reason for return	Number
(a) No such person	12 998
(b) Moved and redirection service not arranged by addressee	8 198
(c) Incomplete address	1
(d) Not occupied	98
(e) Refusal of receipt	2 799
(f) No such address	98
(g) Unclaimed (i.e. the elector concerned did not pick up the post after the post had been delivered to the receipt location (mainly for a rural address without postal service))	197
Total	24 389

2. In the light of public concern over the accuracy of residential addresses recorded in the register of electors in recent years, the 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 provided. 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 registered residential addresses of electors with the Housing Department, the Hong Kong Housing Society and the Home Affairs Department; checks on registered 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 their registered addresses. Upon completion of the statutory inquiry process, electors failing to respond will be removed from the final register. The number of electors covered by the checking measures of the REO in the 2017 VR cycle is about 140 000.

3. The REO allocated sufficient manpower and resources in 2017-18 to strengthen the checking work in order to improve the accuracy and completeness of VR records. The REO also continued to strengthen the publicity measures to encourage eligible persons to register as electors, remind existing electors to submit address proofs when applying for change of registered residential addresses, 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. During the peak period of the VR cycle, the above work was carried out by a team comprising 107 civil servants (including 2 time-limited civil service posts) and around 120 contract staff. The expenditure on staff remuneration and the related operational expenses is estimated to be around \$49 million. The relevant work will continue to be carried out in the 2018 VR cycle.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB124

(Question Serial No. 3334)

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:

- a) Please list, by administrative district of District Council, the types and numbers of complaints received by the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) about the registered addresses of electors in the past 5 years. How many of these cases were proved to have involved the provision of false information?
- b) In recent years, there are often cases involving electors with unclear registered addresses; and cases where electors of different surnames have registered under one address. There are also some cases where an elector has received verifying letter which bears the name of a person who is not residing in the address registered. How will the REO handle such cases? How long does it usually take to handle such cases? Will an elector's eligibility be suspended if the case is preliminarily found to be suspicious?
- c) Please list, by administrative district of District Council, the numbers of cases containing erroneous entries and suspected cases found by the REO after "the conduct of checks on electors in the current register in respect of their registered particulars, including cross-matching exercise with other government departments" in all districts, as well as the numbers of electors removed and their percentages against the total numbers of cases checked over the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-chun (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 91)

Reply:

A person who makes any false or incorrect statement in the application for voter registration (VR) or change of registered particulars is in breach of the electoral laws. For suspected cases of false or incorrect statements in VR or upon receipt of related complaints, 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 2013 and 2017 VR cycles, the numbers of electors suspected of, prosecuted for and convicted of making false statements in VR, as well as the numbers of electors removed from the register of electors and newly registered electors cancelled after investigation are as follows:

VR cycle	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Number of electors involved in cases referred to the law enforcement agencies by the REO for follow-up and investigation	0	1	482	631	15
Number of electors prosecuted and convicted after investigation in the VR cycle	0	0	2	0	0
Number of electors removed from the register of electors after investigation by the REO in the VR cycle	0	0	9	12	0
Number of newly registered electors cancelled after investigation by the REO in the VR cycle	0	0	110	170	5

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

4. In the light of public concern over the accuracy of residential addresses recorded in the register of electors in recent years, the REO has stepped up publicity since the 2012 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 registered residential addresses of electors with the Housing Department (HD), the Hong Kong Housing Society (HKHS) and the Home Affairs Department (HAD); checks on registered 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 residential addresses includes regular updating of particulars, and checking with the HD, HKHS and HAD in election years regarding electors with registered residential 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 their registered residential addresses. Upon completion of the statutory inquiry process, electors failing to respond will be removed from the final register. Depending on the amount of

time taken by electors in responding to the inquiry process before the statutory deadline, it usually takes 2 to 3 months for the REO to handle and follow up with these cases.

5. In the 3 VR cycles from 2015 to 2017, the numbers of electors covered by the above measures of checking of registered particulars conducted by the REO and the numbers of electors removed from the register because of their failure to respond to the statutory inquiry process upon checking are as follows:

VR cycle	2015	2016	2017
Number of electors covered by the measures	about 1.6 million [#]	about 1.6 million [#]	about 140 000
Number of electors included in the statutory inquiry process	82 655	103 802	43 577
Number of electors removed from the register because of their failure to respond to statutory inquiry process	41 661	67 509	29 576
(a) proportion of the number of electors covered by the measures	2.6%	4.2%	21.1%
(b) proportion of the number of electors included in the inquiry process	50.4%	65.0%	67.9%

[#] It is the practice of the REO to conduct a full-scale check with the HD and HKHS in respect of the approximately 1.4 million electors with registered residential addresses in public housing units during election years. Hence, the numbers of electors covered by the checking measures in 2015 and 2016 (which were respectively the election years of DC and the Legislative Council) were more than that for 2017.

6. The REO does not have a breakdown of the number of the aforementioned electors by DC constituency.

7. The REO will continue with the above checking work in the 2018 and future VR cycles to enhance the accuracy and completeness of VR records contained in the final register.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB125****(Question Serial No. 3395)**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 the numbers of registered electors living in all types of residential care homes for the elderly over the past 5 years using the table below:

	Subvented Homes	Contract Homes	Self-financing Homes	Homes with Subsidised Places under Enhanced Bought Place Scheme	Private Homes	Total
Hostels for the Elderly						
Homes for the Aged						
Care and Attention Homes for the Elderly						
Nursing Homes						
Total						

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-chun (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 289)Reply:

According to the final registers from 2013 to 2017, the numbers of electors with registered addresses at residential care homes for the elderly are as follows:

Final register	Number of electors*
2013	3 876
2014	3 603
2015	5 644
2016	2 796
2017	2 364

* The figures are based on the criterion adopted by the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) for checking registered addresses with multiple electors or multiple surnames of electors.

