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Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance Committee Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2016-17

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Session No. : 6

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB001

(Question Serial No. 0725)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

It is stated in the Estimates that (the relevant Mainland and Taiwan Offices will) “continue to improve the network of the Mainland Offices by setting up more liaison units.”

Please advise on:

1. The number of liaison units established in each of the past 3 years and the cities in which they are located.
2. The number of liaison units 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 CHAN Kam-lam (Member Question No. 22)

Reply:

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

2. Moreover, we have established a liaison unit under the BJO in Shenyang City of Liaoning Province and another one under the Shanghai ETO in Jinan City of Shandong Province in December 2014 and April 2015 respectively.

3. To further enhance the network of the Mainland Offices, we plan to set up one liaison unit each in Changsha City of Hunan Province and Zhengzhou City of Henan Province under the Wuhan ETO and another one in Tianjin Municipality under the BJO in 2016-17. In 2016-17, we have set aside \$13.21 million under Programme (3) “Mainland and Taiwan Offices” for meeting recurrent expenditure of the above three liaison units.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB002

(Question Serial No. 0737)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

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

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

Question:

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

Please advise on:

The number of requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents in the Mainland received in the past 5 years. Please provide a breakdown, by year, of the cases resolved through direct assistance of the Government.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kam-lam (Member Question No. 30)

Reply:

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

2. In 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015, a total of 501, 362, 353, 340 and 407 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

CMAB003

(Question Serial No. 0779)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

International human rights treaties applicable to Hong Kong include the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

In 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16, how much has been spent by the Government on publishing promotional booklets on the above human rights treaties to promote human rights? What is the total number of copies of booklets on the text of respective treaties and what is the number of copies in different languages that have been produced? What is the total number of booklets on the text of Concluding Observations made by respective Committees on human rights treaties on Hong Kong's report and what is the number of copies in different languages that have been produced? What is the Government's expenditure on the promotion of various treaties on the Internet? Please provide details on the work of setting out translations of the texts of various treaties, Concluding Observations and general comments on the Internet.

Asked by: Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing (Member Question No. 35)

Reply:

Hard copies of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region's (HKSAR) reports as required under the 7 United Nations (UN) human rights treaties are published in accordance with the reporting cycles of the respective treaties, and are distributed to the Executive Council, the Legislative Council, District Councils and stakeholders through various channels; they are also available to members of the public upon request. Hard copies of the Concluding Observations made by UN treaty bodies on the reports of the HKSAR Government are attached to the papers for discussion at the relevant Legislative Council

Panel meetings. To facilitate public access, the texts of these UN human rights treaties, the HKSAR's reports under these UN human rights treaties, as well as the Concluding Observations by the relevant UN treaty bodies are available in bilingual versions on the websites of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau and (as necessary) the Labour and Welfare Bureau. The General Comments made by the UN treaty bodies are available in different official languages of the UN at those UN bodies' websites.

2. The expenditure 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) was \$44,000 and \$91,000 in 2013-14 and 2014-15 respectively. In 2015-16, no such expenditure was incurred as there was no need to publish the HKSAR's reports.

3. The expenditure on the promotion of various treaties on the Internet has generally been absorbed in the expenditure for public education programmes as well as regular maintenance and updates of the websites of relevant bureaux. Separate breakdown of the expenditure is therefore not available.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB004

(Question Serial No. 0781)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

On the Sex Discrimination Ordinance, the Disability Discrimination Ordinance, the Family Status Discrimination Ordinance and the Race Discrimination Ordinance, please provide the following information:

1. The Equal Opportunities Commission's expenditure on production of promotional booklets on the above ordinances to promote the message of everyone is equal in 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16?
2. What is the total number of copies and different language versions of introduction to the above ordinances that have been produced?
3. What is the Equal Opportunities Commission's expenditure on the promotion of the above ordinances on the Internet?

Asked by: Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing (Member Question No. 36)

Reply:

According to information provided by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), its expenditure on publishing promotional booklets on the above ordinances in 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 is set out below:

Year	Expenditure on publishing promotional booklets on the above ordinances (\$'000)
2013-14	334
2014-15	750
2015-16 (revised estimate)	920

2. From 2013-14 to 2015-16, the total number of copies of introduction to the above ordinances that have been produced is set out below:

Different language version	Number of copies (‘000)
Bilingual in Chinese and English	410
Chinese	81
English	81
Hindi	22
Bahasa Indonesia	44
Nepali	21
Tagalog	37
Thai	28
Urdu	30
Total	754

The above publications are also uploaded to the EOC website for public viewing and downloading.

3. The EOC’s expenditure on the promotion of the above ordinances on the Internet, including placing online advertisements, developing mobile applications and organising video-clip production competition at social networking websites is set out below:

Year	Expenditure on online promotion (\$’000)
2013-14	504
2014-15	650
2015-16 (revised estimate)	250
2016-17 (estimate)	280

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB005

(Question Serial No. 0782)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC)'s promotion of equal opportunities in education and employment for ethnic minorities, please provide the following information:

1. the staff establishments of the EOC, the Education Bureau and the Labour and Welfare Bureau with respect to the said promotion work from 2013-14 to 2015-16;
2. the details of the planned promotion work to be undertaken in 2016-17; and
3. the budget for the promotion work.

Asked by: Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing (Member Question No. 37)

Reply:

Starting from 2014-15, this Bureau has been providing a funding of \$4.69 million to the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) for enhancing publicity and public education on the Race Discrimination Ordinance (RDO). To this end, the EOC has set up an Ethnic Minorities Unit to promote equal opportunities in education and employment for ethnic minorities through advocacy, training and promotional efforts. The Ethnic Minorities Unit comprises 7 full-time staff, including a Senior Equal Opportunities Officer, a Training Officer, 2 Equal Opportunities Officers mainly responsible for community outreach, 2 Assistant Equal Opportunities Officer and an Assistant Information Technology Officer.

2. As advised by the EOC, on advocacy, it will continue in 2016-17 to maintain close liaison with government bureaux and departments in charge of education and employment matters, relay to them the difficulties encountered by ethnic minority students, job seekers and employees and advise on relevant measures. On training, having regard to the needs of schools, ethnic minority parents and non-Chinese speaking (NCS) students, the EOC is

drawing up guidelines on the application of the RDO and will organise workshops to encourage schools to create an inclusive learning environment for ethnic minority students in schools. On promotion, continuous efforts will be made by the EOC to actively reach out to ethnic minority groups, organise workshops and talks for them to increase their awareness and understanding of their education/employment rights and the RDO. The EOC will also promote the message of integration to members of the public and ethnic minority communities, through roving exhibitions and partnership programmes launched with non-government organisations, in areas with a higher concentration of ethnic minorities and which are their popular gathering places.

3. Besides, as advised by the Labour Department (LD), it will continue to proactively help ethnic minority job seekers find work and promote the working abilities of ethnic minorities to employers. The LD launched the Employment Services Ambassador Programme for Ethnic Minorities (Ambassador Programme) in September 2014 to employ ethnic minority trainees of the Youth Employment and Training Programme who can speak Chinese/English and ethnic minority languages as Employment Services Ambassadors for a period of 6 months to provide services to job seekers, in particular ethnic minorities. Since the implementation of the Ambassador Programme, a total of 63 trainees have been employed by the LD as Employment Services Ambassadors in 2014-15 and 2015-16 and the latest batch of 15 Ambassadors assumed office on 1 March 2016. In 2016-17, the LD will continue to canvass suitable vacancies for ethnic minority job seekers and launch the Ambassador Programme. Besides, it will organise 2 large-scale and 12 district-based inclusive job fairs to enhance the employment opportunities for ethnic minorities. When inviting employers to participate, the LD will specifically request the employers to provide vacancies suitable for application by ethnic minorities and encourage employers to employ them. The work involved in providing employment support services for ethnic minorities is undertaken by existing staff in the LD in addition to their own duties; hence the manpower involved cannot be separately identified. As for the LD's employment services and district-based job fairs for ethnic minorities, the expenditures involved will be absorbed in the operating costs of the LD, while the estimated expenditure for organising the 2 large-scale job fairs is \$0.52 million. The LD's estimated expenditure for further implementing the Ambassador Programme in 2016-17 is about \$1.95 million.

4. On education, the Education Bureau (EDB) is committed to encouraging and supporting the integration of NCS students, notably ethnic minority students, into the community, including facilitating their early adaptation to the local education system and mastery of the Chinese language. To ensure that all NCS students will have equal opportunities as their Chinese-speaking peers to learn Chinese, EDB has, starting from the 2014/15 school year, allocated about \$200 million per year to step up the education support for NCS students in learning the Chinese language through, among others, implementation of the "Chinese Language Curriculum Second Language Learning Framework" ("Learning Framework") in primary and secondary schools, provision of the Applied Learning Chinese (for NCS students) subject and the creation of an inclusive learning environment in schools. Developed from the perspective of second language learners, the "Learning Framework" helps NCS students overcome their difficulties in learning Chinese as a second language, enabling them to bridge over to mainstream Chinese Language classes.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB006

(Question Serial No. 0783)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In respect of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance, please set out the respective expenditures of the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data on promoting the Ordinance to the public sector organisations, the business sector and the public from 2013-14 to 2015-16, and the estimated provision and the detailed promotion plan for 2016-17.

Asked by: Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing (Member Question No. 38)

Reply:

According to the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD), its expenditure on promotion, publicity and education activities to enhance awareness and understanding of and compliance with the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance is as follows:

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2013-14	2.77 (actual)
2014-15	2.52 (actual)
2015-16	5.06* (revised estimate)
2016-17	4.76 (estimate)

* including non-recurrent expenditure for special activities such as hosting the 43rd Asia Pacific Privacy Authorities Forum, producing Announcements in the Public Interest on television and television docudrama

2. The PCPD's planned promotion, publicity and education activities in 2016-17 include:
- (a) a television docudrama produced in partnership with the Radio Television Hong Kong for education and promotion to the general public;
 - (b) free talks for the public and small and medium-sized enterprises on the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance and enhancement of the online platform for educational resources;
 - (c) strengthening and updating the contents of the thematic websites "Think Privacy! Be Smart Online" and the "Children Privacy Portal";
 - (d) dissemination of educational messages on "Mind Your Digital Footprints" and privacy protection in daily life to the public through various channels, including roving exhibitions, the mass media, Youtube channel and Facebook page;
 - (e) Privacy Awareness Week 2016 – activities for this year include roving exhibitions in the community and talks for the elderly co-organised with welfare organisations;
 - (f) Student Ambassador for Privacy Protection cum School Partners Recognition Schemes 2016 – nurturing a culture of respect for personal data privacy in secondary schools by appointing Student Ambassadors for Privacy Protection, holding a television advertisement competition on "Protect, Respect Personal Data", staging roving exhibitions in schools and commendation of secondary schools for proactive promotion efforts on campus for the protection of personal data privacy;
 - (g) University Privacy Campaign – promoting privacy protection to students around the campuses of universities in Hong Kong and organising seminars for the teaching staff;
 - (h) a forum for developers of mobile applications to help the trade understand and comply with their obligations under the legislation;
 - (i) platforms for exchange and training as well as activities for Data Protection Officers' Club members, including regular meetings, briefing sessions, seminars and designated websites;
 - (j) professional workshops on personal data protection – the contents are tailored for the needs of professionals in public and private sectors who handle personal data in different fields;
 - (k) exploring the introduction of an award scheme in recognition of the adoption of good practices in organisations; and

- (1) a regional seminar on “Data Protection Law Development in the Information Age” for academics, legal professionals and organisational data users from Hong Kong and neighbouring regions.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0784)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Bureau states in the Estimates that anti-sexual harassment campaigns targeting the education and business sectors will be conducted and the Code of Practice on Employment under the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (Code of Practice) will be reviewed. In this connection, will the Bureau advise the following:

1. What are the details of the different means, including activities, media of promotion, expenditures involved and the number of public and private sector organisations participating in such activities, that the Bureau adopted from 2013-14 to 2015-16 to promote the Code of Practice?
2. In respect of the anti-sexual harassment campaigns targeting the education and business sectors in 2016-17, what are the work initiatives and estimated expenditure? What is the direction for reviewing the Code of Practice?

Asked by: Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing (Member Question No. 39)

Reply:

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) enforces the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (SDO); it also implements publicity and public education programmes to promote public awareness of the SDO. According to information provided by the EOC, from 2013-14 to 2015-16, the EOC promotes the Code of Practice on Employment under the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (Code of Practice) through different means, including radio programmes; Announcements in the Public Interest on television; outdoor advertisements; online publicity; roving exhibitions; annual EOC Forum; and seminars and training courses for employers, employees, education institutions, non-government organisations and community organisations. Talks, seminars and training activities organised by the EOC attracted 41 000, 55 000 and 47 000 participants in 2013, 2014 and 2015 respectively. As advised by the EOC, its expenditures on publicity and public education (including manpower expenditure) in 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 are

\$18.33 million, \$20.72 million and \$24.31 million (revised estimate) respectively; about 25% of the aforementioned expenditures are used for the publicity and public education programmes on sex discrimination. As promotion of the Code of Practice is an integral part of the EOC's efforts in promoting the SDO, a separate breakdown of expenditure is not available.

2. The EOC has been organising a number of anti-sexual harassment training programmes over the years, and will continue its publicity and promotional efforts in 2016-17. With regard to the education sector, the EOC will continue to provide training courses for schools and will also consider facilitating different tertiary education institutions to share their experiences in handling sexual harassment complaints through the EOC's communication network with local tertiary education institutions. With regard to the business sector, apart from producing the "Framework for Corporate Policy on Sexual Harassment" for private sector organisations, the EOC will also publish "Tips for SME Operators on Preventing Sexual Harassment" to provide a concise guide to the small and medium-size enterprises for preventing sexual harassment in the workplace. As anti-sexual harassment campaigns are an integral part of the EOC's efforts in promoting the SDO, a separate breakdown on expenditure is not available.

3. Besides, the EOC is conducting an internal review of the Code of Practice, with an aim to draw on the experiences and cases accumulated since the enactment of the SDO in 1996 to strengthen the guidelines. The internal review is expected to be completed by the end of this year, after which stakeholders and the public will be consulted.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB008

(Question Serial No. 0785)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

- (1) Please set out the list of non-profit-making organisations that have submitted application under the Basic Law Promotion Sponsorship Scheme from 2013-14 to 2015-16, results of the applications and reasons for unsuccessful application, as well as the details of activities successfully applied for sponsorship and the expenditure incurred.
- (2) What is the estimated provision for promotion work to increase public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law for 2016-17? What are the details of the promotion work?

Asked by: Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing (Member Question No. 40)

Reply:

In 2016-17, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau will continue to set aside about \$16 million for organising various promotional activities via different means to enhance public awareness and understanding of “one country, two systems” and the Basic Law.

2. The strategies of Basic Law promotion include:
 - (a) using electronic media, such as Announcements in the Public Interest on television and radio, 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, quiz competitions and debate competitions, in order to reach a wider audience through their extensive community networks.

3. Besides, the relevant bureaux/departments will also continue to promote the Basic Law in various areas through civic education, school education and training for civil servants. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government has set up the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (BLPSC) to provide views and steer on the overall strategy and key aspects for promoting the Basic Law. Under the steer of the BLPSC and its five working groups (namely Local Community; Teachers and Students; Civil Servants; Industrial, Commercial and Professional Sectors; and Overseas Community Working Groups), relevant bureaux/departments (i.e. the Home Affairs Bureau, Education Bureau, Civil Service Bureau, Trade and Industry Department and Information Services Department) assist in planning and organising various activities in their respective sectors to promote the Basic Law.

4. In 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16, eligible organisations have successfully applied for sponsorship amounting to \$0.64 million, \$1.41 million and \$3.82 million respectively under the “Basic Law Promotion Sponsorship Scheme”. In 2014-15 and 2015-16, four and eight applications have respectively failed to meet the assessment criteria. Organisations which have successfully applied for sponsorship, the activities and the amount of sponsorship applied are set out as follows:

2013-14

	Sponsored organisation	Activities	Amount of sponsorship applied (HK\$)
1.	Joint Committee for The Promotion of The Basic Law of Hong Kong*	Debate competition for primary school students	about 170,000
2.	Joint Committee for The Promotion of The Basic Law of Hong Kong*	Debate competition for secondary school students	about 320,000
3.	Hong Kong New Arrivals Services Foundation Limited	Seminar	about 150,000

* The Joint Committee for The Promotion of The Basic Law of Hong Kong comprises 64 organisations.

2014-15

	Sponsored organisation	Activities	Amount of sponsorship applied (HK\$)
1.	Joint Committee for The Promotion of The Basic Law of Hong Kong*	Seminar	about 200,000
2.	Joint Committee for The Promotion of The Basic Law of Hong Kong*	Debate competition for secondary school students	about 280,000
3.	Hong Kong New Arrivals Services Foundation Limited	Design competition, workshop and drama performance	about 120,000
4.	www.gcyouth.net	Debate competition for tertiary and secondary school students	about 210,000
5.	www.gcyouth.net	Thematic talks	about 170,000
6.	Joint Committee for The Promotion of The Basic Law of Hong Kong*	Debate competition for primary school students	about 220,000
7.	Joint Committee for The Promotion of The Basic Law of Hong Kong*	Seminar	about 210,000

* The Joint Committee for The Promotion of The Basic Law of Hong Kong comprises 64 organisations.

2015-16

	Sponsored organisation	Activities	Amount of sponsorship applied (HK\$)
1.	Tai Po Federation of All Circles	Quiz competition, exhibition and thematic talk	about 180,000
2.	Hong Kong Playground Association Mongkok Integrated Service Centre for Children and Youth	Roving exhibition	about 100,000
3.	Tuen Mun District Women's Association Limited, Kong Ching Association and Dynamic Youth of Huizhou	Essay competition and exhibition	about 60,000

	Sponsored organisation	Activities	Amount of sponsorship applied (HK\$)
4.	North District Juvenile Association	Exhibition and carnival	about 400,000
5.	Sham Shui Po Residents Association	Carnival	about 250,000
6.	Kowloon Federation of Associations Kwun Tong District Committee	Quiz competition	about 240,000
7.	Sham Shui Po Residents Association	Exhibition	about 190,000
8.	Hong Kong Basic Law Foundation Limited	Thematic courses	about 100,000
9.	The Hong Kong Wan Chai District Association Ltd	Exhibition, carnival and quiz competition	about 270,000
10.	Joint Committee for The Promotion of The Basic Law of Hong Kong*	Calligraphy competition and exhibition	about 210,000
11.	Joint Committee for The Promotion of The Basic Law of Hong Kong*	Debate competition for secondary school students	about 330,000
12.	New Home Association New Territories Service Center	Basic Law Ambassador Scheme	about 180,000
13.	Hong Kong Buddhist Association , C&Y Centre and Wanchai Youth Ambassadors Ltd	Carnival	about 60,000
14.	The Federation of All Sectors of Tsuen Wan Ltd	Thematic courses and visit	about 240,000
15.	Hong Kong New Arrivals Services Foundation Limited	Carnival	about 110,000
16.	Federation of Yuen Long Youth	Exhibition and drama	about 190,000
17.	www.gcyouth.net	Thematic talk	about 220,000
18.	Joint Committee for The Promotion of The Basic Law of Hong Kong*	Debate competition for primary school students	about 270,000

	Sponsored organisation	Activities	Amount of sponsorship applied (HK\$)
19.	Joint Committee for The Promotion of The Basic Law of Hong Kong*	Seminar	about 220,000

* The Joint Committee for The Promotion of The Basic Law of Hong Kong comprises 64 organisations.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0786)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

It is stated that the Bureau will continue to promote equal opportunities for people of different sexual orientations/gender identities in 2016-17. In this connection, will the Bureau set out in table form the details of activities for promoting equal opportunities for people of different sexual orientations/gender identities in which government employees and public funds are involved, including the type and objective of the programmes, the promotion platform, manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing (Member Question No. 41)

Reply:

Regarding the issue of eliminating discrimination against people of different sexual orientations/gender identities, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau plans to conduct the following education and promotion programmes in 2016-17:

Programme	Activities / Promotion platform	Estimated provision in 2016-17
Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme	Funding support for non-government organisations to organise community projects	\$1.25 million
Promotion and publicity through Announcements in the Public Interest, advertisements, etc. regarding equal opportunities for sexual minorities (including promotion of the Code on Practice against Discrimination in Employment on the Ground of Sexual Orientation)	Television, radio, train stations and other public transport network, Internet, seminars, briefings, etc.	\$2.40 million

The relevant work will be undertaken by the Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Unit, the establishment of which comprises 1 Executive Officer I and 1 Executive Officer II. The estimate of the Unit's staff cost in 2016-17 is \$1.18 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0814)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

What are the specific initiatives to be taken by the Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic and Cultural Cooperation and Promotion Council (ECCPC) and the Taiwan-Hong Kong Economic and Cultural Co-operation Council to take forward various co-operation areas in the next 3 years? Have the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau and the ECCPC assessed the possible changes in economic, trade and cultural co-operation between Hong Kong and Taiwan under the new Taiwan Government to be formed this May and taken corresponding measures to respond to such changes? If yes, what are the details; if no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon TAM Yiu-chung (Member Question No. 12)

Reply:

Since their establishment in 2010, the Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic and Cultural Cooperation Promotion Council (ECCPC) and the Taiwan-Hong Kong Economic and Cultural Co-operation Council (THEC) have convened annual joint meetings to promote Hong Kong-Taiwan co-operation in various priority areas on the economic and trade, cultural, tourism, social livelihood, city management and law enforcement exchange fronts. The 6th joint meeting was held in September 2015 in Hong Kong. At the meeting, both sides discussed the new initiatives and progress of areas pursued on the ECCPC-THEC platform, which included: the signing of a memorandum of understanding between accreditation bodies in the two places; the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Hong Kong Airport Authority and the Taoyuan Airport Corporation; co-operation between tourism promotion organisations in the two places; exchanges and co-operation between meteorological organisations, drainage services and geotechnical departments in the two places, etc. Both sides also agreed to explore 5 new co-operation areas, namely co-operation and exchanges in wetland conservation, trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora, intellectual property rights, urban renewal and promotion of water conservation, through the ECCPC-THEC discussion platform. Hong Kong and Taiwan will enhance exchanges and co-operation in the next 3 years on the basis above.

2. With the ECCPC-THEC platform, the communication mechanism between Hong Kong and Taiwan has been institutionalised. We hope that both sides will continue to actively promote exchanges and co-operation on public policy matters in the spirit of pragmatism and mutual benefit.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3073)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

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

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

Question:

Regarding “providing practical assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland”, will the Bureau inform this Committee:

1. what is the meaning of “in distress” and what are the situations covered;
2. of the total number of requests for assistance received by the Mainland Offices in the past 2 years, the numbers of cases accepted and refused, and of the reasons of refusal;
3. given the increasing exchanges with the Mainland, whether new services will be delivered by the Mainland Offices in response to the needs of the Hong Kong residents; if so, of the details; if not, of the reasons?

Asked by: Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him (Member Question No. 57)

Reply:

Immigration Divisions are currently set up under the Beijing Office and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETO) in Guangdong and Chengdu to provide assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. The scope of assistance provided by the Immigration Divisions is in compliance with the directions and guidelines of the Assistance to Hong Kong Residents Unit of the Immigration Department. In 2014 and 2015, the Immigration Divisions received 340 and 407 cases of request for assistance from Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland respectively. The requests were related to loss of travel documents or money; persons involved in accidents, injuries or other incidents in the Mainland.

2. In 2016-17, an Immigration Division will be set up under the Shanghai ETO. The Government will review the services concerned from time to time, with a view to rendering appropriate assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB012

(Question Serial No. 0502)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office
(2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In respect of public opinion surveys on subjects such as constitutional matters conducted/to be conducted by the Bureau and the Central Policy Unit, will the Bureau advise this Committee: of the surveys conducted in the past 2 years and planned to be conducted in the coming year, including the title, subject, and the expenditure and institution engaged for each survey; whether findings of the surveys have been/will be made public; if no, of the reasons?

Asked by: Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee (Member Question No. 32)

Reply:

According to information provided by the Central Policy Unit (CPU), the Unit commissions academic and commercial research institutes to conduct opinion polls on different public policy issues as it deems necessary. The opinion polls conducted are for the Government's internal reference and the CPU normally will not make public the findings of and information about its opinion polls.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB013****(Question Serial No. 3170)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Will the Bureau advise this Committee of the respective staff establishment, total expenditure and entertainment expenditure of the Mainland Offices in the past 3 financial years and for the coming year?

Asked by: Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee (Member Question No. 64)

Reply:

The respective numbers of posts in the establishment of the Mainland Offices (namely the Beijing Office (BJO), the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan) in 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 are as follows:

Office	Establishment in 2013-14 (Number of posts)	Establishment in 2014-15 (Number of posts)	Establishment in 2015-16 (Number of posts)	Establishment in 2016-17 (Number of posts)
BJO	17	19	19	22
Guangdong ETO	15	15	15	16
Shanghai ETO	7	9	9	14
Chengdu ETO	12	12	12	12
Wuhan ETO[#]	0	7	7	10

The Wuhan ETO was set up on 1 April 2014.

2. The actual expenditure of the Mainland Offices in 2013-14 and 2014-15, the revised estimated expenditure for 2015-16 and estimated expenditure for 2016-17 are as follows:

Office	Actual expenditure in 2013-14 (\$ million)	Actual expenditure in 2014-15 (\$ million)	Revised estimated expenditure for 2015-16 (\$ million)	Estimated expenditure for 2016-17 (\$ million)
BJO	64.5	69.9	73.3	78.6
Guangdong ETO	51.1	54.8	53.8	56.1
Shanghai ETO	29.8	35.7	38.6	48.7
Chengdu ETO	33.6	36.9	40.1	40.2
Wuhan ETO[#]	1.0 (expenditure for early preparatory work)	18.6	26.3	36.3

The Wuhan ETO was set up on 1 April 2014.

3. As for the entertainment expenditure of the Mainland Offices, the actual expenditure in 2013-14 and 2014-15, the revised estimated expenditure for 2015-16 and estimated expenditure for 2016-17 are as follows:

Office	Actual expenditure in 2013-14 (\$ million)	Actual expenditure in 2014-15 (\$ million)	Revised estimated expenditure for 2015-16 (\$ million)	Estimated expenditure for 2016-17 (\$ million)
BJO	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.4
Guangdong ETO	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.4
Shanghai ETO	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2
Chengdu ETO	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2
Wuhan ETO[#]	0	0.1	0.1	0.1

The Wuhan ETO was set up on 1 April 2014.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0034)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Under Brief Description of this Programme, it is mentioned that the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau will promote public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law. In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee of:

- (a) the Bureau's plan to promote public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law;
- (b) the specific programmes launched under the strategies of using electronic media, organising promotional activities and strengthening co-operation with community organisations respectively in undertaking the above work in the past year; and
- (c) the provision set aside for 2016-17 to undertake the above work?

Asked by: Hon WONG Kwok-hing (Member Question No. 5)

Reply:

In 2016-17, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau will continue to set aside about \$16 million for organising various promotional activities via different means to enhance public awareness and understanding of "one country, two systems" and the Basic Law.

2. Besides, the relevant bureaux/departments of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government will also continue to promote the Basic Law in various areas through civic education, school education and training for civil servants. The HKSAR Government has set up the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (BLPSC) to provide views and steer on the overall strategy and key aspects for promoting the Basic Law. Under the steer of the BLPSC and its five working groups (namely Local Community; Teachers and Students; Civil Servants; Industrial, Commercial and Professional Sectors; and Overseas Community Working Groups), relevant bureaux/departments (i.e. the Home

Affairs Bureau, Education Bureau, Civil Service Bureau, Trade and Industry Department and Information Services Department) assist in planning and organising various activities in their respective sectors to promote the Basic Law.

3. In 2015-16, the HKSAR Government has adopted the following promotional strategies:

- (a) using electronic media, such as Announcements in the Public Interest on television and radio, 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, quiz competitions and debate competitions, in order to reach a wider audience through their extensive community networks.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0593)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (CHANG King-yiu)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention, it is stated that the EOC will promote integrated education and employment opportunities for students with special education needs. What is its specific plan? What are the resources and manpower involved?

Asked by: Prof Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long (Member Question No. 47)

Reply:

Upon consulting the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), its reply is as follows: ensuring students with special education needs (SEN students) are entitled to equal opportunities to receive integrated education has been included as one of the strategic priority work areas of the EOC. The EOC has been relaying its concerns and questions about integrated education to the Government through regular meetings and communications with relevant policy bureaux. Understanding the learning difficulties encountered by SEN students and concerns of the parents, the EOC will continue to relay parents' views to the Education Bureau and monitor the policies and measures implemented by the Government.

2. Besides, the EOC has been proactively maintaining close liaison with tertiary institutions in Hong Kong, in order to provide support to university students with special education needs and/or with disabilities. On the promotional education and training front, continuous efforts will be made by the EOC to promote awareness and understanding of SEN students by the public and stakeholders as well as integrated education and employment opportunities for SEN students through a series of programmes and activities, including the Community Participation Funding Programme on Equal Opportunities; radio programmes; roving drama performances in schools; the Equal Opportunities Drama Project; roving exhibitions; annual EOC Forum; micro film competition and slogan design competition; seminars and training courses for education institutions, non-government organisations and community organisations.

3. As the above initiatives are integral parts of the EOC's efforts in promoting equal opportunities, separate breakdown on the resources and manpower specifically allocated for such initiatives is not available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB016

(Question Serial No. 0391)

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

Question:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau is responsible for, among other things, promoting public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law, and ensuring the development of the electoral system in accordance with relevant provisions of the Basic Law. In 2016-17, 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 Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung (Member Question No. 42)

Reply:

In 2016-17, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau will continue to set aside about \$16 million for organising various promotional activities via different means to enhance public awareness and understanding of “one country, two systems” and the Basic Law.

2. The strategies of Basic Law promotion include:
- (a) using electronic media, such as Announcements in the Public Interest on television and radio, 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, quiz competitions and debate competitions, in order to reach a wider audience through their extensive community networks.

3. Besides, the relevant bureaux/departments will also continue to promote the Basic Law in various areas through civic education, school education and training for civil servants. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government has set up the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (BLPSC) to provide views and steer on the overall strategy and key aspects for promoting the Basic Law. Under the steer of the BLPSC and its five working groups (namely Local Community; Teachers and Students; Civil Servants; Industrial, Commercial and Professional Sectors; and Overseas Community Working Groups), relevant bureaux/departments (i.e. the Home Affairs Bureau, Education Bureau, Civil Service Bureau, Trade and Industry Department and Information Services Department) assist in planning and organising various activities in their respective sectors to promote the Basic Law.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB017

(Question Serial No. 2758)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

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

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

Question:

In respect of this programme, will the Bureau advise on the resources earmarked for the following purposes for this financial year:

1. monitoring and disseminating 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;
2. promoting the strengths of Hong Kong in the Mainland and Taiwan;
3. strengthening economic and trade liaison with and enhance the investment promotion function in the Mainland, and promoting economic and cultural exchanges with Taiwan?

Asked by: Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen (Member Question No. 5)

Reply:

To facilitate the Hong Kong business sector to keep abreast of the major developments in the Mainland and Taiwan and capitalise on the markets, the Mainland and Taiwan Offices (namely the Beijing Office, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan, and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan), in 2016-17, will continue to gather 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, such as issuance of special trade-related messages, webpages, workshops, seminars and exhibitions.

2. The Mainland and Taiwan Offices, together with Invest Hong Kong, will continue to proactively serve as important bridges between Hong Kong and the Mainland/Taiwan, including enhancing liaison and communication with the counterparts in the areas under their coverage; representing and promoting Hong Kong's trade and commercial interests; encouraging and attracting investments to Hong Kong and promoting Hong Kong's many advantages as an investment and business hub in Asia; and promoting the strengths of Hong Kong through appropriate channels. The above areas of work complement each other in showcasing the positive image and attractions of Hong Kong in the Mainland and Taiwan. In 2016-17, the Mainland and Taiwan Offices will continue to adopt a multi-pronged approach in promoting Hong Kong, enhancing investment promotion in the Mainland and Taiwan, and promoting economic and cultural exchanges with Taiwan through appropriate channels. These include attending meetings and calling on the Mainland/Taiwan counterparts; organising/participating in seminars, exhibitions and workshops; organising/participating in public relations, cultural exchange functions and events; giving public speeches, media interviews and briefings; and issuing circulars, newsletters and press releases.

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

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

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

6. Invest Hong Kong has earmarked around \$7 million for promoting investment in the Mainland and Taiwan through the Investment Promotion Units in 2016-17. The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau has earmarked a sum of \$245 million 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.

7. The above work is an integral part of the roles and functions of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices. The resources involved cannot be separately singled out and itemised, and will be absorbed within the above provision.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB018

(Question Serial No. 0854)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please give an account of the progress in taking forward various co-operation areas agreed between the Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic and Cultural Cooperation and Promotion Council and the Taiwan-Hong Kong Economic and Cultural Co-operation Council. As the Democratic Progressive Party of Taiwan rises to power, has the SAR Government assessed its impact on cultural and economic co-operation between Hong Kong and Taiwan, and stepped up promotional efforts in Taiwan?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ting-kwong (Member Question No. 6)

Reply:

Since their establishment in 2010, the Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic and Cultural Cooperation Promotion Council (ECCPC) and the Taiwan-Hong Kong Economic and Cultural Co-operation Council (THEC) have convened annual joint meetings to promote Hong Kong-Taiwan co-operation in various priority areas on the economic and trade, cultural, tourism, social livelihood, city management and law enforcement exchange fronts. The 6th joint meeting was held in September 2015 in Hong Kong. At the meeting, both sides discussed the new initiatives and progress of areas pursued on the ECCPC-THEC platform, which included: the signing of a memorandum of understanding between accreditation bodies in the two places; the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Hong Kong Airport Authority and the Taoyuan Airport Corporation; co-operation between tourism promotion organisations in the two places; exchanges and co-operation between meteorological organisations, drainage services and geotechnical departments in the two places, etc. Both sides also agreed to explore 5 new co-operation areas, namely co-operation and exchanges in wetland conservation, trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora, intellectual property rights, urban renewal and promotion of water conservation, through the ECCPC-THEC discussion platform.

2. With the ECCPC-THEC platform, the communication mechanism between Hong Kong and Taiwan has been institutionalised. We hope that both sides will continue to actively promote exchanges and co-operation on public policy matters in the spirit of pragmatism and mutual benefit.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0855)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The estimated increase of \$27.2 million is mainly for the setting up of more liaison units. What are the estimated number of liaison units to be set up, their establishments and distribution? What will be the estimated annual operational expenses?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ting-kwong (Member Question No. 7)

Reply:

The provision for 2016-17 is \$27.2 million (10.6%) higher than the revised estimate for 2015-16. This is mainly due to the increased provision of \$6.76 million for setting up more liaison units to provide better operational support to the Mainland Offices; the increased provision of \$9.61 million for setting up an Immigration Division under the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (ETO) in Shanghai; and the increased provision of \$2.47 million for creating a Chief Curator post at the Beijing Office (BJO) to enhance cultural exchange. The remaining \$8.36 million is for meeting the increased expenditure for staff cost and other operational expenses of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices.

2. We plan to set up one liaison unit each in Changsha City of Hunan Province and Zhengzhou City of Henan Province under the Wuhan ETO and another one in Tianjin Municipality under the BJO in 2016-17. In 2016-17, we have set aside \$13.21 million for meeting recurrent expenditure of the above three liaison units.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB020

(Question Serial No. 0856)

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

Question:

It is estimated that there will be an increase of 14 non-directorate posts in 2016. What are the distribution, nature of work and remuneration packages of these posts?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ting-kwong (Member Question No. 8)

Reply:

A total of 15 new posts will be created, to be partly offset by the deletion of 1 post in the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau in 2016-17. As a result, there will be a net increase of 14 posts. Details of the new posts are as follows –

- (a) 1 Executive Officer I post for promoting equal opportunities for people with different sexual orientations; the annual cost involved is \$0.68 million;
- (b) 1 Clerical Assistant post for providing clerical support for general administration work; the annual cost involved is \$0.19 million;
- (c) 6 posts at the new liaison units to be set up. We plan to set up 1 liaison unit each in Changsha, Hunan Province and Zhengzhou, Henan Province under the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (ETO) in Wuhan and another one in Tianjin under the Beijing Office (BJO) in 2016-17. The setting up of these 3 liaison units involves creation of 6 posts for Hong Kong-based staff, namely 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 2 Principal Trade Officer, 1 Trade Officer and 2 Senior Executive Officer posts; the annual cost involved is \$6.72 million;
- (d) 5 posts at the new Immigration Division to be set up under the Shanghai ETO, namely 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer and 3 Immigration Officer posts; the annual cost involved is \$4.25 million;

- (e) 1 Senior Executive Officer post at the Shenzhen Liaison Unit; the annual cost involved is \$0.93 million; and
- (f) 1 Chief Curator post at the BJO for enhancing cultural exchange; the annual cost involved is \$1.31 million.

The above creation of 15 new posts will be partly offset by the deletion of 1 time-limited Executive Officer I post in 2016-17; the post was created for the setting up of the Wuhan ETO, and the annual cost involved is \$0.68 million. Therefore, there will be a net increase of 14 posts in 2016-17, and the net additional annual cost involved is \$13.40 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB021

(Question Serial No. 0872)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

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

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

Question:

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

Asked by: Hon WONG Ting-kwong (Member Question No. 24)

Reply:

In 2015, the Mainland Offices (namely the Beijing Office, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan) received a total of 13 060 enquiries, which included those from Hong Kong enterprises and investors in the Mainland. Besides, the Mainland Offices received 113 assistance cases and complaints which were not related to immigration and personal safety matters. As the nature and complexity of the cases vary, the Mainland Offices do not have breakdown on the different handling stages based 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

(Question Serial No. 0873)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

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

Asked by: Hon WONG Ting-kwong (Member Question No. 25)

Reply:

The establishment of the Beijing Office (BJO) for 2016-17 will comprise 3 directorate officers (i.e. 1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade A, 1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade B1 and 1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade C) and 19 non-directorate officers (i.e. 2 Senior Administrative Officers, 1 Chief Curator, 2 Principal Trade Officers, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer, 3 Immigration Officers, 1 Chief Information Officer, 1 Information Officer, 1 Senior Executive Officer, 1 Executive Officer I and 1 Senior Personal Secretary). In addition, there will be 34 supporting personnel engaged locally.

2. The establishment of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (ETO) in Guangdong for 2016-17 will comprise 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade B) and 15 non-directorate officers (i.e. 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 4 Principal Trade Officers, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer, 2 Immigration Officers, 1 Principal Information Officer and 1 Senior Executive Officer). In addition, there will be 27 supporting personnel engaged locally.

3. The establishment of the Shanghai ETO for 2016-17 will comprise 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade B) and 13 non-directorate officers (i.e. 2 Senior Administrative Officers, 1 Principal Trade Officer, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer, 3 Immigration Officers and 1 Senior Information Officer). In addition, there will be 17 supporting personnel engaged locally.

4. The establishment of the Chengdu ETO for 2016-17 will comprise 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade C) and 11 non-directorate officers (i.e. 2 Senior Administrative Officers, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Senior Information Officer, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer and 2 Immigration Officers). In addition, there will be 17 supporting personnel engaged locally.

5. The establishment of the Wuhan ETO for 2016-17 will comprise 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade C) and 9 non-directorate officers (i.e. 2 Senior Administrative Officers, 1 Principal Trade Officer, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Senior Executive Officer and 1 Senior Information Officer). In addition, there will be 20 supporting personnel engaged locally.

6. The estimated expenditure of the BJO, Guangdong ETO, Shanghai ETO, Chengdu ETO and Wuhan ETO for 2016-17 is provided below:

Office	Estimated expenditure for 2016-17 (\$ million)
BJO	78.62
Guangdong ETO	56.11
Shanghai ETO	48.73
Chengdu ETO	40.22
Wuhan ETO	36.26

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2128)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the studies (if any) conducted by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau and the department under its purview for the purpose of formulating and assessing policies, please provide information in the following format.

- (a) Using the table below, please provide information about studies on public policy and strategic public policy for which funds had been allocated in the past 2 financial years (2014-15 and 2015-16):

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/ tender/ others (please specify))	Title, content and objectives of project	Consultancy fee (\$)	Start date	Progress of study (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Follow-up actions taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any)	For completed projects, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?

- (b) Are there any projects for which funds have been reserved for conducting internal studies this financial year (2016-2017)? If yes, please provide the following information:

Title, content and objectives of project	Start date	Progress of study (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Follow-up actions taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any)	For projects that are expected to be completed this year, is there any plan to make them public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?

- (c) Are there any projects for which funds have been reserved for conducting consultancy studies this financial year (2016-2017)? If yes, please provide the following information:

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/ tender/ others (please specify))	Title, content and objectives of project	Consultancy fee (\$)	Start date	Progress of study (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Follow-up actions taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any)	For projects that are expected to be completed this year, is there any plan to make them public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?

- (d) What are the criteria for considering the award of consultancy projects to the research institutions concerned?

Asked by: Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan (Member Question No. 98)

Reply:

Regarding the consultancy studies commissioned by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) for the purpose of formulating and assessing policies, the relevant information is provided below –

- (a) For studies on public policy and strategic public policy for which funds had been allocated in 2014-15 and 2015-16 –

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/ tender/ others (please specify))	Title, content and objectives of project	Con-sultancy fee	Start date	Progress of study (under planning/in progress/ completed)	Follow-up actions taken by the Government on the study reports and their progress (if any)	For completed projects, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
Policy 21 Limited	Selection of quotation	<p>Study on Discrimination Experienced by Sexual Minorities in Hong Kong</p> <p>To study whether sexual minorities are discriminated against in Hong Kong and, if so, the discrimination they experienced including the domains and forms of discrimination, and how they responded to it</p>	HK\$ 445,000	Nov 2013	Completed	After considering the consultant's report, the Advisory Group on Eliminating Discrimination against Sexual Minorities (Advisory Group) submitted its report to the Government in Dec 2015, putting forward recommendations on strategies and measures to eliminate discrimination	The Advisory Group's report has been uploaded onto CMAB's website
Guizhou University of Finance and Economics	Selection of quotation	<p>Implementation of Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) in Guizhou</p> <p>To understand the status of implementation of CEPA in Guizhou and explore the business opportunities of Guizhou for Hong Kong enterprises</p>	RMB¥ 120,000	Apr 2014	Completed	The report has been passed to Government departments in Hong Kong and related organisations	The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Chengdu and Guizhou Department of Commerce have held joint press conference to release summary of the findings

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/tender/others (please specify))	Title, content and objectives of project	Con-sultancy fee	Start date	Progress of study (under planning/in progress/completed)	Follow-up actions taken by the Government on the study reports and their progress (if any)	For completed projects, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
Pricewaterhouse-Coopers Consultants (Shenzhen) Limited	Selection of quotation	Report on the “2014 Negative List, liberalisation measures and financial policies of the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone; and their impact on and business opportunities for Hong Kong enterprises” To help Hong Kong enterprises understand the latest policy on the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone and explore business opportunities	RMB¥ 128,000	Sept 2014	Completed	The report has been passed to the industry and Government departments in Hong Kong	The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Shanghai (SHETO) has released the electronic version of the report to major business associations in Hong Kong, business associations, enterprises and individuals in the service areas of SHETO, and Government departments in Hong Kong by e-mail
Deloitte Consulting (Hong Kong) Limited	Selection of quotation	Evaluative study on conditions necessary for implementing section 33 of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance	HK\$ 1,428,000	May 2015	In progress	Not applicable, the study is yet to be completed	Not applicable, the study is yet to be completed
Pricewaterhouse-Coopers Consultants (Shenzhen) Limited Beijing	Selection of quotation	Study report on business opportunities brought about by Guangdong, Fujian and Tianjin Pilot Free Trade	RMB¥ 128,000	Oct 2015	In progress	The report will be passed to Government departments in Hong Kong and related organisations	Not applicable, the study is yet to be completed

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/tender/others (please specify))	Title, content and objectives of project	Con-sultancy fee	Start date	Progress of study (under planning/in progress/completed)	Follow-up actions taken by the Government on the study reports and their progress (if any)	For completed projects, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
Branch		Zones and their impact on Hong Kong enterprises To study the business opportunities brought about by various policies and rules and regulations of the Guangdong, Fujian and Tianjin Pilot Free Trade Zones and their impact on Hong Kong enterprises					

(b) and (c) In 2016-17, CMAB has not reserved any funds for the Bureau to conduct internal studies for the time being. In the light of the Advisory Group's recommendations relating to a further study, CMAB intends to commission a consultant to study the experience of other jurisdictions in implementing related measures.

(d) Generally speaking, the consultancy projects were awarded to the research institutions concerned after considering the following criteria –

- (i) the research institution's background and relevant past experience on the research topic;
- (ii) the research team's understanding and knowledge of the research topic; and
- (iii) whether the quoted consultancy fee is reasonable.

2. The Registration and Electoral Office, which is under the purview of CMAB, has not commissioned any consultancy study, and currently has no plan for new internal or consultancy studies to be conducted in 2016-17.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB024

(Question Serial No. 0979)

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

Question:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau advises bureaux and departments on matters relating to the implementation of the Basic Law, and promotes public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law. Please provide the annual expenditure on and staffing arrangements for promoting the Basic Law as well as the details of the promotion work in the past 3 years and for the coming year. Of the expenditure incurred/to be incurred, how much has been/will be spent on printing the hard copies of the Basic Law for distribution to the public and how many copies of the Basic Law have been/will be printed?

Asked by: Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai (Member Question No. 36)

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) has spent/will set aside about \$16 million in the past 3 financial years and for the coming 2016-17 for organising various promotional activities via different means to enhance public awareness and understanding of “one country, two systems” and the Basic Law.

2. The strategies of Basic Law promotion include:
- (a) using electronic media, such as Announcements in the Public Interest on television and radio, 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, quiz competitions and debate competitions, in order to reach a wider audience through their extensive community networks.

The above work is undertaken by a team in the CMAB which is headed by a Principal Assistant Secretary and supported by 4 officers.

3. Besides, the relevant bureaux/departments will also continue to promote the Basic Law in various areas through civic education, school education and training for civil servants. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government has set up the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (BLPSC) to provide views and steer on the overall strategy and key aspects for promoting the Basic Law. Under the steer of the BLPSC and its five working groups (namely Local Community; Teachers and Students; Civil Servants; Industrial, Commercial and Professional Sectors; and Overseas Community Working Groups), relevant bureaux/departments (i.e. the Home Affairs Bureau, Education Bureau, Civil Service Bureau, Trade and Industry Department and Information Services Department) assist in planning and organising various activities in their respective sectors to promote the Basic Law.

4. Copies of the Basic Law printed and distributed to the public by the CMAB in the past 3 financial years and the respective expenditure are set out in the table below. The relevant expenditures have been included in the provision of the \$16 million for promoting the Basic Law.

Financial year	Total no. of printed copies	Expenditure
2013-14	119 943*	\$837,400
2014-15	97 500*	\$815,500
2015-16	58 000	\$561,300

* A larger number of copies of the Basic Law were printed in 2013-14 and 2014-15 to prepare for and to tie in with the activities to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the promulgation of the Basic Law.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0110)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

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

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

Question:

In respect of this Programme, would the Government advise this Committee of:

- (a) the reason(s) why the estimated provision for the Mainland and Taiwan Offices for 2016-17 is 10.6% higher than that for 2015-16;
- (b) the types of requests for assistance received and the assistance rendered by the Mainland and Taiwan Offices in the past year (2015-16) given that one of the responsibilities of these offices is to provide practical assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland and Taiwan; and
- (c) the estimated expenditure and manpower arrangement for the above work?

