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Replies to initial written questions raised by Legislative Council Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2025-26

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Session No. : 8

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB001

(Question Serial No. 0707)

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
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please explain why the revised estimate for 2024-25 is \$48.3 million (-19.3%) lower than the original estimate. The estimate for 2025-26 is \$32.7 million (+16.2%) higher than that for 2024-25, and it is mentioned that “this is mainly due to the increased provision for operating expenses”. Please advise of relevant details.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yung (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

Regarding Programme (2) “Constitutional and Mainland Affairs”, the main reasons for the decrease of \$48.3 million (-19.3%) in the 2024-25 revised estimate compared to the original estimate are the rescheduling of certain regional co-operation conferences, and changes in other publicity and promotion activities, where some activities originally planned for 2024-25 have continued into 2025-26, resulting in part of the original estimated expenditure for 2024-25 being met in 2025-26. Meanwhile, the estimate for 2025-26 is \$32.7 million (+16.2%) higher than the revised estimate for 2024-25, and this is mainly due to the need to earmark provision for strengthening the promotion and co-ordination work in taking forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, strengthening regional co-operation with the Mainland to facilitate Hong Kong’s active integration into the overall national development, and organising different publicity and promotion initiatives to enable various sectors of the community to better grasp the importance of the new electoral system and the full implementation of the principle of “patriots administering Hong Kong” to Hong Kong, and develop among the public a comprehensive and accurate understanding of the relationship between “One Country” and “Two Systems” as well as the constitutional order of the HKSAR etc.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB002

(Question Serial No. 0708)

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
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the revised expenditure for 2024-25, what are the specific items and expenditures for supporting the Steering Group on Integration into National Development chaired by the Chief Executive to dovetail with the national strategies including the National 14th Five-Year Plan and the Greater Bay Area development, and strengthen regional co-operation with the Mainland?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yung (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau is responsible for providing secretariat support to the Steering Group on Integration into National Development in taking forward its work, specifically including supporting the Chief Executive and all members of the Steering Group in convening regular working group and plenary meetings, and assisting the Chief Executive and all Secretaries of Departments to plan, co-ordinate, and closely monitor the formulation and implementation of all policy measures to ensure that all work plans and initiatives would be completed timely and of high quality. As the provision of the relevant secretariat support is an integral part of the work of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau, the manpower and expenditure involved cannot be singled out and itemised.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB003

(Question Serial No. 0709)

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
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In the estimated expenditure for 2025-26, what are the advance planning and estimated expenditure for preparing and dovetailing with the National 15th Five-Year Plan, including but not limited to studying the planning work, targets, development focuses or priority areas mentioned by the Central Ministries and Commissions in relation to the 15th Five-Year Plan?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yung (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

This year marks the final year for implementing the National 14th Five-Year Plan and the year for formulating the National 15th Five-Year Plan. The HKSAR Government places paramount importance on the relevant work. On the one hand, we must strive to ensure the successful accomplishment of the targets set forth in the 14th Five-Year Plan, and on the other, make proactive preparations for the formulation of the 15th Five-Year Plan, with a view to enabling the HKSAR to more actively integrate into the overall national development, thereby fostering its economic development, while at the same time contributing to the country's high-quality development and high-level opening up. As the relevant work is an integral part of the work of the respective bureaux and departments, a breakdown of expenditure is not available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB004****(Question Serial No. 0710)**Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs BureauSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan OfficesControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(Ms Gracie FOO)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

Please set out the revised estimate for 2024-25 and the estimate for 2025-26 of each Mainland Office, and provide details on vacant posts and their duration of vacancy in each Mainland Office.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yung (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)Reply:

The revised estimate for 2024-25 and the estimated expenditure for 2025-26 of each Mainland Office of the HKSAR Government are tabulated below:

Office	2024-25	2025-26
	Revised estimated expenditure (\$ million)	Estimated expenditure (\$ million)
Beijing Office	90.11	88.63
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong	86.47	88.83
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Shanghai	69.47	68.08
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Chengdu	50.80	50.57
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Wuhan	49.44	49.12