2. The REO does not have a breakdown of the number of electors with registered addresses at residential care homes for the elderly by the type of residential care homes.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB126

(Question Serial No. 1409)

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:

How much provision has been earmarked by the Government for possible Legislative Council by-elections that may arise this year?

Asked by: Hon WONG Pik-wan, Helena (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 25)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) has reserved about \$211 million in 2018-19 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**CMAB127****(Question Serial No. 3659)**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
(TANG Yun-kwong)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

Please list in table form the actual expenditure on the salary and remuneration 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 in the last financial year.

	Salary	Remuneration
Director of Bureau		
Deputy Director of Bureau		
Political Assistant to Director of Bureau		

Please list in table form the estimated expenditure on the salary and remuneration 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 in the coming financial year.

	Salary	Remuneration
Director of Bureau		
Deputy Director of Bureau		
Political Assistant to Director of Bureau		

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 150)

Reply:

The provision 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 in 2017-18 are \$3.9 million, \$2.55 million and \$620,000 respectively. The provisions set aside in the 2018-19 estimates for the salary in respect of the positions of Director of Bureau, Deputy Director of Bureau and Political Assistant to Director of Bureau are \$4.01 million, \$3.01 million and \$1.2 million respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB128****(Question Serial No. 3663)**

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

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

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

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD) mentioned that it had been conducting a comparative study on the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) of the European Union (EU) and it was completed at the end of last year. In this connection, please list the expenses relating to the study so incurred over the past year. Will the Bureau draw reference to it and update the local privacy legislation?

The scope of issues covered by the EU's GDPR include "notification and consent", "accountability", "penalty" and "extra-territorial applicability". For regions having trade relations with the EU, for instance Hong Kong, if an enterprise is in breach of the data protection regulations, it may also be penalised and liable to a fine of €10 million to €20 million. However, in the expansive and far reaching cyber world, it would be impossible to reject users from the EU region even for an online travel application set up in Hong Kong. The companies concerned may therefore, fall within the ambit of the abovementioned EU regulation passively. What measures has the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (the Privacy Commissioner) put in place to protect these companies from breaching the regulations inadvertently? What are the estimated expenditure and manpower for undertaking relevant promotion and follow-up work in the coming year?

With the growing popularisation of innovation and technology, Internet of Things and big data in the city in recent years, many companies build their own databases based on the data and information gathered from clients, and to get informed of business trends. However, some companies have reflected that the current privacy legislation lacks clarity and cannot meet the needs of the big data era. As a result, they have to switch off some data-gathering functions at the expense of effectiveness. Will the Privacy Commissioner set up a task force to address the privacy issues arising from the big data era? Will additional resources be allocated by the Privacy Commissioner to handle the growing number of cases requiring assistance in this regard?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 155)

Reply:

In view of the extra-territorial applicability of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), if a Hong Kong enterprise provides goods or services to or monitors the behaviour of persons in the European Union (EU) region, there is a chance that the enterprise concerned would be bound by the GDPR.

2. Although the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD) is not a regulatory body of the EU's GDPR, the functions of the PCPD include conducting studies on the developments of overseas personal data privacy legislations. The Legal Division and Policy and Research Division of the PCPD are currently studying the GDPR. Given the new regulation involves new concepts of personal data privacy protection, the PCPD will closely monitor the implementation of the GDPR in EU countries and provide timely advice to the trades.

3. The PCPD has been proactively organising education and publicity activities with respect to the GDPR. Apart from providing information to the trades through the Data Protection Officers' Club and e-newsletters for members, representatives of the PCPD also take part in thematic seminars to help the trades (target audience include general chambers of commerce, large corporations and small and medium enterprises) better understand the provisions of the GDPR and its possible implications on their business operations. The PCPD also plans to publish a thematic information leaflet to enhance the awareness of the GDPR among the trades.

4. As for the impact of information technology development on personal data privacy, in the light of the swift development of Internet of Things and big data in recent years, the PCPD established the Standing Committee on Science and Technology Development in 2010 to advise the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data on the topic. The Policy and Research Division of the PCPD is also conducting studies on relevant issues. Meanwhile, the PCPD also actively participates in conferences and exchange events in Hong Kong, the Mainland and overseas to exchange views with various stakeholders (including the industry and commercial sector and regulatory bodies) on privacy related issues (such as digital economy, cyber security, digital identity management, privacy and encryption, etc.). The PCPD will continue to pay close attention to the impact of the development trend of information technology on the protection of personal data privacy.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB129

(Question Serial No. 3666)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) is responsible for co-ordinating attendance of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) delegations at hearings of the monitoring bodies of United Nations (UN) human rights conventions. In this connection, could the Government list in table form the estimated number of the HKSAR delegates attending the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) hearings, as well as the posts of the delegates and the expenditure involved?
2. In respect of the outline of the topics to be covered in the fourth report in the light of the ICCPR previously submitted by the CMAB, what were the number of staff and expenditure involved?
3. Earlier on, there was another report to the UN Committee against Torture (CAT Committee) which touched on the issue of actions against the Police's excessive use of force during the "Umbrella Movement". Given that the HKSAR report has to be submitted together with the report of China which is a member state, despite CMAB had already submitted the HKSAR report to China, the UN had not received it one month after the deadline. The report was eventually handed in to the CAT Committee after being held up for 46 days. How can the Government submit on time the fourth report under the ICCPR to the Committee?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 158)

Reply:

As the actual date of the hearing by the United Nations Human Rights Committee in respect of the Fourth report of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) in the light of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) has yet to be finalised, we are not able to provide the estimated expenditure for the HKSAR delegation attending that hearing.

2. Preparation of an outline of the topics for inclusion in the Fourth report in the light of the ICCPR is an integral part of the work of this Bureau, and no separate breakdown is available for the resources and manpower involved.