Asked by: Hon WONG Kwok-kin (Member Question No. 3)

Reply:

The provision for 2016-17 is 10.6% (\$27.2 million) higher than the revised estimate for 2015-16. This is mainly due to the increased provision of \$6.76 million for setting up more liaison units to provide better operational support to the Mainland Offices; the increased provision of \$9.61 million for setting up an Immigration Division under the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (ETO) in Shanghai; and the increased provision of \$2.47 million for creating a Chief Curator post at the Beijing Office (BJO) to enhance cultural exchange. The above-mentioned result in a net increase of 12 posts. The remaining \$8.36 million is for meeting the increased expenditure for staff cost and other operational expenses of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices.

2. The Mainland and Taiwan Offices (namely the Beijing Office (BJO), the ETOs in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan, as well as the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan (HKETCO)) mainly serve to further economic and trade

co-operation as well as cultural exchange between Hong Kong and the Mainland/Taiwan, but they also provide appropriate assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress. Currently, Immigration Divisions are set up under the BJO and the ETOs in Guangdong and Chengdu to provide assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. In the past year, the types of distress cases received by Immigration Divisions of the Mainland Offices included loss of travel documents or money; persons involved in accidents, injuries or other incidents in the Mainland. Assistance that can be rendered by the Immigration Divisions includes:

- (a) issuing Entry Permits to Hong Kong residents who have 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 are involved in a serious accident or become a casualty;
- (c) liaising, on request from the parties concerned, with their relatives and friends in Hong Kong for rendering financial assistance to the parties concerned;
- (d) upon receipt of notification from the Mainland law enforcement agencies regarding the arrest or detention of Hong Kong residents, passing information to relatives of the parties concerned in Hong Kong;
- (e) inquiring, on request from the relatives and friends of the parties concerned, about the situation of the case involving Hong Kong residents being arrested or detained by the Mainland law enforcement agencies;
- (f) providing information on lawyers in the Mainland to the parties concerned or their relatives and friends on request; and
- (g) providing any other relevant advisory services.

3. Separately, requests for assistance received by the HKETCO in Taiwan in the past year were generally related to loss of travel documents, requests for legal assistance in Taiwan or injuries/deaths due to accidents. In handling requests for assistance involving Hong Kong residents in distress in Taiwan, the HKETCO maintains close liaison with the Hong Kong Immigration Department and offers possible assistance in light of the circumstances, including providing advice on such matters as local administrative procedures, and on how to liaise with the relevant organisations or seek legal advice.

4. In 2015-16, there are a total of 3 Principal Immigration Officers, 3 Chief Immigration Officers and 7 Immigration Officers in the BJO, ETOs in Guangdong and Chengdu where Immigration Divisions are set up; the revised estimated expenditure on salaries and allowances involved is \$19.44 million. In other Mainland Offices (i.e. the ETOs in Shanghai and Wuhan) and the Taiwan Office where there is no Immigration Division, they will also work closely with the Immigration Department/Immigration Divisions in the Mainland to render support to Hong Kong residents. The above expenditure does not include the resources required by these Offices for providing assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland/Taiwan.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB026

(Question Serial No. 0670)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

With respect to Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2016-17 under this Programme, will the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. It is stated that “the Bureau will continue 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”; what measures will be taken by the Bureau to take forward this initiative and what are the areas of co-operation;
2. It is stated that “the Bureau will engage the Taiwan-Hong Kong Economic and Cultural Co-operation Council (THEC) to take forward various priority areas of co-operation agreed between the Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic and Cultural Co-operation and Promotion Council and THEC; what are such areas of co-operation and the specific measures to take forward the initiative; and
3. What are the estimated expenditure and manpower required for the above initiatives?

Asked by: Hon WONG Kwok-kin (Member Question No. 4)

Reply:

Policy matters on deepening regional co-operation with the Mainland under Programme (2) “Constitutional and Mainland Affairs” are mainly handled by 2 divisions of staff in the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB). In addition, the Beijing Office and the 4 Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan (Mainland Offices) respectively under Programme (3) “Mainland and Taiwan Offices” play a facilitating and co-ordinating role in fostering closer ties and co-operation with the Mainland at various levels. Work to continue deepening regional co-operation with the Mainland covers a wide range of areas, including economic and trade, financial services, tourism, culture, education, engineering, professional services, environmental protection, food safety, youth exchanges, etc. Specific measures for taking

forward the initiative include organising and providing logistic support for co-operation fora in Hong Kong; participating in bilateral and multilateral co-operation fora in the Mainland; enhancing liaison and communications with the Central People's Government, the provincial and municipal governments and other local authorities in the Mainland; and organising events (such as seminars, exhibitions and workshops) etc. As the work on deepening regional co-operation is an integral part of the duties and functions of the officers concerned in the CMAB and the Mainland Offices, the manpower provision cannot be separately singled out and itemised. Generally speaking, an estimated financial provision of about \$154 million (excluding staff cost) under the 2 said Programmes is for the CMAB and the Mainland Offices to take forward the work to deepen regional co-operation with the Mainland in 2016-17.

2. The Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic and Cultural Cooperation Promotion Council (ECCPC) and the Taiwan-Hong Kong Economic and Cultural Co-operation Council (THEC) held their 6th joint meeting in September 2015 in Hong Kong. At the meeting, both sides discussed the new initiatives and progress of areas pursued on the ECCPC-THEC platform, which included: the signing of a memorandum of understanding between accreditation bodies in the two places; the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Hong Kong Airport Authority and the Taoyuan Airport Corporation; co-operation between tourism promotion organisations in the two places; exchanges and co-operation between meteorological organisations, drainage services and geotechnical departments in the two places, etc. Both sides also agreed to explore 5 new co-operation areas, namely co-operation and exchanges in wetland conservation, trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora, intellectual property rights, urban renewal and promotion of water conservation, through the ECCPC-THEC discussion platform. As the secretariat to the ECCPC, this Bureau co-ordinates the participation of bureaux and departments in the matters pursued on the ECCPC-THEC platform. As such work is an integral part of our duties in supporting the ECCPC, the manpower expenditure involved cannot be separately singled out and itemised.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB027****(Question Serial No. 2797)****Head:** (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau**Subhead (No. & title):** (000) Operational expenses**Programme:** (1) Director of Bureau's Office**Controlling Officer:** Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)**Director of Bureau:** Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs**Question:**

Please set out in table form expenditure details of the official duty visits outside Hong Kong made by the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs and Under Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs since 2012-13, including the date of visit, place of visit, numbers of officers joining the visit, purpose of visit, expenses on hotel accommodation, air tickets and meals and total expenditure for each visit. Please list the amounts of sponsorship received and names of the sponsors (if any).

Asked by: Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-ye (Member Question No. 19)**Reply:**

The relevant summary information on official duty visits outside Hong Kong made by the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs and Under Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs from 2012-13 to 2015-16 is provided below –

Date of visits (Number of visits)	Place of visits	Departments/ organisations visited	No. of officers in Director of Bureau's Office joining the visits	Objectives of visits	Hotel accommo- dation expendi- ture ^{Note1}	Flight/ train/ vessel ticket expendi- ture ^{Note2}	Other expenses ^{Note3}	Total expenditure
					(\$ (A))	(\$ (B))	(\$ (C))	(\$ (A)+(B)+(C))
2012-13 ^{Note4} (10)	Mainland (Beijing, Hainan, Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Sichuan, Tainjin) and Taipei, Switzerland (Geneva)	Central ministries, departments of local governments and relevant committees of the United Nations	0-1 officer per duty visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> promoting exchanges and co-operation with the Mainland, Macao and Taiwan attending the hearings of the relevant committees of the United Nations 	14,900	124,660	14,490	154,050

Date of visits (Number of visits)	Place of visits	Departments/ organisations visited	No. of officers in Director of Bureau's Office joining the visits	Objectives of visits	Hotel accommo- dation expendi- ture ^{Note1}	Flight/ train/ vessel ticket expendi- ture ^{Note2}	Other expenses ^{Note3}	Total expenditure
					(\$ (A))	(\$ (B))	(\$ (C))	(\$ (A)+(B)+(C))
2013-14 (11)	Mainland (Beijing, Zhuhai, Fuzhou, Guangzhou, Shenzhen) and Macao, Taipei, Switzerland (Geneva)	Central ministries, departments of local governments and relevant committees of the United Nations	0-1 officer per duty visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● promoting exchanges and co-operation with the Mainland, Macao and Taiwan ● attending the hearings of the relevant committees of the United Nations 	33,050	179,340	24,490	236,880
2014-15 (13)	Mainland (Shanghai, Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Beijing, Fuzhou, Quanzhou, Xiamen) and Macao, Switzerland (Geneva)	Central ministries, departments of local governments and relevant committees of the United Nations	0-3 officers per duty visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● promoting exchanges and co-operation with the Mainland, Macao and Taiwan ● attending the hearings of the relevant committees of the United Nations 	30,510	136,050	33,220	199,780
2015-16 (17)	Mainland (Wuhan, Shanghai, Shenyang, Dalian, Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Chonghua, Beijing, Tianjin, Changsha, Zhengzhou, Zhuhai, Xi'an, Fuzhou) and Macao, Taoyuan, Taipei	Central ministries and departments of local governments	0-4 officers per duty visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● promoting exchanges and co-operation with the Mainland, Macao and Taiwan 	40,550	148,110	47,040	235,700

Notes:

- (1) The arrangement of hotel accommodation was provided to officers concerned in accordance with the relevant Civil Service Regulations and guidelines.
- (2) Proper class of air passages was provided to officers concerned in accordance with the relevant Civil Service Regulations which take into account ranking of their offices, flying time, flight schedule and details.
- (3) Other expenses include subsistence allowance for duty outside Hong Kong and local transportation expenses, but exclude the expenditure which was sponsored by the hosting government (if any).
- (4) Since the assumption of office by the current term government on 1 July 2012 until 31 March 2013.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2798)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau pledges to promote equal opportunities for people of different sexual orientations/gender identities in 2016-17. In this connection, will the Bureau advise this Committee:

- (1) Of the estimated provision of \$25.1 million under the programme "Rights of the Individual" for this financial year, how much is intended for promoting equal opportunities in relation to sexual orientation? Is there an increase in provision over the past year?
- (2) What is the specific plan for promoting equal opportunities in relation to sexual orientation?

Asked by: Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee (Member Question No. 20)

Reply:

Regarding the issue of eliminating discrimination against people of different sexual orientations/gender identities, the revised estimates of expenditure and estimated provision for education and promotion programmes of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) in 2015-16 and 2016-17 are as follows:

Programme	Activities / Promotion platform	Revised estimate of expenditure in 2015-16	Estimated provision in 2016-17
Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme	Funding support for non-government organisations to organise community projects	\$0.94 million	\$1.25 million

Promotion and publicity through Announcements in the Public Interest, advertisements, etc. regarding equal opportunities for sexual minorities (including promotion of the Code on Practice against Discrimination in Employment on the Ground of Sexual Orientation)	Television, radio, train stations and other public transport network, Internet, seminars, briefings, etc.	\$2.09 million	\$2.40 million
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The above estimates do not include the staff cost of the Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Unit. In 2016-17, the estimate of the Unit’s staff cost is \$1.18 million.

2. In 2016-17, we will also take active steps to follow up on the report submitted by the Advisory Group on Eliminating Discrimination against Sexual Minorities (Advisory Group) to the Government in December 2015. The strategies and measures recommended by the Advisory Group include training and resources for personnel in specific fields; a charter on non-discrimination of sexual minorities; enhanced publicity campaign; review and reinforcement of support services to address the specific needs of sexual minorities; and further study on the experience of legislative and non-legislative measures of other jurisdictions to inform future consultation regarding both legislative proposals and administrative measures to eliminate discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity. The follow-up work is undertaken by staff in the CMAB and the resources required are absorbed in the recurrent expenditure of the Bureau.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB029

(Question Serial No. 2799)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Equal Opportunities Commission pledges to promote equal opportunities in education and employment for ethnic minorities in 2016-17. In this connection, will the Bureau advise this Committee of the following:

- (1) Of the estimated provision of \$107 million for the “Equal Opportunities Commission” for this financial year, how much is intended for promoting equal opportunities in education for ethnic minorities? Is there an increase in provision over the past year?
- (2) What targeted measures do the Bureau have to promote equal opportunities in education for ethnic minorities?
- (3) Of the estimated provision of \$107 million for the “Equal Opportunities Commission” for this financial year, how much is intended for promoting equal opportunities in employment for ethnic minorities? Is there an increase in provision over the past year?
- (4) What targeted measures do the Bureau have to promote equal opportunities in employment for ethnic minorities?

Asked by: Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee (Member Question No. 21)

Reply:

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) enforces the Race Discrimination Ordinance (RDO) and implements outreach, publicity and public education programmes to promote public awareness of the RDO and racial equality. As advised by the EOC, the

revised estimate for its expenditures on publicity and public education (including manpower expenditure) for 2015-16 is \$24.31 million, and the estimate for 2016-17 is \$23.10 million; about 25% of the aforementioned expenditures are used for the publicity and public education programmes on racial discrimination. The EOC has also set up the Ethnic Minorities Unit to promote equal opportunities in education and employment for ethnic minorities through advocacy, training and promotional efforts.

2. In promoting equal opportunities in education for ethnic minorities, the EOC will deliberate and gauge the views of stakeholders on support measures for non-Chinese speaking students through focus group meetings, relay issues identified to the Education Bureau and suggest follow-up actions. Besides, to promote fairness in admission of students and racial integration, the EOC will produce a promotional pamphlet on the application of the RDO in school environment with particular emphasis on language policy and integrated learning environment. It will also provide training to teachers and school administrators to ensure that they understand the content of the pamphlet as well as the principles of application.

3. In promoting equal opportunities in employment for ethnic minorities, the EOC will enhance liaison with the Labour Department, the Employees Retraining Board and the Vocational Training Council in order to provide support and views in their planning of employment services and vocational training courses with a view to addressing the limitation of ethnic minorities in seeking and equipping themselves for employment. On the other hand, to further promote equal opportunities in employment for ethnic minorities, the Ethnic Minorities Unit will launch a programme to promote diversity in the workplace, encouraging large local enterprises to employ ethnic minorities as an example to inspire small and medium enterprises to consider engaging ethnic minority employees as well.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB030

(Question Serial No. 1135)

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

Question:

In respect of the District Council elections conducted in 2007, 2011 and 2015, will the Government give the amount of public funds spent in promoting the respective elections through the following means:

1. advertisements on television
2. advertisements on radio
3. advertisements placed in newspapers, magazines
4. advertisements on the Internet
5. light boxes advertisements at the MTR stations, bus stops, public and private places, etc.?

Asked by: Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit (Member Question No. 3)

Reply:

For the District Council (DC) ordinary elections conducted in 2007, 2011 and 2015, inter-departmental working groups comprising members from the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau and relevant departments were set up to formulate the publicity strategies and coordinate the publicity programmes. Apart from television and radio announcement of public interest, newspaper and internet advertisements and light boxes advertisements, the publicity programmes also included posters, banners, lamppost buntings, advertisements at public transportation networks, printed materials and websites, etc.

2. The Electoral Affairs Commission (EAC) has the statutory authority and responsibility for the conduct and supervision of elections, and the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) provides the EAC with the necessary support. The expenditures for conducting the DC ordinary elections, including publicity expenses, were met by the REO (Head 163). According to the information provided by the REO, the actual publicity expenses for the 2007 and 2011 DC ordinary elections and the budgeted publicity expenses for the 2015 DC ordinary election are \$6.7 million, \$7.3 million and \$7.5 million respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB031

(Question Serial No. 1136)

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

Question:

In respect of the Legislative Council by-elections conducted in 2010 and 2016, will the Government give the amount of public funds spent in promoting the respective by-elections through the following means:

1. advertisements on television
2. advertisements on radio
3. advertisements placed in newspapers, magazines
4. advertisements on the Internet
5. light boxes advertisements at the MTR stations, bus stops, public and private places, etc.?

Asked by: Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit (Member Question No. 4)

Reply:

For the Legislative Council (LegCo) by-elections conducted in 2010 and 2016, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau worked closely with the Electoral Affairs Commission (EAC) on the necessary preparatory work, including the publicity programmes. Apart from television and radio announcements of public interest and newspaper advertisements, the publicity programmes also included posters, banners, printed materials and websites, etc.

2. The EAC has the statutory authority and responsibility for the conduct and supervision of elections, and the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) provides the EAC with the necessary support. The expenditures for conducting the LegCo by-elections, including publicity expenses, were met by the REO (Head 163). According to the information provided by the REO, the actual publicity expenses for the 2010 LegCo by-election and the budgeted publicity expenses for the 2016 LegCo New Territories East Geographical Constituency by-election are \$2.7 million and \$0.5 million respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB032

(Question Serial No. 1137)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In respect of the Legislative Council elections conducted in 2008 and 2012, will the Government give the amount of public funds spent in promoting the respective elections through the following means:

Separately, in respect of the Legislative Council election to be conducted in September 2016, what is the amount of public funds intended to be spent for promoting the election through the following means:

1. advertisements on television
2. advertisements on radio
3. advertisements placed in newspapers, magazines
4. advertisements on the Internet
5. light boxes advertisements at the MTR stations, bus stops, public and private places, etc.?

Asked by: Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit (Member Question No. 5)

Reply:

For the Legislative Council (LegCo) general elections conducted in 2008 and 2012, inter-departmental working groups comprising members from the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau and relevant departments were set up to formulate the publicity strategies and coordinate the publicity programmes. Apart from television and radio announcements of public interest, newspaper and internet advertisements and light boxes advertisements, the publicity programmes also included posters, banners, lamppost buntings, advertisements at public transportation networks, television and radio programmes, printed materials and websites, etc.

2. The Electoral Affairs Commission (EAC) has the statutory authority and responsibility for the conduct and supervision of elections, and the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) provides the EAC with the necessary support. The expenditures for conducting the LegCo general elections, including publicity expenses, were met by the REO (Head 163). According to the information provided by the REO, the actual publicity expenses for the 2008 and 2012 LegCo general elections are \$27.4 million and \$32.6 million respectively.

3. The REO has earmarked \$33 million in 2016-17 for the voter turnout publicity of the 2016 LegCo general election. We will, in April this year, brief Members of the LegCo Panel on Constitutional Affairs the details of the campaign.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB033

(Question Serial No. 1138)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

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

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

Question:

What are the respective numbers of requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland received by the Mainland Offices of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau, including the Beijing Office, and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan from 2013-14 to 2015-16? How many of these requests are related to the following:

1. violation of the Mainland law, subject to criminal proceedings;
2. taking out civil proceedings in the Mainland;
3. personal safety, violation to personal property, assistance from public security officers sought.

Asked by: Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit (Member Question No. 11)

Reply:

Immigration Divisions are currently set up under the Beijing Office (BJO) and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETO) in Guangdong and Chengdu to provide assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. The numbers of requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents in distress received by each Mainland Office in 2013, 2014 and 2015 are set out in the table below. Further breakdown on the basis of the type of incidents as stated in the question is not available.

Year	Office	No. of requests for assistance
2013	Beijing Office (BJO)	156
	Guangdong ETO	184
	Chengdu ETO*	13
	Shanghai ETO	Covered by BJO
2014	BJO	136
	Guangdong ETO	166
	Chengdu ETO	38
	Shanghai ETO	Covered by BJO
	Wuhan ETO**	
2015	BJO	154
	Guangdong ETO	211
	Chengdu ETO	42
	Shanghai ETO	Covered by BJO
	Wuhan ETO**	

* Immigration Division of the Chengdu ETO commenced operation on 21 October 2013.

** The Wuhan ETO commenced operation on 1 April 2014.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB034

(Question Serial No. 1141)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

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

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

Question:

In respect of visits for trade organisations organised by the Mainland and Taiwan Offices in the past 3 financial years (2013-14 to 2015-16):

1. how many of these trips are made to the Mainland and how many are to Taiwan;
2. what are the trade organisations visited in the past year; please set out in detail the names of these organisations;
3. what is the estimated growth in volume of trade in the past year as a result of these visits?

Asked by: Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit (Member Question No. 23)

Reply:

In 2013, 2014 and 2015, the Mainland and Taiwan Offices (namely the Beijing Office, 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 assisted 6 076, 5 962 and 5 403 visitors respectively. These visitors may include members of trade organisations, chambers of commerce, professional bodies as well as members of other delegations on exchange visits. The Mainland and Taiwan Offices do not have a breakdown of the number of visitors by their identities or affiliated organisations/bodies, and have not collected data on the volume of trade brought about by the visitors or their visits.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB035

(Question Serial No. 1567)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. What are the details of the study on the “right to be forgotten” undertaken by the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data in 2015-16? Will the Government advise on the progress or provide a timetable?
2. What is the estimated provision for various initiatives in relation to the subject of the “right to be forgotten” in 2016-17?

Asked by: Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit (Member Question No. 13)

Reply:

According to the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD), PCPD has not set aside dedicated resources for the subject of the “right to be forgotten”. In 2015-16, PCPD has been monitoring the discussions between search engine companies and data protection authorities overseas on the “right to be forgotten” and related developments. PCPD will continue to monitor developments on this subject in the coming year.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB036

(Question Serial No. 2146)

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

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

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office
(2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices
(4) Rights of the Individual

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please advise this Committee, in tabular form, of the information on the establishment, ranks, salaries and relevant allowances and staff-related expenses in respect of the directorate staff of the following units in the Estimates of Expenditure 2016-17:

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

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung (Member Question No. 2003)

Reply:

The directorate establishment of the following units in 2016-17 is as follows:

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

2. The estimated expenditure on personal emoluments and personnel related expenses for the above directorate establishment in 2016-17 is around \$50.97 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2561)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Bureau states under this programme that provision for 2016-17 is \$27.2 million (10.6%) higher than the revised estimate for 2015-16. This is mainly due to the increased provision for continuing to improve the network of the Mainland Offices by setting up more liaison units, and there will be an increase of 12 posts. In this connection, will the Government advise this Committee of:

- (1) the locations of liaison units planned to be set up in 2016-17 and their operational expenses in 2016-17;
- (2) the titles, duties and responsibilities of as well as estimated annual expenditure on emoluments for these 12 new posts?

Asked by: Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip (Member Question No. 50)

Reply:

The provision for 2016-17 is \$27.2 million (10.6%) higher than the revised estimate for 2015-16. This is mainly due to the setting up of more liaison units to strengthen the operational support to the Mainland Offices, and the setting up of an Immigration Division under the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (ETO) in Shanghai. To enhance the service of the Mainland Offices, we will create a total of 13 new posts, to be partly offset by the deletion of 1 post in 2016-17. As a result, there will be a net increase of 12 posts. Details of the new posts are as follows:

- (a) 6 posts at the new liaison units to be set up. We plan to set up a liaison unit each in Changsha City of Hunan Province and Zhengzhou City of Henan Province under the Wuhan ETO and another one in Tianjin Municipality under the Beijing Office (BJO) in 2016-17. In 2016-17, we have set aside \$13.21 million for meeting recurrent expenditure of the above 3 liaison units. The setting up of these 3 liaison units involves creation of 6 posts for Hong

Kong-based staff, namely 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 2 Principal Trade Officer, 1 Trade Officer and 2 Senior Executive Officer posts;

- (b) 5 posts at the new Immigration Division to be set up under the Shanghai ETO, namely 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer and 3 Immigration Officer posts;
- (c) 1 Senior Executive Officer post at the Shenzhen Liaison Unit; and
- (d) 1 Chief Curator post at the BJO to enhance cultural exchange.

The above creation of 13 new posts will be partly offset by the deletion of 1 time-limited Executive Officer I post in 2016-17; the post was created for the setting up of the Wuhan ETO. Therefore, there will be a net increase of 12 posts in 2016-17. The estimated expenditure on salaries and allowances for the above 13 posts in 2016-17 will be \$12.65 million.

2. Staff of the liaison units mentioned in paragraphs 1(a) and (c) above will assist the Wuhan ETO, the BJO and the Guangdong ETO in liaising with a province/municipality under the coverage of the respective Offices, and their main functions include strengthening liaison and communication with the relevant local government authorities, enhancing economic and trade relations, fostering co-operation between Hong Kong and the relevant provinces/municipalities and promoting Hong Kong, and supporting Hong Kong residents and enterprises in the service area, etc. Staff of the Immigration Division mentioned in paragraph 1(b) above will mainly be responsible for rendering assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in provinces/municipalities under the coverage of the Shanghai ETO. The staff of the BJO mentioned in paragraph 1(d) above will be responsible for planning, co-ordinating and implementing cultural programmes, enhancing liaison with the Mainland in promoting culture and arts and fostering cultural exchange.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB038

(Question Serial No. 1883)

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

Question:

What are the respective estimated annual expenditures on salary in respect of the positions of Director of Bureau and Deputy Director of Bureau in the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau in 2016-17?

Asked by: Hon WONG Yuk-man (Member Question No. 8)

Reply:

For budgetary purposes, the provisions for the salary in respect of the positions of Director of Bureau and Deputy Director of Bureau in the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau for 2016-17 are \$3.58 million and \$2.33 million respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB039****(Question Serial No. 2100)**Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs BureauSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal DataControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

(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
2013				
2014				
2015				
2016 (as at March)				

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

	No. of complaints on racial discrimination against public sector organisations	No. of complaints on racial discrimination against private sector organisations	No. of complaints on racial discrimination against actions of individuals	Others (please specify)
2013				
2014				
2015				
2016 (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 2016-17?

Asked by: Hon Claudia MO (Member Question No. 26)

Reply:

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) enforces the Race Discrimination Ordinance (RDO) and implements outreach, publicity and public education programmes to promote public awareness of the RDO and racial equality. The EOC advised that the number of complaints on discrimination received 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
2013	28	46	Conciliation attempted	6	0
			Investigation discontinued	22	
2014	39	42	Conciliation attempted	20	0
			Investigation discontinued	19	
2015	42	54	Conciliation attempted	10	0
			Investigation discontinued	25	
			Investigation in progress	7	
2016 (as at 4 March)	0	11	Conciliation attempted	0	0
			Investigation discontinued	0	

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

	No. of complaints on racial discrimination against public sector organisations (Note 3)	No. of complaints on racial discrimination against private sector organisations	No. of complaints on racial discrimination against actions of individuals	Others (please specify)
2013	4	19	5	0
2014	4	18	17	0
2015	3	28	11	0
2016 (as at 4 March)	0	0	0	0

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

Note 2: Cases which have been handled by the EOC are categorised as “Conciliation attempted” and “Investigation discontinued”; the figures provided reflect the follow-up situation/outcome of the cases received in that year.

Note 3: Public sector organisations include government departments.

3. Over the past 3 years, the major publicity and public education programmes relating to elimination of racial discrimination included a funding programme for non-profit-making organisations to organise programmes to promote equal opportunities; radio programmes, drama performances in schools; youth mentorship programmes; outreaching programmes for ethnic minorities; online publicity; the Equal Opportunities Drama Project; outdoor advertisements; roving exhibitions; annual EOC Forums; and seminars and trainings for employers, employees, education institutions, non-governmental organisations and community groups, etc. As advised by the EOC, its expenditures on publicity and public education (including manpower expenditure) in 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 are \$18.33 million, \$20.72 million and \$24.31 million (revised estimate) respectively, and the estimated expenditure for 2016-17 is \$23.10 million; about 25% of the aforementioned expenditures are used for the publicity and public education programmes on racial discrimination. Separately, starting from 2014-15, the Government has been providing a funding of \$4.69 million to the EOC for enhancing publicity and public education on the RDO. To this end, the EOC has set up an Ethnic Minorities Unit to promote equal opportunities in education and employment for ethnic minorities through advocacy, training and promotional efforts. Besides, the Government also provided an additional funding of \$2 million to the EOC in 2014-15 for promoting the RDO.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB040

(Question Serial No. 2115)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The current-term Government has attached great importance to “homeland relationship” and government officials at different ranks and public officers have made frequent visits to the Mainland. Please provide a list of gifts purchased with public funds for presentation to Mainland officials or authorities during the above visits in the past year with the cost of the gifts.

Asked by: Hon Claudia MO (Member Question No. 43)

Reply:

In line with the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government's green policy, public officers have as far as possible refrained from bestowing gifts/souvenirs to others during the conduct of official activities. According to the existing guidelines, where bestowal of gifts/souvenirs is necessary or unavoidable due to operational, protocol or other reasons, the gift/souvenir items should not be lavish or extravagant and the number should be kept to a minimum. Also, the exchange of gifts/souvenirs should only be made on an organisation-to-organisation basis. The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau does not specifically maintain separate accounts for the expenses on the procurement of gifts and souvenirs, nor does it maintain a separate breakdown.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB041

(Question Serial No. 3289)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: ()

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please advise this Committee of the following in table form:

- (1) the expenses of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau on publicity through Internet/social media, the manpower involved and the percentage of such expenses against the total expenditure in 2015-16 with a breakdown by publicity channel;
- (2) how the effectiveness of the above initiative is evaluated by the Bureau; whether the spending is effective;
- (3) the Bureau's estimated expenses in respect of the above initiative in 2016-17 and the manpower involved.

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

Reply:

- (1) The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB)'s expenses on publicity through Internet/social media in 2015-16 are detailed below –

Publicity item	Publicity channel	Publicity expenses#
Code on Access to Information	mobile application	\$100,000
Elimination of discrimination against people of different sexual orientations/gender identities	website, mobile application and social media	\$780,000
Consultation on constitutional reform	free social media	no publicity expenses involved
25th anniversary of the promulgation of the Basic Law	website	\$300,000

The publicity expenses do not include manpower expenditure

The above publicity expenses account for less than 1% of CMAB's total expenditure. Since the above work was performed as part of the daily duties of our staff, the manpower involved cannot be singled out or separately quantified.

(2) We have evaluated the effectiveness of the above initiative with reference to the views and data (such as the number of visits, hit rates, etc.) collected through different channels, and consider the initiative has achieved the intended effect.

(3) We have not set aside provision specifically for individual network organisations or social media in the estimate for 2016-17.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB042

(Question Serial No. 1484)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Provision for the Director of Bureau's Office for the new financial year is 14.4% higher than that of the past financial year. According to Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision, this is mainly due to the increased provision for salary expenses. Will there be a substantial salary increase or an increase in the number of senior posts for the Director of Bureau's Office in the year?

Asked by: Hon NG Leung-sing (Member Question No. 3)

Reply:

Provision for 2016-17 is \$1.4 million (14.4%) higher than the revised estimate for 2015-16. This is mainly due to the full-year provision for 2016-17 for the position of Deputy Director of Bureau filled in 2015-16, and the provision required for filling the position of Political Assistant.

2. In 2016-17, the establishment of the Director of Bureau's Office in the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau under Programme (1) will remain the same as in 2015-16.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB043

(Question Serial No. 1485)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In respect of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices, provision for the new financial year is 10.6% higher than that of last year. According to Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision, this is mainly due to more liaison units will be set up to continue improving the network of the Mainland Offices; and there will be an increase of 12 posts. Will the Bureau advise on the number of new liaison units and the units to which these 12 posts will be distributed?

Asked by: Hon NG Leung-sing (Member Question No. 4)

Reply:

The provision for 2016-17 is 10.6% (\$27.2 million) higher than the revised estimate for 2015-16. This is mainly due to the setting up of more liaison units to strengthen the operational support to the Mainland Offices, and the setting up of an Immigration Division under the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (ETO) in Shanghai. We will create a total of 13 new posts, to be partly offset by the deletion of 1 post in 2016-17. As a result, there will be a net increase of 12 posts. Details of the new posts are as follows:

- (a) 6 posts at the new liaison units to be set up. We plan to set up a liaison unit each in Changsha City of Hunan Province and Zhengzhou City of Henan Province under the Wuhan ETO and another one in Tianjin Municipality under the Beijing Office (BJO) in 2016-17. The setting up of these 3 liaison units involves creation of 6 posts for Hong Kong-based staff, namely 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 2 Principal Trade Officer, 1 Trade Officer and 2 Senior Executive Officer posts;

- (b) 5 posts at the new Immigration Division to be set up under the Shanghai ETO, namely 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer and 3 Immigration Officer posts;
- (c) 1 Senior Executive Officer post at the Shenzhen Liaison Unit; and
- (d) 1 Chief Curator post at the BJO to enhance cultural exchange.

The above creation of 13 new posts will be partly offset by the deletion of 1 time-limited Executive Officer I post in 2016-17; the post was created for the setting up of the Wuhan ETO. Therefore, there will be a net increase of 12 posts in 2016-17.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB044

(Question Serial No. 1587)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In recent years, some people in Hong Kong have harboured negative feelings towards the Mainland as shown in the protests against the Mainland visitors and the booing of the national anthem. How would the Government assess the impact of these acts on the relationship between the Mainland and Hong Kong? What are the Government's plans to tackle the issue to reduce the misunderstanding and conflicts between the people of Hong Kong and the Mainland in 2016-17? What is the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (Member Question No. 3)

Reply:

Hong Kong is a multi-cultural international city and a harmonious community with heterogeneous diversity. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government attaches great importance to promoting social and racial harmony among different groups of people in the city, and is committed to promoting the core values, such as mutual respect for people from different backgrounds in the community and equality for all, through its public education efforts. On the other hand, the HKSAR Government has been, 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.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB045

(Question Serial No. 2738)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

- (a) Please list out the expenditure and manpower arrangement of the Beijing Office, other Mainland Offices and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan for promoting cultural exchanges in the past year, as well as the percentage of such expenditure against the total expenditure.
- (b) What specific plans do the Beijing Office, other Mainland Offices and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan have to promote cultural exchanges this year? What are the related expenditure and manpower arrangement?
- (c) The Policy Address states that dedicated staff will be deployed to the Beijing Office to handle cultural matters, what are the duties and responsibilities of the staff concerned? In what ways will the staff push forward cultural exchanges between Hong Kong and the Mainland? What is the expenditure involved in the deployment of the dedicated staff concerned?
- (d) Will the Government consider deploying dedicated staff to other Mainland Offices to handle cultural matters in future? If it will, what are the details; if not, what are the reasons?
- (e) Have 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 is the number of such requests made and how are they handled by the Government?

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (Member Question No. 38)

Reply:

The Beijing Office, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan, and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan (Mainland and Taiwan Offices) have taken continuous efforts to assist in enhancing cultural and arts exchanges between Hong Kong and the Mainland/Taiwan. Over the past year, the initiatives taken include organising, co-organising or supporting the launching of film festivals, dance performances, theatrical shows, concerts, arts exhibitions, photo exhibitions, book fairs, lantern carnivals, talks, radio programmes, etc., to showcase Hong Kong's unique culture and arts.

2. A number of Hong Kong cultural and arts organisations, such as the City Contemporary Dance Company, Asian Youth Orchestra, Hong Kong Repertory Theatre, Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra, The Chinese Artists Association of Hong Kong, The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, Hong Kong Film Development Council, Hong Kong Publishing Federation and The Hong Kong Printers Association, etc., have approached the Mainland and Taiwan Offices with a view to conducting cultural exchange activities in the areas under the coverage of these Offices. Appropriate follow-up actions, such as assisting in promoting the performances, liaising and communicating with relevant authorities in the Mainland and Taiwan, have been taken by the Mainland and Taiwan Offices. As the work involved in promoting cultural exchanges is an integral part of the duties and functions of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices, the expenditure and manpower involved cannot be separately singled out and itemised.

3. In 2016-17, the Mainland and Taiwan Offices will continue to assist relevant Hong Kong cultural and arts organisations in liaising with local authorities and bodies as necessary, and in promoting the related events as appropriate to support the performances of these cultural and arts organisations, and further promote Hong Kong's unique culture and arts. As one of the initiatives, we will create a Chief Curator post at the Beijing Office in 2016-17 responsible for planning, co-ordinating and implementing cultural programmes, enhancing liaison with the Mainland in promoting culture and arts and fostering cultural exchange. The post will involve an additional provision of \$2.47 million. Together with the Home Affairs Bureau, we will review the effectiveness of the initiative and the way forward at an appropriate time.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB046

(Question Serial No. 1855)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

It is stated in this programme that the Bureau will continue to promote equal opportunities for people of different sexual orientations/gender identities. In this connection, will the Bureau:

- (1) set out in table form the estimate for and actual amount of sponsorship granted under the Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme in the past year and the details of sponsored projects;
- (2) in respect of the various publicity measures, such as Announcement in the Public Interest and advertisement to promote equal opportunities for sexual minorities undertaken in the past year, set out in table form the production cost involved, as well as the respective promotion platform for each promotion programme, including the venue, media, time, number of audience reached and the publicity expenses;
- (3) set out in table form the number of schools, public/private sector organisations and non-government organisations visited for promoting equal opportunities for sexual minorities and the number of public activities held for this purpose in the past year;
- (4) set out in table form the estimated expenditure in respect of the Funding Scheme in the coming year;
- (5) set out in table form the estimated expenditure for carrying out education and promotion programmes to promote equal opportunities for sexual minorities in the coming year, the percentage increase over the expenditure in the past year, and the timetable and promotion activities under the publicity strategy for the coming year;
- (6) set out in table form the names of organisations that have pledged to adopt the Code of Practice against Discrimination in Employment on the Ground of Sexual Orientation, the number of public and private sector organisations invited to adopt

the Code of Practice in the past year and the number of organisations that have accepted the invitation; please also set out the names of the organisations that have newly adopted the Code of Practice;

- (7) advise on the target number of public and private sector organisations to be invited to adopt the Code of Practice in the coming year and the anticipated number of organisations to accept the invitation; the anticipated manpower and expenditure required for carrying out such work; and the follow-up actions to be taken by the Bureau in cases where contravention of the Code on the part of any participating organisations is reported by the staff or a third party;
- (8) advise on what other channel(s) is/are in place to continue providing a platform/platforms for consulting and exchanging views with the sexual minorities after the tenure of the Advisory Group on Eliminating Discrimination against Sexual Minorities, which was established in June 2013 to replace the Sexual Minority Forum set up in September 2004, expired at the end of last year;
- (9) in respect of the Advisory Group's report submitted to the Government recently with recommendations in five areas, including providing training for professional groups, drawing up a charter, enhancing publicity, reinforcing designated services for sexual minorities and further studying the experience of other jurisdictions, set out in table form the staffing and funding earmarked in the coming year for implementing the recommendations in the report, the detailed arrangements for providing training and drawing up the charter or commissioning such work, and the anticipated timetable of implementation;
- (10) advise whether the Government will keep reviewing the designated services for sexual minorities and improve the directions and guidelines for, and the attitudes of, officers in public sector organisations including the Social Welfare Department, the Immigration Department, the Hong Kong Police Force, the Housing Department, etc. in regard to sexual minority service recipients;
- (11) set out in detail the manpower involved in serving the Advisory Group and the expenditure incurred since its establishment; and advise whether a new advisory group will be set up to take forward the next stage of work, including assisting in implementation of the five recommendations put forth in the report;
- (12) advise whether the Bureau will legislate against discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. 8)

Reply:

Regarding the issue of eliminating discrimination against people of different sexual orientations/gender identities, the revised estimates of expenditure and estimated provision for education and promotion programmes of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) in 2015-16 and 2016-17 are as follows:

Programme	Activities/ Promotion platform	Revised estimate of expenditure in 2015-16	Estimated provision in 2016-17
Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme (Funding Scheme)	Funding support for non-government organisations to organise community projects	\$0.94 million	\$1.25 million
Promotion and publicity through Announcements in the Public Interest (APIs), advertisements, etc. regarding equal opportunities for sexual minorities (including promotion of the Code of Practice against Discrimination in Employment on the Ground of Sexual Orientation (Code of Practice))	Television, radio, train stations and other public transport network, Internet, seminars, briefings, etc.	\$3.06 million (including \$0.97 million for the staff cost of the Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Unit (GISOU))	\$3.58 million (including \$1.18 million for the staff cost of the GISOU)

In 2015-16, the APIs concerned were broadcast about 3 100 times on television and radio and 360 times each on about 11 300 display screens in buses and MTR train compartments; the number of impressions on the Internet and other new media was about 1.8 million.

2. We have promoted the Code of Practice to public and private sector organisations and appealed for their adoption through various channels. In 2015, about 250 organisations participated in talks that introduced and promoted the Code of Practice. As at February 2016, 179 organisations have pledged to adopt the Code of Practice, which is 14 more than the number in February last year, with the addition of organisations which adopted the Code upon invitation and those that did so on their own initiative. A list published on CMAB's website (at http://www.cmab.gov.hk/doc/issues/Bilingual_List_of_Organisations.pdf) lists organisations which have pledged to adopt the Code and agreed to be included in the list. In 2016, we will continue to encourage more organisations to adopt the Code through various means including talks and open appeals. The Code is of a voluntary nature; no information about any breach of the Code of Practice has been received by the GISOU.

3. In 2015-16, projects sponsored under the Funding Scheme are as follows:

Name of Applicant	Nature of Activities	Approved Sponsorship (\$)
AIDS Concern Foundation Limited	Production of booklets, workshops and service provider identification scheme	43,700
Association of World Citizens Hong Kong China	Support group and workshops	17,200
Association for Transgender Rights	Support group and talks	29,900
The Boys' & Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong Jockey Club Tsz Wan Shan Children & Youth Integrated Services Centre	Production of publication, workshops, exhibition and performances	109,000
BigLove Alliance	Seminars, exhibition and concert	53,400
Bravo Theatre	Drama performances	126,400
Down to Earth, Department of Special Education and Counselling at the Hong Kong Institute of Education, and Gender Empowerment	Speech therapy and employment support services	48,400
G.A.S. Theatre	Drama performances and discussion sessions	94,900
Gay Harmony	Training for volunteers, workshops and production of leaflets	54,200
Gay Harmony	Training for volunteers, support group, hotline and counselling services	51,100
Gay Harmony	Training for volunteers, production of publication, visits to corporations and workshops	47,400
Post Gay Alliance	Talks, production of leaflets, workshops, support group and home visits	53,100

Name of Applicant	Nature of Activities	Approved Sponsorship (\$)
Pride Lab and Women Coalition of HKSAR	Workshops and production of publication	44,200
Rainbow Action and Women Coalition of HKSAR	Support group and workshops	22,600
Transgender Resource Center	Hotline and counselling services, workshops, production of booklets, short video and webpage	74,200
Tung Wah Group of Hospitals CEASE Crisis Centre	Production of short videos and outreach service	56,100
Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Hotline and Outreaching Service Team	Workshops and training on support/counselling skills	14,400

4. The Advisory Group on Eliminating Discrimination against Sexual Minorities (Advisory Group) submitted its report to the Government at the end of 2015 with recommendations on anti-discrimination strategies and measures, which included training and resources for personnel in specific fields; a charter on non-discrimination of sexual minorities; enhanced publicity campaign; review and reinforcement of support services to address the specific needs of sexual minorities; and further study on the experience of legislative and non-legislative measures of other jurisdictions to inform future consultation regarding both legislative proposals and administrative measures to eliminate discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity. The Government is taking active steps to follow up on the recommendations of the Advisory Group, and will continue to maintain communication with sexual minorities and other stakeholders.

5. The work of the Secretariat of the Advisory Group and follow-up work on the Advisory Group's report are undertaken by staff of the CMAB. The resources required are absorbed in the recurrent expenditure of the Bureau, and a separate breakdown of the expenditure is not available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB047

(Question Serial No. 1856)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Unit (GISOU) was established in May 2005 to manage and monitor the Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme, and maintain a hotline for enquiries and complaints on issues relating to sexual orientation and gender identity. In this connection, will the Bureau please:

- (1) set out in table form the existing establishment, monthly staff cost, nature of work and overall staff related expenditure of the GISOU;
- (2) advise whether additional staff will be recruited to cope with the increased workload arising from following up the recommendations made by the Advisory Group on Eliminating Discrimination Against Sexual Minorities;
- (3) set out the GISOU's estimated and actual expenditures in the past year;
- (4) set out the GISOU's estimated expenditure for the coming year;
- (5) set out the GISOU's expenses on posters, pamphlets, Announcements in the Public Interest on television and radio as well as mobile publicity in relation to elimination of discrimination against sexual minorities in the past year, and set out in table form the respective numbers of broadcast/hit on platforms including television, radio, shopping malls, public transport network and network media, and the respective expenditures involved;
- (6) set out in table form the number of enquiries and complaints received by the GISOU through the hotline in the past year, and advise on the number of cases being processed/followed up or have investigation completed, the number of cases related to discrimination on the ground of gender identity or sexual orientation or against intersex persons, the domains in which discrimination is said to have occurred

(including employment; education; provision of services and goods; premises; public services; religious settings; etc.) according to the complaints as well as the manpower and resources involved in handling enquiries and complaints?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. 9)

Reply:

Regarding the issue of eliminating discrimination against people of different sexual orientations/gender identities, the Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Unit (GISOU) carries out education and promotion programmes, and handles relevant enquiries and complaints. The establishment of the GISOU in 2015-16 comprised 1 officer at Executive Officer I- equivalent rank and 1 Executive Officer II. The revised estimate of its staff cost is \$0.97 million. In 2016-17, the establishment of the GISOU comprises 1 Executive Officer I and 1 Executive Officer II. The estimate of its staff cost is \$1.18 million.

2. The revised estimate for the Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme (Funding Scheme) and various publicity measures such as Announcements in the Public Interest (APIs) and advertisements (including those promoting the Code of Practice against Discrimination in Employment on the Ground of Sexual Orientation) in 2015-16 is \$3.03 million. The TV and radio APIs have been broadcast on various platforms at different time slots, including about 3 100 times on TV and radio and 360 times each on about 11 300 display screens in buses and MTR train compartments; the number of impressions on the Internet and other new media was about 1.8 million. In 2016-17, the estimated provision for the Funding Scheme as well as promotion and publicity programmes is \$3.65 million.

3. The GISOU received a total of 32 enquiries and 2 complaints in 2015. Both complaints were concerned with verbal insult. As the complainants indicated that they were unable to provide information for identifying or contacting the complainees, the GISOU could not approach the complainees to follow up on the two complaints.

4. Follow-up work on the report of the Advisory Group on Eliminating Discrimination against Sexual Minorities is undertaken by the existing staff of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (including staff of the GISOU).

- End -

CMAB048

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1857)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

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

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

Question:

In respect of this programme, a number of offices have been set up in the Mainland and Taiwan to assist in enhancing liaison and communication with the Central People's Government, the provincial and municipal governments and other local authorities in the Mainland, and relevant authorities and organisations in Taiwan. In this connection, will the Bureau:

- (1) in respect of the Beijing Office and Liaoning Liaison Unit; the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (ETO) in Shanghai and Shandong Liaison Unit in the east; the Guangdong ETO, Shenzhen Liaison Unit and Fujian Liaison Unit in the south; the Chengdu ETO and Chongqing Liaison Unit in the west; the Wuhan ETO in the central region, and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan, set out in table form their respective operational expenses, numbers of staff, and the salaries, allowance, types and job nature of posts in respect of these offices in the past year; as well as the respective estimated expenditure and types, numbers, salaries, allowances and job nature in respect of the posts in these offices for the coming year;
- (2) in respect of the liaison units to be set up in Hunan Province and Henan Province under the Wuhan ETO as stated in the Policy Address, set out the estimated expenditure for the coming year for setting up the liaison units in Hunan Province and Henan Province as well as the staff establishment of these units, including the types, numbers, salaries, allowances and job nature in respect of the posts in the liaison units;
- (3) in respect of the Immigration Division to be set up under the Shanghai ETO as stated in the Policy Address, set out the estimated expenditure for the coming year for setting up the Division and its establishment, including the number, salaries, allowances and job nature in respect of the posts in the Division;

- (4) in respect of the dedicated staff to be deployed to the Beijing Office to handle cultural matters as stated in the Policy Address, set out the estimated expenditure for the coming year and the staff complement, including the number, salaries, allowances and job nature in respect of the posts involved;
- (5) set out in table form the numbers of requests for assistance “relating to immigration matters”, “relating to personal safety matters” and “other assistance cases” received by each office in the past year, and advise on the number of cases to be followed up, being processed and resolved?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. 10)

Reply:

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

2. The revised estimated expenditure of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices for 2015-16 and estimated expenditure for 2016-17 are set out in the table below:

Office	Revised estimated expenditure for 2015-16 (\$ million)	Estimated expenditure for 2016-17 (\$ million)
BJO	73.31	78.62
Guangdong ETO	53.76	56.11
Shanghai ETO	38.59	48.73
Chengdu ETO	40.06	40.22
Wuhan ETO	26.33	36.26
HKETCO	24.67	23.95

3. The establishment of the BJO for 2016-17 will comprise 3 directorate officers (i.e. 1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade A, 1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade B1 and 1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade C) and 19 non-directorate officers (i.e. 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 2016-17 will be \$33.42 million. The above figure has included the additional manpower for a liaison unit to be set up in Tianjin Municipality and the Chief Curator post at the BJO to enhance cultural exchange.