2. At present, only the Commercial Relations Manager post of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong has been left vacant for about 4 months. The grade concerned will deploy staff to take up the post as soon as possible having regard to the actual circumstances. During the period of vacancy, the Mainland Office concerned will flexibly redeploy their manpower to ensure that the relevant work can be carried out efficiently.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB005

(Question Serial No. 0711)

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
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the performance indicators, while most estimates for 2025 are higher than the actual figures in 2024, the 2 indicators for investment promotion show lower estimates for 2025 as compared to the actual figures in 2024. What are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yung (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

The Dedicated Teams for Attracting Businesses and Talents of the Mainland Offices (the Teams) are responsible for providing support to the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises under the Financial Secretary and Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK) under the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau. Specifically, the Teams have been reaching out to a wide spectrum of companies in different sectors and industries in the Mainland to attract and assist them to set up or expand their businesses in Hong Kong, and offering one-stop customised support services from the planning to implementation stages.

2. According to InvestHK, the actual figures of the 2 indicators set for the Teams in 2024, i.e. “new projects generated” and “projects completed”, were 391 projects and 223 projects respectively, representing an impressive increase of 58% and 80% as compared to the original estimates (i.e. 248 projects and 124 projects).

3. Upon evaluation of the recent market conditions, InvestHK advises that the estimated numbers of “new projects generated” and “projects completed” in 2025 have substantially increased by 35% and 51% respectively comparing to those of 2024 estimates (i.e. 248 “new projects generated” and 124 “projects completed”), representing a reasonable projection.

4. The Mainland Offices and InvestHK will continue to leverage Hong Kong’s roles as a “super connector” and a “super value-adder”, as well as to collaborate with relevant organisations, chambers of commerce, and professional bodies, etc., to organise investment promotion activities, including meetings, conferences, roadshows, seminars, exhibitions, etc.

so as to proactively provide potential investors and enterprises in the Mainland with the latest information on Hong Kong's business environment and promote Hong Kong's distinctive advantages of enjoying strong support of the Motherland and being closely connected to the world and other core strengths under "One country, Two systems", with a view to attracting Mainland enterprises to set up or expand their businesses in Hong Kong.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB006****(Question Serial No. 0712)**Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs BureauSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan OfficesControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(Ms Gracie FOO)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

Regarding the provision of information and other appropriate support to Hong Kong residents and enterprises in the Mainland over the past 3 financial years, please provide the following information:

1. The number of enquiries from Hong Kong residents and enterprises about Mainland information, including but not limited to policy interpretation, market developments and investment guidelines, as well as the number of responses or support provided by various Mainland Offices.
2. The specific details on support services provided to Hong Kong residents and enterprises in the Mainland.
3. The mechanism and frequency of updates on Mainland information by various Mainland Offices, and the ways to disseminate such information to Hong Kong residents and enterprises in the Mainland through effective channels.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yung (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)Reply:

The numbers of enquiries received by the Mainland Offices of the HKSAR Government in the past 3 years are tabulated below. Upon receipt of an enquiry, the Mainland Office concerned would handle and respond the soonest possible.

Category of enquiry	2022	2023	2024
Information about the Mainland	3 125	1 954	1 738
Relating to commerce, trade and economy	2 446	2 890	2 846

2. The Mainland Offices have all along been striving to maintain close liaison with associations, chambers of commerce, enterprises and student groups of Hong Kong people in the Mainland, and to understand through various types of activities their business, working, studying and living situation, and provide appropriate assistance as required. The Mainland Offices also convey the living and development needs of Hong Kong people to the Mainland authorities and strive for the full implementation of facilitation measures for Hong Kong people. To assist Hong Kong people to better adapt to local life, the Mainland Offices have compiled booklets of practical information on everyday life, with electronic version published on their websites and social media platforms. In addition, the Mainland Offices organise different events such as trade seminars, investment promotion meetings, career talks for students, etc., and offer support and sponsorship as appropriate to the activities organised by associations of Hong Kong people such as cultural events, annual dinners, visits and orientation activities for university students. Besides, the Mainland Offices render practical assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress or in need of help, and provide HKSAR passport application/collection services to Hong Kong residents in the Mainland.