3. As an established practice, the Fourth report of the HKSAR in the light of the ICCPR will be submitted to the United Nations through the Central People's Government.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB130

(Question Serial No. 3692)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Would the Government advise this Committee of the staff establishment, expenditure on emoluments and operational expenses of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 189)

Reply:

The Development Plan of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area (the Development Plan) will be promulgated soon. After promulgation of the Development Plan, we will set up the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area Development Office (the Office) under the establishment of this Bureau as early as possible. The Office involves 6 additional posts, namely 1 officer at point three of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Administrative Officer, 1 Senior Executive Officer, 1 Personal Secretary I and 1 Assistant Clerical Officer.

2. In 2018-19, the estimated expenditure of the Office is about \$13.5 million, of which about \$6.3 million is for manpower establishment and about \$7.2 million is for other expenses.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB131****(Question Serial No. 3693)**

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

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

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

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

Question:

In respect of the (1) Beijing Office, (2) Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (ETO) in Shanghai, (3) ETO in Guangdong, (4) ETO in Chengdu, and (5) ETO in Wuhan, set out in table form their respective staff establishments and actual expenditures in the past year, and list in detail the activities organised by these offices respectively to facilitate business operation and development of Hong Kong people in the Mainland and their exchange with people in the Mainland.

In respect of the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office (Taiwan) (HKETCO), set out in table form its staff establishment and actual expenditure in the past year, and list in detail the activities organised by the office to facilitate business operation and development of Hong Kong people in Taiwan and their exchange with Taiwan people.

What are the estimated staff establishments and actual expenditures of the (1) Beijing Office, (2) Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (ETO) in Shanghai, (3) ETO in Guangdong, (4) ETO in Chengdu, and (5) ETO in Wuhan respectively for the coming year?

What is the estimated staff establishment and actual expenditure of HKETCO for the coming year?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 190)

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) proactively serve as important bridges between Hong Kong and the Mainland/Taiwan, including enhancing liaison and communication with counterparts in the areas under their coverage; representing and promoting Hong Kong's trade and commercial interests; encouraging and attracting investments to Hong Kong and promoting Hong Kong as a desirable platform to develop markets along the Belt and Road; 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. The 2017-18 revised estimated expenditure and 2018-19 estimated expenditure of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices are set out in the table below:

Office	Revised estimated expenditure for 2017-18 (\$ million)	Estimated expenditure for 2018-19 (\$ million)
BJO and its liaison units	89.36	80.21
Guangdong ETO and its liaison units	67.21	62.03
Shanghai ETO and its liaison units	61.01	56.70
Chengdu ETO and its liaison units	51.40	42.67
Wuhan ETO and its liaison units	47.74	45.95
Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan	24.99	27.40

3. For the BJO and its liaison offices, the establishment in 2017-18 and 2018-19 comprises 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 2018-19 will be \$36.58 million.

4. For the Guangdong ETO and its liaison offices, the establishment in 2017-18 and 2018-19 comprises 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 2018-19 will be \$28.18 million.

5. For the Shanghai ETO and its liaison offices, the establishment in 2017-18 and 2018-19 comprises 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade B) and 14 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, 2 Immigration Officers, 1 Senior Information Officer and 1 Senior Executive Officer). The estimated expenditure on salaries and allowances for the above posts in 2018-19 will be \$23.21 million.

6. For the Chengdu ETO and its liaison offices, the establishment in 2017-18 and 2018-19 comprises 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade C) and 12 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, 1 Immigration Officer and 1 Senior Executive Officer). The estimated expenditure on salaries and allowances for the above posts in 2018-19 will be \$18.38 million.

7. For the Wuhan ETO and its liaison offices, the establishment in 2017-18 and 2018-19 comprises 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade C) and 12 non-directorate officers (namely 2 Senior Administrative Officers, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Principal Trade Officer, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Senior Information Officer, 2 Immigration Officers and 1 Senior Executive Officer). The estimated expenditure on salaries and allowances for the above posts in 2018-19 will be \$16.65 million.

8. For the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan, the establishment in 2017-18 and 2018-19 comprises 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 2018-19 will be \$13.09 million.

9. In 2017-18, 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. A roving exhibition entitled "Together · Progress · Opportunity - Exhibition in Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Return of Hong Kong to the Motherland" was held in various Mainland cities. The "2017 China Tianjin Investment and Trade Fair & PECC International Trade and Investment Fair" held by the Tianjin Liaison Unit under the Beijing Office was attended by about 40,000 participants. The "Seminar on Policy Measures of the China (Shaanxi) Pilot Free Trade Zone" held by the Chengdu ETO in Xi'an was attended by over 130 participants. The "Hong Kong and Zhejiang cooperation: Capitalising on the advantages of Hong Kong" seminar held by the Shanghai ETO in Hangzhou was attended by over 200 participants. The "Belt and Road, Together We Grow" investment promotion seminar held by the Wuhan ETO in Taiyuan attracted the attendance of nearly 40 enterprises. The "2017 Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic Co-operation Forum" organised by the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan was attended by over 200 professionals.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB132****(Question Serial No. 5640)**Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs BureauSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan OfficesControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Please list out in a table the number of cases where practical assistance was provided to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau, the follow-up actions taken and the number of successful cases in the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 171)Reply:

Immigration Divisions are currently set up under the Beijing Office and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Guangdong, Chengdu, Shanghai and Wuhan 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
2013	353
2014	340
2015	407
2016	319
2017	415

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 casualties;
- (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

CMAB133

(Question Serial No. 5788)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Has the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau set aside manpower and provision in 2018-19 for conducting a study on the legislation of Basic Law Article 23, including the preparation for conducting public consultation? If yes, what are the details and timetable, as well as the manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 260)

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau has not set aside manpower and provision for conducting any study on the legislation of Article 23 of the Basic Law.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB134****(Question Serial No. 3948)**Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs BureauSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (4) Rights of the IndividualControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

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. (LegCo use): 2703)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)
2013-14	2.116 [^]
2014-15	1.288
2015-16	2.876 [^]
2016-17	1.055
2017-18 (revised estimate)	1.121

[^] Including co-operating with the Radio Television Hong Kong to produce a TV programme promoting children's rights.