4. The establishment of the Guangdong ETO for 2016-17 will comprise 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade B) and 15 non-directorate officers (i.e. 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 4 Principal Trade Officers, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer, 2 Immigration Officers and 1 Principal Information Officer and 1 Senior Executive Officer). The estimated expenditure on salaries and allowances for the above posts in 2016-17 will be \$23.48 million.

5. The establishment of the Shanghai ETO for 2016-17 will comprise 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade B) and 13 non-directorate officers (i.e. 2 Senior Administrative Officers, 1 Principal Trade Officer, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer, 3 Immigration Officers and 1 Senior Information Officer). The estimated expenditure on salaries and allowances for the above posts in 2016-17 will be \$15.93 million. The above figure has included the additional manpower for the Immigration Division to be set up under the Shanghai ETO.

6. The establishment of the Chengdu ETO for 2016-17 will comprise 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade C) and 11 non-directorate officers (i.e. 2 Senior Administrative Officers, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Senior Information Officer, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer and 2 Immigration Officers). The estimated expenditure on salaries and allowances for the above posts in 2016-17 will be \$18.27 million.

7. The establishment of the Wuhan ETO for 2016-17 will comprise 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade C) and 9 non-directorate officers (i.e. 2 Senior Administrative Officers, 1 Principal Trade Officer, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Senior Executive Officer and 1 Senior Information Officer). The estimated expenditure on salaries and allowances for the above posts in 2016-17 will be \$13.65 million. The above figure has included the additional manpower for a liaison unit to be set up each in the Changsha City of Hunan Province and Zhengzhou City of Henan Province, partly offset by the deletion of 1 time-limited Executive Officer I post, which was created for the setting up of the Wuhan ETO.

8. The establishment of the HKETCO for 2016-17 will comprise 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade B) and 7 non-directorate officers (i.e. 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 2016-17 will be \$11.14 million.

9. We plan to set up a liaison unit each in Changsha City of Hunan Province and Zhengzhou City of Henan Province under the Wuhan ETO and another one in Tianjin Municipality under the BJO in 2016-17. In 2016-17, we have set aside \$13.21 million for meeting recurrent expenditure of the above 3 liaison units. The setting up of these 3 liaison units involves creation of 6 posts for Hong Kong-based staff, namely 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 2 Principal Trade Officer, 1 Trade Officer and 2 Senior Executive Officer posts. Staff of these 3 liaison units will assist the BJO and the Wuhan ETO in liaising with the respective provinces/municipality under their coverage, enhancing economic and trade relations, promoting Hong Kong, and supporting Hong Kong residents and enterprises in the service area, etc.

10. We plan to set up an Immigration Division under the Shanghai ETO in 2016-17. In 2016-17, we have set aside \$9.61 million, of which \$7.61 million is for meeting recurrent expenditure of the Immigration Division while \$2 million is the one-off setting up cost. The setting up of the Immigration Division involves creation of 5 posts for Hong Kong-based staff, namely 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer and 3 Immigration Officer posts. Staff of the above-mentioned Immigration Division will mainly be responsible for rendering assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in provinces/municipalities under the coverage of Shanghai ETO.

11. We will create a Chief Curator post at the BJO responsible for planning, co-ordinating and implementing cultural programmes, enhancing liaison with the Mainland in promoting culture and arts and fostering cultural exchange. The estimated expenditure for the post is \$2.47 million.

12. The number of requests for assistance received by the Mainland Offices in 2015 is set out in the table below:

Office	Requests for assistance relating to immigration and personal safety matters	Other assistance cases
BJO	154	32
Guangdong ETO	211	50
Chengdu ETO	42	11
Shanghai ETO	Covered by the Immigration Division of BJO	13
Wuhan ETO		7

As the nature and complexity of the cases vary, further breakdown on the basis on different handling procedures or stages is not available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB049

(Question Serial No. 2331)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau is responsible for co-ordinating attendance of the HKSAR Government delegations at meetings of the monitoring bodies of the United Nations human rights conventions. In this connection, will the Government set out in table form the number and position of the members of the HKSAR delegation attending the hearing on report under the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in 2015 and the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. 102)

Reply:

The number and position of the members of the HKSAR delegation attending the hearing on report under the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in 2015 and the expenditure involved are set out below:

Hearing	Number and position of delegation members	Flight ticket expenditure (\$) (A)	Hotel accommodation expenditure (\$) (B)	Total expenditure (\$) Note (A)+(B)
Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or	7 officers <u>Expenses for the following 3 officers were met by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB)</u> - Senior Assistant Solicitor General, Department of Justice;	149,850	15,691	165,541

Hearing	Number and position of delegation members	Flight ticket expenditure (\$) (A)	Hotel accommodation expenditure (\$) (B)	Total expenditure (\$) Note (A)+(B)
Punishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Senior Government Counsel, Department of Justice; and - Principal Assistant Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs <p><u>Expenses for the following 4 officers were met by the respective bureau/department</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Permanent Secretary for Security; - Principal Assistant Secretary for Security; - Assistant Secretary for Security; and - Chief Superintendent, Hong Kong Police Force 			

- Note: (1) The above expenditure excludes overseas subsistence allowance provided to members, communication expenses, etc.
- (2) The arrangement of hotel accommodation was provided to officers concerned in accordance with the relevant Civil Service Regulations and guidelines.
- (3) Proper class of air passages was provided to officers concerned in accordance with relevant Civil Service Regulations which take into account ranking of their offices, flying time, flight schedule and other details.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB050****(Question Serial No. 2337)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please list in the table below expenditure details of the duty visits outside Hong Kong made by the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, Under Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs and Political Assistant to Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs in the past 3 years, including the date of visit, place of visit, officers joining the visit, purpose of visit, expenses on hotel accommodation, air tickets and meals and total expenditure for each visit. Please list the amounts of sponsorships received and names of the sponsors (if any).

Please also list the number of days for such visits or private visits outside Hong Kong made by the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, Under Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs and Political Assistant to Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs in the past 3 years.

Date of visit	Countries/regions visited	Departments/organisations visited	Officers joining the visit	Purpose of visit	Hotel accommodation expenses	Air ticket expenses	Meal expenses	Total expenditure

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. 110)

Reply:

The relevant summary information on official duty visits outside Hong Kong made by the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, Under Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs and Political Assistant to Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs from 2013-14 to 2015-16 is provided below –

Date of visits (Number of visits)	Place of visits	Departments/ organisations visited	No. of officers in Director of Bureau's Office joining the visits	Objectives of visits	Hotel accommo- dation expendi- ture ^{Note1}	Flight/ train/ vessel ticket expendi- ture ^{Note2}	Other expenses ^{Note3}	Total expenditure
					(\$ (A))	(\$ (B))	(\$ (C))	(\$ (A)+(B)+(C))
2013-14 (11)	Mainland (Beijing, Zhuhai, Fuzhou, Guangzhou, Shenzhen) and Macao, Taipei, Switzerland (Geneva)	Central ministries, departments of local governments and relevant committees of the United Nations	0-1 officer per duty visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● promoting exchanges and co-operation with the Mainland, Macao and Taiwan ● attending the hearings of the relevant committees of the United Nations 	33,050	179,340	24,490	236,880
2014-15 (13)	Mainland (Shanghai, Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Beijing, Fuzhou, Quanzhou, Xiamen) and Macao, Switzerland (Geneva)	Central ministries, departments of local governments and relevant committees of the United Nations	0-3 officers per duty visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● promoting exchanges and co-operation with the Mainland, Macao and Taiwan ● attending the hearings of the relevant committees of the United Nations 	30,510	136,050	33,220	199,780
2015-16 (17)	Mainland (Wuhan, Shanghai, Shenyang, Dalian, Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Chonghua, Beijing, Tianjin, Changsha, Zhengzhou, Zhuhai, Xi'an, Fuzhou) and Macao, Taoyuan, Taipei	Central ministries and departments of local governments	0-4 officers per duty visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● promoting exchanges and co-operation with the Mainland, Macao and Taiwan 	40,550	148,110	47,040	235,700

Notes:

- (1) The arrangement of hotel accommodation was provided to officers concerned in accordance with the relevant Civil Service Regulations and guidelines.
- (2) Proper class of air passages was provided to officers concerned in accordance with the relevant Civil Service Regulations which take into account ranking of their offices, flying time, flight schedule and details.
- (3) Other expenses include subsistence allowance for duty outside Hong Kong and local transportation expenses, but exclude the expenditure which was sponsored by the hosting government (if any).

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB051

(Question Serial No. 2344)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Will the Bureau set out in the table below details of and estimated provisions for studies conducted by consultancy firms or research institutions commissioned by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau over the past 3 years?

Time of study	Item of study	Objective of study	Scope	Research institution	Manpower involved	Expenditure

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. 117)

Reply:

Between 2013-14 and 2015-16, studies commissioned to consultancy firms by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau are set out as follows:

Start Date	Study	Objective	Scope	Research Institution	Expenditure
Nov 2013	Study on Discrimination Experienced by Sexual Minorities in Hong Kong	To study whether sexual minorities are discriminated against in Hong Kong and, if so, the discrimination they experienced including the domains and forms of discrimination, and how they responded to it	To study discrimination experienced by sexual minorities in Hong Kong	Policy 21 Limited	HK\$445,000

Start Date	Study	Objective	Scope	Research Institution	Expenditure
Dec 2013	Rent Allowance for Officers Posted/ Seconded to Wuhan	To determine rent allowance for officers posted/ seconded to Wuhan	To study the Wuhan rental index	Colliers International	HK\$85,000
April 2014	Implementation of Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) in Guizhou	To understand the status of CEPA implementation in Guizhou and explore the business opportunities of Guizhou for Hong Kong enterprises	To study the implementation of CEPA in a Mainland city	Guizhou University of Finance and Economics	RMB¥120,000
Sept 2014	Report on the “2014 Negative List, liberalisation measures and financial policies of the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone; and their impact on and business opportunities for Hong Kong enterprises”	To help Hong Kong enterprises understand the latest policy on the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone and explore business opportunities	Highlights of the 2014 Negative List and 31 new liberalisation measures of the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone (SHFTZ) and their impact on and business opportunities for Hong Kong enterprises; major financial policies of the SHFTZ and their implementation, as well as facilitation and recommendations to Hong Kong enterprises	Pricewaterhouse-Coopers Consultants (Shenzhen) Limited	RMB¥128,000
May 2015	Evaluative study on conditions necessary for implementing section 33 of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance	To identify the compliance measures required for the implementation of section 33 and the impact on different trades, and to study the relevant practices of other	To collect information and gauge the views of stakeholders of different trades and authorities responsible for the protection of personal data privacy in other	Deloitte Consulting (Hong Kong) Limited	HK\$1,428,000

Start Date	Study	Objective	Scope	Research Institution	Expenditure
		jurisdictions in regulating cross-border transfer of data	jurisdictions for analysis		
Oct 2015	Study report on business opportunities brought about by Guangdong, Fujian and Tianjin Pilot Free Trade Zones and their impact on Hong Kong enterprises	To study the business opportunities brought about by various policies and rules and regulations of the Guangdong, Fujian and Tianjin Pilot Free Trade Zones and their impact on Hong Kong enterprises	To study the business opportunities brought about by various policies and rules and regulations of the Guangdong, Fujian and Tianjin Pilot Free Trade Zones and their impact on Hong Kong enterprises	Pricewaterhouse-Coopers Consultants (Shenzhen) Limited Beijing Branch	RMB¥128,000

2. As the above work is part of the duties and responsibilities of CMAB staff, the manpower involved cannot be singled out or separately quantified.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0290)

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

Question:

Last year marked the 25th anniversary of the promulgation of the Basic Law. With respect to the related activities/programmes held to commemorate this occasion, would the Government advise this Committee of:

- (a) the related activities/programmes held by the Government in 2015-16; the dates, nature, specific details of the activities/programmes, the number of participants and the total expenditure incurred; please provide a breakdown of figures by programmes/activities;
- (b) the Government's sponsorship to community organisations for organising programmes commemorating the 25th anniversary of the promulgation of the Basic Law in 2015-16, including the names of sponsored organisations, the amount of sponsorship, details and nature of the activities, the number of participants, etc.; please provide a breakdown of figures by activities/programmes;
- (c) the Government's expenditure on promoting activities commemorating the 25th anniversary of the promulgation of the Basic Law by different media in 2015-16; please provide a breakdown of figures by type of media?

Asked by: Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok (Member Question No. 47)

Reply:

In 2015-16, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) has spent about \$16 million for organising various promotional activities via different means to enhance public awareness and understanding of "one country, two systems" and the Basic Law. The 4th of April 2015 marked the 25th anniversary of the promulgation of the Basic

Law. Apart from incorporating elements of celebrating the 25th anniversary of the promulgation of the Basic Law in the various promotional activities, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government has organised some large-scale activities with this theme in particular, details of which are set out below.

2. Territory-wide promotional activities on the 25th anniversary of the promulgation of the Basic Law included a “Seminar for the 25th Anniversary of the Promulgation of the Basic Law” held on the 4th of April 2015, an “Exhibition of the 25th Anniversary of the Promulgation of the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China” held from April to May 2015 and “Discover the Basic Law” exhibitions staged in different venues from May to December 2015. Moreover, relevant bureaux and departments have also organised promotional activities for their target groups. For example, the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education (CPCE) under the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) organised a quiz competition and talks on the Basic Law; the Education Bureau (EDB) produced visual learning packages on the Basic Law for upper primary and lower secondary students and organised territory-wide inter-school quiz competitions; the Civil Service Bureau conducted thematic talks on the Basic Law; the Trade and Industry Department organised thematic seminars and a souvenir design competition on the Basic Law; and the Information Services Department produced a Basic Law promotion video. The above activities have attracted a total of more than 100 000 participants, with the expenses of the activities met by the relevant bureaux and departments.

3. Separately, the HKSAR Government has promoted the message of 25th anniversary of the promulgation of the Basic Law through various approaches, including electronic media like the Internet and advertisements, as well as other means such as giant wall banners, bunting and issue of commemorative stamps and associated philatelic products, etc. Expenses on the above promotional items were met by the relevant bureaux and departments.

4. In addition, the “Community Participation Scheme 2015-16” and the “Co-operation Scheme with District Councils 2015-16” of the CPCE under the HAB have also encouraged community organisations to stage activities at the district level to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the promulgation of the Basic Law. The EDB has also subsidised educational groups and tertiary institutions to carry out Basic Law promotional activities through the “Quality Education Fund” and the “Basic Law Promotion Funding Scheme for Tertiary Institutions”. Through the “Basic Law Promotion Sponsorship Scheme”, the CMAB has also provided funding support in 2015-16 to eligible organisations for organising activities incorporating elements of the 25th anniversary of the promulgation of the Basic Law; details of these activities are set out below:

	Sponsored organisation	Activities	Amount of sponsorship applied (HK\$)
1.	Tai Po Federation of All Circles	Quiz competition, exhibition and thematic talk	about 180,000
2.	Hong Kong Playground Association Mongkok Integrated Service Centre for Children and Youth	Roving exhibition	about 100,000
3.	Tuen Mun District Women's Association Limited, Kong Ching Association and Dynamic Youth of Huizhou	Essay competition and exhibition	about 60,000
4.	North District Juvenile Association	Exhibition and carnival	about 400,000
5.	Sham Shui Po Residents Association	Carnival	about 250,000
6.	Kowloon Federation of Associations Kwun Tong District Committee	Quiz competition	about 240,000
7.	Sham Shui Po Residents Association	Exhibition	about 190,000
8.	Hong Kong Basic Law Foundation Limited	Thematic courses	about 100,000
9.	The Hong Kong Wan Chai District Association Ltd	Exhibition, carnival and quiz competition	about 270,000
10.	Joint Committee for The Promotion of The Basic Law of Hong Kong*	Calligraphy competition and exhibition	about 210,000
11.	Joint Committee for The Promotion of The Basic Law of Hong Kong*	Debate competition for secondary school students	about 330,000
12.	New Home Association New Territories Service Center	Basic Law Ambassador Scheme	about 180,000
13.	Hong Kong Buddhist Association, C&Y Centre and Wanchai Youth Ambassadors Ltd	Carnival	about 60,000
14.	The Federation of All Sectors of Tsuen Wan Ltd	Thematic courses and visit	about 240,000

	Sponsored organisation	Activities	Amount of sponsorship applied (HK\$)
15.	Hong Kong New Arrivals Services Foundation Limited	Carnival	about 110,000
16.	Federation of Yuen Long Youth	Exhibition and drama	about 190,000
17.	www.gc youth.net	Thematic talk	about 220,000

* The Joint Committee for The Promotion of The Basic Law of Hong Kong comprises 64 organisations.

As individual programmes of the above activities are yet to be completed, the total number of participants is not available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB053

(Question Serial No. 1944)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. Regarding the duty visits outside Hong Kong made by officials of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau and staff of departments under its purview over the past 5 years, please list each of them by year in the table below, providing details of the place of visit, purpose of visit, number of participating officials and expenditure involved:

Year	Work item and place of visit	Purpose of visit	Number of participating officials	Expenditure involved

2. For each of these duty visits outside Hong Kong, please list by year the data of total carbon footprints (including those made by flight as well as in-town transportation) in the table below, providing the method of estimation:

Year	Work item of visit	Total carbon footprints	Carbon footprints made by flights	Carbon footprints made by in-town transportation

3. Has carbon offsetting for the above duty visits outside Hong Kong been met by public funds or private money of the Director of Bureau or officials? If yes, please list by year the data for the past 5 years in the table below:

Year	Work item of visit	Carbon dioxide emission offset	Method of carbon offsetting	Expenditure involved

Asked by: Hon Kenneth LEUNG (Member Question No. 3.18)

Reply:

For official duty visits undertaken by officers of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) over the past 5 years (2011-12 to 2015-16), the relevant information is provided below –

Year (Number of visits)	Content/objective	Number of officers	Expenditure (\$)^{Note}
2011-12 (58)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promoting regional co-operation with the Mainland • enhancing further co-operation and exchanges with Macao and Taiwan • attending Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation Data Privacy Sub-group meetings 	1-11 officers per visit	854,990
2012-13 (36)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promoting regional co-operation with the Mainland • enhancing further co-operation and exchanges with Macao and Taiwan • experience sharing on issues related to electoral arrangements • attending Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation Data Privacy Sub-group meetings • attending United Nations human rights hearings 	1-12 officers per visit	873,990

Year (Number of visits)	Content/objective	Number of officers	Expenditure (\$)^{Note}
2013-14 (57)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promoting regional co-operation with the Mainland • enhancing further co-operation and exchanges with Macao and Taiwan • attending Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation Data Privacy Sub-group meetings • attending United Nations human rights hearings 	1-8 officers per visit	712,400
2014-15 (58)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promoting regional co-operation with the Mainland • enhancing further co-operation and exchanges with Macao and Taiwan • attending Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation Data Privacy Sub-group meetings • attending United Nations human rights hearings 	1-14 officers per visit	662,870
2015-16 (37)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promoting regional co-operation with the Mainland • enhancing further co-operation and exchanges with Macao and Taiwan • arranging Mainland officials to exchange views on constitutional development with Legislative Council Members • attending Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation Data Privacy Sub-group meetings • attending United Nations human rights hearings 	1-11 officers per visit	659,320

Over the past 5 years (2011-12 to 2015-16), the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) under the CMAB's purview has only undertaken official duty visits in 2012-13, and the relevant information is provided below –

Year (Number of visits)	Content/objective	Number of officers	Expenditure (\$)^{Note}
2012-13 (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • experience sharing on issues related to practical electoral arrangements 	2-4 officers per visit	38,980

Note:

- (1) The above expenditure includes expenditure on hotel accommodation and flight tickets, but excludes–
 - (a) overseas subsistence allowance provided to officers concerned, expenses on communication, etc.; and
 - (b) the expenditure which was sponsored by the hosting government.
 - (2) The arrangement of hotel accommodation was provided to officers concerned in accordance with the relevant Civil Service Regulations and guidelines.
 - (3) Proper class of air passages was provided to officers concerned in accordance with the relevant Civil Service Regulations which take into account ranking of their offices, flying time, flight schedule and other relevant details.
2. As details of the means of transportation used in the places visited are not available, calculation of total carbon footprints of each duty visit made in the past years cannot be made.
 3. At present, the Government does not require officers who undertake duty visits outside Hong Kong to arrange for carbon offsetting for their trips.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB054

(Question Serial No. 2042)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please give a breakdown of the actual expenditure on salaries, regularly-paid allowances, job-related allowances and non-accountable entertainment allowance payable to the Deputy Director of Bureau in 2015-16, as well as the estimate for salaries, regularly-paid allowances, job-related allowances and non-accountable entertainment allowance payable to the Deputy Director of Bureau in 2016-17.

Asked by: Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 541)

Reply:

The actual provision for the salary in respect of the position of Deputy Director of Bureau in the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau in 2015-16 is \$1.93 million (the position was left vacant from 21 July to 20 September 2015). For budgetary purposes, we have set aside a provision of \$2.33 million for the salary in respect of this position for 2016-17.

2. In 2015-16 and 2016-17, we do not have any expenditure or estimate of expenditure on regularly-paid allowances, job-related allowances and non-accountable entertainment allowance for the Deputy Director of Bureau.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB055

(Question Serial No. 2043)

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

Question:

Please give a breakdown of the actual expenditure on salaries, regularly-paid allowances, job-related allowances and non-accountable entertainment allowance payable to the Political Assistant in 2015-16, as well as the estimate for salaries, regularly-paid allowances, job-related allowances and non-accountable entertainment allowance payable to the Political Assistant in 2016-17.

Asked by: Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 542)

Reply:

The actual provision for the salary in respect of the position of Political Assistant to Director of Bureau in the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau in 2015-16 is \$0.59 million (the position has been left vacant since 21 September 2015). For budgetary purposes, we have set aside a provision of \$1.97 million for the salary in respect of this position for 2016-17.

2. In 2015-16 and 2016-17, we do not have any expenditure or estimate of expenditure on regularly-paid allowances, job-related allowances and non-accountable entertainment allowance for the Political Assistant to Director of Bureau.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB056

(Question Serial No. 1460)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

What are the estimated and actual expenditures of the Director of Bureau's Office in the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs in the past 5 years? While the revised estimate for 2015-16 is 4.9% lower than the original estimate, the estimate for 2016-17 is 8.8% higher than the 2015-16 original estimate, what are the reasons for that? What are the main areas of work on which the additional provision will be spent? What are the purposes intended to be achieved?

Asked by: Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung (Member Question No. 18)

Reply:

In respect of the Director of Bureau's Office in the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau under Programme (1), the actual expenditure in 2012-13 to 2014-15 and estimated expenditure in 2015-16 and 2016-17 are tabulated below:

2012-13 (actual)	2013-14 (actual)	2014-15 (actual)	2015-16 (revised estimate)	2016-17 (estimate)
\$8 million	\$9.9 million	\$9.9 million	\$9.7 million	\$11.1 million

2. Provision for 2016-17 is \$1.4 million (14.4%) higher than the revised estimate for 2015-16. This is mainly due to the full-year provision for 2016-17 for the position of Deputy Director of Bureau filled in 2015-16, and the provision required for filling the position of Political Assistant.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1461)

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

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

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Will the Bureau advise on the respective estimated and actual financial provisions for promoting the Basic Law in the past 3 years? Please give a detailed account of the use of the actual provision. What are the results achieved? Separately, what is the amount of provision set aside for the 2016-17 financial year for promoting the Basic Law? Please give a detailed account of the promotion work.

Asked by: Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung (Member Question No. 19)

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau has spent/will set aside about \$16 million in the past 3 financial years and for the coming 2016-17 for organising various promotional activities via different means to enhance public awareness and understanding of “one country, two systems” and the Basic Law.

2. The strategies of Basic Law promotion include:
- (a) using electronic media, such as Announcements in the Public Interest on television and radio, 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, quiz competitions and debate competitions, in order to reach a wider audience through their extensive community networks.

3. Besides, the relevant bureaux/departments will also continue to promote the Basic Law in various areas through civic education, school education and training for civil servants. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government has set up the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (BLPSC) to provide views and steer on the overall strategy and key aspects for promoting the Basic Law. Under the steer of the BLPSC and its five working groups (namely Local Community; Teachers and Students; Civil Servants; Industrial, Commercial and Professional Sectors; and Overseas Community Working Groups), relevant bureaux/departments (i.e. the Home Affairs Bureau, Education Bureau, Civil Service Bureau, Trade and Industry Department and Information Services Department) assist in planning and organising various activities in their respective sectors to promote the Basic Law.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB058

(Question Serial No. 1462)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

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

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

Question:

There is a significant increase of 10.1% in the financial provision for Mainland and Taiwan Offices for the 2016-17 financial year when compared with the original estimate for 2015-16. What accounts for the marked increase? What are the main areas of work on which the additional provision will be spent. Separately, while the Immigration Divisions of the Beijing Office/Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong/ Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Chengdu handled 25 310 enquiries in 2015, there were only 407 cases in which practical assistance was provided to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. Regarding the enquires and requests for assistance received, please advise on the major aspects to which the enquiries are related and the types of assistance requested. What are the criteria for deciding whether verbal response or practical assistance should be provided?

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

Reply:

The provision for 2016-17 is \$27.2 million (10.6%) higher than the revised estimate for 2015-16. This is mainly due to the increased provision of \$6.76 million for setting up more liaison units to provide better operational support to the Mainland Offices; the increased provision of \$9.61 million for setting up an Immigration Division under the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (ETO) in Shanghai; and the increased provision of \$2.47 million for creating a Chief Curator post at the Beijing Office (BJO) to enhance cultural exchange. The remaining \$8.36 million is for meeting the increased expenditure for staff cost and other operational expenses of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices.

2. Currently, Immigration Divisions are set up under the BJO and the ETOs in Guangdong and Chengdu to provide assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in all provinces/regions in the Mainland. In 2015, the 25 310 enquiries received by the Immigration Divisions in the Mainland were mainly related to immigration matters, such as application procedures and eligibility criteria in respect of visa/entry permit for visiting Hong Kong, the Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals, the Quality Migrant Admission Scheme and Immigration Arrangement for Non-local Graduates.

3. In 2015, there were a total of 407 cases in which Immigration Divisions in the Mainland rendered assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. The nature of cases included loss of travel documents or money; persons involved in accidents, injuries or other incidents in the Mainland, and assistance rendered included:

- (a) issuing Entry Permits to Hong Kong residents who have 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 are involved in a serious accident or become a casualty;
- (c) liaising, on request from the parties concerned, with their relatives and friends in Hong Kong for rendering financial assistance to the parties concerned;
- (d) upon receipt of notification from the Mainland law enforcement agencies regarding the arrest or detention of Hong Kong residents, passing information to relatives of the parties concerned in Hong Kong;
- (e) inquiring, on request from the relatives and friends of the parties concerned, about the situation of the case involving Hong Kong residents being arrested or detained by the Mainland law enforcement agencies;
- (f) providing information on lawyers in the Mainland to the parties concerned or their relatives and friends on request; and
- (g) providing any other relevant advisory services.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0232)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In the 2015 Policy Address, the Chief Executive has urged the community to stay alert to the mistaken notion of Hong Kong “deciding its own fate”. With regard to the mob violence in Mong Kok during the Lunar New Year holiday this year which has been condemned by the Chief Executive, many are of the view that it has much to do with the advocacy of “separatism”. In this connection, does the Government have any expenditure/estimated expenditure on preventing the spread of the notion of “Hong Kong independence” and “separatism” in the recent 2 years? Besides, does the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau have any expenditure/estimated expenditure on promoting public awareness of the Constitution of the People’s Republic of China and strengthening their sense of national identity in the recent 5 years? If yes, please set out the respective amounts of expenditure and details of the initiatives.

Asked by: Hon Martin LIAO Cheung-kong (Member Question No. 29)

Reply:

In recent years, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau has set aside an annual provision of about \$16 million for organising various promotional activities via different means to enhance public awareness and understanding of “one country, two systems” and the Basic Law. This Bureau has not specifically earmarked dedicated provision for promoting public awareness of the Constitution of the People’s Republic of China and strengthening the sense of national identity.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB060

(Question Serial No. 1769)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

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

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

Question:

It is stated in paragraph 33 of the Policy Address that “The current-term Government strives to expand the network and enhance the functions of its offices in the Mainland”. In this connection, please set out:

- (a) the exact locations of the 6 liaison units proposed to be set up under the Mainland Offices, the timetable for setting up these liaison units and the respective estimated expenditure;
- (b) the timetable for setting up an Immigration Division under the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Shanghai, the number of officers involved and the ranks to which they belong, as well as the expenditure involved;
- (c) the timetable for deploying dedicated staff to the Beijing Office to handle cultural matters, the number of officers involved and the ranks to which they belong, their duties and responsibilities, scope of work and performance targets.

Asked by: Hon Martin LIAO Cheung-kong (Member Question No. 32)

Reply:

It is stated in paragraph 33 of the 2016 Policy Address that the current-term Government will establish 6 more liaison units. We plan to set up a liaison unit each in Changsha City of Hunan Province and Zhengzhou City of Henan Province under the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (ETO) in Wuhan and another one in Tianjin Municipality under the Beijing Office (BJO) in 2016-17. In 2016-17, we have set aside \$13.21 million for meeting recurrent expenditure of the above 3 liaison units. Thereafter, we will continue to set up a liaison unit each under the ETOs in Guangdong, Shanghai and Chengdu in 2017.

2. We plan to set up an Immigration Division under the Shanghai ETO in 2016-17. In 2016-17, we have set aside \$9.61 million, of which \$7.61 million is for meeting recurrent expenditure of the Immigration Division while \$2 million is the one-off setting up cost. The setting up of the Immigration Division involves creation of 5 posts for Hong Kong-based staff, namely 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer and 3 Immigration Officer posts. We will also create a Chief Curator post at the BJO responsible for planning, co-ordinating and implementing cultural programmes, enhancing liaison with the Mainland in promoting culture and arts and fostering cultural exchange.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2980)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Will additional resources be allocated to the Equal Opportunities Commission for enhancing the promotion of the sexual orientation discrimination ordinance to the public? If yes, what are the additional resources to be allocated and the initiatives to be taken? If no, what are the reasons? Please also set out the activities conducted in the past 3 financial years for promoting the sexual orientation discrimination ordinance with a breakdown of the date, venue, theme, expenditure, number of participants and media reports in respect of the activities.

Asked by: Hon Alvin YEUNG Ngok-kiu (Member Question No. 37)

Reply:

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) enforces the Sex Discrimination Ordinance, Disability Discrimination Ordinance, Family Status Discrimination Ordinance and Race Discrimination Ordinance; and as provided under those ordinances, carries out publicity and public education programmes and enforcement work. Since “promotion of the sexual orientation discrimination ordinance to the public” does not fall within the statutory ambit of the EOC, no specific allocation has been granted from the Government to the EOC for carrying out relating activities.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2981)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Will additional resources be allocated to the Equal Opportunities Commission for studying the implementation of same-sex marriage in Hong Kong? If yes, what are the additional resources to be allocated and the approach for conducting the study? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon Alvin YEUNG Ngok-kiu (Member Question No. 38)

Reply:

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) enforces the Sex Discrimination Ordinance, Disability Discrimination Ordinance, Family Status Discrimination Ordinance and Race Discrimination Ordinance; and as provided under those ordinances, carries out publicity and public education programmes and enforcement work. Since “studying the implementation of same-sex marriage in Hong Kong” does not fall within the statutory ambit of the EOC, no specific allocation has been granted from the Government to the EOC for carrying out relating studies.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB063

(Question Serial No. 2982)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Will additional resources be allocated to the Equal Opportunities Commission for studying the implementation of same-sex civil partnership in Hong Kong? If yes, what are the additional resources to be allocated and the approach for conducting the study? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon Alvin YEUNG Ngok-kiu (Member Question No. 39)

Reply:

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) enforces the Sex Discrimination Ordinance, Disability Discrimination Ordinance, Family Status Discrimination Ordinance and Race Discrimination Ordinance; and as provided under those ordinances, carries out publicity and public education programmes and enforcement work. Since “studying the implementation of same-sex civil partnership in Hong Kong” does not fall under the statutory ambit of the EOC, no allocation has been granted from the Government to the EOC for carrying out relating studies.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB064

(Question Serial No. 0774)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the 2016 Legislative Council election, will temporary contract staff be employed to undertake the relevant work? If so, what are the number of staff to be employed and the estimated amount of expenditure?

Asked by: Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing (Member Question No. 12)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) will employ about 1 200 non-civil servant contract (NCSC) staff (the number of NCSC staff to be employed during the peak period) in 2016-17 to cope with the workload arising from the preparation and conduct of various elections, including the 2016 Legislative Council general election, the 2016 Election Committee subsector elections and the 2017 Chief Executive election. The expenditure on staff emoluments involved is estimated to be \$179 million. The NCSC staff mentioned above will be phased out after the REO has completed its various tasks in the election cycle from 2015 to 2017.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB065

(Question Serial No. 0813)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The revised estimated expenditure of the Registration and Electoral Office in 2015-16 is reduced by \$240.2 million to \$503.6 million, representing a substantial drop of 32.3% when compared with the original estimated expenditure of \$743.8 million. What are the reasons for such a substantial drop in the revised estimated expenditure over the original estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon TAM Yiu-chung (Member Question No. 11)

Reply:

The revised estimate for 2015-16 of the Registration and Electoral Office is 240 million (32.3%) less than its original estimate. The main reason is that the cost for the preparation and conduct of by-elections is substantially lower than the provision reserved for the purpose. Besides, the expenses related to the preparation and conduct of the 2015 District Council ordinary election and the preparation of the 2016 Legislative Council general election are lower than the budgeted provision. Overall speaking, the revision to the provision does not affect the conduct of or the preparatory works for the elections concerned.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB066

(Question Serial No. 0857)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The estimate for 2016-17 increases by 610.7 million, mainly due to the requirement for the conduct of the 2016 Legislative Council general election, the Election Committee subsector elections and the 2017 Chief Executive election.

Please give a breakdown on the expenditure of these 3 elections by recruitment, publicity and promotion, as well as relevant administration costs.

Asked by: Hon WONG Ting-kwong (Member Question No. 9)

Reply:

The provision for the Registration and Electoral Office in 2016-17 is \$610.7 million higher than the revised estimate for 2015-16. This is mainly due to increased requirements for the preparation and conduct of the 2016 Legislative Council general election, the 2016 Election Committee subsector elections and the 2017 Chief Executive election. The breakdown of the provisions for these 3 elections is as below:

For preparation and conduct of the election in 2016-17	2016 Legislative Council general election [#] (\$ million)	2016 Election Committee subsector elections (\$ million)	2017 Chief Executive election (\$ million)
(1) Staff cost	155	57	33
(2) Publicity	50	4	1
(3) Other expenses (including the costs for public consultation, hire of venue, honorarium for polling and counting staff, financial assistance for candidates (if applicable), transportation, postage, free mailing, printing, rental cost of temporary offices, etc.)	537	91	33
Total	742	152	67

[#] including the provision for the preparation and conduct of the 2016 Voter Registration Campaign

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0927)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please provide a breakdown of expenditures for the 2016 Legislative Council general election. What is the increase/decrease in expenditures when compared to those for the 2012 Legislative Council general election, and the reasons for it?

Asked by: Hon Starry LEE Wai-king (Member Question No. 30)

Reply:

As far as a Legislative Council (LegCo) general election is concerned, it normally spans several financial years from the preparation to the completion of all winding-up work. Regarding the 2016 LegCo general election, the preparatory work commenced in 2015-16 and a provision of \$76 million is included in the 2015-16 revised estimate for the purpose. As for 2016-17, the provision of the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) for the preparation and conduct of the 2016 LegCo general election is \$742 million (including the provision for the preparation and conduct of the 2016 Voter Registration Campaign) with breakdown as below:

Expenditure on the preparation and conduct of the election		2016-17 \$ million
(1)	Staff cost	155
(2)	Publicity	50
(3)	Other expenses (including the costs for public consultation, hire of venue, honorarium for polling and counting staff, financial assistance for candidates, transportation, postage, free mailing, printing, and rental cost of temporary offices, etc.)	537
Total		742

2. The overall actual expenditure for the preparation and conduct of the 2012 LegCo general election is about \$503 million.

3. To cater for various electoral work required of the coming public elections to be conducted in the election cycle from 2015 to 2017, including the preparation and conduct of the 2016 LegCo general election, the REO needs to rent temporary offices and increase the number of staff in the light of the experience gained in the last election cycle. Besides, the budgeted provision for other operational expenses relating to the 2016 LegCo general election is higher than the actual expenditure for the 2012 LegCo general election due to actual operational needs, pay rise and inflation, etc. Therefore, the overall estimated provision for the preparation and conduct of the 2016 LegCo general election is higher than the overall actual expenditure for the 2012 LegCo general election.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB068

(Question Serial No. 0928)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please provide a breakdown of expenditures for the 2016 Election Committee subsector elections. What are the increase/decrease in expenditures when compared to those for the 2011 elections, and the reasons for it?

Asked by: Hon Starry LEE Wai-king (Member Question No. 31)

Reply:

As far as the Election Committee subsector (ECSS) elections are concerned, they normally span several financial years from preparations to completion of all winding-up work. Regarding the 2016 ECSS elections, the preparatory work commenced in 2015-16 and a provision of \$5.31 million is included in the 2015-16 revised estimate for the purpose. As for 2016-17, the provision of the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) for the preparation and conduct of the 2016 ECSS elections is \$152 million with breakdown as follows:

	Expenditure on the preparation and conduct of the elections	2016-17 (\$ million)
(1)	Staff cost	57
(2)	Publicity	4
(3)	Other expenses (including the costs for public consultation, hire of venue, honorarium for polling and counting staff, transportation, postage, free mailing, printing, and rental cost of temporary offices, etc.)	91
<hr/> Total		152

Since the 2016 ECSS elections will be held in December, it is anticipated that payment of part of the expenditure will be made in 2017-18.

2. The actual expenditure for the preparation and conduct of the 2011 ECSS elections is around \$88 million.

3. To cater for various electoral work required of the coming public elections to be conducted in the election cycles from 2015 to 2017, including the preparation and conduct of the 2016 ECSS elections, the REO needs to rent temporary offices and increase the number of staff in the light of the experience gained in the last election cycle. Besides, the budgeted provision for other operational expenses relating to the 2016 ECSS elections is higher than the actual expenditure for the 2011 ECSS elections due to actual operational needs, pay rise and inflation, etc. Hence, the overall estimated provision for the preparation and conduct of the 2016 ECSS elections is higher than the actual expenditure for the 2011 ECSS elections.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB069

(Question Serial No. 0929)

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

Question:

Please provide a breakdown of expenditures for the 2017 Chief Executive election. What are the increase/decrease in expenditures when compared with those for the 2012 election, and the reasons for it?

Asked by: Hon Starry LEE Wai-king (Member Question No. 32)

Reply:

In 2016-17, the provision of the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) for the preparation and conduct of the 2017 Chief Executive (CE) election is \$67 million with breakdown as follows:

	Expenditure on the preparation and conduct of the election	2016-17 (\$ million)
(1)	Staff cost	33
(2)	Publicity	1
(3)	Other expenses (including the costs for public consultation, hire of venue, honorarium for polling and counting staff, transportation, postage, free mailing, printing, and rental cost of temporary offices, etc.)	33
Total		67

Since the 2017 CE election will be held in March, it is anticipated that payment of part of the expenditure will be made in 2017-18.

2. The actual expenditure for the preparation and conduct of the 2012 CE election is around \$28 million.

3. To cater for various electoral work required of the coming public elections to be conducted in the election cycle from 2015 to 2017, including the preparation and conduct of the 2017 CE election, the REO needs to rent temporary offices and increase the number of staff in the light of the experience gained in the last election cycle. Hence, the overall estimated provision for the preparation and conduct of the 2017 CE election is higher than the actual expenditure for the 2012 CE election.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB070

(Question Serial No. 0930)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

What is the provision for the conduct of checks on the registered particulars in the current register of electors in the year 2016-17? What are the increase/decrease in such expenditure when compared to the relevant expenditures in the past 3 years, and the reasons for it?

Asked by: Hon Starry LEE Wai-king (Member Question No. 33)

Reply:

The work of the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) to check and verify the particulars of electors is undertaken by a team comprising civil servants and non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff responsible for voter registration (VR) matters. Details of the manpower resources and operational expenses from 2013-14 to 2015-16 are as follows:

Year	Number of civil servants*	Number of NCSC staff [@]	Expenditure on staff remuneration and the related operational expenses
2013-14	86	46	\$40 million
2014-15	90	152	\$47 million
2015-16	98	around 500	\$109 million (revised estimate)

* including time-limited civil service posts created in the relevant years.

[@] NCSC staff are employed according to actual needs. These figures represent the numbers of NCSC staff employed during the peak periods of the respective VR years.

2. The REO will allocate sufficient manpower and resources in 2016-17 to handle the large number of applications for VR and updating of particulars expected to be received before the 2016 Legislative Council general election, and to further enhance the checking work so as to enhance the accuracy and completeness of the VR records. The REO will continue to strengthen the publicity measures so as to encourage eligible persons to register as electors, remind the electors under checking to update or confirm their registered residential addresses with the REO before the deadline and encourage electors to use the Online Voter Information Enquiry System to verify their registration status and particulars. The above-mentioned work will be carried out by a team comprising 95 civil servants (including 9 time-limited civil service posts) and around 500 NCSC staff. The expenditure on staff remuneration and the related operational expenses are estimated to be around \$113 million. The relevant work will continue to be carried out in the 2016 and 2017 VR cycles.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB071****(Question Serial No. 3020)**Head: (163) Registration and Electoral OfficeSubhead (No. & title):Programme: Electoral ServicesControlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

Regarding the 2016 Legislative Council New Territories East Geographical Constituency by-election, what are the Government's expenditure, manpower requirement and work details? Compared with by-elections held in the past, is there an increase in the expenditure and manpower requirement?

Asked by: Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai (Member Question No. 66)Reply:

On the polling day of the 2016 Legislative Council (LegCo) New Territories East Geographical Constituency (NTE GC) by-election, the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) set up a total of 167 polling stations (including 21 dedicated polling stations) for eligible electors to cast their votes. The REO also set up a media centre at the Tiu Keng Leng Sports Centre in Tseung Kwan O for announcement of the election result by the Returning Officer after close of the poll and on completion of the count.

2. A comparison of the manpower requirement and expenditure of the LegCo NTE GC by-election and the LegCo by-elections held in the past is tabulated below:

	2007 LegCo Hong Kong Island GC by-election	2010 LegCo by-election	2016 LegCo NTE GC by-election
Number of electoral staff	2 696	14 459	4 359
Number of polling stations	97	543	167
Number of electors	around 620 000	around 3 370 000	around 940 000
Expenditure	about \$21 million (actual)	about \$126 million (actual)	about \$73 million (budgeted provision)

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB072

(Question Serial No. 0648)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Government has conducted random checks to verify electors' addresses in the register of electors since 2012. Electors who fail to respond to enquiry letters to confirm their registered addresses by the deadline will be de-registered. In this connection, would the Government advise on the following:

1. the numbers of electors whose registration status was removed in the past 3 years, broken down by main reasons (such as decease, voluntary de-registration, loss of Hong Kong permanent resident status and failure to respond to enquiry letters, etc.);
2. the expenditure and the staff establishment involved in the publicity of the random checks on the residential addresses of electors in the register of electors in the past 3 years. Has the Government assessed the effectiveness of such work to ensure that the public is aware of the random checks on the residential addresses of electors in the register of electors? If so, what are the results? If not, what are the reasons?
3. elections for the Legislative Council, the Election Committee and the Chief Executive will be held in 2016 and 2017 respectively. What is the amount of resources to be allocated for the publicity of the random check system in the future to ensure that registered electors will be entitled to vote in the above 3 elections and will not be disqualified from voting without reasons?

Asked by: Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun (Member Question No. 16)

Reply:

In the last 3 voter registration (VR) cycles from 2013 to 2015, the numbers of geographical constituency electors who have been removed from the register of electors because of loss of eligibility for registration are as follows:

Reason for removal and number of electors	Cycle	2013	2014	2015
Failure to respond to statutory inquiry procedures		26 281	13 740	41 661
Death		24 591	26 863	34 038
Other reasons (such as voluntary de-registration, loss of Hong Kong permanent resident status)		527	295	778
Total		51 399	40 898	76 477

2. In the light of public concern over the accuracy of residential addresses recorded in the voter register in recent years, the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) has stepped up publicity since the 2012 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 has continued to implement various checking measures, including the conduct of cross-matching exercise with other government departments on electors' registration particulars, 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 to be demolished.

3. In the 2016 VR cycle, the REO will continue with the checking work mentioned in paragraph 2 above. In view of recent public concern about matters relating to VR, the Government conducted a public consultation on enhancement of the VR system in late 2015 and published the consultation report on 21 January 2016. Based on the outcome of the consultation, the REO will further strengthen verification of address information with other government departments in the 2016 VR cycle to enhance the accuracy of electors' registration particulars, which includes:

- (a) enhancing liaison with the Buildings Department to collect the latest list of buildings that are demolished or vacated pending demolition;
- (b) liaising with the Urban Renewal Authority to collect the information on buildings with acquisition and resident removal completed; and

(c) implementing the collaborative arrangement with District Offices to identify buildings that will soon be demolished or are already vacated.

4. The REO checks and verifies the particulars of electors to ensure the accuracy of the electors' particulars contained in the voter register. The relevant work is undertaken by a team comprising civil servants and non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff responsible for VR matters. Details of the manpower resources and operational expenses from 2013-14 to 2015-16 are as follows:

Year	Number of civil servants*	Number of NCSC staff @	Expenditure on staff remuneration and related operational expenses
2013-14	86	46	\$40 million
2014-15	90	152	\$47 million
2015-16	98	around 500	\$109 million (revised estimate)

* including time-limited civil service posts created in the relevant years.

@ NCSC staff are employed according to actual needs. These figures represent the numbers of NCSC staff employed during the peak periods of the respective years.

5. The REO will allocate sufficient manpower and resources in 2016-17 to handle the large number of applications for VR and updating of particulars expected to be received before the 2016 Legislative Council general election, and to further enhance the checking work so as to enhance the accuracy and completeness of the VR records. The REO will continue to strengthen the publicity measures so as to encourage eligible persons to register as electors, remind the electors under checking to update or confirm their registered residential addresses with the REO before the deadline and encourage electors to use the Online Voter Information Enquiry System to verify their registration status and particulars. The above-mentioned work will be carried out by a team comprising 95 civil servants (including 9 time-limited civil service posts) and around 500 NCSC staff. The expenditure on staff remuneration and the related operational expenses are estimated to be around \$113 million. The relevant work will continue to be carried out in the 2016 and 2017 VR cycles.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB073

(Question Serial No. 0650)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

More and more Hong Kong people are living in the Mainland or stationing there for work and school and they return to Hong Kong from time to time. Quite a number of them reside in Shenzhen and cross the border every day for work, school and making a living in Hong Kong. These people are not certain whether they meet the requirement of “ordinarily residing in Hong Kong”, thus their desire to register as electors and cast their vote in elections is being dampened. In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee:

1. of the numbers of enquiries about and complaints against the definition of “ordinarily residing in Hong Kong” that the Government received in the past 3 years? Has the Government assessed these figures and examined whether the existing definition of “ordinarily residing in Hong Kong” is clear? If so, what are the details, and if not, what are the reasons?
2. whether the Government has a grasp of the figure of Hong Kong permanent residents who are now ordinarily residing in the Mainland? How many of them have registered as electors?
3. whether the Government has any plan to specify the criteria for or definition of “ordinarily residing in Hong Kong” in the coming 3 years? If so, what are the details and the expenditure involved?

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

Reply:

According to section 28(1) of the Legislative Council Ordinance (Cap. 542), at the time of submitting application for voter registration, an applicant shall satisfy the Electoral Registration Officer that he/she ordinarily resides in Hong Kong and provide a residential address which is his/her only or principal residence in Hong Kong. The applicant shall sign the declaration in the application form to confirm that he/she meets the eligibility for

voter registration, including ordinarily residing in Hong Kong and that the residential address provided is his/her only or principal residence in Hong Kong. At present, there is no statutory definition of “ordinarily residing in Hong Kong”. Past court judgments on electoral laws show that whether a person “ordinarily resides in Hong Kong” is a question of fact and degree and has to be determined on all the circumstances of the case. Therefore, the Government considers it not appropriate to prescribe a definition for “ordinarily residing in Hong Kong” in the electoral laws. However, to facilitate the public and candidates of public elections to understand the requirement of “ordinarily residing in Hong Kong” under electoral laws, the Electoral Affairs Commission has issued guidelines on election-related activities which contain relevant reference materials on this aspect.

2. According to the Census and Statistics Department, it does not maintain statistics on the number of Hong Kong permanent residents who ordinarily reside in the Mainland.

3. In conclusion, the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) neither has the figure of Hong Kong electors who ordinarily reside in the Mainland, nor maintains a statistical breakdown of the numbers of enquiries and complaints related to “ordinarily residing in Hong Kong”. In the past 3 years, the REO handled 3 cases (in which 6 electors were involved) requesting verification of whether the electors concerned met the criterion of “ordinarily residing in Hong Kong”. The registration particulars of the electors concerned were updated by the REO according to the verification results.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1113)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Will the Government provide this Committee with:

(a) a breakdown of the numbers of complaints about elections received by the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) by category of complainants (i.e. electors themselves, not electors themselves, candidates, and others) in each of the past 5 years;

(b) a breakdown of the numbers of complaints about elections received by the REO by complaint content in each of the past 5 years;

(c) a breakdown of the numbers of complaints about elections received by the REO by the district involved in the complaint in each of the past 5 years;

(d) a breakdown of the numbers of complaints about elections received by the REO by the means of receipt (i.e. telephone, fax, post, email) in each of the past 5 years;

(e) the average numbers of days taken to complete handling a complaint by the REO in each of the past 5 years; and

(f) the numbers of complaints which the REO has completed handling, the numbers of complaints which the REO is still handling, and the total numbers of complaints in each of the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che (Member Question No. 11)

Reply:

According to current arrangements, the Electoral Affairs Commission (EAC) is responsible for handling election-related complaints and the EAC Secretariat provides the EAC with administrative support. The EAC does not have statistics of the breakdown of election-related complaints by complainant, the district involved in the complaint, the means of receiving the complaint and the average number of days taken to complete handling a

complaint. The number of complaint cases received (including those directly received from the public by the Police and the Independent Commission Against Corruption) in respect of the elections and by-elections held between 2011 and 2015 is as follows:

Election	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
District Council ordinary election	7 962	-	-	-	8 824
District Council by-election	20	67	204	167	78
Election Committee subsector elections	100	-	-	-	-
Chief Executive election	-	119	-	-	-
Legislative Council general election	-	11 799	-	-	-
Rural ordinary election	166	-	-	-	214
Village by-election	2	-	-	-	-

2. The breakdown of the complaints by nature in respect of the above elections is set out in the respective reports on the relevant elections, which have been uploaded onto the EAC's website (www.eac.gov.hk).

3. Except for those complaints relating to the 2015 District Council ordinary election, the handling of all the complaint cases listed above has been completed. As at 7 March 2016, out of the total number of 8 824 complaints received in respect of the 2015 District Council ordinary election, 7 769 have been dealt with and the handling of the remaining 1 055 complaints is still in progress.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB075

(Question Serial No. 1114)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

On the preparation and conduct of elections, will the Government inform this Committee of:

- (a) the numbers of poll cards returned due to “no such person” in each of the past 5 years;
- (b) the numbers of poll cards returned due to “moved” in each of the past 5 years;
- (c) the numbers of poll cards returned due to “incomplete address” in each of the past 5 years; and
- (d) the total numbers of poll cards returned in each of the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che (Member Question No. 12)

Reply:

The breakdown of returned poll cards or notices of uncontested nomination relating to the elections held in the past 5 years by reason for return as indicated by the Hongkong Post is as follows:

Reason for Return	2011 (Note 1)	2012 (Note 2)	2013 (Note 3)	2014 (Note 4)	2015 (Note 5)
(a) No such person	41 527	12 598	111	447	27 734
(b) Moved and redirection service not arranged by addressee	36 995	8 778	76	151	16 495
(c) Incomplete address	2 585	902	2	6	436
(d) Not occupied	443	146	0	0	201
(e) Refusal of receipt	6 677	3 356	35	47	6 072
(f) No such address	1 441	1 499	0	2	776
(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 with no postal services))	1 775	2 850	1	0	1 192
Total	91 443	30 129	225	653	52 906

Notes:

- (1) Including the returned poll cards/notices for the 2011 Yuen Long District Council Shap Pat Heung North by-election, 2011 Tsuen Wan District Council Fuk Loi by-election, 2011 District Council ordinary election and 2011 Election Committee subsector elections.
- (2) Including the returned poll cards/notices for the 2012 Legislative Council general election and 2012 Sha Tin District Council On Tai by-election.
- (3) Including the returned poll cards/notices for the 2013 Sha Tin District Council Tin Sum by-election, 2013 Kwun Tong District Council Ping Shek by-election and 2013 Yau Tsim Mong District Council King's Park by-election.
- (4) Including returned poll cards/notices for the 2014 Southern District Council South Horizons West by-election, 2014 Islands District Council Tung Chung North by-election, 2014 Eastern District Council Nam Fung by-election and 2014 Islands District Council Peng Chau and Hei Ling Chau by-election.
- (5) Including returned poll cards/notices for the 2015 Tai Po District Council San Fu Constituency by-election and 2015 District Council ordinary election.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB076

(Question Serial No. 1115)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the various checking measures put in place and inquiry procedures taken by the Registration and Electoral Office, will the Government inform this Committee of:

- (a) the numbers of cases for which checks on multiple electors or multiple surnames of electors registered with the same residential address were conducted in each of the past 5 years;
- (b) the numbers of cases for which checks on addresses in buildings already demolished or to be demolished were conducted in each of the past 5 years;
- (c) the total numbers of electors involved in the checks in each of the past 5 years;
- (d) the numbers of cases for which full-scale cross-matching of electors' particulars in respect of their registered addresses at public housing units were conducted in each of the past 5 years;
- (e) the numbers of cases for which full-scale cross-matching of electors' particulars in respect of their registered addresses at private housing units were conducted in each of the past 5 years;
- (f) the numbers of electors removed in each of the past 5 years; and
- (g) the numbers of newly registered electors, the numbers of such newly registered electors for whom checks on their particulars were conducted, and the numbers of such newly registered electors whose particulars were removed in each of the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che (Member Question No. 13)

Reply:

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

2. During the 5 VR cycles from 2011 to 2015, the numbers of geographical constituency (GC) electors included in the statutory inquiry procedures and the number of GC electors removed due to failure to respond to the statutory inquiry procedures are as follows:

Checking measures \ Cycle	Number of electors included in the statutory inquiry procedures				
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
(1) follow-up inquiries on undelivered poll cards and other electoral mails	52 204	145 570	22 860	815	6 901
(2) cross-matching exercise with the HD, HKHS and HAD on electors' residential addresses [Note 1]	-	99 001	-	6 659	41 687
(3) checks on residential addresses with multiple electors or multiple surnames of electors [Note 2]	-	13 387	2 557	2 931	6 527
(4) random sample checks on registered electors [Note 2]	-	30 860	6 212	9 690	24 174
(5) checks on addresses with incomplete information or suspected non-residential addresses [Note 2]	-	774	3 300	1 465	2 469

	Number of electors included in the statutory inquiry procedures				
Cycle	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Checking measures					
(6) checks on addresses situated at buildings already demolished or to be demolished	675	509	406	327	897
(7) follow-up inquiries on other complaints relating to suspected false registered addresses	-	6 489	-	2 355	-
Total number of electors under inquiry	52 879	296 590	35 335	24 242	82 655
Number of electors removed due to failure to respond to the statutory inquiry procedures	44 339	218 199	26 281	13 740	41 661

Note 1: Since 2012, the REO has, in the election years, conducted full-scale verification with the HD and HKHS in respect of electors with registered residential addresses in public housing units, and has included electors not listed in the residency records of the relevant departments in the statutory inquiry procedures. Moreover, the REO has started since the 2014 VR cycle to conduct checking with HD relating to households whose tenancy agreements have been terminated, and has included those electors who fail to update their registered residential addresses with the REO in the inquiry procedures.

Note 2: The checking measures including checks on residential addresses with multiple electors or multiple surnames of electors and addresses with incomplete information or suspected non-residential addresses, as well as random sample checks on registered electors have been implemented since the 2012 VR cycle.

3. The numbers of newly registered GC electors as set out in the Final Registers of electors from 2011 to 2015 are listed as follows:

Final Register of electors	Number of newly registered electors
2011	203 779
2012	148 085
2013	56 621
2014	77 261
2015	262 633

The REO has conducted random sample checks on applications for new registration since the 2013 VR cycle. Enquiry letters were issued to 139, 409 and 1 373 applicants in the 2013, 2014 and 2015 VR cycles respectively requesting them to confirm in writing the relevant residential addresses. The respective numbers of the above applicants who did not respond to the inquiry letters were 24, 153 and 441. The REO has accordingly decided not to further process those applications.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB077

(Question Serial No. 1139)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

- From 2013-14 to 2015-16, what is the amount of public funds spent by the Government on the promotion of voter registration for each year? What is the number of newly registered electors in each year?
- From 2013-14 to 2015-16, how much did the Government spend on various media for the promotion of voter registration? Please provide a breakdown using the table below:

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
TV Announcements in the Public Interest (APIs)			
Radio APIs			
Advertisements placed on newspapers or magazines			
Online advertisements			
Light boxes (including MTR stations, bus stops, public and private places, etc.)			

- In 2016-17, what will be the amount of public funds spent by the Government on the promotion of voter registration?

Asked by: Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit (Member Question No. 14)

Reply:

The number of newly registered electors for geographical constituency in the 2013, 2014 and 2015 voter registration (VR) cycles was 56 621, 77 261 and 262 633 respectively.

2. The Registration and Electoral Office has all along made use of various channels to appeal to members of the public in different age groups to register as electors. The publicity measures include various media and platforms, such as television, radio, newspapers, websites, mobile applications for smartphone, public transport system, as well as different kinds of community publicity activities and materials, etc. The publicity measures and expenses for the 2013 to 2015 VR campaigns are as follows:

Measure	Cycle	Publicity expenses for VR campaign (\$'000)		
	2013	2014	2015 [#]	
Publicity on television and radio	2,850	920	2,250	
Newspapers, magazines, websites and mobile applications for smartphone	810	2,300	2,200	
Public transport system	-	460	1,300	
Employing VR Assistants and conducting various publicity activities in the community	750	1,300	6,950	
Production and distribution of leaflets, posters, banners, appeal letters, souvenirs and miscellaneous items	460	120	4,290	
Total	4,870	5,100	16,990	

[#]Figures for the 2015 VR campaign represent estimated expenses.

3. During the 2016 VR cycle, the Government will continue to adopt diversified means to appeal to persons of all ages and different backgrounds in order to encourage eligible persons to register as electors, remind electors to update their registration particulars in a timely manner while strengthening the public awareness and knowledge of VR. Publicity expenses for the 2016 VR campaign are estimated to be about \$17 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB078

(Question Serial No. 1142)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. Regarding the past 2 Legislative Council (LegCo) elections held in 2008 and 2012, as well as the 2010 LegCo by-election, please list in the table below the numbers of the following polling staff employed by the Government -

- i. Presiding Officers (PROs);
- ii. Deputy Presiding Officers (DPROs);
- iii. Assistant Presiding Officers (APROs);
- iv. Polling Officers (POs)/Counting Officers (COs);
- v. Polling Assistants (PAs)/Counting Assistants (CAs); and

2. The numbers of training hours the Government provided for them in each election.

	2008	2010	2012
PRO			
DPRO			
APRO			
PO/CO			
PA/CA			

Asked by: Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit (Member Question No. 26)

Reply:

Regarding the 2008 and 2012 LegCo general elections and the 2010 LegCo by-election, the information on the polling staff employed by the Government is listed in the following table:

	Number of polling staff in the 2008 LegCo general election	Number of polling staff in the 2010 LegCo by-election	Number of polling staff in the 2012 LegCo general election
PRO	568	591	621
DPRO	725	513	870
APRO	2 247	2 271	3 163
PO	9 564	9 381	12 232
PA	1 672	1 703	2 308
Counting Supervisor (CS)*	58	-	110
Assistant Counting Supervisor (ACS)*	228	-	585
CO*	1 065	-	2 735
CA*	55	-	50

2. Regarding the 2008 and 2012 LegCo general elections and the 2010 LegCo by-election, the information on the training provided by the Government for staff of different ranks is listed in the following table:

	Number of training hours provided for polling staff in the 2008 LegCo general election	Number of training hours provided for polling staff in the 2010 LegCo by-election	Number of training hours provided for polling staff in the 2012 LegCo general election
PRO	10	10	10
DPRO	10	10	10
APRO (Statistics)	6	6	6
APRO	4	4	4
PO (Statistics)	6	6	6
PO	4	4	4
PA	4	4	4
CS*	6.5	-	8
ACS*	6.5	-	8
CO*	6.5	-	8
CA*	6.5	-	8

* Staff working at the Central Counting Station. As counting was conducted at individual polling stations for the 2010 LegCo by-election, there was no need to set up any Central Counting Station.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB079

(Question Serial No. 1152)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

It was pointed out by the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) that the tasks accomplished in 2015-16 include “the enhancement of checking of electors in the current register in respect of their registered addresses” and “the conduct of cross-matching exercise with other government departments on electors’ registration particulars”. Will the REO provide the details of the following:

1. in 2015-16, how much resources were allocated by the REO for the updating of the register of electors, including manpower and expenditure involved? What were the specific initiatives?
2. in 2015-16, did the REO allocate resources for the investigation of vote-rigging cases and the handling of complaints against vote-rigging? If so, what were the details? If not, what were the reasons?
3. in 2015-16, what were the results of the investigation of vote-rigging cases and the handling of complaints against vote-rigging? Please provide a breakdown of the statistics in tabular form.
4. in 2016-17, how much resources does the REO plan to allocate for the investigation of vote-rigging cases and complaints against vote-rigging? Will there be new initiatives to verify electors’ registration particulars, conduct investigations and handle complaints?

Asked by: Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit (Member Question No. 2)

Reply:

In the light of public concern over the accuracy of residential addresses recorded in the voter register in recent years, the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) has stepped up publicity since the 2012 voter registration (VR) cycle to remind the public about the importance of providing true and accurate information for registration and updating their registration particulars, especially the principal residential addresses provided. Besides, the REO has continued to implement various checking measures, including the conduct of cross-matching exercise with other government departments on electors' registration particulars, 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 to be demolished. The REO verified the registration particulars of about 1.6 million electors through the aforementioned measures in the 2015 VR cycle.

2. In the 2016 VR cycle, the REO will continue with the checking work mentioned above. In view of recent public concern about matters relating to VR, the Government conducted a public consultation on enhancement of the VR system in late 2015 and published the consultation report on 21 January 2016. Based on the outcome of the consultation, the REO will further strengthen verification of address information with other government departments in the 2016 VR cycle to enhance the accuracy of electors' registration particulars, which includes:

- (a) enhancing liaison with the Buildings Department to collect the latest list of buildings that are demolished or vacated pending demolition;
- (b) liaising with the Urban Renewal Authority to collect the information on buildings with acquisition and resident removal completed; and
- (c) implementing the collaborative arrangement with District Offices to identify buildings that will soon be demolished or are already vacated.

The number of electors covered by the checking measures in the 2016 VR cycle will be about 1.6 million.

3. From the 2015 VR cycle up to the present date, the REO has discovered a total of 461 suspected cases involving false registration particulars. As criminal offences may be involved, these cases have been referred to the law enforcement agencies for follow-up and investigation as appropriate. The REO will correct the relevant registration particulars according to the statutory procedures.

4. The REO will allocate sufficient manpower and resources in 2016-17 to handle the large number of applications for VR and updating of particulars expected to be received before the 2016 Legislative Council general election, and to further enhance the checking work so as to enhance the accuracy and completeness of the VR records. The REO will continue to strengthen the publicity measures so as to encourage eligible persons to register as electors, remind the electors under checking to update or confirm their registered residential addresses with the REO before the deadline and encourage electors to use the Online Voter Information Enquiry System to verify their registration status and particulars. The above-mentioned work will be carried out by a team comprising 95 civil servants (including 9 time-limited civil service posts) and around 500 non-civil service contract staff. The expenditure on staff remuneration and the related operational expenses are estimated to be around \$113 million. The relevant work will continue to be carried out in the 2016 and 2017 VR cycles.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB080

(Question Serial No. 1576)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

With regard to the number of applications for voter registration, would the Government please provide the following information:

1) The number of newly-registered electors in 2014 and 2015 by month -

Month	Year	
	2014	2015

2) The breakdown of newly-registered electors by the 18 districts in 2014 and 2015 -

District Council District	Year	
	2014	2015

3) The number of elector records updated, with a breakdown by the 18 districts, in 2014 and 2015 -

District Council District	Year	
	2014	2015

- 4) What criteria are the estimates of the number of newly-registered electors and the updated number of electors in 2016 based on?

Asked by: Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit (Member Question No. 27)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) does not keep statistics of newly-registered electors by month. According to the 2014 and 2015 Final Registers of Electors, the number of newly registered geographical constituency electors in each District Council (DC) is set out below:

	2014 Final Register of Electors	2015 Final Register of Electors
Central & Western	1 970	6 933
Wan Chai	823	4 335
Eastern	5 182	18 479
Southern	2 462	7 939
Yau Tsim Mong	2 799	10 043
Sham Shui Po	4 057	15 444
Kowloon City	4 221	17 483
Wong Tai Sin	4 681	15 789
Kwun Tong	8 068	26 779
Tsuen Wan	2 849	12 436
Tuen Mun	5 355	15 242
Yuen Long	7 491	22 365
Kwai Tsing	5 839	21 102
Islands	1 665	5 219
North	4 048	12 618
Tai Po	3 511	10 281
Sai Kung	4 347	17 651
Sha Tin	7 893	22 495
Total	77 261	262 633

2. According to the 2014 and 2015 Final Registers of Electors, the number of geographical constituency electors with their registration particulars updated in each DC is set out below:

	2014 Final Register of Electors	2015 Final Register of Electors
Central & Western	3 761	11 648
Wan Chai	1 885	7 145
Eastern	9 667	34 252
Southern	4 465	12 987
Yau Tsim Mong	3 880	15 376
Sham Shui Po	6 866	21 768
Kowloon City	12 151	25 566
Wong Tai Sin	6 162	25 475

	2014 Final Register of Electors	2015 Final Register of Electors
Kwun Tong	10 632	42 586
Tsuen Wan	3 957	18 342
Tuen Mun	8 237	22 862
Yuen Long	11 444	37 897
Kwai Tsing	7 587	28 686
Islands	2 126	8 891
North	4 283	17 634
Tai Po	5 866	21 851
Sai Kung	6 810	28 873
Sha Tin	11 182	33 095
Total	120 961	414 934

3. The REO estimates the numbers of newly registered electors and electors with registration particulars updated in the 2016 voter registration cycle after making reference to the number of applications for voter registration handled in past election years and recent years.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB081****(Question Serial No. 3199)**Head: (163) Registration and Electoral OfficeSubhead (No. & title):Programme: Electoral ServicesControlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

Please provide a breakdown of the number of electors who registered online and those who registered by submitting their voter registration forms by post, fax and email in the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit (Member Question No. 45)Reply:

The breakdown of the number of electors who registered by submitting their voter registration (VR) forms by means of mail, fax and email or in-person; or by applying through the GovHK website (the applicant must hold a valid Hongkong Post e-Cert (Personal) certificate and sign an application using the certificate) in the last three registration cycles from 2013 to 2015 is as follows:

Means of submitting VR Forms	Cycle		
	2013	2014	2015
By mail, fax, email or in-person (the Registration and Electoral Office does not have a breakdown of the number by the afore-mentioned means of submission)	56 587	77 237	262 515
GovHK website	34	24	118
Total	56 621	77 261	262 633

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB082

(Question Serial No. 2169)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please give a breakdown of the estimated number of staff, annual emoluments, housing allowance and allowances for the expenses on duty visits and entertainment pertaining to the following posts in the Registration and Electoral Office in the coming year.

Chief Electoral Officer
Senior Project Officer
Deputy Chief Electoral Officer
Senior Electoral Officer
Electoral Officer
Assistant Electoral Officer
Senior Clerical Officer
Clerical Officer
Senior Supplies Officer
Supplies Officer
Assistant Supplies Officer
Supplies Supervisor I
Principal Information Officer
Senior Information Officer
Head (Information Technology Management Unit)
Systems Manager
Analyst/Programmer I
Analyst/Programmer II

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung (Member Question No. 2025)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) has a total of 258 permanent posts and 1 supernumerary post as at 31 March 2016. This, together with the 6 time-limited posts to be created by the REO in 2016-17, will entail an estimated salary and allowance expenditure of around \$124 million. Details of the above-mentioned 265 posts are as follows:

Post	Number of posts (projected up to 31 March 2017)
Senior Principal Executive Officer	1
Principal Executive Officer	1
Chief Executive Officer	7
Senior Executive Officer	27
Executive Officer I	64
Executive Officer II	21
Senior Clerical Officer	1
Clerical Officer	24
Assistant Clerical Officer	78
Clerical Assistant	16
Office Assistant	2
Personal Secretary I	2
Personal Secretary II	2
Senior Systems Manager	1
Systems Manager	1
Analyst/Programmer I	2
Analyst/Programmer II	2
Senior Information Officer	1
Information Officer	1
Senior Supplies Officer	1
Supplies Officer	2
Assistant Supplies Officer	2
Supplies Supervisor I	1
Supplies Supervisor II	1
Chauffeur	1
Workman II	3
Total	265

2. The REO has no plan at this stage for duty visits or official entertainment in 2016-17.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1794)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

During 2016-17, the Registration and Electoral Office will continue to provide the Electoral Affairs Commission with administrative support in connection with its work, which includes: the conduct and supervision of the 2016 Legislative Council general election, the 2016 Election Committee subsector elections and the 2017 Chief Executive election. In this connection, would the Government please advise this Committee of the details and expenditure involved for such work?

Asked by: Hon James TIEN Pei-chun (Member Question No. 14)

Reply:

The breakdown of the provisions of the Registration and Electoral Office in 2016-17 for the preparation and conduct of the 2016 Legislative Council (LegCo) general election, the 2016 Election Committee subsector (ECSS) elections and the 2017 Chief Executive (CE) election is as follows:

For preparation and conduct of the election in 2016-17	2016 LegCo general election [#] (\$ million)	2016 ECSS elections (\$ million)	2017 CE election (\$ million)
(1) Staff cost	155	57	33
(2) Publicity	50	4	1
(3) Other expenses (including the costs for public consultation, hire of venue, honorarium for polling and counting staff, financial assistance for candidates (if applicable), transportation, postage, free mailing, printing, rental cost of temporary offices, etc.)	537	91	33
Total	742	152	67

[#] including the provision for the preparation and conduct of the 2016 Voter Registration Campaign

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB084

(Question Serial No. 1486)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

It is understandable that the Registration and Electoral Office will need a substantial provision for undertaking duties in several large-scale elections in the new financial year. It is also reasonable that, according to the analysis of financial and staffing provision, a total of 6 posts will have to be created in the year for undertaking election-related duties. Please advise whether the 6 posts responsible for duties in the 2016 Legislative Council election and the 2017 Chief Executive election are permanent posts or 2-year supernumerary posts.

Asked by: Hon NG Leung-sing (Member Question No. 5)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) will create 6 time-limited posts in 2016-17, including 5 Executive Officer I and 1 Executive Officer II, which are mainly deployed for the preparation and conduct of the 2016 Legislative Council general election, the 2016 Election Committee subsector elections and the 2017 Chief Executive election. All the 6 time-limited posts will be deleted after the REO has completed its various tasks in the election cycle from 2015 to 2017.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1593)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. On page 784, Volume I of the Budget, "the conduct of ... the related publicity measures to encourage eligible persons (including young persons in particular) to register as electors" was mentioned in matters requiring special attention. With reference to the work done in the past, please provide the following information: publicity programmes conducted through various media from 2011 to 2015, including names and details of such programmes, media/platforms selected, commencement and completion date, manpower involved, estimated costs and actual expenses.
2. Please also provide information on publicity programmes to be implemented or already conducted through various media in the 2016 election year, including names and details of such programmes, media/platforms selected, commencement and completion date, manpower involved, estimated costs and actual expenses.

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (Member Question No. 9)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office has all along made use of various channels to appeal to members of the public in different age groups to register as electors. The publicity measures include various media and platforms, such as television, radio, newspapers, websites, mobile applications for smartphone, public transport system, as well as different kinds of community publicity activities and materials, etc. The publicity measures and expenses for the 2011 to 2015 voter registration (VR) campaigns are as follows:

Measure \ Cycle	Publicity expenses for VR campaign (\$'000)				
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015 [#]
Publicity on television and radio	1,080	2,640	2,850	920	2,250
Newspapers, magazines, websites and mobile applications for smartphone	1,180	1,860	810	2,300	2,200
Public transport system	690	1,120	-	460	1,300
Employing VR Assistants and conducting various publicity activities in the community	5,630	6,130	750	1,300	6,950
Production and distribution of leaflets, posters, banners, appeal letters, souvenirs and miscellaneous items	1,780	2,070	460	120	4,290
Total	10,360	13,820	4,870	5,100	16,990

[#]Figures for the 2015 VR campaign represent estimated expenses.

2. During the 2016 VR cycle, the Government will continue to adopt diversified means to appeal to persons of all ages and different backgrounds in order to encourage eligible persons who have not yet registered as electors to make registration, remind electors to update their registration particulars in a timely manner while strengthening the public awareness and knowledge of VR. Publicity expenses on VR campaign in 2016 are estimated to be about \$17 million.

3. From 2011-12 to 2016-17, the establishment and operational expenses (including publicity expenses on VR campaign) in respect of VR and checking work are detailed below:

Year	Establishment*	Number of contract staff employed [@]	Expenditure on staff remuneration and related operational expenses
2011-12	78	190	\$52 million
2012-13	78	330	\$71 million
2013-14	86	46	\$40 million
2014-15	90	152	\$47 million
2015-16	98	about 500	\$109 million (revised estimate)
2016-17	95	about 500	\$113 million (estimate)

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

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

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3227)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. Please provide, by district, a breakdown of the total numbers of complaints about the elections received by the Registration and Electoral Office (REO), the relevant staff arrangements and expenditures incurred during the 2011 and 2015 District Council elections respectively.

2. Please provide, by district, a breakdown of the total numbers of complaints about the elections received by the REO during the 2011 and 2015 District Council elections respectively which required follow-up or referral to other departments.

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (Member Question No. 49)

Reply:

Under the establishment of the Registration and Electoral Office (REO), the Electoral Affairs Commission (EAC) Secretariat is responsible for assisting the EAC to review constituency boundaries for the Legislative Council and District Council elections, revise electoral guidelines, draw up election reports, handle election-related complaints, etc., in each election cycle. There were 31 and 35 staff (including civil servants and non-civil service contract staff) of the EAC Secretariat who handled the work related to all elections (including the Legislative Council general election, District Council ordinary election, Election Committee subsector elections, Chief Executive election, Rural ordinary election and any by-elections that may arise) during the peak periods in the two election cycles between 2011 and 2012, and between 2015 and 2017 respectively. As the operation of the EAC Secretariat is part of the regular work of the REO, the expenditure involved is included in the estimated operational expenses of the REO.

2. According to current arrangements, the EAC is responsible for handling election-related complaints and the EAC Secretariat provides the EAC with administrative support. During the complaints handling periods of the 2011 District Council ordinary election and the 2015 District Council ordinary election, a total of 7 962 and 8 824 complaints (including those directly received from the public by the Police and the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC)) were received respectively.

3. The EAC handles all complaints received in accordance with the established mechanism. If the complaints involve criminal offence, the EAC will refer them to the Police or ICAC for action. Of the aforementioned complaints, the numbers of cases followed up by the Police and ICAC are as follows:

Election	Police	ICAC
2011 District Council ordinary election	2 319	747
2015 District Council ordinary election	1 937	444

4. The EAC Secretariat does not maintain statistics on the complaints of the aforementioned elections by the districts concerned.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB087

(Question Serial No. 2323)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the 2015 District Council ordinary 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;
- (2) the specific details and timetable of, and the expenditure, resources and manpower for the enhancement of checking of electors in the current register in respect of their registered addresses in 2016-17; and
- (3) a breakdown of the reasons for the return of poll cards (no such person, not occupied, refusal of receipt, unclaimed, moved and no redirection arranged, incomplete address, no such address) and the number of poll cards returned by district and constituency:

District	Number of poll cards returned						
	No such person	Not occupied	Refusal of receipt	Unclaimed	Moved and no redirection arranged	Incomplete address	No such address

Asked by: Hon Charles Peter MOK (Member Question No. 203)

Reply:

Regarding the 2015 District Council (DC) ordinary election, the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) has issued poll cards or notices of uncontested nomination to about 3.69 million electors. As for the 2015 Tai Po DC San Fu Constituency by-election, the REO has issued poll cards to about 8 600 electors. The number of poll cards/notices returned relating to the above elections involved 52 906 electors and the breakdown by reason for return as indicated by the Hongkong Post is as follows (the REO does not have a breakdown by reason for return by district):

Reason for Return	Number
(a) No such person	27 734
(b) Moved and redirection service not arranged by addressee	16 495
(c) Incomplete address	436
(d) Not occupied	201
(e) Refusal of receipt	6 072
(f) No such address	776
(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))	1 192
Total	52 906

2. In the light of public concern over the accuracy of residential addresses recorded in the voter register 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 has continued to implement various checking measures 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.

3. In view of recent public concern about matters relating to VR, the Government conducted a public consultation on enhancement of the VR system in late 2015 and published the consultation report on 21 January 2016. Based on the outcome of the consultation, the REO will further strengthen verification of address information with other government departments in the 2016 VR cycle to enhance the accuracy of electors' registration particulars, which includes:

- (a) enhancing liaison with the Buildings Department to collect the latest list of buildings that are demolished or vacated pending demolition;

- (b) liaising with the Urban Renewal Authority to collect the information on buildings with acquisition and resident removal completed; and
- (c) implementing the collaborative arrangement with District Offices to identify buildings that will soon be demolished or are already vacated.

The number of electors covered by the checking measures of the REO in the 2016 VR cycle is estimated to be about 1.6 million.

4. The REO will allocate sufficient manpower and resources in 2016-17 to handle the large number of applications for VR and updating of particulars expected to be received before the 2016 Legislative Council general election, and to further enhance the checking work so as to enhance the accuracy and completeness of the VR records. The REO will continue to strengthen the publicity measures so as to encourage eligible persons to register as electors, remind the electors under checking to update or confirm their registered residential addresses with the REO before the deadline and encourage electors to use the Online Voter Information Enquiry System to verify their registration status and particulars. The above-mentioned work will be carried out by a team comprising 95 civil servants (including 9 time-limited civil service posts) and around 500 non-civil service contract staff. The expenditure on staff remuneration and the related operational expenses are estimated to be around \$113 million. The relevant work will continue to be carried out in the 2016 and 2017 VR cycles.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0045)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2016-17 under this programme, it was mentioned that checks on electors in the current register will be conducted in respect of their registered particulars, including cross-matching exercise with other government departments. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of:

- (a) the total number of electors whose registered particulars were checked; and the percentage of the electors checked against the total number of electors in Hong Kong in the year 2015-16;
- (b) the actual amount of provision that will be allocated to the checking exercise mentioned above in the year 2016-17; and
- (c) the manpower that will be involved in the checking exercise mentioned above in the year 2016-17; and whether the Government will allocate the manpower increased this year to conduct the checks.

Asked by: Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen (Member Question No. 6)

Reply:

In the light of public concern over the accuracy of residential addresses recorded in the voter register in recent years, the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) has stepped up publicity since the 2012 voter registration (VR) cycle to remind the public about the importance of providing true and accurate information for registration and updating their registration particulars, especially the principal residential addresses provided. Besides, the REO has continued to implement various checking measures, including the conduct of cross-matching exercise with other government departments on electors' registration particulars, 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 to be demolished.

2. The REO verified the registration particulars of about 1.6 million electors through the aforementioned measures in the 2015 VR cycle, representing about 46% of electors contained in the register.

3. In the 2016 VR cycle, the REO will continue with the checking work mentioned in paragraph 1 above. In view of recent public concern about matters relating to VR, the Government conducted a public consultation on enhancement of the VR system in late 2015 and published the consultation report on 21 January 2016. Based on the outcome of the consultation, the REO will further strengthen verification of address information with other government departments in the 2016 VR cycle to enhance the accuracy of electors' registration particulars, which includes:

- (a) enhancing liaison with the Buildings Department to collect the latest list of buildings that are demolished or vacated pending demolition;
- (b) liaising with the Urban Renewal Authority to collect the information on buildings with acquisition and resident removal completed; and
- (c) implementing the collaborative arrangement with District Offices to identify buildings that will soon be demolished or are already vacated.

4. The REO will allocate sufficient manpower and resources in 2016-17 to handle the large number of applications for VR and updating of particulars expected to be received before the 2016 Legislative Council general election, and to further enhance the checking work so as to enhance the accuracy and completeness of the VR records. The REO will continue to strengthen the publicity measures so as to encourage eligible persons to register as electors, remind the electors under checking to update or confirm their registered residential addresses with the REO before the deadline and encourage electors to use the Online Voter Information Enquiry System to verify their registration status and particulars. The above-mentioned work will be carried out by a team comprising 95 civil servants (including 9 time-limited civil service posts) and around 500 non-civil service contract staff. The expenditure on staff remuneration and the related operational expenses are estimated to be around \$113 million. The relevant work will continue to be carried out in the 2016 and 2017 VR cycles.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB089

(Question Serial No. 1467)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

What is the provision earmarked for the publicity of the 2016 Legislative Council general election? What are the details? Is there any special publicity campaign for the functional constituency election to promote deeper and proper understanding of such election by the public? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung (Member Question No. 26)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) has earmarked \$33 million in 2016-17 for the voter turnout publicity of the 2016 Legislative Council general election, with a view to encouraging electors to vote on the polling day, publicising the nomination period of the election, publicising electoral procedures, and advocating a clean and fair election. We will, in April this year, brief Members of the Legislative Council Panel on Constitutional Affairs the details of the voter turnout publicity campaigns.

2. Besides, the REO has earmarked \$17 million for the publicity of the 2016 Voter Registration Campaign to raise the public's awareness of voter registration and encourage eligible persons to register as geographical constituency and functional constituency electors. Regarding the publicity of registration in functional constituencies, the REO will issue letters appealing to eligible persons/bodies to register as electors, and send letters to call upon the relevant umbrella organisations to encourage their members who meet the eligibility criteria to register as electors. The REO will also place advertisements on the websites and publications of these umbrella organisations of functional constituencies to appeal to eligible persons/bodies to register as electors.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB090

(Question Serial No. 1768)

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

Question:

In 2016-17, 3 large-scale elections, including the Legislative Council general election, the Election Committee subsector elections and the Chief Executive election will be held in Hong Kong. In this connection,

- a. what are the estimated expenditures for these 3 elections respectively? Please list the details of the relevant expenditures;
- b. how do the estimated expenditures for these 3 elections compare to the expenditures incurred for the 2012 Legislative Council general election, the 2011 Election Committee subsector elections and the Fourth Term Chief Executive election? What are the reasons for such differences?

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

Reply:

The breakdown of the provision of the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) in 2016-17 for the preparation and conduct of the 2016 Legislative Council (LegCo) general election, the 2016 Election Committee subsector (ECSS) elections and the 2017 Chief Executive (CE) election is as follows:

For preparation and conduct of the election in 2016-17	2016 LegCo general election # (\$ million)	2016 ECSS elections (\$ million)	2017 CE election (\$ million)
(1) Staff cost	155	57	33
(2) Publicity	50	4	1
(3) Other expenses (including the costs for public consultation, hire of venue, honorarium for polling and counting staff, financial assistance for candidates (if applicable), transportation, postage, free mailing, printing, rental cost of temporary offices, etc.)	537	91	33
Total	742	152	67

including the provision for the preparation and conduct of the 2016 Voter Registration Campaign

2. The actual expenditure for the preparation and conduct of the 2012 LegCo general election, the 2011 ECSS elections and the 2012 CE election are \$503 million, \$88 million and \$28 million respectively.

3. To cater for various electoral work required of the coming public elections to be conducted in the election cycle from 2015 to 2017, the REO needs to rent temporary offices and increase the number of staff in the light of the experience gained in the last election cycle. Besides, the budgeted provision for other operating expenses relating to the coming elections is higher than the actual expenses incurred for relevant elections in the last election cycle due to actual operational needs, pay rise, inflation, etc. Hence, the overall estimated provision for the preparation and conduct of the above 3 elections in 2016-17 is higher than the respective actual expenditure incurred in the last election cycle.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB091

(Question Serial No. 2972)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

What is the expenditure for the Legislative Council New Territories East Geographical Constituency by-election held on 28 February 2016? Please provide a breakdown of the main expenditure items.

Asked by: Hon Alvin YEUNG Ngok-kiu (Member Question No. 29)

Reply:

The estimated overall provision for the Legislative Council New Territories East Geographical Constituency by-election held on 28 February 2016 is about \$73 million with breakdown as below :

	\$ million
(1) Staff cost	8
(2) Publicity	1
(3) Other expenses (including the costs for hire of venue, honorarium for polling and counting staff, financial assistance for candidates, transportation, postage, free mailing, printing, etc.)	64
Total	73

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 7198)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Financial Secretary mentioned in paragraph 148 of the 2015-16 Budget Speech that he had “asked all policy bureaux... to achieve more efficient use of resources through re-engineering and re-prioritising” and “launched the ‘0-1-1’ envelope savings programme to reduce operating expenditure by a total of two per cent over the next three financial years. Resources saved will be re-allocated for new services.”

In this year’s budget, he also said that to contain expenditure, he had required policy bureaux to achieve more efficient use of resources through re-engineering, phasing out outdated procedures and re-prioritising. In this connection:

Please advise this Committee of the containment of expenditure in 2015-16 by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau, the procedures re-engineered and phased out, the implementation of the “0-1-1” envelope savings programme in 2016-17 and 2017-18, the services to be affected by the programme and details of expenditure to be involved.

Asked by: Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing (Member Question No. 44)

Reply:

To meet the target of the “0-1-1” envelope savings programme, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau will continue to make efforts to save daily operating expenditure through re-engineering and re-prioritising in 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18. At the same time, additional resources have been allocated to the Bureau starting from 2016-17 for taking forward new service initiatives committed by the Chief Executive in the Policy Address, including setting up more liaison units to provide better operational support to the Mainland Offices; setting up an Immigration Division under the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Shanghai to provide better assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress; and deploying dedicated staff to the Beijing Office to handle cultural matters with a view to enhancing cultural exchange. After offsetting, the Bureau’s total estimate of recurrent expenditure for 2016-17 will have a net increase of 3.3%, i.e. around \$19.29 million over the revised estimate of 2015-16.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB093

(Question Serial No. 7199)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office
(3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

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

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

Question:

1. What is the amount of provision for the salary of the Director of Bureau, Deputy Director of Bureau and Political Assistant to Director of Bureau in 2016-17?
2. What is the number of cases in which information and other appropriate support were provided to Hong Kong residents in the Mainland and Taiwan in 2015 and 2016 respectively? What does "other appropriate support" refer to?
3. What is the number of cases in which practical assistance was provided to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland? What does "practical assistance" refer to?
4. Regarding the net increase of 12 posts under Programme (3), please list the titles and job nature for each of these posts. What is the estimated expenditure for this in 2016-17?

Asked by: Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing (Member Question No. 3)

Reply:

For budgetary purposes, the provisions for the salary in respect of the positions of Director of Bureau, Deputy Director of Bureau and Political Assistant to Director of Bureau in the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau for 2016-17 are \$3.58 million, \$2.33 million and \$1.97 million respectively.

2. On supporting Hong Kong residents in the Mainland/Taiwan, the Mainland and Taiwan Offices collect practical information such as medical care, education, legal services etc., and disseminates such information through production of information booklets and the offices' website to assist Hong Kong residents to adapt to living in the area. As at 2015,

the Mainland and Taiwan Offices have published booklets on living in Beijing, Tianjin, Shenyang, Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu, Chongqing, Xi'an, Hangzhou, Guiyang, Wuhan and Taiwan. In 2016, the Mainland and Taiwan Offices will continue to disseminate practical information to Hong Kong residents in the Mainland and Taiwan through producing information booklets and updating the offices' websites.

3. The Mainland and Taiwan Offices also maintain close liaison with organisations of Hong Kong residents, business associations, enterprises and student groups to better understand the situations of Hong Kong residents working, studying and living in Mainland/Taiwan, and to provide appropriate assistance when necessary. Examples of such assistance include organising events for Hong Kong residents there to share their daily lives, holding career talks and providing information on further study and job opportunities in Hong Kong to address the needs of Hong Kong students, etc. In 2016, the Mainland and Taiwan Offices will continue to take forward the above work.

4. Besides, the Mainland Offices will relay the enquiries, opinions and requests of Hong Kong residents in the Mainland to the Mainland authorities for following up. The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (ETO) in Guangdong has also commissioned an organisation to provide free legal advisory service to Hong Kong residents in need through a telephone hotline or by arranging Mainland duty lawyers to meet the assistance seekers to provide preliminary opinions on Mainland-related legal matters. In 2015, a total of 2 251 requests for free legal advisory service were received.

5. Immigration Divisions are currently set up under the Beijing Office and the ETOs in Guangdong and Chengdu to provide practical assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. In 2015, the Immigration Divisions received in total 407 requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland and had rendered practical assistance to them in the light of the actual circumstances, including:

- (a) issuing Entry Permits to Hong Kong residents who have 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 are involved in a serious accident or become a casualty;
- (c) liaising, on request from the parties concerned, with their relatives and friends in Hong Kong for rendering financial assistance to the parties concerned;
- (d) upon receipt of notification from the Mainland law enforcement agencies regarding the arrest or detention of Hong Kong residents, passing information to relatives of the parties concerned in Hong Kong;
- (e) inquiring, on request from the relatives and friends of the parties concerned, about the situation of the case involving Hong Kong residents being arrested or detained by the Mainland law enforcement agencies;
- (f) providing information on lawyers in the Mainland to the parties concerned or their relatives and friends on request; and

(g) providing any other relevant advisory services.

6. To enhance the service of the Mainland Offices, we will create a total of 13 new posts, to be partly offset by the deletion of 1 post in 2016-17. As a result, there will be a net increase of 12 posts. Details of the new posts are as follows:

- (a) 6 posts at the new liaison units to be set up. We plan to set up a liaison unit each in Changsha City of Hunan Province and Zhengzhou City of Henan Province under the Wuhan ETO and another one in Tianjin Municipality under the Beijing Office (BJO) in 2016-17. The setting up of these 3 liaison units involves creation of 6 posts for Hong Kong-based staff, namely 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 2 Principal Trade Officer, 1 Trade Officer and 2 Senior Executive Officer posts;
- (b) 5 posts at the new Immigration Division to be set up under the Shanghai ETO, namely 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer and 3 Immigration Officer posts;
- (c) 1 Senior Executive Officer post at the Shenzhen Liaison Unit; and
- (d) 1 Chief Curator post at the BJO to enhance cultural exchange.

The above creation of 13 new posts will be partly offset by the deletion of 1 time-limited Executive Officer I post in 2016-17; the post was created for the setting up of the Wuhan ETO. Therefore, there will be a net increase of 12 posts in 2016-17. The estimated expenditure on salaries and allowances for the above 13 posts in 2016-17 will be \$12.65 million.

7. Staff of the liaison units mentioned in paragraph 6(a) and (c) above will assist the Wuhan ETO, the BJO and the Guangdong ETO in liaising with a province/municipality under the coverage of the respective Offices, and their main functions include strengthening liaison and communication with the relevant local government authorities, enhancing economic and trade relations, fostering co-operation between Hong Kong and the relevant provinces/municipalities and promoting Hong Kong, and supporting Hong Kong residents and enterprises in the service area, etc. Staff of the Immigration Division mentioned in paragraph 6(b) above will mainly be responsible for rendering assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in provinces/municipalities under the coverage of Shanghai ETO. The staff of the BJO mentioned in paragraphs 6(d) above will be responsible for planning, co-ordinating and implementing cultural programmes, enhancing liaison with the Mainland in promoting culture and arts and fostering cultural exchange.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB094

(Question Serial No. 7200)

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

Question:

Please give a breakdown of the estimated provisions for the salary in respect of the Director of Bureau, Deputy Director of Bureau and Political Assistant to Director of Bureau in 2016-17.

Asked by: Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing (Member Question No. 33)

Reply:

For budgetary purposes, the provisions for the salary in respect of the positions of Director of Bureau, Deputy Director of Bureau and Political Assistant to Director of Bureau in the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau for 2016-17 are \$3.58 million, \$2.33 million and \$1.97 million respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB095

(Question Serial No. 7201)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

- (1) Please list out the expenditure items of, organisations responsible for and target groups of the activities for promoting human rights in 2015-16 as well as the estimated provision earmarked for activities for promoting human rights in 2016-17 and the main areas of activities.
- (2) Are there any officers under the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau responsible for looking into the work and budget of other government departments for the promotion of human rights through channels like school education, community activities and other publicity activities? If yes, what are the ranks of the responsible officers?
- (3) What is the total expenditure of various government departments on the promotion of human rights in 2016-17?

Asked by: Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing (Member Question No. 34)

Reply:

The Government's work on promoting human rights spans across a number of policy bureaux, notably the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB), the Education Bureau (EDB), the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) and the Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB).