2. In 2018-19, 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**CMAB135****(Question Serial No. 4415)**Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs BureauSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland AffairsControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

The Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, Mr Patrick NIP said in October 2017 that a Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area Development Office (the Office) would be set up and that “additional resources would be allocated for research and publicity work on the development of the Bay Area”. In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

- (a) What are the estimated expenditure, establishment and rank of staff, and major scope of work of the Office in the coming 3 years?
- (b) What are the respective amounts to be allocated for research and publicity in the estimated expenditure of the Office?
- (c) What are the major areas and subjects of research to be conducted by the Office in the coming 3 years?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 61)Reply:

The Development Plan of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area (the Development Plan) will be promulgated soon. After promulgation of the Development Plan, we will set up the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area Development Office (the Office) under the establishment of this Bureau as early as possible. In 2018-19, the estimated expenditure of the Office is about \$13.5 million and the Office involves 6 additional posts, namely 1 officer at point three of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Administrative Officer, 1 Senior Executive Officer, 1 Personal Secretary I and 1 Assistant Clerical Officer. The work priorities of the Office for 2018-19 include the following: to carry out promotion and publicity work and disseminate information to deepen the understanding of the public and industries on the Bay Area Development; to co-ordinate with relevant central ministries/departments, the Guangdong Provincial Government and the Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) Government, as well as the relevant bureaux/departments of the Hong Kong SAR Government in

formulating an annual work plan to take forward the Bay Area Development; and to maintain close liaison with business associations, professional bodies and relevant stakeholders to gauge their views on implementation of the Development Plan. We envisage that in the coming few years, the staff establishment of the Office will be more or less similar while the annual expenditure will depend on the focus of work of the year.

2. In 2018-19, the publicity expenses of the Office are about \$3 million and the research expenses are about \$1 million. The expenses are an initial estimate subject to adjustments based on actual situation. On the work related to research, we plan to focus efforts to study the major development areas and the relevant policies of the Bay Area cities, as well as the specific measures introduced by the Guangdong Province and Bay Area cities to implement the Development Plan and to facilitate Hong Kong people to study, work and live there. We will disseminate information to enable the industries and public to explore more development opportunities in the Bay Area.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB136****(Question Serial No. 4509)**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
(TANG Yun-kwong)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

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. (LegCo use): 640)Reply:

A breakdown by category of complaint cases in relation to the Disability Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 487) received by the Equal Opportunities Commission over the past 5 years is as follows:

Year	Disability discrimination	Disability harassment	Disability vilification	Victimisation	Total
2013	284	58	3	3	348
2014	240	33	4	4	281
2015	213	31	2	0	246
2016	166	15	0	1	182
2017	200	27	8	1	236

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB137

(Question Serial No. 4663)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In paragraph 180 of the Budget, it is mentioned that a sum of \$500 million has been earmarked to strengthen support for ethnic minorities (EMs) and the Chief Secretary for Administration will set up a steering committee to co-ordinate, review and monitor work in this area.

1. Is the earmarked sum a recurrent or one-off provision? What is the aim of earmarking the sum of money? How would it be used to support EMs? Please advise on the specific projects and measures involved as well as their estimated expenditure and duration.
2. The unemployment rate of EMs is relatively high (4.6%), and that of some minority groups is as high as 9.2%. With the earmarked sum of \$500 million, would the Government conduct study on the employment difficulties faced by EMs and put forward specific recommendations to solve the problem? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
3. Further to the above question, in respect of the way to spend the earmarked sum of \$500 million, what specific measures does the Government have to support EMs in the area of employment and what is the estimated expenditure involved?
4. Would the Government set up an Ethnic Minorities Employment Division to co-ordinate efforts to support EM employment?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 2784)

Reply:

The Government attaches great importance to efforts to support the ethnic minorities (EMs), and will set up an inter-departmental steering committee, to be chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration, to co-ordinate, review and monitor work in this area and to enhance internal collaboration. The Government has also earmarked \$500 million to strengthen support for EMs.

2. Our initial plan is for the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau to provide secretariat support to the steering committee. We will consider deploying additional staff based on actual needs. The steering committee will give due consideration to the specific usage and modus operandi of the earmarked sum of \$500 million, including exploring new model of support, as well as making the best use of community wisdom and network to strengthen support for EMs. We will also listen to the views of different sectors and groups on the matter.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB138

(Question Serial No. 4664)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

It is mentioned in the Budget that a sum of \$500 million has been earmarked to strengthen support for ethnic minorities (EMs) and the Chief Secretary for Administration will set up a steering committee to co-ordinate, review and monitor work in this area.

1. What is the composition of the steering committee? Are stakeholders (i.e. representatives of EMs) involved? If no, how does the Government ensure that the composition of the steering committee can reflect the views of EMs?
2. Would the Chief Secretary for Administration establish the post of Commissioner of Ethnic Minorities to assist in and co-ordinate inter-departmental work for supporting EMs?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 2785)

Reply:

The Government attaches great importance to efforts to support the ethnic minorities (EMs), and will set up an inter-departmental steering committee, to be chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration, to co-ordinate, review and monitor work in this area and to enhance internal collaboration. The Government has also earmarked \$500 million to strengthen support for EMs.

2. Our initial plan is for the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau to provide secretariat support to the steering committee. We will consider deploying additional staff based on actual needs. The steering committee will give due consideration to the specific usage and modus operandi of the earmarked sum of \$500 million, including exploring new model of support, as well as making the best use of community wisdom and network to strengthen support for EMs. We will also listen to the views of different sectors and groups on the matter.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB139

(Question Serial No. 4665)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. What are the work undertaken by the Bureau to publicise, provide guidance on and supervise the implementation of the Administrative Guidelines on Promotion of Racial Equality (the Guidelines) in all policy bureaux, government departments and public organisations as well as the expenditure involved in the past year?
2. Have all policy bureaux, government departments and public organisations set up a dedicated unit or deployed staff to follow up on the Guidelines in the past year? If yes, what are the details; if no, what are the reasons?
3. In the past few years, different standards were adopted by policy bureaux, government departments and public organisations in the provision of interpretation services. Will the Bureau draw up a set of clear and standardised guidelines which makes provision of interpretation services compulsory for the staff of policy bureaux, government departments and public organisations to follow? If yes, what are the details; if no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 2787)

Reply:

In 2010, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) issued the Administrative Guidelines on Promotion of Racial Equality ("the Guidelines") to provide general guidance to relevant government bureaux and departments and public authorities (hereafter referred to as "relevant authorities") to promote racial equality and ensure equal access by ethnic minorities ("EMs") to public services in the key areas concerned, and to take this into account in the formulation, implementation and review of relevant policies and measures. The Guidelines cover the key public services which are particularly relevant to meeting the needs of EMs and facilitating their integration into society namely, medical, education, vocational training, employment and major community services.

2. Since the promulgation of the Guidelines in 2010, the Government has kept its operation under review. For instance, the scope of application of the Guidelines has been extended from 14 to 23 relevant authorities. In 2017, a number of the relevant authorities have put in place new measures to support EMs. These include:

- (a) since November 2016, the Hong Kong Police Force has expanded its joint project with the Centre for Harmony and Enhancement of Ethnic Minority Residents (“CHEER”) entitled “TRANSLINK” to cover all 67 police report rooms and reporting centres. Under the project, instant telephone interpretation services in 7 common non-ethnic Chinese languages, namely Urdu, Nepali, Punjabi, Hindi, Bahasa Indonesia, Thai and Tagalog, will be provided;
- (b) since May 2017, the Labour Department has engaged 2 Employment Assistants proficient in EM languages at the Kowloon West Job Centre in Sham Shui Po and the Employment in One-stop in Tin Shui Wai on a pilot basis to provide employment services for EM job seekers in partnership with experienced Employment Officers; and
- (c) the Social Welfare Department has provided a Hotline Service <2343 2255> for EM callers to have instant access to telephone interpretation services in 7 common EM languages so as to facilitate their welfare services enquiries.

3. Relevant authorities are responsible for implementing and monitoring the implementation of the Guidelines in areas relevant to their purview. In accordance with the Guidelines, the relevant authorities have drawn up checklist of measures within their respective policy and programme areas that would assist in the promotion of racial equality, equal access to key public services and transparency of their work. The checklists, which contain contact information of the relevant authorities, have been uploaded onto the CMAB website and are available in 6 EM languages, namely Bahasa Indonesia, Hindi, Nepali, Tagalog, Thai and Urdu. The relevant authorities will draw up and issue updates on the contents of the checklists according to their respective programme areas where necessary.

4. Relevant authorities have all along been providing specific services, such as interpretation services, to meet the practical needs of EMs under their respective policy areas, with a view to facilitating their integration into society, and ensuring equal access to public services.

5. Since the interpretation needs of EMs vary depending on what public services they sought, the relevant authorities will consider the actual situation and adopt suitable procedures to provide interpretation services to EMs in need.

6. The Home Affairs Department has commissioned the Hong Kong Christian Service to operate the CHEER. Apart from a variety of basic services, the CHEER also provides general interpretation and translation services. These interpretation services consist mainly of instant telephone interpretation and enquiry services. Depending on the availability of resources, on-site interpretation or simultaneous interpretation services can also be arranged. Interpretation and translation services in specialised or professional areas do not fall within the service scope of the CHEER. The relevant authorities may procure appropriate interpretation and translation services to meet their respective service needs in accordance with the Stores and Procurement Regulations. For instance, interpretation services

covering 18 EM languages are provided in public hospitals and clinics under the Hospital Authority primarily through a service contractor, the HKSKH Lady MacLehose Centre, part-time court interpreters and relevant consulates.

7. CMAB will coordinate with relevant authorities to see whether there is room for improvement in the provision of interpretation services to EMs and explore the feasibility of drawing up standard guidelines and procedures for interpretation services. Meanwhile, CMAB and relevant authorities will continue to keep the Guidelines under regular review, especially in the context of how to enhance existing measures and introduce new measures that would promote racial equality.

8. The work in relation to the Guidelines is absorbed within CMAB's internal resources, and a separate breakdown on the related expenditure is not available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB140

(Question Serial No. 4854)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

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. (LegCo use): 5525)

Reply:

The Plenary of the Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation Joint Conference (the Plenary) takes place annually under the co-chairmanship of the Chief Executive and the Governor of Guangdong Province to review the outcomes of Hong Kong/Guangdong co-operation over the past year, and also set the directions for co-operation for the coming year. The most recent Plenary was held in Hong Kong on 18 November 2017. 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

CMAB141

(Question Serial No. 4226)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of China has proposed to rescind the decision that the President of the State shall serve for not more than two consecutive terms by amending Paragraph 3 of Article 79 of the Constitution of the People's Republic of China (Constitution) to read as follows: "The term of office of the President and Vice-President of the People's Republic of China is the same as that of the National People's Congress". In this connection, does the Bureau have any plan to amend Article 46 of the Basic Law which reads: "The term of office of the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region shall be five years. He or she may serve for not more than two consecutive terms" so as to bring it in line with the circumstances of the State?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 143)

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau has no plan to amend Article 46 of the Basic Law.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB142

(Question Serial No. 6014)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In the 2018-19 Budget, paragraph 180, a sum of about \$150 million has been earmarked for setting up a steering committee to co-ordinate, review and monitor work on ethnic minorities.

Please inform the Council the terms of reference and membership of the steering committee under the Chief Secretary, as well as the positions and ranks of the members if they are government officials.