2. The CMAB has been promoting the community's awareness of, respect for and protection of human rights through the allocations to the Programmes "Rights of the Individual" and "Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data". Under these 2 Programmes, the revised estimates of expenditure for 2015-16, and the estimated expenditure for 2016-17 are \$206.6 million and \$204.4 million respectively.

3. The CMAB launched a series of activities for promoting human rights in 2015-16, as set out at the Annex.
4. In 2016-17, the CMAB will continue its work on promoting the rights of the individual, equal opportunities irrespective of gender, family status and race and children's rights, as well as eliminating discrimination against people with different sexual orientations and transgenders. The Equal Opportunities Commission and the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data will continue to carry out their publicity, promotion and education programmes and law enforcement work for areas within their statutory framework.
5. The CMAB works closely with other government bureaux and departments for the promotion of human rights. For example, the EDB has been facilitating the promotion of human rights education in schools through measures such as embedding related learning elements in the curriculum, organising teacher professional development programmes, and developing learning and teaching resources. The HAB has been promoting civic education (including human rights) outside schools, in collaboration with the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education (CPCE), through means such as providing sponsorship to community organisations to organise civic education activities and producing publicity programmes and materials. In tandem, the LWB organises territory-wide public education activities and provides sponsorship to the 18 District Councils and community organisations to organise publicity programmes in the community for promoting the spirit and core values enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as well as the message of building a barrier-free and inclusive society.
6. Regarding the expenditure to be incurred in 2016-17, after consulting relevant bureaux, the information provided by them is summarised as follows. Expenditure related to human rights education constitutes an integral part of the EDB's expenditures, and a separate breakdown of the expenditure for human rights education is not available from the EDB. Similarly, activities of the CPCE may promote multiple core values at the same time, and all expenditures on promotional activities constitute an integral part of the CPCE's expenditure; a separate breakdown of expenditure on activities promoting a specific value or civic concept is not available from the HAB. LWB's expenditure on the aforementioned public education activities for 2016-17 is about \$13.5 million.

Activities on promoting rights of the individual in 2015-16 under the CMAB

Activities	Responsible organisation(s)	Target
Forums, e.g., Human Rights Forum and Children's Rights Forum	CMAB	Interested non-government organisations mainly, also open to interested members of the public
Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme	Sponsored organisations	Members of the public
Various publicity measures such as Announcement in the Public Interest (API) and advertisement to promote equal opportunities for sexual minorities	CMAB	Members of the public
Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme	Sponsored organisations	Members of the public, in particular children
Co-operate with the Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) to produce a television (TV) programme on promotion of children's rights	CMAB and RTHK	Members of the public, in particular children
Co-operate with the RTHK to produce a TV series on integration with ethnic minorities	CMAB and RTHK	Members of the public
Various publicity measures such as API and advertisement to promote the Code on Access to Information	CMAB	Members of the public

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 7207)

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

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

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Financial Secretary mentioned in paragraph 148 of the 2015-16 Budget Speech that he had "asked all policy bureaux... to achieve more efficient use of resources through re-engineering and re-prioritising" and "launched the '0-1-1' envelope savings programme to reduce operating expenditure by a total of two per cent over the next three financial years. Resources saved will be re-allocated for new services." Please inform this Committee of the implementation of the "0-1-1" envelope savings programme by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau in 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18, the services affected/to be affected by the programme and details of the expenditure involved/to be involved.

Asked by: Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing (Member Question No. 50)

Reply:

To meet the target of the "0-1-1" envelope savings programme, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau will continue to make efforts to save daily operating expenditure through re-engineering and re-prioritising in 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18. At the same time, additional resources have been allocated to the Bureau starting from 2016-17 for taking forward new service initiatives committed by the Chief Executive in the Policy Address, including setting up more liaison units to provide better operational support to the Mainland Offices; setting up an Immigration Division under the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Shanghai to provide better assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress; and deploying dedicated staff to the Beijing Office to handle cultural matters with a view to enhancing cultural exchange. After offsetting, the Bureau's total estimate of recurrent expenditure for 2016-17 will have a net increase of 3.3%, i.e. around \$19.29 million over the revised estimate of 2015-16.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 4065)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

It is mentioned under Brief Description of the Estimates that the Bureau will “advise bureaux and departments on matters relating to the implementation of the Basic Law, and promote public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law”. In this connection, will the Government advise this Committee of: the details regarding the provision of advice to various bureaux and departments by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau over the past 2 years, including the policy bureaux and departments involved and the matters requiring the provision of advice; the expenditure/estimated expenditure for and staff establishment involved in taking forward the above initiative in 2014-15 and 2015-16 and for 2016-17; the specific work plan on promoting public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law mentioned above for the coming year? Please also advise on the content, expected results of, estimated expenditure for and manpower involved in each promotional activity.

Asked by: Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee (Member Question No. 65)

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) has spent/will set aside about \$16 million in 2014-15, 2015-16 and for the coming 2016-17 for organising various promotional activities via different means to enhance public awareness and understanding of “one country, two systems” and the Basic Law.

2. The strategies of Basic Law promotion include:
 - (a) using electronic media, such as Announcements in the Public Interest on television and radio, 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, quiz competitions and debate competitions, in order to reach a wider audience through their extensive community networks.

The above work is undertaken by a team in the CMAB which is headed by a Principal Assistant Secretary and supported by 4 officers.

3. Besides, the relevant bureaux/departments will also continue to promote the Basic Law in various areas through civic education, school education and training for civil servants. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government has set up the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (BLPSC) to provide views and steer on the overall strategy and key aspects for promoting the Basic Law. The CMAB provides secretariat support to the BLPSC. Under the steer of the BLPSC and its five working groups (namely Local Community; Teachers and Students; Civil Servants; Industrial, Commercial and Professional Sectors; and Overseas Community Working Groups), relevant bureaux/departments (i.e. the Home Affairs Bureau, Education Bureau, Civil Service Bureau, Trade and Industry Department and Information Services Department) assist in planning and organising various activities in their respective sectors to promote the Basic Law.

4. As 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 and details regarding the provision of advice are not available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB098

(Question Serial No. 4169)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The number of complaints estimated to be received in 2016 (506 cases) is higher than the actual number in 2015 (460 cases). Have additional resources and manpower been provided to cope with the increased workload? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Prof Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long (Member Question No. 70)

Reply:

As advised by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), there are currently 25 staff principally responsible for handling complaints. Besides, the EOC will deploy manpower to undertake investigation work in the light of actual need, and will continue to study how to shorten the time required for investigation.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB099

(Question Serial No. 4170)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The number of complaints estimated to be handled in 2016 (706 cases) is higher than the actual number in 2015 (649 cases). Have additional resources and manpower been provided to cope with the increased workload? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Prof Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long (Member Question No. 71)

Reply:

As advised by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), there are currently 25 staff principally responsible for handling complaints. Besides, the EOC will deploy manpower to undertake investigation work in the light of actual need, and will continue to study how to shorten the time required for investigation.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 4171)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention, the Bureau states that it will promote equal opportunities in education and employment for ethnic minorities. What is its specific plan? What are the resources and manpower involved?

Asked by: Prof Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long (Member Question No. 72)

Reply:

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) enforces the Race Discrimination Ordinance (RDO) and implements outreach, publicity and public education programmes to promote public awareness of the RDO and racial equality. As advised by the EOC, the estimate for its expenditures on publicity and public education (including manpower expenditure) for 2016-17 is \$23.10 million, of which about 25% is used for the publicity and public education programmes on racial discrimination. The EOC has also set up the Ethnic Minorities Unit to promote equal opportunities in education and employment for ethnic minorities through advocacy, training and promotional efforts. The Unit comprises 7 full-time staff, including a Senior Equal Opportunities Officer, a Training Officer, 2 Equal Opportunities Officers mainly responsible for community outreach, 2 Assistant Equal Opportunities Officers and an Assistant Information Technology Officer.

2. In promoting equal opportunities in education for ethnic minorities, the EOC will deliberate and gauge the views of stakeholders on support measures for non-Chinese speaking students through focus group meetings, relay issues identified to the Education Bureau and suggest follow-up actions. Besides, to promote fairness in admission of students and racial integration, the EOC will produce a promotional pamphlet on the application of the RDO in school environment with particular emphasis on language policy and integrated learning environment. It will also provide training to teachers and school administrators to ensure that they understand the content of the pamphlet as well as the principles of application.

3. In promoting equal opportunities in employment for ethnic minorities, the EOC will enhance liaison with the Labour Department, the Employees Retraining Board and the Vocational Training Council in order to provide support and views in their planning of employment services and vocational training courses with a view to addressing the limitation of ethnic minorities in seeking and equipping themselves for employment. On the other hand, to further promote equal opportunities in employment for ethnic minorities, the Ethnic Minorities Unit will launch a programme to promote diversity in the workplace, encouraging large local enterprises to employ ethnic minorities as an example to inspire small and medium enterprises to consider engaging ethnic minority employees as well.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 4230)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the studies (if any) conducted by the Equal Opportunities Commission for the purpose of formulating and assessing policies, please provide information in the following format.

- (a) Using the table below, please provide information about studies on public policy and strategic public policy for which funds had been allocated in the past 2 financial years (2014-15 and 2015-16):

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/ tender/ others (please specify))	Title, content and objectives of project	Consultancy fee (\$)	Start date	Progress of study (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Follow-up actions taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any)	For completed projects, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?

- (b) Are there any projects for which funds have been reserved for conducting internal studies this year (2016-17)? If yes, please provide the following information:

Title, content and objectives of project	Start date	Progress of study (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Follow-up actions taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any)	For projects that are expected to be completed this year, is there any plan to make them public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?

- (c) Are there any projects for which funds have been reserved for conducting consultancy studies this year (2016-17)? If yes, please provide the following information:

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/ tender/ others (please specify))	Title, content and objectives of project	Consultancy fee (\$)	Start date	Progress of study (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Follow-up actions taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any)	For projects that are expected to be completed this year, is there any plan to make them public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?

- (d) What are the criteria for considering the award of consultancy projects to the research institutions concerned?

Asked by: Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan (Member Question No. 95)

Reply:

- (a) According to information provided by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), the relevant information of the studies on public policy and strategic public policy it funded in 2014-15 and 2015-16 is set out as follows:

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/ tender/ others (please specify))	Title, content and objectives of the project	Consultancy fee (\$)	Start date	Progress of study (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Follow ups taken by the EOC on the study reports and their progress (if any)	If completed, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
Gender Research Centre, Hong Kong Institute of Asia Pacific Studies of The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Selection of quotation based on the criteria at paragraph (d) below	Feasibility Study of Legislating against Discrimination on the Grounds of Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Intersex Status To solicit views from stakeholders on the feasibility of legislation to outlaw discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status.	648,609.20	March 2014	Completed	Not applicable	The consultancy study report has been uploaded onto the website of the EOC for public perusal; the EOC also held a press conference on 26 January 2016

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/ tender/ others (please specify))	Title, content and objectives of the project	Consultancy fee (\$)	Start date	Progress of study (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Follow ups taken by the EOC on the study reports and their progress (if any)	If completed, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
Consumer Search Hong Kong Limited	Selection of quotation based on the criteria at paragraph (d) below	Exploratory Study on Age Discrimination in Employment To provide an overview on age discrimination in the Hong Kong workplace and probe for the feasibility of legislation on age discrimination.	280,000	June 2014	Completed	Not applicable	The consultancy study report has been uploaded onto the website of the EOC for public perusal; the EOC also held a press conference on 7 January 2016
Mercado Solutions Associates Ltd.	Selection of quotation based on the criteria at paragraph (d) below	Study on Discrimination against Ethnic Minorities in the Provision of Goods, Services and Facilities, and Disposal and Management of Premises To provide an overview on discrimination against ethnic minority groups in seeking services and securing an accommodation in Hong Kong.	422,000	December 2014	In progress	The consultant has been making regular reports to members of the EOC on the progress	Not applicable
Mercado Solutions Associates Ltd.	Selection of quotation based on the criteria at paragraph (d) below	Study on Pregnancy Discrimination in Small and Medium Enterprises	435,000	March 2015	In progress	The consultant has been making regular reports to members of the EOC on the progress	Not applicable

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/ tender/ others (please specify))	Title, content and objectives of the project	Consultancy fee (\$)	Start date	Progress of study (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Follow ups taken by the EOC on the study reports and their progress (if any)	If completed, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
Mercado Solutions Associates Ltd.	Selection of quotation based on the criteria at paragraph (d) below	Equal Opportunities Awareness Survey 2015	220,000	May 2015	In progress	The consultant has been making regular reports to members of the EOC on the progress	Not applicable

(b) Projects for which funds have been reserved by the EOC for conducting internal studies in 2016-17:

Title, content and objectives	Start date	Progress of study (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Follow-up actions taken by the EOC on the study reports and their progress (if any)	For projects that are expected to be completed this year, is there any plan to make them public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
Questionnaire survey on sexual harassment, including questionnaire survey for non-government organisations in social welfare sector	Expected to start in Q2 2016 to Q1 2017 The start date is to be decided at the meeting of the Working Group on Anti-Sexual Harassment Campaign of the EOC.	To be confirmed	Not applicable	All study reports will be made public through press conference; the reports and press releases will be uploaded onto EOC's website.

(c) Projects for which funds have been reserved by the EOC for conducting consultancy studies in 2016-17:

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/ tender/ others (please specify))	Title, content and objectives of project	Consultancy fee (\$)	Start date	Progress of study (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Follow-up actions taken by the EOC on the study reports and their progress (if any)	For projects that are expected to be completed this year, is there any plan to make them public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
Not applicable (engagement of consultant is under preparation)	Selection of quotation based on the criteria at paragraph (d) below	Sexual harassment experienced by new arrivals from the Mainland and their awareness of sexual harassment prevention	To be confirmed	To be confirmed	Not applicable	--	All study reports completed will be made public through press conference; reports and press releases will be uploaded onto EOC's website.

(d) As advised by the EOC, it awarded the consultancy projects to the research institutions concerned after considering the following criteria:

- (i) the research institution's background and relevant past experience on the research topic;
- (ii) the research team's understanding and knowledge of the research topic; and
- (iii) whether the quoted consultancy fee is reasonable.

Proposals of research institutions received through open invitation will be assessed by a selection board formed by members of the EOC which will then recommend a suitable research institution for the consultancy project.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB102

(Question Serial No. 4231)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the records management work of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau and the department under the Bureau's purview over the past year –

1. Please provide information on the number and rank of officers designated to perform such work. If there is no officer designated for such work, please provide information on the number of officers and the hours of work involved in records management duties, and the other duties they have to undertake in addition to records management;
2. Please list in the table below information on programme and administrative records which have been closed pending transfer to the Government Records Service (GRS) for appraisal –

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents	Reasons for records yet to be transferred

3. Please list in the table below information on programme and administrative records which have been transferred to GRS for retention –

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Years that records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents

4. Please list in the table below information on records which have been approved for destruction by GRS –

Category of records	Name of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Years that records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents

Asked by: Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan (Member Question No. 96)

Reply:

Regarding records management work in the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) and the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) under the CMAB's purview over the past year, the relevant information is provided below –

1. A Senior Executive Officer in each of CMAB and REO performs the role of Departmental Records Manager (DRM) as part of the officer's duties, to establish and implement a departmental records management programme in accordance with the guidelines of the Government Records Service (GRS). Staff of individual teams/offices are responsible for the day-to-day records management activities of their own teams/offices.

Since the work is performed as part of the daily duties of the above officers, we do not record the number of hours of work involved in records management.

2. CMAB and REO do not have programme and administrative records which were closed pending transfer to the GRS for appraisal in the past year.
3. Information on records which were transferred to GRS for permanent retention in the past year is provided below –

Name of Bureau/ Department	Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Years that the records were transferred to GRS	Are they confidential documents
REO	Programme records	1955-1983	34 records in 1.01 linear metres	2015	No

4. Information on records which were approved for destruction by GRS in the past year is provided below –

Name of Bureau/ Department	Category of records	Name of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Years that the records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they Confidential documents
CMAB	Administrative records	Committees, Councils, Commissions; Circulars and Directives; Personnel records	1978-2013	41 records in 0.687 linear metre	Direct destruction, no need to transfer to GRS	3 years/ until the circulars and directives have been super-ceded or become outdated/ 12 months after the employees have left service	No
REO	Programme records	Register of Electors for Geographical Constituencies and Functional Constituencies; Voter Registration Forms for Geographical Constituencies; Electoral Information Centre; Election Committee (Updating of guest lists); Voter Registration (routine); Register of Electors for Geographical Constituencies and Functional Constituencies / Election Committee Subsectors; Voter	1999-2015	805 538 records in 315.16 linear metres	Direct destruction, no need to transfer to GRS	6 months to 3 years after action completed	No

Name of Bureau/ Department	Category of records	Name of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Years that the records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they Confidential documents
		Registration Forms for Functional Constituencies; Application forms relating to polling and counting staff for elections; Electoral forms and Documents of Ordinary Elections, General Elections and by-elections					
	Administrative records	Complaints; Performance and Appraisal; Information Services; Circulars and Directives; Reports and Statistics; Equipment, Supplies and Services; Printing; Budgets; Hours of Work and Overtime; Training and development; Information Technology and Computer Systems; Information Management and Records Management; Appointments and Posting; Associations and Clubs; Charity; Communication	1993-2013	252 records in 10.71 linear metres	Direct destruction, no need to transfer to GRS	3 months to 7 years after action completed	Some are confidential documents

Name of Bureau/ Department	Category of records	Name of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Years that the records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they Confidential documents
		Systems; Community Health And Safety; Conferences And Seminars; Information Services – Books and Publications; Inventions, Patents And Copyright; Management Services; Office Services; Transportation					

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 4232)

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

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

Programme: Not specified

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. Regarding the expenses on entertainment and gifts of your bureau and the department under its purview in 2014-15 and 2015-16, please provide details using the table below:

Bureau/ branch/ department and year	Estimated expenses on entertainment and gifts in the year	Actual expenses on entertainment and gifts in the year	Expenditure limit on entertainment expenses (including beverages) per head for the year	Expenditure limit on gift expenses per guest for the year	Number of receptions held and total number of guests entertained in the year

2. Regarding the expenses on entertainment and gifts of your bureau and the department under its purview in 2015-16, please provide details using the table below:

Bureau/ branch/ department	Date of reception (day/ month/ year)	Departments/ organisations and titles of the guests entertained (grouped by department/ organisation and indicating the number of guests)	Food expenses incurred in the reception	Beverage expenses incurred in the reception	Gift expenses incurred in the reception	Venue of the reception (department office/ restaurant in government facilities/ private restaurant/ others (please specify))

3. Please provide the estimated expenses on entertainment and gifts for 2016-17 using the table below:

Bureau/ branch/department	Estimated provision for expenses on entertainment and gifts	Expenditure limit on entertainment expenses per guest	Expenditure limit on gift expenses per guest

Asked by: Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan (Member Question No. 97)

Reply:

As a general rule, all politically appointed officials and civil servants should observe the same principles in the provision of official meals. They are required to exercise prudent judgement and economy in order to avoid any public perception of extravagance and act in accordance with the relevant regulations and administrative guidelines. According to the existing guidelines, the expenditure limits on entertainment in the form of official meals should not exceed \$450 per person for lunch or \$600 per person for dinner, inclusive of all expenses incurred on food and beverages consumed on the occasion, service charges and tips. Official entertainment provided by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) and the Registration and Electoral Office (REO), which is under the purview of CMAB, is also subject to the same principles and guidelines. In 2014-15 and 2015-16 (as at 29 February 2016), the expenses under the Departmental Entertainment Vote for local entertainment incurred by CMAB are \$109,000 and \$133,000 respectively, while the estimated expenditure for 2016-17 is \$143,000. As for REO, no expenses on official entertainment have been incurred in 2014-15, the expenses on official entertainment in 2015-16 (as at 29 February 2016) is \$2,300 and the Office has not earmarked any provision for such purpose in 2016-17.

2. In line with the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government's green policy, public officers have as far as possible refrained from bestowing gifts/souvenirs to others during the conduct of official activities. According to the existing guidelines, where bestowal of gifts/souvenirs is necessary or unavoidable due to operational, protocol or other reasons, the gift/souvenir items should not be lavish or extravagant and the number should be kept to a minimum. Also, the exchange of gifts/souvenirs should only be made on an organisation-to-organisation basis. CMAB and REO do not specifically maintain separate accounts for the expenses on the procurement of gifts and souvenirs, nor do they maintain a separate breakdown.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 4233)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office
(3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices
(4) Rights of the Individual

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please provide the details of the visits outside Hong Kong made by the Secretary and Under Secretary in the past year, and list, by date, the following for each trip: (a) objective, place of visit; (b) titles of the local officials met; (c) number and titles of the Hong Kong officers joining the visit; (d) duration of trip (days); and (e) total expenditure incurred as well as respective expenses on (i) transport (please list flight ticket expenditure and local transportation expenses separately); (ii) accommodation; (iii) meals; (iv) banquets or entertainment; and (v) gifts.

Date	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(v)

Asked by: Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan (Member Question No. 99)

Reply:

The relevant summary information on official duty visits outside Hong Kong made by the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs and Under Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs in 2015-16 is provided below –

Date of visits (Number of visits)	Place of visits	Departments/ organisations visited	No. of officers in Director of Bureau's Office joining the visits	Objectives of visits	Hotel accommo- dation expendi- ture ^{Note1}	Flight/ train/ vessel ticket expendi- ture ^{Note2}	Other expenses ^{Note3}	Total expenditure
					(\$ (A))	(\$ (B))	(\$ (C))	(\$ (A)+(B)+(C))
2015-16 (17)	Mainland (Wuhan, Shanghai, Shenyang, Dalian, Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Chonghua, Beijing, Tianjin, Changsha, Zhengzhou, Zhuhai, Xi'an, Fuzhou) and Macao, Taoyuan, Taipei	Central ministries and departments of local governments	0-4 officers per duty visit	● promoting exchanges and co-operation with the Mainland, Macao and Taiwan	40,550	148,110	47,040	235,700

Notes:

- (1) The arrangement of hotel accommodation was provided to officers concerned in accordance with the relevant Civil Service Regulations and guidelines.
- (2) Proper class of air passages was provided to officers concerned in accordance with the relevant Civil Service Regulations which take into account ranking of their offices, flying time, flight schedule and details.
- (3) Other expenses include subsistence allowance for duty outside Hong Kong and local transportation expenses, but exclude the expenditure which was sponsored by the hosting government (if any).

2. All politically appointed officials and civil servants will act in accordance with the relevant regulations and administrative guidelines in arranging for the provision of official meals. Official entertainment provided by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) is also subject to the same regulations and guidelines. We do not maintain separate accounts for official entertainment expenses incurred by the Director of Bureau and Deputy Director of Bureau during their duty visits outside Hong Kong.

3. In line with the Government's green policy, public officers should as far as possible refrain from bestowing gifts/souvenirs to others during the conduct of official activities. CMAB is also subject to this policy. According to the existing guidelines, where bestowal of gifts/souvenirs is unavoidable due to operational or protocol reasons, the gift/souvenir items should not be lavish and the number should be kept to a minimum. Also, the exchange of gifts/souvenirs should only be made on an organisation-to-organisation basis. CMAB do not maintain separate accounts for the expenses on the procurement of gifts and souvenirs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB105

(Question Serial No. 4234)

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

Question:

Please provide the details of the meetings, visits or exchanges held between departments under the Bureau with the relevant Mainland authorities in the past year, and list, by date, the following for each trip:

- (a) objective, place of visit;
- (b) titles of the Mainland officials met;
- (c) number and titles of the participating officers from Hong Kong;
- (d) number of days of the trip;
- (e) total expenditure incurred;
- (f) whether the trip was announced before departure; if not, what are the reasons for the confidentiality;
- (g) whether minutes of the meeting were filed; if not, what are the reasons; and
- (h) whether agreement was reached; if so, what are the contents and implementation progress;
- (i) transport (please list flight tickets and local transport at destinations separately);
- (ii) accommodation;
- (iii) meals;
- (iv) banquets or entertainment; and
- (v) expenses on gifts.

Date	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(v)

Asked by: Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan (Member Question No. 100)

Reply:

A total of 34 official duty visits to the Mainland, Macao and Taiwan have been undertaken by officers of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) in 2015-16, the relevant information is provided below –

Content/objective	Number of officers	Expenditure (\$)^{Note}
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• promoting regional co-operation with the Mainland in places including Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin, Hubei, Hunan, Henan, Liaoning, Guangdong, Fujian, etc.• enhancing co-operation and exchanges with Macao and Taiwan• arranging Mainland officials to exchange views on constitutional development with Legislative Council Members	1-11 officers per visit	374,510

The above duty visits lasted for 1 to 6 days per trip, joined by officers of different ranks and led by a senior officer or directorate officer. The Registration and Electoral Office under the CMAB's purview did not undertake any official duty visit in 2015-16.

Note:

- (1) The above expenditure includes expenditure on hotel accommodation and flight tickets, but excludes–
 - (a) overseas subsistence allowance provided to officers concerned, expenses on communication, etc.; and
 - (b) the expenditure which was sponsored by the hosting government.
 - (2) The arrangement of hotel accommodation was provided to officers concerned in accordance with the relevant Civil Service Regulations and guidelines.
 - (3) Proper class of air passages was provided to officers concerned in accordance with the relevant Civil Service Regulations which take into account ranking of their offices, flying time, flight schedule and other relevant details.
2. CMAB conducts exchanges and discussions with the relevant Mainland authorities on issues of mutual concern from time to time as and when necessary. Generally speaking, the meetings are recorded as appropriate, having regard to the different circumstances and factors such as nature of the meeting and subject matter, consensus reached by both sides, development of the subject matter, etc. We will decide whether and how the trips and the agreements concluded should be made public in the light of the circumstances and needs.

3. As a general rule, all politically appointed officials and civil servants should observe the same principles in the provision of official meals. They are required to exercise prudent judgement and economy in order to avoid any public perception of extravagance and act in accordance with the relevant regulations and administrative guidelines. According to the existing guidelines, the expenditure limits on entertainment in the form of official meals should not exceed \$450 per person for lunch or \$600 per person for dinner, inclusive of all expenses incurred on food and beverages consumed on the occasion, service charges and tips.

4. In line with the Government's green policy, public officers have as far as possible refrained from bestowing gifts/souvenirs to others during the conduct of official activities. According to the existing guidelines, where bestowal of gifts/souvenirs is necessary or unavoidable due to operational, protocol or other reasons, the gift/souvenir items should not be lavish or extravagant and the number should be kept to a minimum. Also, the exchange of gifts/souvenirs should only be made on an organisation-to-organisation basis. As CMAB does not specifically maintain separate accounts for the expenses on the procurement of gifts and souvenirs, relevant breakdowns are not available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB106

(Question Serial No. 4235)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In regard to the growing co-operation between Hong Kong and the Mainland in recent years, please provide relevant information on Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects or programmes in which your bureau and the department under your purview have been involved.

(a) For Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects or programmes, please provide information for 2014-15 and 2015-16 as per following table:

Project / Programme	Details, objective and whether it is related to the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong / Guangdong Co-operation (the Framework Agreement) or the National 13 th Five-year Plan	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?	Have minutes of meeting been kept? 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 which channels and what were the manpower and expenditure involved? If not, what are the reasons?	Has public consultation on the cross-boundary project been conducted in Hong Kong?	Details of the legislative amendments or policy changes involved in the project/ programme

- (b) Has provision been earmarked for Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects or programmes in this year (2016-17)? If so, please provide information in respect of Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects or programmes for 2016-17 as per following table:

Project / Programme	Details, objective and whether it is related to the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong / Guangdong Co-operation (the Framework Agreement) or the National 13 th Five-year Plan	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?	Have minutes of meeting been kept? 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 which channels and what were the manpower and expenditure involved? If not, what are the reasons?	Will public consultation on the cross-boundary project be conducted in Hong Kong?	Details of the legislative amendments or policy changes involved in the project/ programme

- (c) Apart from the projects or programmes listed above, are there any other modes of Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary co-operation? If so, in what modes are they taken forward? What were the manpower and expenditure involved over the past year? How much financial and manpower resources have been earmarked in the 2016-17 Estimates?

Asked by: Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan (Member Question No. 101)

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. The Legislative Council (LegCo), for example, 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 agreed to sign “The 2016 Work Plan”, which sets out the work programme of Hong Kong/Guangdong co-operation for the year in March this year.

4. The Outline of the National 13th Five-Year Plan (13-5 Plan) was promulgated in March 2016. In 2016-17, CMAB will continue to provide support to the Steering Committee on Co-operation with the Mainland, chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration, to actively co-ordinate various policy bureaux and departments to fully develop the planning strategies set out in the dedicated chapter on Hong Kong and Macao in the 13-5 Plan under the “one country, two systems” principle.

5. Policy matters on deepening regional co-operation are mainly handled by 2 divisions of staff in CMAB. In addition, the Beijing Office and the 4 Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan (Mainland Offices) also play a facilitating and co-ordinating role in fostering closer ties with the Mainland at various levels.

6. As the above work is an integral part of the duties and functions of the officers concerned in CMAB and the Mainland Offices, the manpower provision cannot be separately singled out and itemised. Broadly speaking, in 2016-17, about \$154 million (excluding staff cost) has been set aside to take forward the relevant work.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 4242)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Estimated expenditure of the Director of Bureau's Office in the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau for 2016-17 is about \$11 million, representing a marked increase of 14.4% over the revised estimate for the past year. As the position of Political Assistant to the Director of Bureau has remained unfilled, why is there such a significant increase in the estimated expenditure of the Director of Bureau's Office? What are the expenditure items and details? When the vacant position of Political Assistant is expected to be filled?

Asked by: Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai (Member Question No. 37)

Reply:

Provision for 2016-17 is \$1.4 million (14.4%) higher than the revised estimate for 2015-16. This is mainly due to the full-year provision for 2016-17 for the position of Deputy Director of Bureau filled in 2015-16, and the provision required for filling the position of Political Assistant. For budgetary purposes, the provisions for the salary in respect of the positions of Deputy Director of Bureau and Political Assistant to Director of Bureau in the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau for 2016-17 are \$2.33 million and \$1.97 million respectively.

2. Regarding the filling of the outstanding positions of Political Assistants in the Government, the Government's consistent position is that, such positions will only be filled when there are suitable candidates. We consider it appropriate to set aside provision for the position of Political Assistant for 2016-17.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB108

(Question Serial No. 4245)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

During 2016-17, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau will continue 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. In this connection, what are the estimate of expenditure involved, the manpower arrangement and details of the relevant work? What are the areas in which co-operation will be enhanced and the targets to be achieved?

Asked by: Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai (Member Question No. 45)

Reply:

Policy matters on deepening regional co-operation with the Mainland under Programme (2) "Constitutional and Mainland Affairs" are mainly handled by 2 divisions of staff in the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB). In addition, the Beijing Office and the 4 Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan (Mainland Offices) respectively under Programme (3) "Mainland and Taiwan Offices" play a facilitating and co-ordinating role in fostering closer ties and co-operation with the Mainland at various levels. As the work on deepening regional co-operation is an integral part of the duties and functions of the officers concerned in the CMAB and the Mainland Offices, the manpower provision cannot be separately singled out and itemised. Generally speaking, an estimated financial provision of about \$154 million (excluding staff cost) under the 2 said Programmes is for the CMAB and the Mainland Offices to take forward the work to deepen regional co-operation with the Mainland in 2016-17.

2. With the above provision, the CMAB and the Mainland Offices will deepen regional co-operation with the Mainland, with a view to strengthening regional co-operation with the Mainland in various areas including economic and trade, financial services, tourism, culture, education, engineering, professional services, environmental protection, food safety, youth exchanges, etc. Specific measures for taking forward the initiative include organising and providing logistic support for co-operation fora in Hong Kong; participating in bilateral and multilateral co-operation fora in the Mainland; enhancing liaison and communications with the Central People's Government, the provincial and municipal governments and other local authorities in the Mainland; and organising events (such as seminars, exhibitions and workshops) to promote Hong Kong's strengths as well as trade and commercial interests, etc.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB109

(Question Serial No. 5577)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In respect of how the Bureau is going to publicise, follow up on and review the Administrative Guidelines on Promotion of Racial Equality (Guidelines) in order to promote equal opportunities in education and employment for ethnic minorities, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. Currently, 23 government departments and public authorities stated that they are observing the Guidelines. What is the number of ethnic minority cases that these government departments and public authorities have handled so far?
2. Have they liaised with ethnic minority stakeholders in relation to the Guidelines? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
3. How effective has the Guidelines been since 2010? If it has been effective, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
4. Has the Guidelines met its objective since 2010? If it has, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che (Member Question No. 752)

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 to promote racial equality and ensure equal access by ethnic minorities 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 special needs of ethnic minorities and facilitating their integration into the community, namely, medical, education, vocational training, employment and major community services.

2. According to the Guidelines, the concerned bureaux, departments and public authorities should draw up checklists of measures that would assist in promoting racial equality and equal access to key public services to enhance the transparency of their work. The checklists contain contact information of the bureaux, departments and public authorities concerned and have been uploaded onto the CMAB website.

3. Various government bureaux and departments will provide suitable assistance to ethnic minority service users according to their specific needs, ensuring their equal access to public services. Government bureaux and departments and public authorities will also collect relevant information on services provided to ethnic minorities and communicate with ethnic minority stakeholders when necessary. For example, from 2011-12 to 2015-16, over 120 000 ethnic minorities have used the services of the Public Enquiry Services Centres under the Home Affairs Department; and from 2010-11 to 2014-15, over 4 500 ethnic minority job seekers have registered to use the Labour Department's employment services.

4. The scope of application of the Guidelines covered 14 bureaux, departments and public authorities in 2010, and has been extended to cover 23. We reviewed the operation of the Guidelines in 2014. Various bureaux, departments and public authorities have given a positive response to the implementation of the Guidelines, and a number of them have communicated with stakeholders and put in place new measures to assist ethnic minorities. For example, the Labour Department has, on a pilot basis, engaged 15 ethnic minority trainees of the Youth Employment and Training Programme and provided them with six-month on-the-job training in its Job Centres starting from September 2014; the Hospital Authority has introduced special meal arrangements for ethnic minorities in need, such as provision of halal food; and the Correctional Services Department has provided its staff with training on the Indonesian language besides other minority languages. To facilitate experience sharing among these departments, CMAB has shared among relevant bureaux, departments and public authorities the measures that have been put in place.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB110

(Question Serial No. 6865)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the consultancy studies commissioned by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau and the department under its purview for the purpose of formulating and assessing policies, please provide information about the studies in the following format.

- a. Please provide details of the public policy studies and strategic public policy studies commissioned with funds allocated from 2011-12 to 2015-16;

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/tender/quotation/others (please specify))	Title, content and objectives of project	Consultancy fee (\$)	Start date	Progress of study (under planning/in progress/completed (completion month and year))	The Administration's follow-ups to the study report and their progress (if any)	For completed studies, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?

- b. Regarding the consultancy studies commissioned by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau and the department under its purview for the purpose of formulating and assessing policies, are there any such projects for which funds have been reserved in 2016-17? If yes, what are the details?

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/tender/quotation/others (please specify))	Title, content and objectives of project	Consultancy fee (\$)	Start date	Progress of study (under planning/in progress/completed (completion month and year))	The Administration's follow-ups to the study report and their progress (if any)	For completed studies, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che (Member Question No. 1093)

Reply:

Regarding the consultancy studies commissioned by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) for the purpose of formulating and assessing policies, the relevant information is provided below –

- (a) For studies on public policy and strategic public policy for which funds had been allocated between 2011-12 and 2015-16 –

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/ tender/ others (please specify))	Title, content and objectives of project	Con-sultancy fee	Start date	Progress of study (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Follow-up actions taken by the Government on the study reports and their progress (if any)	For completed projects, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
The Institute of Hong Kong, Macao & Special Economic Zone's Economy, Jinan University	Selection of quotation	A Study on the Strategy for the Co-operation of Hong Kong/ Guangdong Service Industries under the "Early and Pilot" Measures To explore the development trend of Hong Kong's service industries in Guangdong and select individual service industries which can be further promoted in Guangdong	RMB¥ 120,000	May 2009	Completed	The research report has been distributed to Government departments in Hong Kong and relevant organisations for reference	The summary of the research report has been uploaded onto the website of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong for public perusal. The full report has been distributed to Government departments in Hong Kong and relevant organisations for reference
Chongqing Jiaotong University	Selection of quotation	Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) Implementation in Chongqing To understand the status of CEPA	RMB¥ 150,000	Dec 2010	Completed	The report has been distributed to Government departments in Hong Kong and relevant organisations for reference	The findings have been released through a joint press conference held by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Chengdu (CDETO) and Chongqing

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/ tender/ others (please specify))	Title, content and objectives of project	Con-sultancy fee	Start date	Progress of study (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Follow-up actions taken by the Government on the study reports and their progress (if any)	For completed projects, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
		implemen-tation in Chongqing and explore the business opportunities of Chongqing for Hong Kong enterprises					Foreign Trade and Economic Relations Commission. The press handout has been uploaded onto CDETO's website
Hewitt Associates L.L.C	Selection of quotation	<p>Consultancy Services for Reviewing the Remuneration Packages for Officials under the Political Appointment System</p> <p>To advise the Independent Commission on Remuneration for Members of the Executive Council and the Legislature, and Officials under the Political Appointment System of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (“the Independent Commission”) on the remuneration packages for politically-appointed officials serving in the</p>	HK\$ 1,900,000	Jul 2011	Completed	After considering the re-commendations of the Independent Commission, the Government put forward proposals to the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council (LegCo) for approval in mid-2012. However, the proposals were not approved in the legislative session of the concerned term of LegCo	The findings and the report of the Independent Commission have been uploaded onto the LegCo website for public perusal

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/ tender/ others (please specify))	Title, content and objectives of project	Con-sultancy fee	Start date	Progress of study (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Follow-up actions taken by the Government on the study reports and their progress (if any)	For completed projects, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
		fourth-term HKSAR Government					
CBRE Hong Kong Limited	Selection of quotation	Rent Allowance Review for Officers Posted/ Seconded to the Mainland and Taiwan To review the rent allowance rates and to draw up a revised rent allowance system for officers posted/ seconded to the Mainland and Taiwan	HK\$ 600,000	Aug 2011	Completed	Adopted	The consultancy study report has been uploaded onto the LegCo website for public perusal
Xi'an Jiaotong University	Selection of quotation	Implement-ation of CEPA in Shaanxi To understand the status of implemen-tation of CEPA in Shaanxi and explore the business opportunities of Shaanxi for Hong Kong enterprises	RMB¥ 150,000	May 2012	Completed	The report has been distributed to government departments in Hong Kong and relevant organisations for reference	Summary of the findings has been released through a joint press conference held by CDETO, Shaanxi Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office and Shaanxi Department of Commerce. The press handout has been uploaded onto CDETO's website
Centre for Comparative and Public Law of the	Selection of quotation	Study on the Experience of Overseas Jurisdictions in Implementing	HK\$ 850,000	Jan 2013	Completed	The Government has consulted the LegCo Panel on Constitutional Affairs on the	Executive summary of the study report and the full report have been

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/ tender/ others (please specify))	Title, content and objectives of project	Con-sultancy fee	Start date	Progress of study (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Follow-up actions taken by the Government on the study reports and their progress (if any)	For completed projects, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
University of Hong Kong		Anti-stalking Legislation				recommendations put forward by the study	uploaded onto CMAB's website
Colliers International	Selection of quotation	City-specific Rental Index for Officers Posted/ Seconded to the Mainland and Taiwan To obtain the city-specific rental index for the annual revision of rent allowance for officers posted/ seconded to the Mainland and Taiwan	HK\$ 429,000	Feb 2013	Completed	Adopted	The information obtained is for internal reference for revising the rent allowance for officers posted/seconded to the Mainland and Taiwan
Policy 21 Limited	Selection of quotation	Study on Discrimination Experienced by Sexual Minorities in Hong Kong To study whether sexual minorities are discriminated against in Hong Kong and, if so, the discrimination they experienced including the domains and forms of discrimination, and how they responded to it	HK\$ 445,000	Nov 2013	Completed	After considering the consultant's report, the Advisory Group on Eliminating Discrimination against Sexual Minorities (Advisory Group) submitted its report to the Government in Dec 2015, putting forward recommendations on strategies and measures to eliminate discrimination	The Advisory Group's report has been uploaded onto CMAB's website

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/ tender/ others (please specify))	Title, content and objectives of project	Con-sultancy fee	Start date	Progress of study (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Follow-up actions taken by the Government on the study reports and their progress (if any)	For completed projects, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
Colliers International	Selection of quotation	Rent Allowance for Officers Posted/ Seconded to Wuhan	HK\$ 85,000	Dec 2013	Completed	Adopted	The information obtained is for internal reference for determining the rent allowance for officers posted/seconed to Wuhan
Guizhou University of Finance and Economics	Selection of quotation	Implementation of CEPA in Guizhou To understand the status of implementation of CEPA in Guizhou and explore the business opportunities of Guizhou for Hong Kong enterprises	RMB¥ 120,000	Apr 2014	Completed	The report has been passed to Government departments in Hong Kong and relevant organisations	Summary of the findings has been released through a joint press conference held by CDETO and Guizhou Department of Commerce
Pricewaterhouse-Coopers Consultants (Shenzhen) Limited	Selection of quotation	Report on the “2014 Negative List, liberalisation measures and financial policies of the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone; and their impact on and business opportunities for Hong Kong enterprises” To help Hong Kong enterprises understand the latest policy on the China (Shanghai)	RMB¥ 128,000	Sept 2014	Completed	The report has been passed to the industry and Government departments in Hong Kong	The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Shanghai (SHETO) has released the electronic version of the report to major business associations in Hong Kong, business associations, enterprises and individuals in the service areas of SHETO, and Government departments in Hong Kong by e-mail

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/ tender/ others (please specify))	Title, content and objectives of project	Con-sultancy fee	Start date	Progress of study (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Follow-up actions taken by the Government on the study reports and their progress (if any)	For completed projects, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
		Pilot Free Trade Zone and explore business opportunities					
Deloitte Consulting (Hong Kong) Limited	Selection of quotation	Evaluative study on conditions necessary for implementing section 33 of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance	HK\$ 1,428,000	May 2015	In progress	Not applicable, the study is yet to be completed	Not applicable, the study is yet to be completed
Pricewaterhouse-Coopers Consultants (Shenzhen) Limited Beijing Branch	Selection of quotation	<p>Study report on business opportunities brought about by Guangdong, Fujian and Tianjin Pilot Free Trade Zones and their impact on Hong Kong enterprises</p> <p>To study the business opportunities brought about by various policies and rules and regulations of the Guangdong, Fujian and Tianjian Pilot Free Trade Zones and their impact on Hong Kong enterprises</p>	RMB¥ 128,000	Oct 2015	In progress	The report will be passed to Government departments in Hong Kong and relevant organisations	Not applicable, the study is yet to be completed

(b) In 2016-17, in the light of the Advisory Group's recommendations relating to a further study, CMAB intends to commission a consultant to study the experience of other jurisdictions in implementing related measures.

2. The Registration and Electoral Office, which is under the purview of CMAB, has not commissioned any consultancy study, and currently has no plan for new consultancy studies to be conducted in 2016-17.

- End -

CMAB111

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 4412)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1) Please provide in table form information on official duty visits outside Hong Kong made by politically appointed officials in the Bureau since the current-term Government taking office, including the date, the purpose, the main itinerary of each visit, the names of accompanying politically appointed officials, the number of accompanying civil servants and total expenditure;

2) Please provide in table form information on the dates on which the politically appointed officials in the Bureau took vacation leave since the current-term Government taking office and whether they were out of town.

Asked by: Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit (Member Question No. 75)

Reply:

The relevant summary information on official duty visits outside Hong Kong made by the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, Under Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs and Political Assistant to Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs from 2012-13 to 2015-16 is provided below –

Date of visits (Number of visits)	Place of visits	Departments/ organisations visited	No. of officers in Director of Bureau's Office joining the visits	Objectives of visits	Hotel accommo- dation expendi- ture ^{Note1}	Flight/ train/ vessel ticket expendi- ture ^{Note2}	Other expenses ^{Note3}	Total expenditure
					(\$) (A)	(\$) (B)	(\$) (C)	(\$) (A)+(B)+(C)
2012-13 ^{Note4} (10)	Mainland (Beijing, Hainan, Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Sichuan,	Central ministries, departments of local governments and relevant	0-1 officer per duty visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> promoting exchanges and co-operation with the Mainland, Macao and Taiwan 	14,900	124,660	14,490	154,050

Date of visits (Number of visits)	Place of visits	Departments/ organisations visited	No. of officers in Director of Bureau's Office joining the visits	Objectives of visits	Hotel accommo- dation expendi- ture ^{Note1}	Flight/ train/ vessel ticket expendi- ture ^{Note2}	Other expenses ^{Note3}	Total expenditure
					(\$ (A))	(\$ (B))	(\$ (C))	(\$ (A)+(B)+(C))
	Tainjin) and Taipei, Switzerland (Geneva)	committees of the United Nations		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> attending the hearings of the relevant committees of the United Nations 				
2013-14 (11)	Mainland (Beijing, Zhuhai, Fuzhou, Guangzhou, Shenzhen) and Macao, Taipei, Switzerland (Geneva)	Central ministries, departments of local governments and relevant committees of the United Nations	0-1 officer per duty visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> promoting exchanges and co-operation with the Mainland, Macao and Taiwan attending the hearings of the relevant committees of the United Nations 	33,050	179,340	24,490	236,880
2014-15 (13)	Mainland (Shanghai, Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Beijing, Fuzhou, Quanzhou, Xiamen) and Macao, Switzerland (Geneva)	Central ministries, departments of local governments and relevant committees of the United Nations	0-3 officers per duty visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> promoting exchanges and co-operation with the Mainland, Macao and Taiwan attending the hearings of the relevant committees of the United Nations 	30,510	136,050	33,220	199,780
2015-16 (17)	Mainland (Wuhan, Shanghai, Shenyang, Dalian, Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Chonghua, Beijing, Tianjin, Changsha, Zhengzhou, Zhuhai, Xi'an, Fuzhou) and Macao, Taoyuan, Taipei	Central ministries and departments of local governments	0-4 officers per duty visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> promoting exchanges and co-operation with the Mainland, Macao and Taiwan 	40,550	148,110	47,040	235,700

Notes:

(1) The arrangement of hotel accommodation was provided to officers concerned in accordance with the relevant Civil Service Regulations and guidelines.

- (2) Proper class of air passages was provided to officers concerned in accordance with the relevant Civil Service Regulations which take into account ranking of their offices, flying time, flight schedule and details.
- (3) Other expenses include subsistence allowance for duty outside Hong Kong and local transportation expenses, but exclude the expenditure which was sponsored by the hosting government (if any).
- (4) Since the assumption of office by the current term government on 1 July 2012 until 31 March 2013.

2. Since assuming the positions in 2012, the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, Under Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs and Political Assistant to Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs are entitled to paid vacation leave of 22 working days per year of service or such proportion of it on a pro rata basis under the provisions of the employment contract. They all took their vacation leave in accordance with those relevant provisions.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 5696)

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

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

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

What is the existing establishment of the Director of Bureau's Office in the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau? What is the respective estimated provision for salaries for each member of the Office (including Director of Bureau, Deputy Director of Bureau and Political Assistant, if any) for this financial year (i.e. 2016-17)?

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

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung (Member Question No. 502)

Reply:

For 2016-17, in addition to the Director of Bureau, Deputy Director of Bureau and Political Assistant to Director of Bureau, the establishment of the Director of Bureau's Office in the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau under Programme (1) comprises 5 civil servants (an Administrative Officer Staff Grade C, a Personal Assistant, a Senior Personal Secretary, a Personal Secretary I and a Personal Chauffeur) providing support to the office.