Please provide the budget plan and the key support areas in which the \$500 million will be spent.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wing-hang, Dennis (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 115)

Reply:

The Government attaches great importance to efforts to support the ethnic minorities (EMs), and will set up an inter-departmental steering committee, to be chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration, to co-ordinate, review and monitor work in this area and to enhance internal collaboration. The Government has also earmarked \$500 million to strengthen support for EMs.

2. Our initial plan is for the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau to provide secretariat support to the steering committee. We will consider deploying additional staff based on actual needs. The steering committee will give due consideration to the specific usage and modus operandi of the earmarked sum of \$500 million, including exploring new model of support, as well as making the best use of community wisdom and network to strengthen support for EMs. We will also listen to the views of different sectors and groups on the matter.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB143

(Question Serial No. 4148)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the provision of sign language interpretation services in the past 5 years, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. Whether sign language interpretation services are provided? If yes, what are the frequency, occasions and causes for providing sign language interpretation services in each year?
2. Further to the above question, what are the number of sign language interpreters involved in each year, their pay and the organisations to which they belong? What is the total expenditure involved for each year?
3. Whether the Government will consider allocating more resources to improve the services for communicating with the deaf and/or persons with hearing impairment in future. If yes, what are the details (including measures, manpower, expenditure involved and timetable, etc.)? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 86)

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau has not provided any sign language interpretation services, nor has it received any requests for such services in the past 5 years. Where necessary, we will make appropriate arrangements.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB144

(Question Serial No. 5417)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

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, the amount of injections, as well as its balance, total amounts of investment or other incomes and expenditure for 2017-18.

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 68)

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau was not responsible for administering any Fund in 2017-18.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB145

(Question Serial No. 4911)

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

Question:

It is mentioned in the Budget that a sum of \$500 million has been earmarked to strengthen support for ethnic minorities (EMs) and the Chief Secretary for Administration will set up a steering committee to co-ordinate, review and monitor work in this area.

- (i) What is the composition of the steering committee? Please provide the membership list.
- (ii) Regarding “to enhance collaboration within the Government on support for EMs”, what are the specific measures to be taken by the Government and their estimated expenditures in the coming 3 financial years?
- (iii) Would the Chief Secretary for Administration establish the post of Commissioner of Ethnic Minorities to assist in and co-ordinate inter-departmental work for supporting EMs?

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-chun (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 5)

Reply:

The Government attaches great importance to efforts to support the ethnic minorities (EMs), and will set up an inter-departmental steering committee, to be chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration, to co-ordinate, review and monitor work in this area and to enhance internal collaboration. The Government has also earmarked \$500 million to strengthen support for EMs.

2. Our initial plan is for the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau to provide secretariat support to the steering committee. We will consider deploying additional staff based on actual needs. The steering committee will give due consideration to the specific usage and modus operandi of the earmarked sum of \$500 million, including exploring new model of support, as well as making the best use of community wisdom and network to strengthen support for EMs. We will also listen to the views of different sectors and groups on the matter.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB146

(Question Serial No. 5150)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

- a) The HKSAR Government and Guangdong Provincial Government formulate a work plan for the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation every year. How are the relevant policies formulated? Have the relevant industries been consulted? If yes, what are the details; if no, what are the reasons? Has any public consultation been conducted? If yes, what are the details; if no, what are the reasons?
- b) Has the Government conducted annual reviews on the progress and effectiveness of each and every item in the work plan of the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation? If yes, what are the details; if no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 544)

Reply:

The Plenary of the Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation Joint Conference (the Plenary) takes place annually under the co-chairmanship of the Chief Executive and the Governor of Guangdong Province to review the progress and outcomes of Hong Kong/Guangdong co-operation over the past year, and also set the directions for co-operation for the coming year.

2. Co-chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Vice-Governor of Guangdong Province, the Working Meeting of the Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation Joint Conference (the Working Meeting) will, on the basis of the consensus reached at the Plenary, formulate the annual Work Plan of the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation. Relevant bureaux and departments of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government discuss and formulate the Work Plan with their Guangdong counterparts, having regard to the views collected from the industries and general public through daily work.

3. As an established practice, the HKSAR Government reports the discussions and consensus reached via press releases after every Plenary and Working Meeting. Relevant information is also provided to the Panel on Commerce and Industry of the Legislative Council for reference.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB147

(Question Serial No. 5226)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Under the 2013 Work Plan of the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation, Hong Kong and Guangdong would explore a new mode of co-operation in the starting area of the comprehensive demonstration zone of CEPA in Nansha, lower the entry thresholds for Hong Kong professionals and enterprises, and allow Hong Kong service suppliers to provide services directly in Nansha step by step. What are the outcomes of these initiatives? What specific measures have been put in place to lower the entry thresholds for Hong Kong professionals and enterprises?

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 620)

Reply:

Nansha is a major Hong Kong/Guangdong co-operation platform. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government has been striving for the implementation of more policy initiatives by Nansha to support Hong Kong people and enterprises and to allow them to expand their scope for development. For example, the designation of Nansha as a pilot area for Hong Kong and Guangdong law firms operating in the form of partnership association; the implementation of cross-border Renminbi (RMB) lending in Nansha; and the provision of rewards by Nansha based on the tax differentials between the Mainland and the HKSAR for Hong Kong talents with an annual taxable income of over RMB300,000. The HKSAR Government is also striving for the extension of the list of Hong Kong professional services providers and registration system for Hong Kong professionals from Qianhai to Nansha, as well as the identification of pilot projects for introduction of Hong Kong construction model in Nansha.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB148****(Question Serial No. 5673)**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 details of the Legislative Council and District Council by-elections conducted by the Registration and Electoral Office 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
2013-2014					
2014-2015					
2015-2016					
2016-2017					
2017-2018					

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 204)Reply:

Details of the Legislative Council (LegCo) and District Council (DC) by-elections held between 2013-14 and 2017-18 are as follows:

Constituency	Date of publishing the vacancy in the Gazette	Date of by-election
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 (GC)	2 October 2015	28 February 2016
Central and Western DC Peak Constituency and Tung Wah Constituency	11 August 2017 (Peak Constituency) 1 September 2017 (Tung Wah Constituency)	26 November 2017
LegCo Hong Kong Island, Kowloon West and New Territories East GCs and Architectural, Surveying, Planning and Landscape Functional Constituency (FC)	5 December 2016 (Kowloon West and New Territories East GCs) 2 August 2017 (Hong Kong Island GC and Architectural, Surveying, Planning and Landscape FC)	11 March 2018

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 will allocate sufficient manpower resources to prepare and conduct by-elections. Details of the expenditure on the above by-elections from 2013-14 to 2017-18 are as follows:

Year	Expenditure
2013-14	\$1.55 million
2014-15	\$1.98 million
2015-16	\$25.34 million
2016-17	\$26.85 million
2017-18	\$112 million (revised estimate)

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB149****(Question Serial No. 4496)**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 advise on the numbers of registered electors in the past 5 years and the percentage of newly registered electors for each year.
2. Please advise on the numbers of accessible polling stations in the past 5 years and their ratios against the total number of polling stations.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 626)Reply:

The numbers of newly registered geographical constituency (GC) electors and registered GC electors in the voter registration cycles from 2013 to 2017 are listed as follows:

	2013 final register	2014 final register	2015 final register	2016 final register	2017 final register
Number of newly registered GC electors (Percentage out of total number of electors)	56 621 (1.6%)	77 261 (2.2%)	262 633 (7.1%)	177 503 (4.7%)	83 161 (2.2%)
Number of registered GC electors	3 471 423	3 507 786	3 693 942	3 779 085	3 805 069

In the 2017 final register, there are about 3.8 million GC electors, representing a registration rate of 79.5%. Both the total number of electors and the registration rate are the highest on record.

2. For the ordinary or general elections conducted in the past 5 years, the numbers of polling stations which were accessible to persons with mobility difficulties and wheelchair users, and their respective percentages out of the total numbers of polling stations are as follows:

Election	Total number of polling stations*	Number of polling stations accessible to persons with mobility difficulties and wheelchair users* (percentage out of total number of polling stations*)
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%)
2017 Chief Executive Election	1	1 (100%)

* excluding dedicated polling stations

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB150

(Question Serial No. 4157)

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 provision of sign language interpretation services in the past 5 years, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. Whether sign language interpretation services have been provided. If so, how many times and at what occasions were such sign language interpretation services provided each year, and what were the respective reasons for providing the services;
2. In connection with the above, the number of sign language interpreters involved each year, their pay and the organisations to which they belong; and
3. Whether the Government will consider allocating more resources to improve the services for communicating with the deaf and/or persons with hearing impairment in future. If so, what are the details (including measures, manpower and expenditure involved and timetable, etc.)? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 95)

Reply:

Over the past 5 years, the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) has provided sign language interpretation and subtitles in all its Announcements in the Public Interest (APIs) to keep electors with hearing impairment informed of the relevant information. Contents of the APIs included the promotion of annual voter registration campaign, public consultation on the proposed guidelines on election-related activities in respect of the Rural Representative Election, public consultation on the provisional recommendations on boundaries and names of District Council (DC) Constituency Areas for the 2015 DC Ordinary Election, public consultation on the proposed guidelines on election-related activities in respect of the DC Election, 2015 DC Ordinary Election, public consultation on the provisional recommendations on boundaries and names of geographical constituencies for the 2016 Legislative Council (LegCo) General Election, 2016 LegCo New Territories East Geographical Constituency (GC) By-election, public consultation on the proposed guidelines on election-related activities in respect of the LegCo Election, public consultation on the proposed guidelines on election-related activities in respect of the Election

Committee Subsector (ECSS) Elections, public consultation on the proposed guidelines on election-related activities in respect of the Chief Executive Election, 2016 LegCo General Election, 2016 ECSS Ordinary Elections, and 2018 LegCo By-election for the Hong Kong Island, Kowloon West and New Territories East GCs and the Architectural, Surveying, Planning and Landscape Functional Constituency. A sign language interpreter was assigned to provide interpretation service for the API produced for each election. The expenditure involved was covered by the operational expenses of the respective elections.

2. In addition, starting from the 2015 DC Ordinary Election, the REO has provided the option of sign language interpretation services for candidates in the candidates' briefings arranged for each public election, and provided sign language interpretation services in 2 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.

3. The REO has all along made its best endeavours to facilitate electors with special needs (including electors with hearing impairment or with speech or communication impairment) to vote in an election and be informed of the relevant information. Multiple measures have been taken in previous elections to ensure that the electors can exercise their right to vote, including the provision of a pictorial voting aid to assist them to understand the voting procedures and cast their vote.

4. The REO will continue to review the relevant measures when preparing for future elections, and listen to the views of the representatives of various non-government organisations representing persons with disabilities with a view to improving, where appropriate, the above measures to facilitate eligible electors with different needs to exercise their right to vote.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB151****(Question Serial No. 6132)**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:

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) launches a voter registration campaign every year to encourage eligible members of the public to register as electors. Please advise on

- (a) the value for money of the voter registration campaigns in the past 3 years using the following table:

Year	Number of street booths	Manpower	Number of successful registrations	Number of successful changes of address	Cost
2015					
2016					
2017					

- (b) Please advise on the value for money of verifications of voter registration in the past 3 years using the following table:

Year	Number of complaints received	Number of verifications conducted on REO's own initiative	Number of electors removed from the register	Number of electors retained on the register	Number of unprocessed cases	Cost
2015						
2016						
2017						

- (c) Please advise on the cost of issuing poll cards by the REO and the number of returned posts from 2016 to 2017 using the following table:

Year	Quantity of posts sent	Number of posts with incorrect addresses	Number of posts with addressee unknown	Number of posts successfully delivered	Number of cases requiring follow-up actions due to address issues	Cost
2016						
2017						

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 59)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) makes use of various channels in every voter registration (VR) cycle to appeal to eligible persons to register as electors. These channels 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 REO sets up VR counters at the 5 Registration of Persons Offices under the Immigration Department to encourage and assist people applying for or collecting adult identity cards at these Offices to register as electors. During the VR cycles in election years (such as 2015 and 2016), the REO also arranges to set up mobile VR counters at government offices buildings, tertiary institutions and busy locations to publicise the VR messages, and arranges VR assistants to assist members of the public to register as electors or update their registration particulars. For the 2015 to 2017 VR Campaigns, the expenditures for engaging VR assistants are \$4.53 million, \$4.52 million and \$1.44 million respectively. The REO does not maintain statistics on the number of mobile VR counters set up in each district and the number of VR assistants.

2. The overall number of newly registered geographical constituency (GC) electors and the number of cases involving change of registration particulars by registered electors in the VR cycles from 2015 to 2017 are as follows:

VR cycle	2015	2016	2017
Number of newly registered GC electors	262 633 (150 459)	177 503 (124 249)	83 161 (25 073)
Number of cases involving the change of registration particulars by registered GC electors	414 934 (227 177)	254 711 (148 449)	161 437 (53 578)

- () represents the number of applications received and processed during the VR Campaign.

3. In the light of public concern over the accuracy of residential addresses recorded in the register of electors in recent years, the REO has stepped up publicity since the 2012 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 registered residential addresses of electors with the Housing Department (HD), the Hong Kong Housing Society (HKHS) and the Home Affairs Department (HAD); checks on registered 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 residential addresses includes regular updating of particulars, and checking with the HD, HKHS and HAD in election years regarding electors with registered residential 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 their registered residential addresses. Upon completion of the statutory inquiry process, electors failing to respond will be removed from the final register.

4. In the 3 VR cycles from 2015 to 2017, the numbers of electors covered by the above measures of checking of registration particulars conducted by the REO and the numbers of electors removed from the register because of their failure to respond to the statutory inquiry process upon checking are as follows:

VR cycle	2015	2016	2017
Number of electors covered by the measures	about 1.6 million	about 1.6 million	about 140 000
Number of electors included in the statutory inquiry process	82 655	103 802	43 577
Number of electors removed from the register because of their failure to respond to statutory inquiry process	41 661	67 509	29 576

The REO will continue with the above checking work in the 2018 and future VR cycles to enhance the accuracy and completeness of VR records contained in the final register.

5. Between the 2015 and 2017 VR cycles, the numbers of electors suspected of, prosecuted for and convicted of making false statements in VR, as well as the numbers of electors removed from the register of electors and newly registered electors cancelled after investigation are as follows:

VR cycle	2015	2016	2017
Number of electors involved in cases referred to the law enforcement agencies by the REO for follow-up and investigation	482	631	15
Number of electors prosecuted and convicted after investigation in the VR cycle	2	0	0
Number of electors removed from the register of electors after investigation by the REO in the VR cycle	9	12	0
Number of newly registered electors cancelled after investigation by the REO in the VR cycle	110	170	5

6. The work of the REO in checking and verifying the registration 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. From 2015-16 to 2017-18, the establishment and operational expenses (including publicity expenses on VR Campaign) in respect of VR and checking work are detailed below:

Year	Civil service establishment*	Number of NCSC staff employed[@]	Expenditure on staff remuneration and related operational expenses
2015-16	92	404	\$97 million
2016-17	93	394	\$87 million
2017-18	107	about 120	\$49 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.

7. For the elections held in 2016, the REO issued a total of around 4.96 million poll cards. The expenditure involved, which covered the costs of producing envelopes and poll cards as well as engaging contractors for the provision of letter-shopping service and postage, is about \$26.18 million. In respect of the elections held in 2017, the REO issued a total of around 12 000 poll cards and the expenditure involved is about \$330,000. The numbers of returned poll cards or notices of uncontested nomination relating to the elections held in 2016 and 2017 by reason for return as indicated by the Hongkong Post is as follows:

Reason for return	2016 (Note1)	2017 (Note2)
No such person	21 441	120
Moved and redirection service not arranged by addressee	13 175	156
Incomplete address	327	0

Reason for return	2016 (Note1)	2017 (Note2)
Not occupied	116	1
Refusal of receipt	4 901	33
No such address	627	0
Unclaimed (i.e. the elector concerned did not pick up the post after the post had been delivered to the receipt location (mainly for a rural address without postal service))	1 399	2
Total	41 986	312

Note:

- (1) Including the 2016 Legislative Council New Territories East Geographical Constituency By-election, the 2016 Legislative Council General Election and the 2016 Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections.
- (2) Including the 2017 Chief Executive Election and 2017 Central and Western District Council By-election for the Peak Constituency and Tung Wah Constituency.

8. Upon the receipt of the returned poll cards, the REO will seek clarification from the electors concerned on whether their registered residential addresses are correct, and remind electors who have moved to submit their applications for change of registration particulars as soon as possible. After following up with the case, the REO will initiate the statutory inquiry process for electors who cannot be contacted or those who have moved without submitting their applications for change of registration particulars, and will issue inquiry letters to them to request confirmation or updating of their registered residential addresses.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB152****(Question Serial No. 3995)**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:

- 1) the voter registration statistics for subvented residential care homes for persons with disabilities in the past 5 years;
- 2) the voter registration statistics for non-subvented residential care homes for persons with disabilities in the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-chun (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 292)Reply:

According to the final registers from 2013 to 2017, the numbers of electors with registered addresses at residential care homes for persons with disabilities are as follows:

Final register	Number of electors*
2013	696
2014	572
2015	812
2016	678
2017	590

* The figures are based on the criterion adopted by the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) for checking registered addresses with multiple electors or multiple surnames of electors.

2. The REO does not have a breakdown of the number of electors with registered addresses at residential care homes for persons with disabilities by types of residential care homes.

- End -