2. For 2016-17, the provisions for the salary in respect of the positions of Director of Bureau, Deputy Director of Bureau and Political Assistant to Director of Bureau are \$3.58 million, \$2.33 million and \$1.97 million respectively. The provisions for the salaries, allowances and related expenses for the supporting civil servants amount to around \$3.23 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB113

(Question Serial No. 5697)

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

Question:

Will the Government advise this Committee of the following:

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

Education/promotion activities	Estimated expenditure for 2016-17
Children	
People with disabilities	
Sexual minorities	
Ethnic minorities	
Fundamental human rights	

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung (Member Question No. 503)

Reply:

The Government's public education and promotion activities on human rights are taken forward by a number of policy bureaux, notably the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB), the Education Bureau (EDB), the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) and the Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB).

2. Education and promotion activities in respect of children, people with disabilities, sexual minorities, ethnic minorities and fundamental human rights organised by the Government in 2015-16 are detailed at the Annex.

3. As education and promotion activities of various bureaux and departments are an integral part of their daily work, separate breakdowns of expenditure for each of such activities are not available. For example, the EDB has been facilitating the promotion of human rights education in schools through measures such as embedding related learning elements in the curriculum of primary and secondary schools (including General Studies for primary schools, Life and Society at junior secondary levels and Liberal Studies at senior secondary levels, etc.), organising professional development programmes for principals and teachers, and developing learning and teaching resources. The HAB has been promoting civic education (including human rights) outside schools, in collaboration with the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education (CPCE), through means such as providing sponsorship to community organisations to organise civic education activities and producing publicity programmes and materials.

4. According to the information provided by relevant bureaux, activities where breakdowns of expenditure are available include:

- (a) Under Programme (4), the CMAB is committed to increasing the community's awareness of, respect for and protection of rights of the individual; in 2016-17, the estimated expenditure is \$25.1 million. Relevant initiatives include continuing to promote children's rights through, inter alia, the Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme and the Children's Rights Forum; eliminating discrimination against sexual minorities by sponsoring worthwhile community projects through the Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme, organising various publicity and promotion programmes, encouraging public and private sector organisations to adopt the Code of Practice against Discrimination in Employment on the Ground of Sexual Orientation, and following up on the recommendations put forward by the Advisory Group on Eliminating Discrimination against Sexual Minorities in December 2015.
- (b) Under Programme (5), the CMAB has set aside provision for the Equal Opportunities Commission and the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data to carry out promotion and education programmes and law enforcement work within their statutory framework to promote rights of the individual with respect to personal data privacy, promote equal opportunities and eliminate discrimination; in 2016-17, the estimated expenditure is \$179.3 million.
- (c) The LWB organises territory-wide public education activities and provides sponsorship to the 18 District Councils and community organisations to organise publicity programmes in the community for promoting the spirit and core values enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) as well as the message of building a barrier-free and inclusive society. In 2016-17, the estimated expenditure of the LWB for the above public education activities is about \$13.5 million.

Education or Promotion Activities in respect of Children, People with Disabilities, Sexual Minorities, Ethnic Minorities and Fundamental Human Rights (in 2015-16)

Activities	Responsible organisation(s)	Target
<i>Children</i>		
Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme	Sponsored organisations	Members of the public, in particular children
Co-operate with Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) to produce a TV programme on promotion of children's rights	CMAB and RTHK	Members of the public, in particular children
<i>People with disabilities</i>		
Hold the award presentation ceremony-cum-experience sharing session of the Talent-Wise Employment Charter and Inclusive Organisations Recognition Scheme and produce a DVD set of the documentary series "Talent-Wise Recruitment" to step up efforts in promoting employment of people with disabilities	LWB	Members of the public, in particular employers in different sectors
Co-operate with RTHK to produce the documentary series "A Wall-less World V" to promote the spirit and core values enshrined in the UNCRPD	LWB	Members of the public
Co-operate with RTHK to produce programmes that promote sign language	LWB	Members of the public
Organise "Inclusive Life - Show your Different Abilities" Youth Programme (including experimental exhibition Dialogue in the Dark, school activity day and Youth Ambassador Training) to enhance the younger generation's understanding of the abilities and special needs of people with disabilities and develop the concepts of equality and love and care at an early age	LWB	Members of the public, in particular students and youth
Organise school roving exhibitions for promoting the comic booklet on UNCRPD	LWB	Members of the public, in particular students
Provide sponsorship to the 18 District Councils, non-government organisations and community organisations to organise publicity programmes in the community for promoting the spirit and core values enshrined in the UNCRPD as well as the message of building a barrier-free and inclusive society	Sponsored organisations	Members of the public

Activities	Responsible organisation(s)	Target
<i>Sexual minorities</i>		
Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme	Sponsored organisations	Members of the public
Various publicity measures such as Announcement in the Public Interest (API) and advertisement to promote equal opportunities for sexual minorities	CMAB	Members of the public
<i>Ethnic minorities</i>		
Co-operate with RTHK to produce a TV series on integration with ethnic minorities	CMAB and RTHK	Members of the public
<i>Fundamental human rights</i>		
Forums, e.g. Human Rights Forum and Children's Rights Forum	CMAB	Interested non-government organisations mainly, also open to interested members of the public
Various publicity measures such as API and advertisement to promote the Code on Access to Information	CMAB	Members of the public
Promote human rights education in schools through measures such as embedding related learning elements in the curriculum of primary and secondary schools (including General Studies for primary schools, Life and Society at junior secondary levels, Liberal Studies at senior secondary levels, etc.), organising professional development programmes for principal and teachers, and developing learning and teaching resources	EDB	Teachers, students
HAB collaborates with the CPCE to promote civic education, including human rights, outside schools through means such as providing sponsorship to community organisations to organise civic education activities and producing publicity programmes and materials	Sponsored organisations	Members of the public

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB114

(Question Serial No. 4551)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

How will the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD) step up regulation on the activities of merchants collecting a large amount of personal data on the Internet? Does the PCPD have any future plan to regulate the collection of users' information by mobile applications?

Asked by: Hon WONG Yuk-man (Member Question No. 62)

Reply:

According to the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data ('PCPD'), Data Protection Principle 1 laid down in Schedule 1 to the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance ('the Ordinance') requires that where personal data is collected by any organisation, the purpose should be directly related to a function or activity of the organisation, and the collection of data should be necessary and not excessive. The PCPD revised the *Guidance for Data Users on the Collection and Use of Personal Data through the Internet* in 2014, and continues its efforts in various forms of education and promotion (including talks, workshops, roving exhibitions, online educational resources, etc.) to disseminate relevant information to organisations and the general public. In addition to handling complaints about excessive collection of personal data, the PCPD may initiate compliance checks or investigations if it has reasonable grounds to believe there is any contravention of the requirements under the Ordinance. The PCPD may also carry out inspections of personal data systems of individual organisations, in order to make recommendations for organisations in relevant categories to better protect personal data privacy.

2. With specific regard to the collection of users' information by mobile applications, the PCPD has in place a Best Practice Guide for developers of mobile applications, and has been making proactive efforts in raising awareness and providing practical recommendations on protection of users' personal data through a dedicated website, talks and seminars for developers of mobile applications. In 2016-17, the PCPD plans to combine and update the current information leaflet and Best Practice Guide concerning the development of mobile applications, to help the trade grasp more easily the requirements in relation to personal data privacy when they develop and launch mobile applications. The PCPD will also host a forum for developers of mobile applications, and will continue to conduct random checks and compliance checks on mobile applications.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB115

(Question Serial No. 4553)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

What is the estimated expenditure on the administrative support provided for the Advisory Group on Eliminating Discrimination against Sexual Minorities this year? The Advisory Group has been working for 3 years but has not been able to reach any consensus. Under what circumstances will the Government consider restructuring or abolishing the Advisory Group and proceed to conducting a legislative exercise?

Asked by: Hon WONG Yuk-man (Member Question No. 64)

Reply:

The Advisory Group on Eliminating Discrimination against Sexual Minorities (Advisory Group) was established in June 2013. Its term of appointment expired at the end of December 2015. The work of the Secretariat of the Advisory Group was undertaken by staff of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau. The resources required were absorbed in the recurrent expenditure of the Bureau, and a separate breakdown of the expenditure is not available.

2. The Advisory Group submitted its report to the Government in December 2015 with recommendations on anti-discrimination strategies and measures. The recommendations include training and resources for personnel in specific fields; a charter on non-discrimination of sexual minorities; enhanced publicity campaign; review and reinforcement of support services to address the specific needs of sexual minorities; and further study on the experience of legislative and non-legislative measures of other jurisdictions to inform future consultation regarding both legislative proposals and administrative measures to eliminate discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity. The Government is following up on the report of the Advisory Group and will continue to maintain communication with stakeholders.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB116

(Question Serial No. 4554)

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

Question:

What are the Bureau's estimated expenditure and manpower for promoting and publicising the Basic Law this year? Of which, how much will be allocated to the Basic Law Promotion Sponsorship Scheme?

Asked by: Hon WONG Yuk-man (Member Question No. 65)

Reply:

In 2016-17, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) will continue to set aside about \$16 million for organising various promotional activities via different means, including funding the Basic Law Promotion Sponsorship Scheme, to enhance public awareness and understanding of "one country, two systems" and the Basic Law. The relevant work is undertaken by a team in the CMAB which is headed by a Principal Assistant Secretary and supported by 4 officers.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 4621)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau states that it will continue 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. In this connection, will the Government advise on the specific work plan in 2016-17 and provide a breakdown on the estimate of expenditure, including estimated expenditure of each Mainland Office?

Asked by: Hon James TIEN Pei-chun (Member Question No. 53)

Reply:

Policy matters on deepening regional co-operation with the Mainland under Programme (2) "Constitutional and Mainland Affairs" are mainly handled by 2 divisions of staff in the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB). In addition, the Beijing Office and the 4 Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan (Mainland Offices) respectively under Programme (3) "Mainland and Taiwan Offices" play a facilitating and co-ordinating role in fostering closer ties and co-operation with the Mainland at various levels. As the work on deepening regional co-operation is an integral part of the duties and functions of the officers concerned in the CMAB and the Mainland Offices, the manpower provision cannot be separately singled out and itemised. Generally speaking, an estimated financial provision of about \$154 million (excluding staff cost) under the 2 said Programmes is for the CMAB and the Mainland Offices to take forward the work to deepen regional co-operation with the Mainland in 2016-17.

2. With the above provision, the CMAB and the Mainland Offices will deepen regional co-operation with the Mainland, with a view to strengthening regional co-operation with the Mainland in various areas including economic and trade, financial services, tourism, culture, education, engineering, professional services, environmental protection, food safety, youth exchanges, etc. Specific measures for taking forward the initiative include organising and providing logistic support for co-operation fora in Hong Kong; participating in bilateral and multilateral co-operation fora in the Mainland; enhancing liaison and communications with the Central People's Government, the provincial and municipal governments and other local authorities in the Mainland; and organising events (such as seminars, exhibitions and workshops), etc.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB118

(Question Serial No. 4622)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Bureau states that in 2016-17, the relevant Mainland and Taiwan Offices will continue to improve the network of the Mainland Offices by setting up more liaison units. In this connection, will the Government advise this Committee of the locations identified for setting up these units and the reasons for selecting the locations, as well as the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon James TIEN Pei-chun (Member Question No. 54)

Reply:

We plan to set up one liaison unit each in Changsha City of Hunan Province and Zhengzhou City of Henan Province under the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (ETO) in Wuhan and another one in Tianjin Municipality under the Beijing Office in 2016-17.

2. In deciding the locations of the above three liaison units, we have taken into account relevant factors, including economic development situation and potential of the provinces/municipalities concerned, their economic and trade relations with Hong Kong and room for complementarities, and the number of Hong Kong residents and enterprises thereat. The gross domestic product (GDP) of Hunan and Henan Provinces have been at the forefront of the whole country. Hunan Province has a well-developed hi-tech industrial development zone with diversified industries, while Henan Province, in which the country's only Airport Economic Integrated Experimental Zone is located, is an important aviation and logistics hub in the inland area. Tianjin Municipality is one of the four municipalities directly under the Central People's Government with per-capita GDP at the forefront of the whole country. Apart from being the only city in the northern region where a pilot free trade zone is set up, Tianjin Municipality is also the largest port city in northern China,

playing a significant role in the country's development strategies. Setting up liaison units in Hunan Province, Henan Province and Tianjin Municipality will facilitate Hong Kong people and enterprises to capitalise on the opportunities brought about by the development of the central and northern regions.

3. In 2016-17, we have set aside \$13.21 million under Programme (3) "Mainland and Taiwan Offices" for meeting the recurrent expenditure of the above three liaison units.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB119

(Question Serial No. 4623)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

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

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

Question:

The Bureau states that in 2016-17, the relevant Mainland and Taiwan Offices will promote the strengths of Hong Kong in the Mainland and Taiwan. In this connection, will the Government advise:

- (1) on the specific work plan and provide a breakdown of the estimated expenditure; and
- (2) whether the effectiveness or cost-effectiveness of the initiatives taken has been evaluated; if yes, of the details; if no, of the reasons?

Asked by: Hon James TIEN Pei-chun (Member Question No. 55)

Reply:

The Mainland and Taiwan Offices (namely the Beijing Office, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan, and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan) proactively serve as important bridges between Hong Kong and the Mainland/Taiwan, including enhancing liaison and communication with the counterparts in the areas under their coverage; representing and promoting Hong Kong's trade and commercial interests; encouraging and attracting investments to Hong Kong and promoting Hong Kong's many advantages as an investment and business hub in Asia; and promoting Hong Kong's culture, tourism and other advantages through appropriate channels. The above areas of work complement each other with a view to showcasing the positive image and attractions of Hong Kong in the Mainland and Taiwan.

2. In 2016-17, the Mainland and Taiwan Offices will continue to adopt a multi-pronged approach in promoting Hong Kong through appropriate channels, including attending meetings and calling on the Mainland/Taiwan counterparts; organising/participating in seminars, exhibitions and workshops; organising/participating in public relations, cultural exchange functions and events; visiting enterprises with potential and interest in investing in Hong Kong; giving public speeches, media interviews and briefings; and issuing information circulars, newsletters and press releases, etc.

3. The Mainland and Taiwan Offices will review the cost-effectiveness of various initiatives from time to time to improve the relevant promotional work. Taking individual items as examples, the series of “Creative Hong Kong • Tianjin” promotional events held in Tianjin Municipality were attended by about 300 000 participants; the Hong Kong exhibition at the China-South Asia Expo in Kunming recorded an attendance of over 210 000; the “Hong Kong Professional Services for ‘Belt and Road’ Seminar: Chongqing - Hong Kong Logistics Co-operation” held in Chongqing Municipality attracted the attendance of some 180 representatives from the professional services sector; and the “2015 Hong Kong-Tainan Economic Co-operation Forum” was attended by more than 250 representatives from the cultural and creative industries and the commerce and trade sectors of Hong Kong and Taiwan. The aforementioned activities have achieved the effect of extensively promoting Hong Kong in the Mainland and Taiwan.

4. The work of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices in promoting Hong Kong 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

CMAB120

(Question Serial No. 5268)

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

Question:

Would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) How many additional civil service information technology (IT) posts were requested by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau over the past 3 years? How many of these posts requested were approved by the Civil Service Bureau (CSB) (please list by department, year and post title)?
- (2) What were the justifications of the CSB if requests of such IT posts were revised or rejected?

Asked by: Hon Charles Peter MOK (Member Question No. 42)

Reply:

In the past three years, there has not been any particular increase in the civil service posts of information technology (IT) staff in the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau.

2. The Government's guiding principles for considering the creation of additional civil service posts are as follows: when the operational need is fully justified; and the work involved cannot be handled by streamlining the procedures, re-organisation, re-deployment of existing staff or any other means. The above principles are applicable across all the civil service grades, including the IT grades. Manpower in the IT grades will be increased as and when it is fully justified on the grounds of maintaining effective operation and addressing the manpower needs arising from new and improved services.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB121

(Question Serial No. 5292)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In respect of the public relations expenses of government departments, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) the total expenses of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau for publishing advertisements, sponsored content or advertorials in newspapers registered under the Registration of Local Newspapers Ordinance in the past year as well as the relevant details:

Date of publish (Day/Month/Year)	Status (one-off/ ongoing/ completed) (as at 29 February 2016)	Government or public organisation (including policy bureau/ department/ public sector organisation/ government advisory body)	Name and purpose of advertisement	Name of media organisation and newspaper	Frequency (as at 29 February 2016)	Expenses (as at 29 February 2016)

- (2) the expenses of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau for sponsoring local free-to-air television stations, paid television stations and radio stations to provide information and produce programmes or materials in the past year as well as the relevant details:

Date of broadcast (Day/Month/Year)	Status (one-off/ongoing/completed) (as at 29 February 2016)	Government or public organisation (including policy bureau/department/public sector organisation/government advisory body)	Name and purpose of advertisement	Media organisation	Frequency (as at 29 February 2016)	Expenses (as at 29 February 2016)

(3) the media organisations which published or broadcast advertisements/sponsored content of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau in the past 3 years, as well as the frequency and the total expenses involved (in descending order of amount spent):

Name of media organisation	Frequency	Total expenses (\$)

(4) the websites/network platforms on which the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau published online advertisements/sponsored content in the past 3 years, as well as the frequency, the duration (days) and the total expenses involved (tabulated in descending order of amount spent):

Website/network platform	Content of advertisement	Frequency	Duration (days)	Hit rate, frequency of exposure and number of viewers	Total expenses (\$)

Asked by: Hon Charles Peter MOK (Member Question No. 66)

Reply:

In respect of public relations expenses of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) as well as the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) and subvented bodies under CMAB's purview (as at 29 February 2016), the relevant information is provided below –

(1) The relevant details for publishing advertisements on registered newspapers or advertisements in other formats, and for sponsoring local television stations and radio stations for advertising in 2015-16 are as follows:

Date of publish (Month/Year)	Status	Policy bureau/ department/ subvented body	Content of advertisement	Purpose of advertisement	Media organisation	Frequency	Expenses
Aug 2015 – Feb 2016	Completed	CMAB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2016 Children’s Rights Education Funding Scheme and Basic Law Promotion Sponsorship Scheme • 2016-17 Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme and Basic Law Promotion Sponsorship Scheme • 2016-17 Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme 	To announce invitation of applications for the Schemes	newspapers	1-2 times	about HK\$0.11 million
May – Nov 2015	Completed	REO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voter Registration Campaign 2015 • Publicity campaign on 2015 District Council (DC) General Election 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To draw the public’s attention to information relating to voter registration so as to encourage eligible persons to register as voters, and remind registered electors to notify REO of their change of residential addresses in a timely manner • To publicise general electoral matters in respect of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • newspapers • radio stations • television stations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 34 times • 1 518 times • 5 episodes 	about HK\$1.97 million

Date of publish (Month/Year)	Status	Policy bureau/department/subvented body	Content of advertisement	Purpose of advertisement	Media organisation	Frequency	Expenses
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public consultation on proposed guidelines on election-related activities in respect of the DC Election Public consultation on provisional recommendations on the boundaries and names of geographical constituencies for the 2016 Legislative Council (LegCo) Election 	2015 DC Election <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Electoral Affairs Commission to conduct public consultation 			
May 2015	Completed	Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data	Data Protection Officers Club	To introduce the latest development of the Club and for members to share with the public best practices in protecting personal data privacy	newspapers	once	about HK\$ 60,000
Apr 2015 – Mar 2016	On-going	Equal Opportunities Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equal Opportunities Diversity Project 2015/16 Radio segment on promotion of equal opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To promote diversity To promote equal opportunities 	radio stations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30-min weekly interview 260 times 	about HK\$0.98 million

(2) The detailed information regarding the media organisations which published or broadcasted advertisements/sponsored content from 2013-14 to 2015-16, as well as the frequency and the total expenses involved is provided below –

Media organisation	Frequency	Total expenses
Radio stations	2 563 times in total	about HK\$3.52 million
Newspapers	95 times in total	about HK\$3.24 million
Television stations	19 times in total	about HK\$2.7 million

(3) The detailed information regarding the websites/network platforms on which online advertisements/sponsored content were published from 2013-14 to 2015-16, as well as the frequency, the duration (days) and the total expenses involved is provided below –

Website/ network platform	Content of advertisement	Frequency	Duration (days)	Hit rate, frequency of exposure and number of viewers	Total expenses
Various websites/ network platform	• Promotion of public consultation on methods for selecting the Chief Executive in 2017 and for forming the LegCo in 2016	• 1 time	• 21-30 days	Given the different approaches adopted for different items, the relevant figures cannot be provided	• about HK\$0.37 million
	• Promotion of Code of Practice against Discrimination in Employment on the Ground of Sexual Orientation	• 1-2 times	• 84-243 days		• about HK\$0.27 million
	• Promotion of the Basic Law	• 1-3 times	• 20-51 days		• about HK\$0.6 million
	• Voter Registration Campaign 2013	• 2 times	• 28 days		• about HK\$0.29 million
	• Voter Registration Campaign 2014	• 6 times	• 84 days		• about HK\$1.77 million
	• Voter Registration Campaign 2015	• 4 times	• 99 days		• about HK\$1.5 million
	• Publicity campaign on 2015 DC General Election	• 2 times	• 21 days		• about HK\$0.35 million

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 5313)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

(1) Please tabulate the details concerning the social media platforms set up and operated by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau and its subvented bodies (including outsourced contractors or consultants) in 2015-16 (as at 29 February 2016);

Commencement of operation (month/year)	Status (keep on updating / ceased updating)	Policy bureau/ subvented body	Name	Social media platform	Purpose of establishment and contents	No. of "likes"/ subscribers /average monthly visits	Regular compilation of summary of comments and follow-up (yes/no)	Average no. of posts per day and average no. of interactions per post (total no. of "likes", comments and shares)	Ranks and no. of officers responsible for the operation	Expenditure for setting up the platform and daily operational expenses

(2) the number of posts on the above social platforms being removed and the number of accounts blocked.

Asked by: Hon Charles Peter MOK (Member Question No. 87)

Reply:

(1) Information on social media platforms set up and operated by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) and its subvented bodies in 2015-16 is provided at the Annex. The Registration and Electoral Office (REO), which is under the purview of CMAB, did not set up or operate any social media platform in 2015-16.

(2) CMAB has not removed any post from or blocked any account of the above social media platforms in the past 5 years.

Information on the social media platforms set up and operated by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB)
and its subvented bodies in 2015-16
(as at 29 February 2016)

Commencement of operation (month/year)	Status (keep on updating/ ceased updating)	Policy bureau/ subvented body	Name	Social media platform	Purpose of establishment and contents	No. of "Likes"/ subscribers/ average monthly visits	Regular compilation of summary of comments and follow-up (Yes/No)	Average no. of posts per day and average no. of interactions per post (total no. of "likes", comments and shares)	Rank and no. of officers responsible for the operation	Expenditure for setting up the platform and daily operational expenses
Feb 2008	Regular updating	Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC)	EOC YouTube Channel	YouTube	To make use of social media to upload videos to promote equal opportunities. A total of 230 videos under 5 categories have been uploaded	No. of subscribers: 275	No	Total no. of posts in the year: 13 Total no. of interactions in the year: 500	1 Equal Opportunities Officer	Internally absorbed
Jan 2011	Regular updating	EOC	EOC Facebook page for "Uniquely Me"	Facebook	To make use of social media to promote youth mentorship programme, "Uniquely Me", for ethnic minorities	No. of subscribers: 427	No	Total no. of posts in the year: 36 Total no. of interactions in the year: 108	1 Equal Opportunities Officer	Internally absorbed

Commencement of operation (month/year)	Status (keep on updating/ ceased updating)	Policy bureau/ subvented body	Name	Social media platform	Purpose of establishment and contents	No. of “Likes”/ subscribers/ average monthly visits	Regular compilation of summary of comments and follow-up (Yes/No)	Average no. of posts per day and average no. of interactions per post (total no. of “likes”, comments and shares)	Rank and no. of officers responsible for the operation	Expenditure for setting up the platform and daily operational expenses
May 2011	Regular updating	EOC	EOC Facebook page for “Career Challenge”	Facebook	To make use of social media to promote youth mentorship programme, “Career Challenge”, for youth	No. of subscribers: 670	No	Total no. of posts in the year: 12 Total no. of interactions in the year: 817	1 Equal Opportunities Officer	Internally absorbed
Mar 2012	Regular updating	The Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD)	Student Ambassador for Privacy Protection Programme	Facebook	To publish the latest update on the Student Ambassador for Privacy Protection Programme	No. of “Likes”: 206	Yes	Total no. of posts in the year: 85 Total no. of interactions in the year: 108	1 Corporate Communications Executive	Internally absorbed
Apr 2013	Update as necessary	PCPD	PCPD YouTube Channel	YouTube	To make use of videos to provide information on online privacy protection and school educational resources. A total of 178 videos have been uploaded	Average monthly visits: 1 632	Yes	Total no. of posts in the year: 84 Total no. of interactions in the year: 178	1 Corporate Communications Executive	Internally absorbed

Commencement of operation (month/year)	Status (keep on updating/ ceased updating)	Policy bureau/ subvented body	Name	Social media platform	Purpose of establishment and contents	No. of “Likes”/ subscribers/ average monthly visits	Regular compilation of summary of comments and follow-up (Yes/No)	Average no. of posts per day and average no. of interactions per post (total no. of “likes”, comments and shares)	Rank and no. of officers responsible for the operation	Expenditure for setting up the platform and daily operational expenses
Sep 2013	Update as necessary	The Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan	Hong Kong Week in Taiwan	Facebook	To promote cultural activities of the Hong Kong Week organised in Taiwan and disseminate Hong Kong’s cultural and arts information	No. of “Likes”: 35 282	No	An average of 1 to 2 articles are posted per week, with more frequent issues during the period of Hong Kong Week publicity drive Average no. of interactions per post: 215	1 Senior Information Officer	Internally absorbed
Dec 2013	Ceased updating	CMAB	Method for Selecting the Chief Executive by Universal Suffrage	YouTube	To make use of videos to promote the public consultation on constitutional reform and provide the public with information on constitutional development	No. of subscribers: 36	No	(Apr to Jun 2015) No. of videos uploaded: 13 Average no. of interactions per video: 42	1 Project Officer	Internally absorbed

Commencement of operation (month/year)	Status (keep on updating/ ceased updating)	Policy bureau/ subvented body	Name	Social media platform	Purpose of establishment and contents	No. of “Likes”/ subscribers/ average monthly visits	Regular compilation of summary of comments and follow-up (Yes/No)	Average no. of posts per day and average no. of interactions per post (total no. of “likes”, comments and shares)	Rank and no. of officers responsible for the operation	Expenditure for setting up the platform and daily operational expenses
Dec 2013	Ceased updating	CMAB	Public Consultation on Method for Selecting the Chief Executive by Universal Suffrage	Facebook	To provide the public with the latest updates on the public consultation on constitutional reform and information on constitutional development, as well as to gather views of netizens on the public consultation on constitutional reform	No. of “Likes”: 1 461	No	(Apr to Jun 2015) No. of posts: 49 Average no. of interactions per post: 538	1 Project Officer	Internally absorbed
Apr 2014	Ceased updating	CMAB	Facebook page for “精靈《基本法》”	Facebook	By releasing latest information on Basic Law promotional activities, the Facebook is a support service for the mobile application “精靈《基本法》” to encourage members of the public to visit the Basic Law homepage	No. of “Likes”: 3 391	No	(Apr to Jun 2015) No. of posts: 48 Total no. of interactions: 106	1 Executive Officer	Internally absorbed

Commencement of operation (month/year)	Status (keep on updating/ ceased updating)	Policy bureau/ subvented body	Name	Social media platform	Purpose of establishment and contents	No. of “Likes”/ subscribers/ average monthly visits	Regular compilation of summary of comments and follow-up (Yes/No)	Average no. of posts per day and average no. of interactions per post (total no. of “likes”, comments and shares)	Rank and no. of officers responsible for the operation	Expenditure for setting up the platform and daily operational expenses
Dec 2014	Update as necessary	Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (ETO) in Guangdong	Official WeChat platform of Guangdong ETO	WeChat	To disseminate the latest updates on activities and the Guangdong ETO Newsletter to business communities, non-government organisations, Mainland authorities and the general public. The content covers the latest information on commerce and trade-related policies / regulations and the economic developments in the 5 provinces / regions under the coverage of Guangdong ETO, as well as on major economic and trade activities held. It also gives an account of Hong Kong’s latest developments in different aspects	No. of followers: 3 854	No	At least once per week on average, and distribution of extra edition of Guangdong ETO Newsletter issued on a need basis. Average no. of posts per month: 13 Average no. of interactions per post: 7	1 Principal Information Officer	Internally absorbed

Commencement of operation (month/year)	Status (keep on updating/ ceased updating)	Policy bureau/ subvented body	Name	Social media platform	Purpose of establishment and contents	No. of "Likes"/ subscribers/ average monthly visits	Regular compilation of summary of comments and follow-up (Yes/No)	Average no. of posts per day and average no. of interactions per post (total no. of "likes", comments and shares)	Rank and no. of officers responsible for the operation	Expenditure for setting up the platform and daily operational expenses
Apr 2015	Regular updating	PCPD	Be SMART online	Facebook	To provide the general public with information about protection of personal data on computer and the Internet	No. of "Likes": 272	Yes	No. of posts in the year: 365 Total no. of interactions in the year: 1 940	1 Corporate Communications Executive	Internally absorbed
Sept 2015	Update as necessary	Wuhan ETO	Official WeChat platform of Wuhan ETO	WeChat	To provide business communities, non-government organisations, Mainland authorities and the general public with information about Hong Kong and Wuhan ETO, including various major activities held in Hong Kong, activities organised by Wuhan ETO, as well as commerce and trade-related policies / regulations and major economic and trade activities held in provinces /	No. of subscribers: 344	No	Average no. of posts per day: 1 Average no. of interactions per post: 345	1 Executive Officer I and 1 Public Relations Assistant	Internally absorbed

Commencement of operation (month/year)	Status (keep on updating/ ceased updating)	Policy bureau/ subvented body	Name	Social media platform	Purpose of establishment and contents	No. of “Likes”/ subscribers/ average monthly visits	Regular compilation of summary of comments and follow-up (Yes/No)	Average no. of posts per day and average no. of interactions per post (total no. of “likes”, comments and shares)	Rank and no. of officers responsible for the operation	Expenditure for setting up the platform and daily operational expenses
					municipalities in the central region					
Oct 2015	Ceased updating	Shanghai ETO	“Asia’s world city – Hong Kong” thematic exhibition	WeChat and Sina Weibo	To give an account on the exhibition	No. of “Likes”: 261 No. of visitors: 916	No	(Oct to Nov 2015) Average no. of post per day: 2 Average no. of interactions per post: 43	1 Executive Assistant	Internally absorbed
Oct 2015	Ceased updating	Shanghai ETO	“Same Root Same Heart for Mutual Success” 2015 roving exhibition on Hong Kong	WeChat and Sina Weibo	To promote the “Same Root Mutual Success” roving exhibition on Hong Kong organised by Shanghai ETO from Oct to Dec 2015 in provinces / municipalities under its coverage and to promote Hong Kong’s positive image	No. of times the posts are read: over 7 700	No	(Oct to Dec 2015) No. of posts: 33	1 Deputy Director and 1 Senior Information Officer	Internally absorbed

Commencement of operation (month/year)	Status (keep on updating/ ceased updating)	Policy bureau/ subvented body	Name	Social media platform	Purpose of establishment and contents	No. of “Likes”/ subscribers/ average monthly visits	Regular compilation of summary of comments and follow-up (Yes/No)	Average no. of posts per day and average no. of interactions per post (total no. of “likes”, comments and shares)	Rank and no. of officers responsible for the operation	Expenditure for setting up the platform and daily operational expenses
Jan 2016	Update as necessary	Beijing Office (BJO)	Official WeChat platform of BJO	WeChat	To provide business communities, non-government organisations, Mainland authorities and the general public with information including latest updates on policies / regulations and the economic developments in the provinces / municipalities / autonomous regions under the coverage of BJO, as well as major economic and trade promotional activities and invitation of investment	No. of subscribers: 127 Accumulated no. of times the graphical version is read: 4 414	No	An average of 1 post every 2 to 3 days Average no. of interactions per post: 1	1 Information Officer, 2 Executive Assistants, 1 Investment Promotion Manager and 1 Technical Support Officer	Internally absorbed

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 5348)

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

Question:

Regarding the study on implementing section 33 of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance, please advise:

- (1) on the expenditure, estimated completion time and details of the business impact assessment; and
- (2) whether there are plans to review the applicability of section 33 to the current state of development of information technology, given that the implementation of the provision may have an enormous impact on the information technology sector; if so, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon Charles Peter MOK (Member Question No. 136)

Reply:

The consultant commissioned by the Government is conducting a business impact assessment on the proposed implementation of section 33, which involves an examination of compliance measures necessary for data users to meet the requirements of the provision. The objective of the study is to ensure that viable means for data users to effectively fulfil the requirements of the provision are available and the adoption of such means will not stifle legitimate business operations. The consultant will also study relevant practices of other jurisdictions in regulating cross-border transfer of data.

2. The consultant is gathering information and views from stakeholders in different industries, including the information technology sector, so as to understand the relevant business operations and identify the compliance measures required for the implementation of section 33 and their impact on different industries. The study will be completed in mid-2016 and the consultancy fee is \$1.43 million. After the completion of the study, the Government will examine in detail the information and views collected, and then consider follow-up actions.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 5350)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the work of the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data, please advise:

- (1) on the number of complaints (by category and frequency in tabular form) related to mobile applications, person-to-person telemarketing calls, direct marketing, and social networking last year;
- (2) on the number of complaints related to Government departments (by department and frequency in tabular form) last year;
- (3) on the number of complaints related to providers of mobile phone and Internet services last year;
- (4) on the number of notifications of data leakage incidents received from data users last year;
- (5) on the number of compliance investigations conducted, enforcement notices and warning notices issued, and prosecutions last year; and
- (6) whether there are plans in 2016-17 to raise awareness of privacy and transparency among Internet and telecommunication service providers and mobile application developers; if so, what are the specific tasks, timetable, and manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon Charles Peter MOK (Member Question No. 139)

Reply:

According to the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD), a total of 1 971 complaint cases were received in 2015, among which 322 were related to direct marketing (including 203 cases concerned with person-to-person telemarketing calls), 90 were related to social networking, and 71 were related to mobile applications.

2. Of the 1 971 complaint cases mentioned above, 115 were related to providers of mobile phone and Internet services, while those related to Government departments totalled 128 with breakdown as follows:

Policy bureau/department	No. of cases#
Chief Secretary for Administration's Private Office	3
Education Bureau	3
Audit Commission	1
Buildings Department	3
Civil Aid Service	2
Correctional Services Department	5
Customs and Excise Department	1
Electrical and Mechanical Services Department	1
Environmental Protection Department	1
Fire Services Department	8
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	3
Government Logistics Department	1
Government Property Agency	3
Department of Health	5
Home Affairs Department	1
Hong Kong Police Force	27
Housing Department	12
Immigration Department	5
Inland Revenue Department	2
Department of Justice	7

Labour Department	1
The Land Registry	2
Lands Department	2
Legal Aid Department	3
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	7
Official Receiver's Office	2
Post Office	4
Registration and Electoral Office	7
Social Welfare Department	8
Transport Department	1
The Treasury	1
Water Supplies Department	2
Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency	1

As some cases involved more than one Government departments, the total sum of numbers in this column exceeds 128.

3. In 2015, notifications from data users in respect of 98 data leakage incidents were received by PCPD. In the same year, PCPD conducted 355 compliance checks/self-initiated investigations, issued 67 enforcement notices and 17 warning notices, and handled 6 prosecution cases.

4. Guidance issued by PCPD on collection and use of personal data through the internet and development of mobile applications is in place. PCPD has also been promoting the information technology sector's awareness of personal data privacy protection through various channels (such as training courses and a dedicated website). In 2016-17, PCPD plans to combine and update the current information leaflet and Best Practice Guide concerning development of mobile applications, to help the trade grasp more easily the requirements in relation to protection of personal data privacy. PCPD will also actively participate in and organise seminars and related activities for exchanges with the information technology sector on issues relating to personal data privacy, and will continue to conduct random checks and compliance checks on mobile applications.

5. In 2016-17, PCPD has set aside \$4.76 million for promotion, publicity and educational activities (excluding staff cost), which covers the expenditure on activities mentioned in paragraph 4 above.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 5732)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: ()

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

- (1) Please provide the number of requests for information under the Code on Access to Information received by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau and its subvented bodies in 2015-16 and the relevant details as per the following table;

Bureau/ Department/ Subvented Body	Number of requests received	Information requested (items)	Number of requests being processed	Number of requests met in full	Number of requests met in part	Average processing time (working days)

- (2) Please advise on the 3 most common types of information requested by the public and the number of such requests;
- (3) Please advise on the 5 requests that took the longest time to process, the number of days taken to process such requests and the reasons; and
- (4) Please advise on the details of refused requests and the reasons given, as well as the number of requests for reviews made by the public.

Asked by: Hon Charles Peter MOK (Member Question No. 167)

Reply:

During the period from January to September 2015, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau received 10 requests for information made under the Code on Access to Information (the Code). The information requested varied from case to case with no duplication. As at 30 September 2015, processing of the above cases was completed.

2. Among the above requests, 7 were met in full, 2 were refused and another one withdrawn. Reasons for refusal involved management and operation of the public service (paragraph 2.9 of the Code) (1 case) and internal discussion and advice (paragraph 2.10 of the Code) (1 case). For the 5 cases which took the longest processing time, processing was completed within 51 days^{Note} from the date of receipt of the requests. Reasons for the long processing time included the need to compile/verify a large amount of information (such as information for the past 10 years) and the need to seek legal advice.

3. During the above period, the Bureau had not received any request for internal review of the processing of the above cases.

Note: In accordance with the requirements of the Code, if it is not possible for a department to respond to a request within 21 days, an explanation should be given, and any deferral should not normally exceed 51 days from date of receipt of the request.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB126

(Question Serial No. 5377)

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

Question:

What are the estimated provisions for the salary and allowances of Director of Bureau, Deputy Director of Bureau and Political Assistant to Director of Bureau in the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau for 2016-17?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. 135)

Reply:

For budgetary purposes, the provisions for the salary in respect of the positions of Director of Bureau, Deputy Director of Bureau and Political Assistant to Director of Bureau in the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau for 2016-17 are \$3.58 million, \$2.33 million and \$1.97 million respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 5445)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

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

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

Question:

It is stated in the Programme that the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau will enhance liaison, communication, trade and commercial relations as well as investment promotion in the Mainland and Taiwan, including representing and promoting Hong Kong's trade and commercial interests in the Mainland and Taiwan. In this connection, would the Government please:

- (1) tabulate the investment promotion work for Hong Kong businesses carried out in the Mainland through the Mainland Offices in the past year, the details of the activities and exhibitions, including the venues, the expenditure and the manpower involved;

Date	Venue	Participating Hong Kong Enterprise	Manpower/ Responsible Department	Expenditure

- (2) tabulate the investment promotion work for Hong Kong businesses carried out in Taiwan through the Taiwan Office in the past year, the details of the activities and exhibitions, including the dates, the venues, the expenditure and the manpower involved;

Date	Venue	Participating Hong Kong Enterprise	Manpower/ Responsible Department	Expenditure

- (3) tabulate Taiwan or Mainland enterprises that set up their business in Hong Kong with assistance from the Government in the past year and the relevant details?

Name of Enterprise	Nature of Business	Taiwan invested/ Mainland invested	Set-up Date	Branch Office

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. 204)

Reply:

The Mainland and Taiwan Offices, together with Invest Hong Kong, will continue to proactively serve as important bridges between Hong Kong and the Mainland/Taiwan, including enhancing liaison and communication with the counterparts in the areas under their coverage; representing and promoting Hong Kong's trade and commercial interests; encouraging and attracting investments to Hong Kong and promoting Hong Kong's many advantages as an investment and business hub in Asia; and promoting the strengths of Hong Kong through appropriate channels. The above areas of work complement each other in showcasing the positive image and attractions of Hong Kong in the Mainland and Taiwan.

2. In 2015-16, the Mainland and Taiwan Offices continued to adopt a multi-pronged approach in promoting Hong Kong and strengthening Hong Kong's economic and trade liaison with the Mainland and Taiwan through appropriate channels. These include attending meetings and calling on the Mainland/Taiwan counterparts; organising/participating in seminars, exhibitions and workshops; organising/participating in public relations, cultural exchange functions and events; giving public speeches, media interviews and briefings; as well as gathering relevant information on new laws and regulations, policies and latest economic developments in the Mainland and disseminating such information to the Hong Kong business sector through circulars/newsletters/press releases, etc.

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

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

5. According to Invest Hong Kong, the revised estimated expenditure for investment promotion work in the Mainland and Taiwan for 2015-16 is \$7 million. Investment Promotion Units are set up in the Mainland and Taiwan Offices under the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau to undertake investment promotion work. Other officers in the Mainland and Taiwan Offices also assist the Investment Promotion Units in implementing the investment promotion activities as necessary. Investment promotion work of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices is an integral part of the roles and functions of the Offices. The manpower and expenditure involved cannot be separately singled out and itemised.

6. In 2015, Invest Hong Kong completed 78 investment projects from the Mainland and 11 projects from Taiwan. These projects, which aim at assisting the Mainland and Taiwan enterprises to set up business operations in Hong Kong, cover a wide range of business including transport and industrial services, innovation and technology, financial services, consumer products as well as information and communications technology. As consent of the enterprises concerned has not been obtained, we cannot provide information about the names of the enterprises and the dates of commencement of operation, etc.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 5481)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

To further promote civilian exchanges on trade and culture between Hong Kong and Taiwan, the Hong Kong-Taiwan Business Co-operation Committee and the Hong Kong-Taiwan Cultural Co-operation Committee have been established in Hong Kong as the counterparts of the Economic Co-operation Committee and the Cultural Co-operation Committee under the Taiwan-Hong Kong Economic and Cultural Co-operation Council to assist in fostering exchanges and discussions on trade, investment, tourism as well as cultural and creative industries between the two places. In this connection, what is the number of exchanges on trade and culture that the two sides have held so far, and the number of agreements reached? Among these agreements, how many of them are classified as priority co-operation areas? What are the details and progress of such co-operation?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. 241)

Reply:

Since their establishment in 2010, the Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic and Cultural Cooperation Promotion Council (ECCPC) and the Taiwan-Hong Kong Economic and Cultural Co-operation Council (THEC) have convened annual joint meetings to promote Hong Kong-Taiwan co-operation in various priority areas on the economic and trade, cultural, tourism, social livelihood, city management and law enforcement exchange fronts. We engage in discussions and negotiations on individual public policy related issues, and sign memoranda of co-operation and other relevant documents through the ECCPC-THEC platform. Examples of agreements pursued or concluded at the previous joint meetings include:

- (a) the signing of a memorandum of understanding on banking regulatory co-operation between financial regulatory authorities on both sides;
- (b) the signing of an air services arrangement by both sides;

- (c) the signing of a memorandum of co-operation between export credit insurance organisations of both places;
- (d) the signing of a memorandum of co-operation between organisations for the accreditation of academic qualifications on both sides;
- (e) the signing of an agreement to launch the Asia Cruise Fund by tourism promotion organisations on both sides;
- (f) the signing of a memorandum of understanding between deposit protection agencies on both sides;
- (g) the signing of a co-operation agreement between the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation and the Industrial Technology Research Institute in Taiwan;
- (h) the signing of a co-operation agreement between leading Chinese orchestras in the two places;
- (i) the signing of a memorandum of understanding between accreditation bodies in the two places; and
- (j) the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Hong Kong Airport Authority and the Taoyuan Airport Corporation.

2. In addition, the Hong Kong-Taiwan Business Co-operation Committee (BCC) and the Economic Co-operation Committee in Taiwan have all along been promoting exchanges between Hong Kong and Taiwan on issues relating to trade and investment, particularly co-operation on the flows of people, goods and capital between the two places. So far, the BCC has organised and participated in over 100 events, including annual meetings, seminars, forums, networking luncheons / dinners, visits and missions etc.

3. We also co-operate with the Cultural Co-operation Committee in Taiwan to foster cultural exchanges between Hong Kong and Taiwan through the Hong Kong-Taiwan Cultural Co-operation Committee (CCC) by, inter alia, taking turns to organise the “Hong Kong-Taiwan Cultural Co-operation Forum” since 2011 to facilitate representatives of various cultural domains in the two places to exchange views and enhance cultural co-operation. Separately, in conjunction with the Forum in 2014 and 2015, a “Youth Cultural and Creativity Camp” was held to enhance exchanges between young practitioners engaged in cultural and creative sectors in the two places. Furthermore, the CCC has been organising the “Hong Kong Week” from 2012 on a yearly basis to present to the Taiwanese audience the vitality of Hong Kong’s arts, cultural and creative sectors through different forms of performing arts and exhibition programmes.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB129

(Question Serial No. 3526)

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

Question:

After completion of the District Council election last year, there have been comments that the existing voter registration (VR) system needs to be reviewed and changed to reduce the risk of vote-planting. In 2016-17, will the Government conduct public consultation on the review and change of the VR system? If it will, what are the specific work plan, and timetable of and estimated expenditure for the consultation; if no public consultation will be conducted, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok (Member Question No. 229)

Reply:

In the light of the public concerns expressed on matters relating to voter registration (VR), the Government issued the Consultation Document on Enhancement of Voter Registration System on 26 November 2015 to consult the public on the enhancement of the VR system; the Consultation Report was released on 21 January 2016. During the consultation period, a total of 277 submissions from Legislative Council Members, political parties, organisations and members of the public have been received. The views received are generally supportive of the measures proposed in the Consultation Document. The consultation exercise was conducted by staff of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau responsible for the formulation of VR-related policy. Production costs of the Consultation Documents and Reports have been absorbed in the Bureau's operational expenses in 2015-16.

2. In the light of the outcome of the consultation, the Electoral Affairs Commission has made amendments to the relevant subsidiary legislations under the Electoral Affairs Commission Ordinance (Cap 541) to advance the statutory deadline for change of registration particulars to the same statutory deadline for new registrations, and to change to use surface mail for all inquiries and notifications. The amendments gazetted on 22 January 2016 have gone through the negative vetting process and have come into effect on 18 March 2016.

3. As regards the Government's considerations of and follow-ups to the other measures, please refer to the press release on "Consultation Report on Enhancement of Voter Registration System" published on 21 January 2016 (see Annex or the Internet link: http://www.cmab.gov.hk/en/press/press_3721.htm).

The Government's press release on "Consultation Report on Enhancement of Voter Registration System published" dated 21 January 2016:

Consultation Report on Enhancement of Voter Registration System published

The Government today (January 21) published the Consultation Report on Enhancement of Voter Registration System, setting out the views received during the consultation exercise and the Government's position on the proposed measures after considering the views received.

A spokesman for the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) said, "The views received are in general supportive of the measures proposed in the Consultation Document on Enhancement of Voter Registration System. We will work with the Registration and Electoral Office (REO), the Department of Justice and relevant government departments to follow them up."

The spokesman added, "The Electoral Affairs Commission (EAC) has considered and is in general supportive of the measures proposed in the Consultation Document as well."

In the light of the views collected during the public consultation exercise and with the support of the EAC, the following measures will be implemented as soon as possible in the 2016 voter registration (VR) cycle:

- The EAC will make amendments to the subsidiary legislation under the Electoral Affairs Commission Ordinance (Cap. 541) to advance the statutory deadline for change of registration particulars to the same statutory deadline for new registrations, and to change to use surface mail for all inquiries and notifications. The amendments will be gazetted tomorrow (January 22); and
- The REO will strengthen verification of address information with other government departments and other sources, increase the use of other means to communicate with electors, and enhance public education and publicity on VR.

For the other measures, the Government will take them forward as follows:

- The majority of views received support increasing the penalties for the offence of making false statements in VR. The Government will carefully consider the appropriate level of penalties and put forward specific legislative proposals in due course;
- For the objection process, more views received support specifying in the law that the burden of proof rests on the objector and the objector should be required to appear at hearings. In addition, the majority of views received support uploading information on objection cases to the REO website and empowering the REO to handle indubitable objection cases. The Government will study carefully how to formulate the legislative and administrative arrangements to implement these measures, with a view to introducing them in due course;

- The majority of views received support extending the time limit for the REO to process objection cases and the Revising Officer to conduct hearings. However, noting that this measure might not be necessary after the other proposals have been implemented and having regard to the impact this measure would have on the various VR deadlines, the Government would consider the need or otherwise of this measure further; and
- The majority of views received support introducing a requirement for producing address proof by electors when submitting applications for new registration or change of registration particulars. However, views have also been received expressing concerns that such a requirement may become a serious disincentive to the public to register as electors. The Government will study the matter with care, including whether to introduce the address proof requirement in respect of change of registration particulars first, and put forward proposals in due course.

As implementation of the above measures may involve amendments to the primary legislation of various pieces of electoral legislation and there are still many bills that remain to be scrutinised by the current-term Legislative Council (LegCo) in its remaining six months or so, the Government would introduce the necessary legislative proposals to give effect to the above measures in the next term of LegCo.

The Consultation Report is available on the CMAB website (www.cmab.gov.hk).

In the light of the public concerns expressed on matters relating to VR in July and August 2015, the Government embarked on a review of the existing VR system and issued the Consultation Document on November 26, 2015, to collect public views up to January 8, 2016. A total of 277 submissions from LegCo Members, political parties, organisations and members of the public have been received. The LegCo Panel on Constitutional Affairs was consulted at its meeting held on December 21, 2015.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB130

(Question Serial No. 3527)

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
(CHANG King-yiu)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The subject of enacting sexual orientation discrimination ordinance has caused much controversy in the society. Some community groups and members of religious bodies even consider that there is no obvious discrimination against people of different sexual orientation in education, employment, provision of services, etc. Will the Government consider conducting a study in 2016-17 on whether there is obvious discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation in Hong Kong? If so, what are the work plan and estimated expenditure; if not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok (Member Question No. 230)

Reply:

The Advisory Group on Eliminating Discrimination against Sexual Minorities (Advisory Group) was set up in June 2013 by the Government to advise on matters relating to concerns about discrimination faced by sexual minorities, notably to advise on the aspects and extent of discrimination faced by sexual minorities in Hong Kong; and on the basis of that, to advise on the strategies and measures to tackle the issues identified.

2. Among the undertakings of the Advisory Group during its term, a consultant was engaged to conduct a qualitative study with a view to helping ascertain whether sexual minorities were discriminated against in Hong Kong and, if so, in what domains and ways discrimination was experienced. The Advisory Group submitted its report to the Government in December 2015, which included, inter alia, the findings of the said qualitative study. The report has been published on the website of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (at http://www.cmab.gov.hk/en/issues/equal_advisory_group.htm). A summary of the qualitative study is at Annex for reference.

Executive Summary

Objective

1. The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, in consultation with the Advisory Group on Eliminating Discrimination against Sexual Minorities and acting through the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau, commissioned Policy 21 Ltd. to conduct a study on discrimination experienced by the sexual minorities in Hong Kong (“the Study”). The aim of the Study is to ascertain whether sexual minorities were discriminated against in Hong Kong, and if so, the discrimination they had experienced and specifically: (a) in what domains; (b) in what forms; (c) the areas of needs for support and/or redress; and (d) whether they have attempted to seek redress and/or assistance from different bodies.
2. A qualitative method was adopted to collect more in-depth understanding of the experiences of sexual minorities instead of attempting to estimate the extent of discrimination using a quantitative survey of a representative sample. The data collection process was carried out from March to September 2014. A total of 214 sexual minority participants (encompassing 70 lesbians, 66 gays, 34 bisexuals, 35 transgender people, 8 post-gays and 1 intersex person) from diverse socio-economic backgrounds were interviewed through focus group discussion or in-depth interview.

Limitations

3. While the qualitative approach adopted in the Study could provide ample scope for obtaining in-depth responses by participants, this method has some limitations. Views from sexual minorities are the single source of qualitative data of the Study, and the experiences mentioned are cited based on self-report without concrete evidence or verification with other relevant parties; there is no guarantee that all descriptions were accurate especially for distant events reported from memory.
4. In addition, the Study used a non-random sample comprising a limited number of participants, which is not a scientific sampling design for gathering views from a representative sample of the target population. Therefore, it should be cautioned that the findings cannot be extrapolated to wider populations or form the basis for any general conclusion to be drawn regarding the sexual minorities in Hong Kong. Nevertheless, efforts had been made to collect views of the sexual minorities from diverse socio-economic backgrounds and different age groups.

Key findings

General understanding of discrimination in daily life

5. About half of the participants¹ indicated that the basic definition of “discrimination” was “a person is treated unfairly or less favourably than other persons”. Another half of them might not be able to articulate clearly what the definition of discrimination was. However these participants gave examples including verbal insult, mockery, sexual harassment, and physical assault; the majority of these participants also perceived “unfriendly looks or expressions” as discriminatory acts.
6. On the basis of the above subjective understanding of discrimination, the majority of participants expressed that they had experienced discriminatory acts in daily life.

Experience of discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation / gender identity

7. The participants were interviewed on their actual experiences, if any, in the domains of (1) employment; (2) education; (3) provision of goods, facilities and services; (4) disposal and management of premises and; (5) other domains. Participants were asked about the circumstantial information on the actual experiences. The reported discrimination experiences, if any, were recorded under the following pre-determined categories of forms of discrimination: direct discrimination (i.e., a person is treated less favourably than another person with a different sexual orientation or gender identity); indirect discrimination (i.e., a condition or requirement is applied to everyone but in practice adversely affects persons of a particular sexual orientation or gender identity²); harassment (i.e., a person is subjected to unwelcome verbal or physical conduct on grounds of their sexual orientation or gender identity); and vilification (any activity in public that incites hatred towards, serious contempt for, or severe ridicule of, a person or persons because of their sexual orientation or gender identity).
8. In the workplace, slightly less than half of the participants (72 out of 180 participants who had work experience) had disclosed their sexual orientations / gender identities to their employers or co-workers in the workplace. Slightly less than half of the participants (72)³ who had work experience indicated that they had encountered discrimination. Among these participants who encountered discrimination, half of

¹ In this report, terms including “the great majority”, “the majority”, “about half”, “some” and “few” are used to describe the proportion of participants expressing a specific point of view in response to a particular question. “The great majority” represents 90% or above; “the majority” 61% to 89%; “about half” 40% to 60%; “some” 11% to 39%; and “few” 10% or below.

² It should be noted that the commonly adopted legal definition of indirect discrimination also takes into account whether the concerned condition or requirement can be justified; however, as the experiences collected in this Study are based on self-reports by the participants without concrete evidence or verification with other relevant parties, the definition in this Study for indirect discrimination does not take into account whether the concerned condition or requirement is justified or not.

³ These 72 participants are not the same group of the aforementioned 72 participants who had disclosed their sexual orientations / gender identities. Some participants who had not disclosed their sexual orientations / gender identities reported that they encountered discrimination, and vice versa.

them (36 out of 72 participants) had disclosed their sexual orientations / gender identities in the workplace. Some of the participants (59) who had work experience encountered unwelcome verbal conduct (a form of harassment) in the workplace. Few of the participants (6) who had work experience suffered sexual harassment verbally or physically by their employers or co-workers. Few of the participants (10) who had work experience reported experience of direct discrimination, which includes being asked to leave their jobs/denied job offers or being deprived of promotion and training opportunities once their sexual orientation / gender identity was discovered. On the other hand, about half of the participants (108) who had work experience in Hong Kong stated that they had not experienced discrimination in the workplace.

9. In school, some of the participants (69 out of 208 participants who had studied in Hong Kong) reported suffering discrimination. Some of the participants (58) who had studied in Hong Kong encountered unwelcome verbal conduct (a form of harassment) in school. Few of the participants who had studied in Hong Kong encountered unwelcome physical conduct (a form of harassment) (4) and sexual harassment (8). Two participants also reported that they were denied school place offers by theological college, which in their view might constitute direct discrimination⁴. On the other hand, the majority of participants (139) who had studied in Hong Kong said that they had never encountered discrimination in school. It should be noted that the majority of the participants (154) who had studied in Hong Kong chose to conceal their sexual orientations / gender identities in school.
10. Regarding the experience in relation to use/purchase of goods, facilities and services, some of the participants (85 out of 214 participants) indicated that they had encountered discrimination. Some of the participants (45) encountered unwelcome verbal conduct by the providers of goods, facilities and services. Apart from this, some of the participants reported experience of direct discrimination, which includes denial of goods, facilities or services requested (e.g. being denied Valentine's Day menus in restaurant and being denied entry to public toilets) (40) or differential treatment during the provision of goods, facilities or services (e.g. being charged additional deposit for rental in hotel/inn) (6). About half of the participants (129) expressed that they had not faced discrimination in relation to use/purchase of goods, facilities and services.
11. Regarding the experience in relation to disposal and management of premises, many participants had no relevant experience; some of the participants (6 out of the 48 participants who had experience in disposal and management of premises) reported suffering direct discrimination, which includes denial of renting premises (4), and being subjected to less favourable treatment in relation to the rental of premises (2). The majority of participants (42) who had relevant experience in this domain in Hong Kong had not encountered discrimination in this domain.

⁴ While there was less favourable treatment for a person with different sexual orientation or gender identity in these cases, it is noted that the anti-discrimination laws in some of the overseas jurisdictions provide exemptions for religious schools in relation to their decisions on admission of students.

12. As far as other domains are concerned, few participants reported that they encountered direct discrimination in church (4)⁵; when their sexual minority identity was discovered in the churches they had joined, they were denied the opportunities to participate in the activities of the churches⁶. One post-gay participant recalled that he was opposed by a sexual minority organisation when he attended a forum to share his experience and he was subjected to unwelcome verbal conduct.
13. In the domains discussed above, among the participants who experienced discrimination, the majority of them had not sought assistance mainly Because they did not know where to seek help or they were afraid of exposing their sexual minority identity.

Supportive measures

14. To address discrimination against sexual minorities, the majority of participants proposed (1) education in schools and education for stakeholders in different domains; and (2) enacting legislation against discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity. Some of the participants proposed the following supportive measures: (3) setting up unisex toilets and changing rooms; (4) enhancing employment resources and counselling services for sexual minorities; (5) providing temporary shelters for sexual minorities. Some of the transgender participants proposed: (6) allowing transgender persons to dress in accordance with their preferred gender at work or at school; and (7) protecting privacy in relation to sex/gender identity (in relation to use of public services).

⁵ These experiences were reported during the open-ended session of the focus group discussion and/or in-depth interview on experiences in other domains. As the experiences do not belong to the major domains covered by the Study, there was no statistic on how many participants in total participated in church activities.

⁶ While there was less favourable treatment for a person with different sexual orientation in these cases, it is noted that the anti-discrimination laws in some of the overseas jurisdictions provide exemptions for religious organisations in relation to participation in their activities.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB131

(Question Serial No. 7211)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In respect of this Programme, will the Government advise this Committee of the following:

- (a) Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2016-17, it is stated that the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD) will review its complaint handling procedures with a view to streamlining them and enhancing efficiency. What are the details of the review?
- (b) The PCPD has extended the “average time taken to settle a simple/complicated complaint case” respectively under the performance targets of this year. What are the reasons for the extension? Does it mean that reviewing the complaint handling procedures would have no bearing on reducing the average time taken to settle a complaint case?
- (c) One of the duties of the PCPD is “carrying out inspections of personal data systems, including those of government departments and statutory bodies”. In 2015, the PCPD released a report on the survey of ten commonly-used public registers and made its recommendations therein. Has the Government officially responded to the PCPD in relation to the report and followed up on the recommendations?

Asked by: Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen (Member Question No. 8)

Reply:

According to the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD), the complaint handling procedures of the PCPD have been streamlined by restructuring the Operations Division, improving the workflow, re-designing the complaint forms etc. The average time taken to settle a complaint case in 2015 was shorter than that in 2014. To

further enhance efficiency in the handling of complaints, the PCPD has a plan in 2016-17 to examine and review every step of its complaint handling procedures. The estimated average time taken to settle a simple complaint case was shortened from 40 days in 2015 to 35 days in 2016, while the estimated average time taken to settle a complicated complaint case was shortened from 180 days in 2015 to 100 days in 2016.

2. With regard to the PCPD's Survey of Public Registers Maintained by Government and Public Bodies published in 2015, the PCPD has been informed of the Government's follow-up actions.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB132

(Question Serial No. 6705)

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

Question:

Please give a breakdown of the actual expenditure on salaries, regularly-paid allowances, job-related allowances and non-accountable entertainment allowance payable to the Director of Bureau in 2015-16, as well as the estimate for salaries, regularly-paid allowances, job-related allowances and non-accountable entertainment allowance payable to the Director of Bureau in 2016-17.

Asked by: Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 449)

Reply:

The provision for the salary in respect of the position of Director of Bureau in the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau in 2015-16 is \$3.58 million. For budgetary purposes, we have set aside a provision of \$3.58 million for the salary in respect of this position for 2016-17.

2. In 2015-16 and 2016-17, we do not have any expenditure or estimate of expenditure on regularly-paid allowances, job-related allowances and non-accountable entertainment allowance for the Director of Bureau.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB133

(Question Serial No. 3708)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In the past 5 years, had the Government collected relevant data on the races of stakeholders when it implemented policies and measures on education, employment, health care, housing, social welfare or security, as well as provided the related public services, so as to facilitate more comprehensive consideration by the policy bureaux concerned when formulating policies? If it had, please list such policies, measures and public services. If it had not, what measures does the Government have in place to ensure that its policies, measures and public services can cater for the needs of local residents of different races, and promote racial harmony and sustainable development of a pluralistic society?

Asked by: Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung (Member Question No. 412)

Reply:

The Government endeavours to promote racial equality and harmony, and to ensure that people of different races enjoy equal access to public services. Currently, government bureaux and departments, having regard to their own needs, collect data and statistics on the races of stakeholders and conduct related studies. For example, the Census and Statistics Department published in 2012 the "Hong Kong 2011 Population Census Thematic Report: Ethnic Minorities", which analysed the characteristics of ethnic minorities including demographics, education, employment, living arrangements and geographical distribution by making use of statistical data compiled from the 2011 Population Census. Comparisons were also made with results of the 2001 Population Census and the 2006 Population By-census to gain an understanding of the situation of ethnic minorities in Hong Kong.

2. As specifically stated in the 2014 Policy Address, the Government would implement a number of measures to strengthen education support and employment services for ethnic minorities and to help them integrate into the community in areas such as community outreach, health and public education. Besides, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) is responsible for the overall policy on the promotion of racial equality and the Race Discrimination Ordinance. CMAB has also promulgated the Administrative Guidelines on Promotion of Racial Equality to provide guidance to relevant Government bureaux and departments and public authorities to promote racial equality and ensure equal access by ethnic minorities to public services in key areas concerned. Various government bureaux and departments provide suitable assistance to ethnic minority service users according to their specific needs, ensuring their equal access to public services.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB134****(Question Serial No. 3709)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Does the Government have any measure or plan to require all government departments to collect relevant data on the races of stakeholders, so as to review if the relevant policies, measures and public services will effectively promote racial equality and racial harmony? If so, what are the details; if not, what are the reasons?

In the past 5 years, had various policy bureaux and departments, either on their own or through commissioning community organisations, conducted surveys or researches with local residents of different races as their targets? If they had, please set out the following about the survey or research projects: when they were conducted, the responsible government departments or organisations, the expenditure involved, whether they have been completed and (if completed) the results thereof, broken down by project names; if no such surveys or researches had been conducted, what are the reasons? Please provide the information as per following table.

Bureau/ Department	Name of project	When the project was conducted	Responsible department/ organisation	Expenditure	Results

Asked by: Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung (Member Question No. 413)

Reply:

Currently, policy bureaux and departments, having regard to their own needs, collect data and statistics on the races of stakeholders and conduct related studies.

2. For example, the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) published in 2012 the "Hong Kong 2011 Population Census Thematic Report: Ethnic Minorities", which analysed the characteristics of ethnic minorities including demographics, education, employment,

living arrangements and geographical distribution by making use of statistical data compiled from the 2011 Population Census. Comparisons were also made with results of the 2001 Population Census and the 2006 Population By-census to gain an understanding of the situation of ethnic minorities in Hong Kong.

3. Besides, the Government endeavours to encourage and support the integration of non-Chinese speaking (NCS) students into the community by, inter alia, facilitating their early adaptation to the local education system and mastery of the Chinese Language. The Education Bureau (EDB) has, starting from the 2014/15 school year, implemented the “Chinese Language Curriculum Second Language Framework” in primary and secondary schools to help NCS students overcome difficulties in learning Chinese as a second language with a view to enabling them to bridge over to mainstream Chinese Language classes and master the Chinese Language. In accordance with the advice of research and language experts, EDB has drawn up a research framework and will analyse data collected so far to evaluate the effectiveness of and optimise various support measures for NCS students.

4. The Government also released in 2015 the Hong Kong Poverty Situation Report on Ethnic Minorities 2014. Adopting the analytical framework of the poverty line endorsed by the Commission of Poverty (CoP) and based on the data from the 2011 Population Census and the Survey on Household with School Children of South Asian Ethnicities commissioned in 2014, the Economic Analysis and Business Facilitation Unit of the Financial Secretary’s Office in collaboration with the C&SD analysed the poverty situation of ethnic minorities in Hong Kong in detail in the Report. The CoP has raised a number of issues for further study and given views on how the support services for ethnic minorities can be strengthened. The Special Needs Groups Task Force under the CoP will follow up on the CoP’s discussion and explore the feasibility of the proposed support measures. The Task Force will report to the CoP on its deliberations in due course.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB135****(Question Serial No. 6007)**Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs BureauSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal DataControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

Please provide the number of complaints in relation to 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: Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung (Member Question No. 92)Reply:

A breakdown by category of complaint cases in relation to the Disability Discrimination Ordinance received by the Equal Opportunities Commission over the past 5 years is as follows:

Year	Disability discrimination	Disability harassment	Disability vilification	Victimisation	Total
2011	385	35	4	9	433
2012	356	30	16	3	405
2013	284	58	3	3	348
2014	240	33	4	4	281
2015	213	31	2	0	246

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 6035)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Government states that it will use the Children's Forum as a platform for collecting and listening to the views of the children. Please provide information on:

1. the details of the Children's Forums organised, including the dates, themes, numbers of participants, venues as well as the Government departments and officials participated, since the establishment of the Forum;
2. the number of children that can be reached by the Forum;
3. whether the timing of the Forum is children-friendly, e.g., whether the Forums are held at the time when children have to attend school; and
4. the effectiveness of the Forum.

Asked by: Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung (Member Question No. 3)

Reply:

Since the establishment of the Children's Rights Forum (the Forum) in 2005, 28 meetings have been convened. These meetings were held after school hours or during weekends. There were about 30 to 50 participants at each meeting. The venues and discussion topics of past meetings are set out at the Annex. Generally speaking, the secretariat will, in respect of different topics, invite representatives from relevant bureaux and departments (usually pitched at senior / directorate level) to the meetings. The views of the participants on various topics, such as children's privacy, sustainable development and the Territory-wide System Assessment (TSA), etc., have been reflected to relevant policy bureaux.

2. The Forum has been serving as a platform for exchange of views among children bodies, children and the Government on matters that concern children. It encourages members of the public who take an interest in children's affairs (including children) to propose topics for discussion and participate in the Forum's discussions. Starting from 2014, the Government has enhanced the co-operation between the Family Council and the Forum. For example at its meeting in January, the Forum discussed the proposed legislation to implement the recommendations of the Law Reform Commission Report on Child Custody and Access to facilitate the Family Council to gauge the views of the Forum before it discussed the same topic in March. The Forum will continue relaying to the Family Council the views of children on various government initiatives expressed at the Forum, so as to facilitate the Family Council's work in assessing the impact of these policies on family. This will help facilitate the collection of views concerning children's interests for reference by bureaux and departments.

Details of meetings of The Children's Rights Forum

Date	District	Discussion topic
2 December 2005	Wan Chai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment of a Children's Rights Forum - Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme - Initial report of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region under the Convention on the Rights of the Child: Response to the Concluding Observations of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (continued discussion)
25 January 2006 (continued meeting)	Wan Chai	
29 March 2006	Wan Chai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Initial report of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region under the Convention on the Rights of the Child: Response to the Concluding Observations of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (continued discussion) - Proposed race discrimination legislation - Establishment of the Children's Rights Unit - Review of corporate governance of the Equal Opportunities Commission
15 December 2006	Wan Chai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Initial report of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region under the Convention on the Rights of the Child: Response to the Concluding Observations of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (continued discussion) - Progress report on 2006-07 Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme
9 March 2007	Wan Chai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Initial report of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region under the Convention on the Rights of the Child: Response to the Concluding Observations of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (continued discussion) - Progress report on 2006-07 Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme - Social welfare services for children
29 June 2007	Wan Chai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Initial report of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region under the Convention on the Rights of the Child: Response to the Concluding Observations of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (continued discussion)

Date	District	Discussion topic
21 September 2007	Wan Chai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Initial report of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region under the Convention on the Rights of the Child: Response to the Concluding Observations of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (continued discussion) - Suggestions on Children's Rights Forum by Kids' Dream, Children's Rights Association and Child Councilors of Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong
29 February 2008	Wan Chai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fostering a Caring School Ethos – the Students' Participation
4 July 2008	Wan Chai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Internet safety for children - Response of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region to the Concluding Observations of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (continued discussion)
19 December 2008	Eastern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Corporal punishment and violence to children - Convention on the Rights of the Child comic booklet - International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights comic booklet
16 April 2009	Eastern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children's health and health service – drug abuse among children - An outline of the topic to be covered in the second report of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
25 September 2009	Eastern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children's health and health service – sex education - Review of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance
13 November 2009 (special meeting)	Yau Tsim Mong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Briefing and discussion on review of Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance
5 January 2010 (special meeting)	Yau Tsim Mong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - West Kowloon Cultural District Stage 1 Public Engagement Exercise
26 February 2010	Wan Chai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An outline of the topics in the third report of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
2 July 2010	Wan Chai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An outline of the topics to be covered in the third report of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in the light of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights - Prevention of Suicide

Date	District	Discussion topic
19 November 2010	Yau Tsim Mong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - West Kowloon Cultural District Stage 2 Public Engagement Exercise - Report on the Public Consultation on the Review of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance
17 August 2011	Wan Chai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moral and National Education Curriculum - School violence
21 October 2011	Yau Tsim Mong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - West Kowloon Cultural District Stage 3 Public Engagement Exercise - Establishing the Sexual Conviction Record Check Scheme
20 April 2012	Central and Western	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Internet Learning Support Programme - “I Learn at home” - Consultation on the implementation of “Joint Parental Responsibility Model” by Legislative Measure
14 January 2013	Wan Chai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Air quality in Hong Kong - Children’s rights initiatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2013 Children’s Rights Education Funding Scheme - School outreach programme - Mobile application for promoting children’s rights
20 April 2013	Wan Chai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Primary one allocation and transport arrangement for cross-boundary students - Second report of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region under the Convention on the Rights of the Child - Progress report on 2013 Children’s Rights Education Funding Scheme
30 July 2013	Central and Western	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment of the Centre of Excellence in Paediatrics - Meeting arrangements of the Children’s Rights Forum
17 January 2014	Sham Shui Po	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The hearing and concluding observations of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child regarding the report of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region under the Convention on the Rights of the Child - First report of the Child Fatality Review Panel - Rehabilitation services for pre-school children
12 August 2014	Yau Tsim Mong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhanced support measures in learning Chinese for non-Chinese speaking students - Comprehensive child development service
1 April 2015	Central and Western	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Life planning education - Sexual Conviction Record Check Scheme

Date	District	Discussion topic
9 October 2015	Wan Chai	- Children's privacy - Sustainable development
4 December 2015	Central and Western	- Territory-wide System Assessment (TSA)
21 January 2016	Wong Tai Sin	- Proposed legislation to implement the recommendations of the Law Reform Commission Report on Child Custody and Access

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB137

(Question Serial No. 6037)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

On 20 November 2013, I moved a motion on “Setting up a Commission on Children”. The motion, which was subsequently amended by Hon Kenneth CHAN requesting the Government to organise an annual “Summit on Children”, was unanimously passed by all members present. Does the Government have any plans to convene an annual “Summit on Children”? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung (Member Question No. 5)

Reply:

Children’s affairs straddle across different policy areas, e.g., education, healthcare and welfare, etc. The relevant policy bureaux handle matters under their respective purviews, such as formulating specific legislation for protecting the rights of children, and earmarking resources for implementing various policies. Relevant policy bureaux have been implementing extensive measures to enhance children’s rights and well-being.

2. As regards the collection of opinions when formulating policies relating to children, it is the current practice for policy bureaux to seek views from the relevant advisory bodies. With effect from 1 April 2013, a mandatory assessment of family implications has been introduced for all policies (for different age and gender sectors, including children). Bureaux and departments are required to use the 3 sets of family core values (i.e., “love and care”, “respect and responsibilities” and “communication and harmony”) as identified by the Family Council, as well as the impact on family’s structure and functions as the basis for assessing the impact of their policies on families, and are required to consider consulting the Family Council on policies which carry family implications.

3. In case there are matters which involve a number of policy areas, policy bureaux will co-ordinate among themselves. We will also suitably co-ordinate and support through high level set-up such as the Policy Committee. For example, the 2016 Policy Address has set out a range of measures to be implemented by different bureaux and departments to promote the well-being of children, notably those children who are disadvantaged, such as increasing training hours for children on waiting list for special child care centres, and implementing free quality kindergarten education policy from the 2017/18 school year. These measures have taken into consideration the views of, inter alia, the Legislative Council, the public and the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child on children's affairs.

4. The Government has no intention to separately convene a "Summit on Children".

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB138

(Question Serial No. 6038)

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

Question:

I initiated a motion debate in 2007 urging the Government to set up a commission on children and to formulate a comprehensive child policy. The motion was unanimously passed by all members present. In November 2013, I moved a motion on "Setting up a Commission on Children" and again the motion was unanimously passed by all members present. Will the Government set up a commission on children in response to the demands of the Legislative Council members? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung (Member Question No. 6)

Reply:

The Government's response to the motion was submitted to the Legislative Council Secretariat in January 2014. Please refer to the Appendix for details.

**Progress Report on the Motion
“Setting up a commission on children”**

Background

At the Legislative Council meeting on 20 November 2013, members passed the following motion moved by Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG, as amended by Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN –

“That, in the process of formulating public policies, children’s perspectives are very often neglected; at its meeting of 6 June 2007, the Legislative Council passed a Members’ motion urging the Government to set up a commission on children to fulfill the obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, safeguard the well-being of children, and ensure that children’s perspectives were fully taken into account in the process of formulating policies; subsequently, the Government only established the Family Council in response to the demands, but the Family Council does not focus on children’s rights and well-being as its major areas of work; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to expeditiously set up a commission on children, so as to ensure that children’s well-being and perspectives are fully taken into account in the process of formulating policies, protect the legitimate rights under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and convene summits annually on children development policies and strategies.”

This paper reports the Administration’s latest position on the subject.

The Administration’s position

2. The Administration is firmly committed to promoting children’s rights. Our society generally recognises that family is the important and fundamental group unit of society which provides the natural environment for the growth and well-being of all its members including children. Against this backdrop, we have been adopting a family-based approach in promoting children’s well-being, by providing necessary and appropriate services to children as well as families.

3. Children’s affairs straddle across different policy areas, e.g., education, healthcare and welfare, etc. The relevant policy bureaux will handle matters under their respective purviews, such as formulating specific legislation for protecting the rights of children, and earmarking resources for implementing various policies. Relevant policy bureaux have been implementing extensive measures to enhance children’s rights and well-being.

4. In case there are matters which involve a number of policy areas, policy bureaux will co-ordinate among themselves. We will also suitably co-ordinate and support through high level set-up such as the Policy Committee. For example, the 2014 Policy Address has set out a range of measures to be implemented by different bureaux and departments (B/Ds) to promote the well-being of children, notably those children who are disadvantaged. Highlights of these measures are set out in **Annex**. These measures have taken into

consideration the views of, inter alia, the Legislative Council, the public and the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child on children's affairs.

5. As regards the collection of opinions when formulating policies relating to children, it is the current practice for policy bureaux to seek views from the relevant advisory bodies. With effect from 1 April 2013, a mandatory assessment of family implications has been introduced to the process of formulating policies and amendment of existing policies. B/Ds are required to use the three sets of family core values (i.e., "love and care", "respect and responsibilities" and "communication and harmony") as identified by the Family Council (the Council), as well as the impact on family's structure and functions as the basis for assessing the impact of their policies on families.

6. The Council, established in 2007, has been striving to advocate cherishing the family as a main driver for social harmony. The Council has been serving as a cross-sector and cross-bureau platform for examining family-related issues and promoting a culture of loving families. The Council is chaired by a non-official academic, and consists of official members include representatives from Home Affairs Bureau, Labour and Welfare Bureau, Education Bureau and Central Policy Unit, and non-official members from a wide range of background (including social welfare, professional, academic and business sector) with experience in family (including children) related issues. B/Ds are encouraged to consult the Council on policies which may affect the family.

7. Besides, the Children's Rights Forum (the Forum), established in 2005, has been serving as a platform for exchange of views among children bodies, children and the Administration on matters that concern children. It encourages members of the public who take an interest in children's affair (including children) to propose topics for discussion and participate in the Forum's discussions. Forum participants' views on different topics (e.g., legislation on the implementation of the Joint Parental Responsibility Model and the Centre of Excellence in Paediatrics) have been reflected to relevant bureaux accordingly.

8. The Administration will endeavour to enhance the co-operation between the Council and the Forum. In particular, the Forum will relay to the Council the views of children on various government initiatives expressed at the Forum, so as to facilitate the Council's work in assessing the impact of these policies on family. Views reflecting children's interest will thus be more systematically collected in policy formulation by B/Ds and the Council. The Council will also invite policy bureaux to brief and consult the Council on children-related policies and initiatives being formulated.

9. We consider that the current arrangement for handling children affairs provides us the necessary flexibility in addressing the concern of various sectors on children matters, and is in line with our policy objective of strengthening the role of family. The Administration remains of the view that there is no imminent need to duplicate ongoing efforts and establish a commission on children.

Highlights of measures to promote the well-being of children

- a) Introduce a Low-income Work Family Allowance tied to employment and working hours to encourage self-reliance and break the vicious cycle of inter-generational poverty. If the family includes children or youth members, it is entitled to an additional full allowance. More than 200 000 low-income families, including 180 000 eligible children and young people, will benefit from the allowance.
- b) From the 2014/15 school year, the Education Bureau will provide the “Chinese Language Curriculum Second Language Learning Framework” with supporting learning and teaching materials, and increase funding support to schools to implement the new framework. The Education Bureau will also provide an Applied Learning (Chinese Language) subject to be pegged at the Qualifications Framework at senior secondary level and encourage parents of Non-Chinese speaking students to let their children start learning Chinese at the pre-primary stage through district-based projects/programmes.
- c) Enhance support for students receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) by increasing grants for school-related expenses for primary and secondary students of CSSA families through regularisation of a Community Care Fund programme from the 2014/15 school year.
- d) Provide additional teacher assistants and progressively reduce the class size for schools with children with disabilities, and increase the staff of the boarding section of special schools and provide additional grant for these schools.
- e) Provide additional places for rehabilitation services, including for pre-school rehabilitation.
- f) Extend the Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme on a concessionary fare of \$2 to eligible children with disabilities under the age of 12.
- g) Increase the voucher value of the Pre-primary Education Voucher Scheme by \$2,500 for the 2014/15 and 2015/16 school years and lift the fee remission ceiling to help needy families.
- h) Regularise three CCF learning support programmes from the 2014/15 school year to ensure that disadvantaged students have equal learning opportunities to benefit about 270 000 students, namely, (i) providing free lunch at schools for primary students receiving a full grant under the student financial assistance scheme; (ii) increasing the flat-rate grant by about 100% for each primary and secondary student eligible under the School Textbook Assistance Scheme; and (iii) establishing a tuition fee reimbursement mechanism for students in need pursuing eligible programmes below sub-degree level and providing them with a flat-rate academic expenses grant.
- i) Earmark \$300 million in the next financial year to ensure the sustainability of the Child Development Fund and help more students from needy families.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB139

(Question Serial No. 6039)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

It is the international trend to set up a dedicated institution to deal with matters relating to children. In order to assist the governments in formulating a comprehensive policy on children, over 70 countries and 200 regions have set up children's commissions or have appointed children's commissioners to collect views on children-related matters, to address the needs and to safeguard the well-being of children. A dedicated institution will not only facilitate the Government to consolidate the work of the various parties so that co-ordinated and focused efforts can be made to address children-related issues, but also ensure that a more holistic approach can be adopted in policy formulation. Moreover, effective consultation can help reduce political wrangles and facilitate the smooth implementation of policies. Will the Government consider setting up a commission on children in the light of the international experience? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung (Member Question No. 7)

Reply:

Children's affairs straddle across different policy areas, e.g., education, healthcare and welfare, etc. The relevant policy bureaux handle matters under their respective purviews, such as formulating specific legislation for protecting the rights of children, and earmarking resources for implementing various policies. Relevant policy bureaux have been implementing extensive measures to enhance children's rights and well-being.

2. As regards the collection of opinions when formulating policies relating to children, it is the current practice for policy bureaux to seek views from the relevant advisory bodies. With effect from 1 April 2013, a mandatory assessment of family implications has been introduced for all policies (for different age and gender sectors, including children). Bureaux and departments are required to use the 3 sets of family core values (i.e., "love and care", "respect and responsibilities" and "communication and harmony") as identified by

the Family Council, as well as the impact on family's structure and functions as the basis for assessing the impact of their policies on families, and are required to consider consulting the Family Council on policies which carry family implications.

3. In case there are matters which involve a number of policy areas, policy bureaux will co-ordinate among themselves. We will also suitably co-ordinate and support through high level set-up such as the Policy Committee. For example, the 2016 Policy Address has set out a range of measures to be implemented by different bureaux and departments to promote the well-being of children, notably those children who are disadvantaged, such as increasing training hours for children on waiting list for special child care centres, and implementing free quality kindergarten education policy from 2017/18 school year. These measures have taken into consideration the views of, inter alia, the Legislative Council, the public and the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child on children's affairs.

4. The Government has no intention to set up a separate commission on children.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB140

(Question Serial No. 6040)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In its Concluding Observations issued on October 2013, the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child states that “(it) further recommends that Hong Kong SAR expedite the establishment of a Children’s Commission or another independent human rights institution with a clear mandate to monitor children’s rights and provide it with adequate financial, human and technical resources.” Does the Government have any plans to set up a commission on children as recommended by the Committee? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung (Member Question No. 8)

Reply:

Children’s affairs straddle across different policy areas, e.g., education, healthcare and welfare, etc. The relevant policy bureaux handle matters under their respective purviews, such as formulating specific legislation for protecting the rights of children, and earmarking resources for implementing various policies. Relevant policy bureaux have been implementing extensive measures to enhance children’s rights and well-being. In case there are matters which involve a number of policy areas, policy bureaux will co-ordinate among themselves. We will also suitably co-ordinate and support through high level set-up such as the Policy Committee.

2. As regards the collection of opinions when formulating policies relating to children, it is the current practice for policy bureaux to seek views from the relevant advisory bodies. With effect from 1 April 2013, a mandatory assessment of family implications has been introduced for all policies (for different age and gender sectors, including children). Bureaux and departments are required to use the 3 sets of family core values (i.e., “love and care”, “respect and responsibilities” and “communication and harmony”) as identified by the Family Council (the Council), as well as the impact on family’s structure and functions as the basis for assessing the impact of their policies on families, and are required to consider consulting the Council on policies which carry family implications.

3. The Council, established in 2007, has been striving to advocate cherishing the family as a main driver for social harmony. The Council has been serving as a cross-sector and cross-bureau platform for examining family-related issues and promoting a culture of loving families. The Council is chaired by a non-official academic, and consists of official members including representatives from Home Affairs Bureau, Labour and Welfare Bureau, Education Bureau and Central Policy Unit, and non-official members from a wide range of background (including social welfare, professional, academic and business sector). The Council will also invite policy bureaux/departments to brief and consult the Council on children-related policies and initiatives being formulated.

4. Besides, the Children's Rights Forum (the Forum), established in 2005, has been serving as a platform for exchange of views among children bodies, children and the Government on matters that concern children. It encourages members of the public who take an interest in children's affairs (including children) to propose topics for discussion and participate in the Forum's discussions. Forum participants' views on different topics (e.g., the Territory-wide System Assessment (TSA) and proposed legislation to implement the recommendations of the Law Reform Commission Report on Child Custody and Access, etc.) have been reflected to the Council and relevant bureaux accordingly.

5. The Government has further enhanced the co-operation between the Council and the Forum. In particular, the Forum will relay to the Council the views of children on various government initiatives expressed at the Forum, so as to facilitate the Council and government departments in assessing the impact of these policies on family.

6. The Government remains of the view that there is no need to duplicate ongoing efforts and set up a separate commission on children.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB141****(Question Serial No. 6384)**Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs BureauSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal DataControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

Please provide the number of complaints made by students with special education needs and received by the Equal Opportunities Commission over the past 5 years. Please provide a breakdown by category of these complaints.

Asked by: Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung (Member Question No. 93)Reply:

As advised by the Equal Opportunities Commission, it does not maintain a breakdown by category of complaints made by students with special education needs. The EOC has provided the number of complaints cases in the field of education it received under the Disability Discrimination Ordinance over the past 5 years for reference:

Year	Disability discrimination	Disability harassment	Disability vilification	Victimisation	Total
2011	5	0	0	0	5
2012	11	1	0	0	12
2013	8	14	0	1	23
2014	7	4	0	0	11
2015	6	0	0	0	6

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB142****(Question Serial No. 7092)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child has asked Contracting States or territories to the Convention on the Rights of the Child to promote public awareness of the provisions of the Convention. In this regard, what were the Government's related expenditures in the past 5 years? Has provision been earmarked for promotional work in the next financial year? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung (Member Question No. 652)

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)
2011-12	1.006
2012-13	1.838 [#]
2013-14	2.116 [^]
2014-15	1.288
2015-16 (revised estimate)	3.292 [^]

[#] Including production of Announcements in the Public Interest on children's rights.

[^] Including co-operating with the Radio Television Hong Kong to produce a TV programme promoting children's rights.

2. In 2016-17, the Government will continue to promote children's rights through implementing the Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme and the Children's Rights Forum. The estimated expenditure for these efforts, excluding manpower expenditure, is about \$1.07 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB143

(Question Serial No. 7122)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please set out in table form the allocation of provision, the additional manpower and the relevant posts created for examining the feasibility of establishing an Equal Opportunities Tribunal. What are the specific work plan and the expenditure involved? If there is no such plan, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung (Member Question No. 687)

Reply:

With regard to the proposal to establish an Equal Opportunities Tribunal, we have consulted the Judiciary. The Judiciary considers that the proactive case management measures introduced after the Civil Justice Reform in April 2009 have enabled the District Courts to handle Equal Opportunities (EO) claims in a more efficient manner. Besides, the Legislative Council passed the District Court Equal Opportunities (Amendment) Rules 2014 in July 2014 so as to streamline the adjudication of EO claims in District Courts and further enhance case management measures. The new measures have come into effect in November 2014 and are now operating smoothly. The relevant measures have provided a more accessible platform for parties concerned to pursue EO claims in court, and also helped expedite the adjudication of EO claims.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB144

(Question Serial No. 7123)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please set out in table form the allocation of provision, the additional manpower and the relevant posts created for the promotion of the concept of equal pay for work of equal value in the context of gender equality. What are the specific plan, (including the publicity programme) and the expenditure involved? If there is no such plan, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung (Member Question No. 688)

Reply:

Since its establishment, the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) has been working steadily to advance the Equal Pay for Work of Equal Value (EPEV) principle. These efforts include incorporating EPEV into the Code of Practice on Employment (Code of Practice) issued under the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (SDO) in 1996; publishing a set of guidelines to address the issue of pay disparity between the two genders; publishing an Easy Read Guide for small businesses which constitute a large number of employers in Hong Kong; arranging talks for employers, women groups and other stakeholders; and incorporating EPEV principles and practices in the EOC's regular training for different stakeholders and the general public.

2. The EOC is reviewing internally the abovementioned Code of Practice, including its content about the EPEV principle, with an aim to draw on the experiences and cases accumulated since the enactment of the SDO in 1996 to strengthen the guidelines. The EOC expects that the internal review will be completed by the end of this year and it will consult stakeholders and the general public afterwards.

3. As advised by the EOC, the work on promoting the concept of EPEV includes conducting research studies and preparing consultancy reports, organising conferences, preparing and printing EPEV guides, etc. These are integral parts of the EOC's efforts in promoting the concept of equal opportunities for all; a separate breakdown is therefore not available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB145

(Question Serial No. 4988)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

(a) Please provide relevant information on cross-boundary projects or programmes that the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) has collaborated with Mainland departments or in which it has been involved over the past 5 years (i.e. 2011-12 to 2015-16), and in the coming year (i.e. 2016-17), as well as the manpower and expenditure involved as per following table:

Project/ Programme	Details and objective	Mainland department or organisation involved	Progress	Has the project/ programme been released to the public?	Details of the legislation or policy involved in the project/ programme	Manpower and expenditure involved

(b) Please set out the number, contents, objectives of and respective expenditure involved for all meetings, lunches and dinners between CMAB and the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (Liaison Office) and Mainland departments over the past 5 years (i.e 2011-12 to 2015-16).

(c) Please set out the number, contents, objectives of, number of participants in and expenditure involved for all duty visits and studies to the Mainland made by CMAB staff over the past 5 years (i.e 2011-12 to 2015-16).

(d) Please set out the number, contents, objectives of, number of participants in and expenditure involved for all overseas duty visits and studies (excluding the Mainland) made by CMAB staff over the past 5 years (i.e 2011-12 to 2015-16).

Asked by: Hon IP Kin-yuen (Member Question No. 106)

Reply:

While the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) is responsible for the overall co-ordination of the efforts of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government in promoting regional co-operation with provinces/municipalities in the Mainland, specific co-operation projects are initiated and taken forward by the relevant policy bureaux and departments.

2. CMAB maintains necessary working relationships with the central and provincial/municipal authorities in the Mainland, as well as offices of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR to ensure effective exchanges. We do not keep a separate account to capture related expenditure.

3. For official duty visits to the Mainland, Macao and Taiwan undertaken by officers of CMAB over the past 5 years (2011-12 to 2015-16), the relevant information is provided below –

Year (Number of visits)	Content/objective	Number of officers	Expenditure (\$)^{Note}
2011-12 (57)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promoting regional co-operation with the Mainland • enhancing further co-operation and exchanges with Macao and Taiwan 	1-11 officers per visit	801,420
2012-13 (33)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promoting regional co-operation with the Mainland • enhancing further co-operation and exchanges with Macao and Taiwan 	1-12 officers per visit	379,000
2013-14 (54)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promoting regional co-operation with the Mainland • enhancing further co-operation and exchanges with Macao and Taiwan • attending Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation Data Privacy Sub-group meetings 	1-8 officers per visit	345,230

Year (Number of visits)	Content/objective	Number of officers	Expenditure (\$)^{Note}
2014-15 (56)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promoting regional co-operation with the Mainland • enhancing further co-operation and exchanges with Macao and Taiwan • attending Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation Data Privacy Sub-group meetings 	1-14 officers per visit	501,960
2015-16 (34)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promoting regional co-operation with the Mainland • enhancing further co-operation and exchanges with Macao and Taiwan • arranging Mainland officials to exchange views on constitutional development with Legislative Council Members 	1-11 officers per visit	374,510

4. For official duty visits outside Hong Kong (excluding the Mainland, Macao and Taiwan) undertaken by officers of CMAB over the past 5 years (2011-12 to 2015-16), the relevant information is provided below –

Year (Number of visits)	Content/objective	Number of officers	Expenditure (\$)^{Note}
2011-12 (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • attending Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation Data Privacy Sub-group meetings 	1 officer	53,570
2012-13 (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • experience sharing on issues related to electoral arrangements • attending Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation Data Privacy Sub-group meetings • attending United Nations human rights hearings 	1-5 officers per visit	494,990

Year (Number of visits)	Content/objective	Number of officers	Expenditure (\$)^{Note}
2013-14 (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> attending United Nations human rights hearings 	1-3 officers per visit	367,170
2014-15 (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> attending Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation Data Privacy Sub-group meetings attending United Nations human rights hearings 	1-3 officers per visit	160,910
2015-16 (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> attending Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation Data Privacy Sub-group meetings attending United Nations human rights hearings 	1-3 officers per visit	284,810

Note:

- (1) The above expenditure includes expenditure on hotel accommodation and flight tickets, but excludes—
 - (a) overseas subsistence allowance provided to officers concerned, expenses on communication, etc.; and
 - (b) the expenditure which was sponsored by the hosting government.
- (2) The arrangement of hotel accommodation was provided to officers concerned in accordance with the relevant Civil Service Regulations and guidelines.
- (3) Proper class of air passages was provided to officers concerned in accordance with the relevant Civil Service Regulations which take into account ranking of their offices, flying time, flight schedule and other relevant details.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB146

(Question Serial No. 7232)

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

Question:

One of the responsibilities of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) is to promote public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law. Last year, the CMAB said that it spent/set aside about \$16 million in each of the recent 5 financial years (including 2015-16) for organising activities to promote the Basic Law. In this connection,

- (a) please give a breakdown, by activity, of the actual expenditure on the promotion of the Basic Law in 2015-16 by the CMAB;
- (b) please give a breakdown, by activity, of the expenditure set aside by the CMAB for the promotion of the Basic Law in 2016-17;
- (c) What are the estimates of expenditure of other government departments, other than the CMAB, for the promotion of the Basic Law in 2016-17? Please provide a breakdown of the relevant expenditure items.

Asked by: Hon Martin LIAO Cheung-kong (Member Question No. 30)

Reply:

In 2015-16 and 2016-17, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) has spent/will set aside about \$16 million for organising activities via different means to enhance public awareness and understanding of “one country, two systems” and the Basic Law.

2. The strategies of Basic Law promotion include:

- (a) using electronic media, such as Announcements in the Public Interest on television and radio, 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, quiz competitions and debate competitions, in order to reach a wider audience through their extensive community networks.

3. Besides, the relevant bureaux/departments will also continue to promote the Basic Law in various areas through civic education, school education and training for civil servants. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government has set up the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (BLPSC) to provide views and steer on the overall strategy and key aspects for promoting the Basic Law. Under the steer of the BLPSC and its five working groups (namely Local Community; Teachers and Students; Civil Servants; Industrial, Commercial and Professional Sectors; and Overseas Community Working Groups), relevant bureaux/departments (i.e. the Home Affairs Bureau, Education Bureau, Civil Service Bureau, Trade and Industry Department and Information Services Department) assist in planning and organising various activities in their respective sectors to promote the Basic Law. In 2016-17, the HKSAR Government has set aside about \$20 million (including the sum of about \$16 million set aside by the CMAB) for promoting the Basic Law. The above figure does not include the estimated amount of sponsorship to be provided under the “Community Participation Scheme” and “Co-operation Scheme with District Councils” of the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education under the Home Affairs Bureau, and the “Quality Education Fund” and “Basic Law Promotion Funding Scheme for Tertiary Institutions” of the Education Bureau to subsidise activities incorporating elements of the Basic Law, as well as the estimated expenditure of relevant bureaux/departments for carrying out Basic Law promotional work in the execution of other daily work.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB147

(Question Serial No. 4329)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. What are the respective numbers of and reasons for candidates' election advertisements found in breach of the Guidelines on Election-related Activities in respect of the District Council Election in the 2011 District Council election, the 10 District Council by-elections held between 2011 and 2014, the 2015 District Council ordinary election and the 1 District Council by-election held in 2015?
2. What are the respective numbers of and reasons for candidates' election advertisements found in breach of the Guidelines on Election-related Activities in respect of the Legislative Council Election in the 2012 Legislative Council election and the 1 Legislative Council by-election held in 2016?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che (Member Question No. 110)

Reply:

According to current arrangements, the Electoral Affairs Commission (EAC) is responsible for handling election-related complaints and the EAC Secretariat provides the EAC with administrative support. The numbers of election advertisement-related (EA-related) complaints received by the EAC (including those directly received from the public by the Police and the Independent Commission Against Corruption) during the complaints handling periods of all District Council and Legislative Council elections (including by-elections) held from 2011 to date are as follows:

Election	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
District Council ordinary election	2 875	-	-	-	4 006	-
District Council by-election	-	44	76	88	40	-
Legislative Council general election	-	2 806	-	-	-	-
Legislative Council New Territories East Geographical Constituency by-election (Complaints handling period is from 5 January to 13 April 2016)	-	-	-	-	-	434 (as at 29 February 2016)

2. The EAC does not maintain statistics on the reason for the EA-related complaints.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 5614)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding voter registration in 2016, please inform this Committee of:

the rank and number of additional posts created for such work and the average number of applications each post handles; and

the rank and number of part-time staff recruited for such work and the average number of applications each post handles.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che (Member Question No. 788)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) will, base on the actual workload in the voter registration (VR) cycle, deploy manpower and employ non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff to provide the required support. Apart from allocating sufficient manpower and resources in 2016-17 to handle the large number of applications for VR and the updating of particulars expected to be received before the 2016 Legislative Council general election, the REO will also further enhance the checking work with a view to improving the accuracy and completeness of VR records. The REO will continue to strengthen the publicity measures so as to encourage eligible persons to register as electors, remind the electors under checking to update or confirm their registered residential addresses with the REO before the deadline and encourage electors to use the Online Voter Information Enquiry System to verify their registration status and particulars. According to past experience, it is anticipated that the REO may need to process about 140 000 new VR applications and 210 000 requests for updating of VR records. The above-mentioned work will be carried out by a team comprising 95 civil servants (including 9 time-limited civil service posts) and around 500 NCSC staff. The expenditure on staff remuneration and the related operational expenses are estimated to be around \$113 million. The relevant work will continue to be carried out in the 2016 and 2017 VR cycles.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 5619)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding voter registration in 2015 and 2016, please inform this Committee of:

- (a) the number and rank of additional posts created each year and the average number of voter registration applications each post handles; and
- (b) the number and rank of part-time staff recruited for each election each year and the average number of voter registration applications each post handles.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che (Member Question No. 798)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) will, base on the actual workload in the voter registration (VR) cycle, deploy manpower and employ non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff to provide the required support. Apart from allocating sufficient manpower and resources in 2016-17 to handle the large number of applications for VR and the updating of particulars expected to be received before the 2016 Legislative Council general election, the REO will also further enhance the checking work with a view to improving the accuracy and completeness of VR records. The REO will continue to strengthen the publicity measures so as to encourage eligible persons to register as electors, remind the electors under checking to update or confirm their registered residential addresses with the REO before the deadline and encourage electors to use the Online Voter Information Enquiry System to verify their registration status and particulars. In the 2015 and 2016 VR cycles, the manpower involved for the abovementioned work and the numbers of VR applications processed/to be processed are as follows:

VR cycle	Number of civil servants*	Number of NCSC staff [@]	Number of VR applications processed/to be processed
2015	98 (including 12 time-limited civil service posts)	about 500	processed about 260 000 applications for new registration and 420 000 requests for updating of VR records
2016	95 (including 9 time-limited civil service posts)	about 500	expected to process about 140 000 applications for new registration and 210 000 requests for updating of VR records

* calculated on the financial year basis of 2015-16 and 2016-17.

@ figures representing the numbers of NCSC staff employed during the peak periods of the respective VR cycles.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB150

(Question Serial No. 4555)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

What are the manpower and estimated expenditure for the work on voter registration and checking this year?

Asked by: Hon WONG Yuk-man (Member Question No. 66)

Reply:

The REO will allocate sufficient manpower and resources in 2016-17 to handle the large number of applications for VR and updating of particulars expected to be received before the 2016 Legislative Council general election, and to further enhance the checking work so as to enhance the accuracy and completeness of the VR records. The REO will continue to strengthen the publicity measures so as to encourage eligible persons to register as electors, remind the electors under checking to update or confirm their registered residential addresses with the REO before the deadline and encourage electors to use the Online Voter Information Enquiry System to verify their registration status and particulars. The above-mentioned work will be carried out by a team comprising 95 civil servants (including 9 time-limited civil service posts) and around 500 non-civil service contract staff. The expenditure on staff remuneration and the related operational expenses are estimated to be around \$113 million. The relevant work will continue to be carried out in the 2016 and 2017 VR cycles.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB151

(Question Serial No. 4556)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

How will the Registration and Electoral Office solve the problem of lags in disbursement of financial assistance for election candidates?

Asked by: Hon WONG Yuk-man (Member Question No. 67)

Reply:

According to the Electoral Affairs Commission (Financial Assistance for Legislative Council Elections and District Council Elections) (Application and Payment Procedure) Regulation (the Regulation) (Cap. 541N), a Legislative Council (LegCo) and District Council (DC) candidate or list of candidates (candidate) who wishes to make a claim for financial assistance for election must submit a claim form together with an election return before the statutory deadline. If the claim is made by a LegCo candidate, an auditor's report must also be submitted. The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) shall, upon receipt of each claim, verify the eligibility of the candidate and check the election return submitted by the candidate in accordance with the Regulation. After confirming the amount of election expenses, the REO will calculate, in accordance with the relevant laws, the amount of financial assistance payable to the candidate. The REO will notify the Director of Accounting Services of the amount payable after verifying the claim and the latter will, upon notification, disburse financial assistance to the candidate as soon as possible according to the information contained in the notification.

2. It is the obligation of the candidate to submit an election return and other necessary information or documents that meet the relevant requirements for REO's verification of the claim. When verifying a claim, if the candidate is found to have submitted an election return that is incomplete or contains errors (such as failure to submit invoice and/or receipt, the declared amount is understated as compared with the amount indicated on the invoice and receipt, calculation errors or mistakes in recording the amount of expenses, etc.), the REO will, based on the circumstances of the case, issue a written notification to the candidate, requesting the submission of the necessary information in accordance with the

Regulation or, if applicable, advise the candidate to correct the errors/false statements in the election return according to the Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Conduct) Ordinance (Cap. 554). The REO shall complete the verification procedures only after the candidate submits the necessary information or documents. To assist candidates to understand the relevant requirements and to ensure the required documentation is submitted, the REO has all along provided the “Notes for Candidate on Financial Assistance Scheme” for candidates’ reference. Starting from the 2015 DC ordinary election, the REO has also implemented measures to further assist candidates to submit documents that meet the relevant requirements. First of all, the REO has produced a guide and a video on how to complete an election return to provide more specific and detailed guidance targeted at the aforementioned common problems, and to provide samples of invoices and receipts. Besides, in the letter reminding candidates of the deadline for submitting the claim form for financial assistance and the election return, the REO would attach a checklist. These measures could help candidates in completing and submitting documents that meet the relevant requirements, and reduce the time taken by the candidates to provide supplementary information due to errors in the claim or election return, thereby speeding up the process.

3. Furthermore, to expedite the verification procedures and the disbursement of the financial assistance to eligible candidates, the REO has employed additional accounting professionals during the peak periods of claim handling in order to speed up the relevant verification work. The REO will continue to review the relevant workflow and staff arrangements, so as to optimise the verification work for financial assistance.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 5759)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the Online Voter Information Enquiry System (OVIES) developed by the Registration and Electoral Office, will the Government inform this Committee:

- (1) whether the Government has plans to add other functions to OVIES with respect to the scope of search that can be conducted by users; if so, what are the timetable, expenditure and manpower involved; if not, what are the reasons; and
- (2) whether the Government has plans to develop a mobile version of OVIES; if yes, what are the timetable, expenditure, resources and manpower involved; if not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon Charles Peter MOK (Member Question No. 202)

Reply:

The Online Voter Information Enquiry System (OVIES) has come into operation since September 2014. Through OVIES, members of the public may check anytime whether they are registered electors, their registered addresses and their current constituencies and subsector to which they belong. Besides, from November 2015 onwards, OVIES provides electors with polling information (such as the date and time of the poll, name and address of the designated polling station, and the location map of the polling station) before the polling day. The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) will continue to review from time to time, according to actual service needs, the feasibility of enhancing the functions of OVIES. The REO has no plan or timetable at this stage to add new functions to OVIES.

2. The mobile version of OVIES is available for use. Electors may access OVIES via the Internet browser of their mobile phone.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB153

(Question Serial No. 5760)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

What are the work plans, timetable, manpower requirement and expenditure involved for the review of voter registration and removal of corporate electors in respect of the Legislative Council Functional Constituencies in 2016-17?

Asked by: Hon Charles Peter MOK (Member Question No. 204)

Reply:

According to the prevailing voter registration (VR) system, the eligibility of VR in functional constituencies (FCs) is, in some cases, based on the membership in the bodies specified under the Legislative Council Ordinance (Cap. 542). For the purposes of verifying whether the relevant persons are eligible for registration in the respective FCs and removing those electors who are no longer eligible for registration, the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) will seek membership information from the specified bodies concerned for checking the electors' eligibility for registration in each VR cycle.

2. The REO will allocate sufficient manpower and resources in 2016-17 to handle the large number of applications for VR and updating of particulars expected to be received before the 2016 Legislative Council general election, and to further enhance the checking work so as to enhance the accuracy and completeness of the VR records. The REO will continue to strengthen the publicity measures so as to encourage eligible persons to register as electors, remind the electors under checking to respond before the deadline and encourage electors to use the Online Voter Information Enquiry System to verify their registration status and particulars. The above-mentioned work will be carried out by a team comprising 95 civil servants (including 9 time-limited civil service posts) and around 500 non-civil service contract staff. The expenditure on staff remuneration and the related operational expenses are estimated to be around \$113 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB154

(Question Serial No. 5449)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

- (1) Please list, by the 18 District Councils in the territory, the numbers of newly registered electors of different age groups and gender in the past year;
- (2) Please list, by the 18 District Councils in the territory, the numbers of electors of different age groups and gender who were omitted from the register of electors in the past year and the reasons for this; and
- (3) Please list, by the 18 District Councils in the territory, the numbers of electors of different age groups and gender who are included in the register of electors.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. 208)

Reply:

Regarding the breakdown of the numbers of registered and newly registered electors in the 2015 voter registration (VR) cycle by District Council, age group and gender, please refer to the VR statistics on the website of the Registration and Electoral Office (REO).

(Internet links:

http://www.voterregistration.gov.hk/eng/pdf/2015FR_Age&Sex_DC_e.pdf

http://www.voterregistration.gov.hk/eng/pdf/NR_Sex%20and%20Age_2015FR_DC_e.pdf)

2. The REO does not maintain statistics on the reasons for removing electors from the register by District Council, age group and gender. The number of geographical constituency electors who have been removed from the register in the 2015 VR cycle because of the loss of eligibility for registration is as follows:

Reason for removal	Number of electors
Failure to respond to statutory inquiry procedures	41 661
Death	34 038
Other reasons (such as voluntary de-registration, loss of Hong Kong permanent resident status, objection cases allowed by the Revising Officer)	778
Total	76 477

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB155

(Question Serial No. 5465)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please list in tabular form the numbers of staff at each polling station and counting station set up for the conduct of the 2015 District Council election in the past year and their respective duties. What is the expenditure of the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) on renting venues, carrying out the relevant preliminary work and setting up polling stations?

Please list in tabular form the numbers of staff at each polling station and counting station set up for the conduct of the 2016 Legislative Council New Territories East Geographical Constituency by-election earlier and their respective duties. What is the expenditure of the REO on renting venues, carrying out the relevant preliminary work and setting up polling stations?

Please list in tabular form the estimated numbers of staff, arrangements and expenditure for the conduct of the 2016 Legislative Council election in the coming year.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. 224)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) set up a total of 519 and 167 polling/counting stations respectively for the 2015 District Council ordinary election and the 2016 Legislative Council New Territories East Geographical Constituency (NTE GC) by-election. For details, reference could be made to the notices and other information on polling stations available at the relevant election websites (<http://www.elections.gov.hk/dc2015> and <http://www.elections.gov.hk/legco2016by>). The REO employed 14 610 and 4 359 staff of different ranks for handling polling and counting duties at the polling/counting stations respectively for the 2 elections with breakdown as below:

Rank	Number of staff for the 2015 District Council ordinary election	Number of staff for the 2016 Legislative Council NTE GC by-election
Presiding Officer	574	190
Deputy Presiding Officer	713	210
Assistant Presiding Officer	2 313	647
Polling Officer	9 411	2 815
Polling Assistant	1 599	497
Total	14 610	4 359

2. It is estimated that about 25 000 electoral staff will be required for the 2016 Legislative Council general election. The REO has invited serving civil servants, through issue of a circular memorandum in early March 2016, to apply for electoral posts.

3. The preparation and conduct of the 2015 District Council ordinary election, the 2016 Legislative Council NTE GC by-election and the 2016 Legislative Council general election involve a lot of work, including reviewing the practical arrangements for polling, identifying suitable venues to be used as polling and counting stations, reviewing and planning the recruitment exercises and training programmes for polling and counting staff, and acquiring electoral materials and support services, etc. Regarding the 2015 District Council ordinary election and the 2016 Legislative Council NTE GC by-election, the total expenditure is estimated to be about \$431 million and \$73 million respectively. As for the 2016 Legislative Council general election, the budgeted provision in 2016-17 is \$742 million (including provision for the preparation and conduct of the voter registration campaign).

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 5498)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Although “no canvassing zones (NCZs)” will be set up in the vicinity of the polling stations to stop candidates and their supporters from bringing along propaganda materials to canvass votes, there will still be candidates who take advantage of grey areas and arrange supporters not wearing propaganda clothing to induce, in the NCZs, the electors on their way to the polling stations to vote for a certain candidate and affect electors’ judgment. There will even be candidates who, knowing that they will be returned, send someone to obstruct the entrances and exits of polling stations so that electors could not enter the polling stations before the close of poll to make their competitors lose by a narrow margin. In this connection, how will the Government handle such situation of tampering with electors and polling stations if this is to happen? For example, will it be forbidden to linger in the NCZs and entrances and exits of polling stations for the sake of fairness and impartiality of elections?

There were electors who learned only after they arrived at the polling stations, that their votes had been cast by an unidentified third party using their identities, taking away their chances to vote. In this connection, how will the Government ensure that the polling staff do not make mistakes in verifying the particulars of electors? For example, will double verification be conducted by two different staff to reduce the chance of errors? Meanwhile, how will the Government ensure that the polling staff could effectively check the authenticity of the identity cards to prevent anyone from using fake identification documents to vote in the name of others?

How many relevant complaints did the Government receive during the District Council election and Legislative Council by-election held? What were the investigation results?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. 262)

Reply:

According to the Electoral Affairs Commission (Electoral Procedure) (Legislative Council) Regulation (Cap. 541D), currently no one (irrespective of wearing propaganda clothing or not) is allowed to conduct, in the “no canvassing zones (NCZs)”, vote canvassing activities to persuade or induce electors to vote or not to vote for any candidate (except for authorised door to door canvassing on the storeys above or below street level, in a building within the NCZ which has no polling station inside it). Besides, to ensure that electors could enter and exit polling stations safely in an unobstructed manner, a “no staying zone (NSZ)” is set up right next to the entrance/exit of each polling station inside the NCZ. No one is allowed to stay or loiter in the NSZs without the express permission of the Presiding Officer (PRO).

2. On the polling day, PROs and polling staff will make every effort to ensure that no one conducts unauthorised activities in the NCZs of polling stations to persuade or induce electors to vote or not to vote. Any person who misconducts himself/herself or carries out forbidden activities in an NCZ or NSZ, or fails to obey a lawful order of the Returning Officer (RO) or PRO, commits an offence and is liable to a fine and imprisonment, and shall be ordered to leave the NCZ or NSZ concerned by the RO or PRO. If he/she does not leave immediately, he/she may be removed from the zone by police officers, officers of the Correctional Services Department or other law enforcement agencies, or any other persons authorised in writing by the RO or PRO. A person who is removed may not enter the NCZ or NSZ again on that day unless the RO or PRO permits him or her to do so.

3. On the arrangements of the issue of ballot papers, each issuing desk in the polling station is manned by two polling staff who are responsible for checking electors’ identity documents against the entries on the register of electors and crossing out the corresponding entries on the final register of electors before issuing ballot papers to electors. To reduce the chance of wrongly crossing out electors’ particulars, after one of the polling staff has checked the name and identity document number of an elector, the other polling staff must double check before crossing out the elector’s entry on the final register of electors.

4. In case the polling staff at the issuing desks have any doubt on the identity document produced by an elector, the case will be handed to the PRO for follow-up. If the PRO is not satisfied that the identity document is authentic after detailed checking, he/she will notify the police officer on duty on the spot and refer the case to the Police for their action.

5. According to current arrangements, the Electoral Affairs Commission (EAC) is responsible for handling election-related complaints and the EAC Secretariat provides the EAC with administrative support. Regarding complaints against illegal canvassing activities in the NCZs/NSZs, the EAC received a total of 318 and 35 complaints during the 2015 District Council ordinary election and the 2016 Legislative Council New Territories East Geographical Constituency by-election (as at 29 February 2016) respectively. The EAC has completed the investigation of these complaints with the following results:

Election	Investigation result				
	Complaint withdrawn by complainant	Investigation completed, no follow-up necessary	Complaint not substantiated	Complaint substantiated	Referred to the relevant authorities for follow-up
2015 District Council ordinary election	2	32	135	130	21
2016 Legislative Council New Territories East Geographical Constituency by-election (as at 29 February 2016) (complaints handling period is from 5 January to 13 April 2016)	-	4	15	16	-

6. The EAC does not maintain statistics on the complaints about electors whose identity is used by an unidentified third party for casting the vote.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3902)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the situation of omitting electors with problematic residential addresses from the register of electors, will the Government inform this Committee:

- a) of the number of written notifications sent by the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) to electors to request verification of their residential addresses in 2015-16; please provide a breakdown of figures by individual district;
- b) whether the REO will, in view of the fact that the Legislative Council election will soon be held, step up efforts in checking the residential addresses of electors and speed up omission of electors with problematic residential addresses from the register of electors in 2016-17; if so, what are the details of additional manpower and resources involved; if not, what are the reasons; and
- c) of the numbers of electors omitted from the register of electors in the past 3 years; please provide a breakdown of figures by individual constituency of the District Council and reason for being omitted from the register of electors.

Asked by: Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok (Member Question No. 408)

Reply:

In the light of public concern over the accuracy of residential addresses recorded in the voter register in recent years, the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) has stepped up publicity since the 2012 voter registration (VR) cycle to remind the public about the importance of providing true and accurate information for registration and updating their registration particulars, especially the principal residential addresses provided. Besides, the REO has continued to implement various checking measures, including the conduct of cross-matching exercise with other government departments on electors' registration particulars, 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 to be demolished. The number of electors covered by the checking measures of the REO in the 2015 VR cycle was around 1.6 million. Upon implementation of or follow-up on the checking measures, the REO issued inquiry letters to about 82 700 electors during the 2015 VR cycle requesting them to confirm or update their registered residential addresses (the REO has no breakdown of the number of letters issued by district) and about 41 700 electors were eventually removed from the Final Register after completion of the statutory inquiry procedures.

2. In the 2016 VR cycle, the REO will continue with the checking work mentioned above. In view of recent public concern about matters relating to VR, the Government conducted a public consultation on enhancement of the VR system in late 2015 and published the consultation report on 21 January 2016. Based on the outcome of the consultation, the REO will further strengthen verification of address information with other government departments in the 2016 VR cycle to enhance the accuracy of electors' registration particulars, which includes:

- (a) enhancing liaison with the Buildings Department to collect the latest list of buildings that are demolished or vacated pending demolition;
- (b) liaising with the Urban Renewal Authority to collect the information on buildings with acquisition and resident removal completed; and
- (c) implementing the collaborative arrangement with District Offices to identify buildings that will soon be demolished or are already vacated.

The number of electors covered by the checking measures in the 2016 VR cycle will be around 1.6 million.

3. The REO will allocate sufficient manpower and resources in 2016-17 to handle the large number of applications for VR and updating of particulars expected to be received before the 2016 Legislative Council general election, and to further enhance the checking work so as to enhance the accuracy and completeness of the VR records. The REO will continue to strengthen the publicity measures so as to encourage eligible persons to register as electors, remind the electors under checking to update or confirm their registered residential addresses with the REO before the deadline and encourage electors to use the Online Voter Information Enquiry System to verify their registration status and particulars. The above-mentioned work will be carried out by a team comprising 95 civil servants (including 9 time-limited civil service posts) and around 500 non-civil service contract staff. The expenditure on staff remuneration and the related operational expenses are estimated to be around \$113 million. The relevant work will continue to be carried out in the 2016 and 2017 VR cycles.

4. 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 who have been removed from the register because of loss of eligibility for registration in the last 3 VR cycles from 2013 to 2015 is as follows:

Reason for removal and number of electors \ Cycle	2013	2014	2015
Failure to respond to statutory inquiry procedures	26 281	13 740	41 661
Death	24 591	26 863	34 038
Other reasons (such as voluntary de-registration, loss of Hong Kong permanent resident status, objection cases allowed by the Revising Officer, etc.)	527	295	778
Total	51 399	40 898	76 447

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 6171)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the situation of omitting electors from the register of electors, will the Government inform this Committee:

- a) of the number of written notifications sent by the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) to electors to request verification of their residential addresses in 2015-16; please provide a breakdown of figures by individual district; and
- b) of the number of electors omitted from the register of electors in 2015-16; please provide a breakdown of figures by individual constituency of the District Council and the reason for being omitted from the register of electors.

Asked by: Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok (Member Question No. 187)

Reply:

In the light of public concern over the accuracy of residential addresses recorded in the voter register in recent years, the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) has stepped up publicity since the 2012 voter registration (VR) cycle to remind the public about the importance of providing true and accurate information for registration and updating their registration particulars, especially the principal residential addresses provided. Besides, the REO has continued to implement various checking measures, including the conduct of cross-matching exercise with other government departments on electors' registration particulars, 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 to be demolished. The number of electors covered by the checking measures of the REO in the 2015 VR cycle was around

1.6 million. Upon implementation of or follow-up on the checking measures, the REO issued inquiry letters to about 82 700 electors requesting them to confirm or update their registered residential addresses (the REO does not have a breakdown of the number of letters issued by district) and about 41 700 electors were eventually removed from the Final Register after completion of the statutory inquiry procedures.

2. The REO does not have a breakdown of the number of electors who have been removed from the register by District Council constituency. In the 2015 VR cycle, the number of geographical constituency electors who have been removed from the voter register because of loss of eligibility for registration is as follows:

Reason for removal	Number of electors
Failure to respond to statutory inquiry procedures	41 661
Death	34 038
Other reasons (such as voluntary de-registration, loss of Hong Kong permanent resident status, objection cases allowed by the Revising Officer, etc.)	778
Total	76 447

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB159

(Question Serial No. 6172)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. In view of the fact that the Legislative Council election will be held soon, will the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) step up its efforts in checking the residential addresses of electors and speed up the omission of electors with problematic residential addresses from the register of electors in 2016-17? If so, what are the details of additional manpower and resources involved; if not, what are the reasons? and
2. Will the REO conduct checks on electors in the register in respect of their registered particulars, including cross-matching exercise with other government departments in 2016-17? What are the details of the work and the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok (Member Question No. 188)

Reply:

In the light of public concern over the accuracy of residential addresses recorded in the voter register in recent years, the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) has stepped up publicity since the 2012 voter registration (VR) cycle to remind the public about the importance of providing true and accurate information for registration and updating their registration particulars, especially the principal residential addresses provided. Besides, the REO has continued to implement various checking measures, including the conduct of cross-matching exercise with other government departments on electors' registration particulars, 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 to be demolished.

2. In the 2016 VR cycle, the REO will continue with the checking work mentioned above. In view of recent public concerns about matters relating to VR, the Government conducted a public consultation on enhancement of the VR system in late 2015 and published the consultation report on 21 January 2016. Based on the outcome of the consultation, the REO will further strengthen verification of address information with other government departments in the 2016 VR cycle to enhance the accuracy of electors' registration particulars, which includes:

- (a) enhancing liaison with the Buildings Department to collect the latest list of buildings that are demolished or vacated pending demolition;
- (b) liaising with the Urban Renewal Authority to collect the information on buildings with acquisition and resident removal completed; and
- (c) implementing the collaborative arrangement with District Offices to identify buildings that will soon be demolished or are already vacated.

The number of electors covered by the checking measures in the 2016 VR cycle is estimated to be about 1.6 million.

3. The REO will allocate sufficient manpower and resources in 2016-17 to handle the large number of applications for VR and updating of particulars expected to be received before the 2016 Legislative Council general election, and to further enhance the checking work so as to enhance the accuracy and completeness of the VR records. The REO will continue to strengthen the publicity measures so as to encourage eligible persons to register as electors, remind the electors under checking to update or confirm their registered residential addresses with the REO before the deadline and encourage electors to use the Online Voter Information Enquiry System to verify their registration status and particulars. The above-mentioned work will be carried out by a team comprising 95 civil servants (including 9 time-limited civil service posts) and around 500 non-civil service contract staff. The expenditure on staff remuneration and the related operational expenses are estimated to be around \$113 million. The relevant work will continue to be carried out in the 2016 and 2017 VR cycles.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB160

(Question Serial No. 6173)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the voting arrangements for persons with disabilities, will the Government inform this Committee:

1. whether the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) will earmark resources in 2016-17 for reviewing the barrier-free facilities for the ease of voting by persons with various kinds of disabilities, and consider enhancing the barrier-free facilities inside and outside the polling stations? If so, what are the details of the relevant work plans and estimated expenditure? Will the Government introduce the participation of groups for persons with disabilities when carrying out the relevant work? If the Government will not conduct any reviews, what are the reasons;

2. whether the REO will consider updating its website in 2016-17 to introduce barrier-free designs for the ease of browsing by persons with visual impairment? If so, what are the relevant work plans and estimated expenditure? If not, what are the reasons; and

3. whether the Government will earmark provision in 2016-17 for organising special training programmes for all the staff who will work at the polling stations to acquire knowledge and skills to support persons with various kinds of disabilities? If so, what are the relevant work plans? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok (Member Question No. 189)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) adopted various measures in past elections to facilitate voting by persons with disabilities and different needs. These measures include:

Arrangements to assist electors with visual impairment:

- (a) electors with visual impairment may call the REO hotline or the dedicated telephone line set up particularly for them to obtain information about the name and address of the polling station allocated to them and enquire their voter registration records, electoral information, voting procedures, etc. The hotline operators, upon request of electors with visual impairment, will read out the contents of the relevant “Introduction to Candidates” to these electors;
- (b) all election websites (i.e. www.eac.gov.hk, www.reo.gov.hk, www.elections.gov.hk, www.voterregistration.gov.hk, www.voterinfo.gov.hk) have incorporated accessible designs. Most of the information and documents on these websites are convenient for browsing by persons with visual impairment with the aid of screen reading software;
- (c) the REO has been encouraging candidates to provide a typed text version of their Introduction to Candidates for uploading onto the election website (www.elections.gov.hk) to facilitate electors with visual impairment to read the relevant information online with the aid of screen reading software;
- (d) web accessible version of the TV Announcements in the Public Interest (APIs) are made available on the election website (www.elections.gov.hk);
- (e) the REO provides Braille templates to facilitate electors with visual impairment to mark ballot papers;
- (f) staff at the polling stations makes available a Braille list of candidates to facilitate reading of the relevant information by electors with visual impairment;
- (g) if electors with visual impairment request staff at the polling stations to mark ballot papers for them, the Presiding Officer, Deputy Presiding Officer or Assistant Presiding Officer will do so according to their choices inside a voting compartment. The whole process must be witnessed by another staff at the polling station to ensure that voting is conducted in a fair manner;
- (h) to facilitate electors with visual impairment to vote, the electors concerned may bring along their guide dogs into the polling stations; and
- (i) as a special arrangement, the REO sends electoral information (including a hyperlink to the Introduction to Candidates) through email to electors with visual impairment before the polling day if they have provided their email addresses to the REO. Upon receipt of such emails, the electors can read the electronic version of the electoral information concerned using their computers and assistive software.

Arrangements to assist electors with mobility difficulties:

- (a) under safe circumstances, temporary ramps are set up at polling stations where necessary, so as to facilitate electors with mobility difficulties or wheelchair users to access the polling stations;

- (b) all polling stations that are accessible to wheelchair users are equipped with voting compartments which are more spacious and lower polling tables to facilitate voting by wheelchair users;
- (c) through using poll cards and various promotion channels such as radio APIs, election websites and press releases, as well as reaching out to organisations of persons with disabilities via the Hong Kong Council of Social Service, the REO provides information to and remind electors with mobility difficulties or wheelchair users that if they find it difficult to access the polling stations allocated to them, they may apply to the REO at least 5 days before the polling day for re-allocation to a polling station set up in an accessible venue;
- (d) where circumstances permit, the REO will, via the Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation, arrange on request Rehabuses to transport electors with mobility difficulties to and from polling stations; and
- (e) in the 2015 District Council ordinary election, over 90% of the polling stations were “accessible polling stations”, i.e., polling stations suitable for use by persons with mobility difficulties or wheelchair users. In conducting the 2016 Legislative Council general election and the 2016 Election Committee subsector elections, the REO will continue to look for accessible venues to serve as polling stations with a target of setting up at least 90% of the polling stations in such accessible venues.

Arrangements to assist electors with hearing impairment:

- (a) all polling stations provide a pictorial voting aid to assist electors with hearing impairment to understand the voting procedures; and
- (b) sign language interpretation and subtitles are included in all election-related TV APIs to facilitate electors with hearing impairment to understand the relevant contents.

The REO has reviewed the relevant measures when making preparations for the elections in the election cycle from 2015 to 2017. The REO would be pleased to continue to meet with representatives of various groups representing persons with disabilities to listen to their views so as to facilitate eligible electors with different needs to exercise their right to vote. Expenditures on the above measures have been subsumed in the overall election expenses.

2. Based on the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines Version 2.0 Level AA accessibility requirements promulgated by the World Wide Web Consortium, the REO updated its websites in 2013 to incorporate accessible designs convenient for browsing by persons with visual impairment. The REO will continue to ensure that the design of its websites meets the aforementioned requirements. As the work involved is part of REO’s routine duties, the required provision is included as part of its budget for operational expenses.

3. In the past, the REO provided training for all staff working at polling stations before the elections to familiarise them with the work at the polling stations. The contents of training included reminders for staff to pay attention to electors with special needs and provision of assistance to these electors when necessary, and the knowledge and skills of assisting electors with different needs to vote, such as:

- (a) guiding electors using wheelchairs to special voting compartments to vote;
- (b) skills of guiding electors with visual impairment to move around, and taking the initiative to ask them whether they would need the Braille template and the Braille list of candidates; and
- (c) providing pictorial voting aids to assist electors with hearing impairment to understand the voting procedures, etc.

The REO will continue to provide training for all staff working at polling stations before the conduct of elections in 2016-17. Contents of training on how to assist persons with disabilities to vote will also be enriched where appropriate and representatives of various groups representing persons with disabilities will be invited to share their views and observations on such arrangements. As the relevant expenditure has been subsumed in the overall election expenses, no breakdown of the individual expenditure item is available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 6174)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the voter registration campaign,

- a) what are the Registration and Electoral Office (REO)'s work plan and estimated expenditure for the voter registration campaign in 2015-16?
- b) will the REO use new methods or channels to promote the voter registration campaign in 2016-17? If so, what are the details of the plan and the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok (Member Question No. 190)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office has all along been making use of various channels to appeal to members of the public in different age groups to register as electors. The publicity measures include various media and platforms, such as television, radio, newspapers, websites, mobile applications for smartphome, public transport system, as well as different kinds of community publicity activities and materials, etc. During the 2016 voter registration (VR) cycle, the Government will continue to adopt diversified means to appeal to persons of all ages and different backgrounds in order to encourage eligible persons to register as electors, remind electors to update their registration particulars in a timely manner while strengthening the public awareness and knowledge of VR. Publicity expenses on VR campaign in 2016 are estimated to be about \$17 million.

2. The publicity measures and estimated expenditures for the 2015 VR campaign are as follows:

Measure	Estimated expenditure on publicity for the 2015 VR campaign (\$'000)
Publicity on television and radio	2,250
Newspapers, magazines, websites and mobile applications for smartphone	2,200
Public transport system	1,300
Employing VR Assistants and conducting various publicity activities in the community	6,950
Production and distribution of leaflets, posters, banners, appeal letters, souvenirs and miscellaneous items	4,290
Total	16,990

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB162

(Question Serial No. 6175)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

What are the manpower establishment and expenditure for each of the Legislative Council, District Council and Village Representative by-elections conducted in 2015-16 in Hong Kong?

Asked by: Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok (Member Question No. 191)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) organised the Tai Po District Council San Fu Constituency by-election in 2015-16, with the actual expenditure being about \$800,000. The work relating to the preparation and conduct of the District Council by-election was met by REO's existing manpower.

2. Regarding the Legislative Council New Territories East Geographical Constituency by-election held on 28 February 2016, the REO employed about 130 additional non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff, together with staff on its establishment and other NCSC staff, to carry out the work relating to the preparation and conduct of the by-election. The estimated total expenditure is about \$73 million.

3. Under the existing mechanism, the Rural by-elections are arranged by the Home Affairs Department which provides resources and manpower so required, while the REO assists the Electoral Affairs Commission to supervise the relevant work with its existing manpower.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB163

(Question Serial No. 6621)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In view of the seriousness of “vote rigging”, has any provision been earmarked by the Registration and Electoral Office for the verification of the particulars of electors?

Asked by: Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 304)

Reply:

In the light of public concern over the accuracy of residential addresses recorded in the voter register in recent years, the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) has stepped up publicity since the 2012 voter registration (VR) cycle to remind the public about the importance of providing true and accurate information for registration and updating their registration particulars, especially the principal residential addresses provided. Besides, the REO has continued to implement various checking measures, including the conduct of cross-matching exercise with other government departments on electors' registration particulars, 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 to be demolished.

2. In the 2016 VR cycle, the REO will continue with the checking work mentioned above. In view of recent public concerns about matters relating to VR, the Government conducted a public consultation on enhancement of the VR system in late 2015 and published the consultation report on 21 January 2016. Based on the outcome of the consultation, the REO will further strengthen verification of address information with other government departments in the 2016 VR cycle to enhance the accuracy of electors' registration particulars, which includes:

- (a) enhancing liaison with the Buildings Department to collect the latest list of buildings that are demolished or vacated pending demolition;
- (b) liaising with the Urban Renewal Authority to collect the information on buildings with acquisition and resident removal completed; and
- (c) implementing the collaborative arrangement with District Offices to identify buildings that will soon be demolished or are already vacated.

The number of electors covered by the checking measures in the 2016 VR cycle is estimated to be about 1.6 million.

3. The REO will allocate sufficient manpower and resources in 2016-17 to handle the large number of applications for VR and updating of particulars expected to be received before the 2016 Legislative Council general election, and to further enhance the checking work so as to enhance the accuracy and completeness of the VR records. The REO will continue to strengthen the publicity measures so as to encourage eligible persons to register as electors, remind the electors under checking to update or confirm their registered residential addresses with the REO before the deadline and encourage electors to use the Online Voter Information Enquiry System to verify their registration status and particulars. The above-mentioned work will be carried out by a team comprising 95 civil servants (including 9 time-limited civil service posts) and around 500 non-civil service contract staff. The expenditure on staff remuneration and the related operational expenses are estimated to be around \$113 million. The relevant work will continue to be carried out in the 2016 and 2017 VR cycles.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB164

(Question Serial No. 6622)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the task of the enhancement of checking of electors in the current register in respect of their registered addresses, what is the amount of provision earmarked by the Registration and Electoral Office (REO)? How will the REO achieve the target?

Asked by: Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 305)

Reply:

In the light of public concern over the accuracy of residential addresses recorded in the voter register in recent years, the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) has stepped up publicity since the 2012 voter registration (VR) cycle to remind the public about the importance of providing true and accurate information for registration and updating their registration particulars, especially the principal residential addresses provided. Besides, the REO has continued to implement various checking measures, including the conduct of cross-matching exercise with other government departments on electors' registration particulars, 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 to be demolished.

2. In the 2016 VR cycle, the REO will continue with the checking work mentioned above. In view of recent public concerns about matters relating to VR, the Government conducted a public consultation on enhancement of the VR system in late 2015 and published the consultation report on 21 January 2016. Based on the outcome of the consultation, the REO will further strengthen verification of address information with other government departments in the 2016 VR cycle to enhance the accuracy of electors' registration particulars, which includes:

- (a) enhancing liaison with the Buildings Department to collect the latest list of buildings that are demolished or vacated pending demolition;
- (b) liaising with the Urban Renewal Authority to collect the information on buildings with acquisition and resident removal completed; and
- (c) implementing the collaborative arrangement with District Offices to identify buildings that will soon be demolished or are already vacated.

The number of electors covered by the checking measures in the 2016 VR cycle is estimated to be about 1.6 million.

3. The REO will allocate sufficient manpower and resources in 2016-17 to handle the large number of applications for VR and updating of particulars expected to be received before the 2016 Legislative Council general election, and to further enhance the checking work so as to enhance the accuracy and completeness of the VR records. The REO will continue to strengthen the publicity measures so as to encourage eligible persons to register as electors, remind the electors under checking to update or confirm their registered residential addresses with the REO before the deadline and encourage electors to use the Online Voter Information Enquiry System to verify their registration status and particulars. The above-mentioned work will be carried out by a team comprising 95 civil servants (including 9 time-limited civil service posts) and around 500 non-civil service contract staff. The expenditure on staff remuneration and the related operational expenses are estimated to be around \$113 million. The relevant work will continue to be carried out in the 2016 and 2017 VR cycles.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB165

(Question Serial No. 6623)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the incident where a ballot box key was lost by polling staff during the Legislative Council New Territories East Geographical Constituency by-election held on 28 February 2016, to prevent the recurrence of similar incidents, will the Registration and Electoral Office earmark any provision to conduct a review? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 306)

Reply:

According to the Electoral Affairs Commission Ordinance (EACO) (Cap. 541), the Electoral Affairs Commission (EAC) is responsible for the conduct and supervision of elections, and, within 3 months of the conclusion of an election, making a report to the Chief Executive on matters relating to that election in respect of which the EAC has any function under the EACO or any other Ordinance. The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) provides the necessary support and assists the EAC in conducting the relevant work. The manpower and resources involved are included in the estimated expenditure for operational expenses of the REO.

2. The EAC will conduct a thorough review on the arrangements for the Legislative Council New Territories East Geographical Constituency by-election held on 28 February 2016, including the incident concerning the loss of key to a ballot box in a counting station, and will submit a report to the Chief Executive within 3 months as required under the law.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB166

(Question Serial No. 6624)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the conduct of cross-matching exercise with other government departments on electors' registration particulars, what is the amount of provision earmarked by the Registration and Electoral Office (REO)? What will be the manpower involved? How will the REO achieve this target?

Asked by: Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 309)

Reply:

In the light of public concern over the accuracy of residential addresses recorded in the voter register in recent years, the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) has stepped up publicity since the 2012 voter registration (VR) cycle to remind the public about the importance of providing true and accurate information for registration and updating their registration particulars, especially the principal residential addresses provided. Besides, the REO has continued to implement various checking measures, including the conduct of cross-matching exercise with other government departments on electors' registration particulars, 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 to be demolished.

2. In the 2016 VR cycle, the REO will continue with the checking work mentioned above. In view of recent public concerns about matters relating to VR, the Government conducted a public consultation on enhancement of the VR system in late 2015 and published the consultation report on 21 January 2016. Based on the outcome of the

consultation, the REO will further strengthen verification of address information with other government departments in the 2016 VR cycle to enhance the accuracy of electors' registration particulars, which includes:

- (a) enhancing liaison with the Buildings Department to collect the latest list of buildings that are demolished or vacated pending demolition;
- (b) liaising with the Urban Renewal Authority to collect the information on buildings with acquisition and resident removal completed; and
- (c) implementing the collaborative arrangement with District Offices to identify buildings that will soon be demolished or are already vacated.

The number of electors covered by the checking measures in the 2016 VR cycle is estimated to be about 1.6 million.

3. The REO will allocate sufficient manpower and resources in 2016-17 to handle the large number of applications for VR and the updating of particulars expected to be received before the 2016 Legislative Council general election, and to further enhance the checking work so as to enhance the accuracy and completeness of the VR records. The REO will continue to strengthen the publicity measures so as to encourage eligible persons to register as electors, remind the electors under checking to update or confirm their registered residential addresses with the REO before the deadline and encourage electors to use the Online Voter Information Enquiry System to verify their registration status and particulars. The above-mentioned work will be carried out by a team comprising 95 civil servants (including 9 time-limited civil service posts) and around 500 non-civil service contract staff. The expenditure on staff remuneration and the related operational expenses are estimated to be around \$113 million. The relevant work will continue to be carried out in the 2016 and 2017 VR cycles.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB167

(Question Serial No. 6625)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the Legislative Council New Territories East Geographical Constituency by-election on 28 February 2016, some eligible electors reflected that they did not receive the poll cards sent by the Registration and Electoral Office (REO). Will the REO earmark any provision for a review of the mailing arrangement of poll cards? If so, what are the details and the estimated expenditure? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 310)

Reply:

In accordance with the electoral legislation, the Chief Electoral Officer must, at least 10 days before the polling day, send poll cards containing information on polling to registered electors. Regarding the 2016 Legislative Council New Territories East Geographical Constituency by-election, poll cards were compiled and posted according to the registered residential addresses and other registration particulars of registered electors contained in the Final Register published in September 2015.

2. Enhancement of the accuracy of residential addresses recorded in the voter register will help ensure the correct delivery of poll cards to eligible electors. To ensure the accuracy of residential addresses recorded in the voter register, 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 provided. Besides, the REO has continued to implement various checking measures, including the conduct of cross-matching exercise with other government departments on electors' registration particulars, and inquiry process to improve the accuracy and completeness of VR records. The checking measures include follow-up inquiries on undelivered poll cards for 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 to be demolished. In view of public concern about matters relating to VR, the Government conducted a public consultation on enhancement of the VR system in late 2015 and published a consultation report on 21 January 2016. Based on the outcome of the consultation, the REO will further strengthen verification of address information with other government departments in the 2016 VR cycle to enhance the accuracy of electors' registration particulars.

3. The REO will also step up publicity to encourage electors to use the Online Voter Information Enquiry System (OVIES) (www.voterinfo.gov.hk) to verify their registration particulars, especially their registered residential addresses. The REO will also call on electors before election to encourage them to log in to the OVIES to check the names and addresses of their designated polling stations, their locations on the map and other polling information such as the polling date and polling hours. Moreover, the REO will also publicise through different channels to remind electors when poll cards are sent out. Electors can call the election hotline on 2891 1001 for enquiry and assistance if they do not receive their poll cards or they may log in to the OVIES to check their designated polling stations and the relevant information.

4. The REO will review from time to time the checking work and the arrangements on posting poll cards to electors based on past experience. The manpower and resources required have already been included in the estimated expenditure earmarked for undertaking the regular VR work as well as for preparing and conducting the relevant elections.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB168

(Question Serial No. 6626)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

What is the amount of provision earmarked by the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) for encouraging eligible persons (in particular the youngsters) to register as electors? What is the manpower involved? How will the REO achieve the target?

Asked by: Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 312)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) makes use of different channels to appeal to members of the public in different age groups to register as electors. Publicity measures include traditional media (such as television, radio and newspaper) and new media that are more popular among young people (such as websites and mobile applications), etc. In addition, the REO will launch the following publicity measures during the 2016 Voter Registration (VR) Campaign to encourage eligible young people to register as electors if they have yet to do so:

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

(e) setting up registration counters at venues holding major events which young people will attend, such as the recruitment examination centres of the Civil Service Bureau, in order to appeal to and assist candidates to register as electors.

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 electors, reminding electors to timely update registration particulars, and enhancing public awareness and knowledge of voter registration.

3. The REO will allocate sufficient manpower and resources in 2016-17 to handle the large number of applications for VR and updating of particulars expected to be received before the 2016 Legislative Council general election, and to further enhance the checking work so as to enhance the accuracy and completeness of the VR records. The REO will continue to strengthen the publicity measures, so as to encourage eligible persons to register as electors, remind the electors under checking to update or confirm their registered residential addresses with the REO before the deadline and encourage electors to use the Online Voter Information Enquiry System to verify their registration status and particulars. The above-mentioned work will be carried out by a team comprising 95 civil servants (including 9 time-limited civil service posts) and around 500 non-civil service contract staff. The expenditure on staff remuneration and the related operational expenses are estimated to be around \$113 million. The relevant work will continue to be carried out in the 2016 and 2017 VR cycles.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB169

(Question Serial No. 6627)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Registration and Electoral Office plans to create 6 posts in 2016-17. Please set out the ranks, estimated remunerations and subsidies and scopes of work of these posts.

Asked by: Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 313)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) will create 6 time-limited posts in 2016-17, including 5 Executive Officer I and 1 Executive Officer II, which are mainly deployed for the preparation and conduct of the 2016 Legislative Council general election, the 2016 Election Committee subsector elections and the 2017 Chief Executive election. All the 6 time-limited posts will be deleted after the REO has completed its various tasks in the election cycle from 2015 to 2017. The staff emoluments for these 6 posts are estimated to be about \$3.9 million in 2016-17.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB170

(Question Serial No. 6014)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. Please provide the numbers of disabled persons registered as electors in the past 5 years by their types of disability.
2. Please provide the numbers of accessible polling stations in the past 5 years and their ratio against the total number of polling stations.

Asked by: Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung (Member Question No. 131)

Reply:

As the existing voter registration (VR) system does not require VR applicants to declare their physical conditions, the Registration and Electoral Office does not have any statistics on disabled persons in its VR database.

2. For all the general or ordinary elections conducted by the Electoral Affairs Commission in the past 5 years, the number of ordinary polling stations which were accessible to persons with mobility difficulties and wheelchair users, and their respective percentages out of the total numbers of ordinary polling stations are as follows:

Election	Total number of ordinary polling stations	Polling stations accessible to persons with mobility difficulties and wheelchair users (percentage out of total number of ordinary polling stations)
2011 District Council ordinary election	452	425 (94%)
2011 Election Committee subsector elections	110	110 (100%)
2012 Legislative Council general election	549	512 (93%)
2015 District Council ordinary election	495	466 (94%)

- End -