3. Furthermore, the Mainland Offices have been proactively serving as important bridges between Hong Kong and the Mainland. Apart from enhancing communication and liaison with counterparts in the Mainland, the Mainland Offices closely monitor and collect the latest information on policies and regulations, economic development and trade activities, and timely disseminate such information to Hong Kong residents and enterprises in the Mainland periodically or thematically, through different channels including their official websites, WeChat Official Accounts, social media platforms, emails, etc.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB007

(Question Serial No. 0713)

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
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

On enhancing liaison, communication, trade and commercial relations as well as investment promotion in the Mainland, has the Government formulated strategies to “expand the target groups of Hong Kong residents and enterprises”, including focusing on English-speaking Hong Kong residents and businessmen to help them fully grasp the Mainland’s business environment and invite them to visit the Greater Bay Area to explore business opportunities?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yung (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

The Mainland Offices of the HKSAR Government have been striving to provide information and other appropriate support and assistance to Hong Kong people and enterprises in the Mainland. At the same time, through the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Promotion Centre (Promotion Centre) in Guangzhou, we have been strengthening publicity and promotional work in the municipalities of the Greater Bay Area, and supporting those Hong Kong people and enterprises visiting and pursuing development in the Greater Bay Area to better seize the opportunities. In future, the Mainland Offices and the Promotion Centre will continue to maintain close liaison with Hong Kong people, chambers of commerce and enterprises in the Greater Bay Area, irrespective of whether they communicate in Chinese or English.

2. In addition, the Hong Kong Trade Development Council has implemented the 3-year Support Scheme for Pursuing Development in the Mainland starting from 2022-23, under which over 450 events of different types have been organised having regard to the situations and needs of Hong Kong enterprises in the Mainland. These events included policy briefings, online and offline seminars, business missions and business forums, etc. and were participated by nearly 35 000 enterprise representatives and professionals so far. All these endeavours have enabled them to deepen understanding of the Mainland’s policies and market developments, and to broaden their Mainland network so as to extend their business from major cities to neighbouring provinces or cities.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB008

(Question Serial No. 0714)

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
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025-26 that the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Promotion Centre will strengthen co-operation with the relevant organisations and institutions to promote opportunities brought about by the Greater Bay Area development. Please provide relevant details, including but not limited to the potential organisations and institutions for co-operation, and the proposed promotional programmes.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yung (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government attaches great importance to the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area). To more effectively promote the significant opportunities brought about by the Greater Bay Area to Hong Kong people and enterprises, the HKSAR Government established the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Promotion Centre (Promotion Centre) in Guangzhou in April 2023. Spearheaded by the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Office), the Promotion Centre has established close and cordial working relations with the Greater Bay Area Offices and various government departments of Guangdong Province and the nine Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area, Hong Kong-Macao youth innovation and entrepreneurial bases, Hong Kong Trade Development Council, Hong Kong Brand Development Council, Hong Kong Productivity Council, as well as chambers of commerce of various sectors, youth associations and student groups in Hong Kong and the Mainland, etc. Through co-operation with the above organisations and institutions, the Promotion Centre organises different types of activities to promote the opportunities in the Greater Bay Area to Hong Kong residents and enterprises pursuing development in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area, and seeks to better understand their needs so as to provide them with practical assistance.

2. In 2025-26, the Promotion Centre will continue to build on its good foundation of work and further enhance the publicity and promotion in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area, as well as providing support for Hong Kong people and enterprises there. Major activities include:

- (a) Seminars – The Promotion Centre will, in collaboration with the Office and relevant partners, organise seminars and symposiums in different Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area to introduce the latest policies and preferential measures of the Greater Bay Area to Hong Kong people and enterprises pursuing development there, so as to facilitate exchanges between participants from Hong Kong and Mainland, and to explore business opportunities with each other, thereby jointly seizing the enormous opportunities arising from Greater Bay Area development;
- (b) Gatherings for Hong Kong people and enterprises – The Promotion Centre will continue to organise gatherings regularly for Hong Kong people and enterprises in different cities of the Greater Bay Area to proactively reach out to Hong Kong people and enterprises in Guangdong, and to learn more about their situations and needs in living, working and doing business in the Greater Bay Area, so as to provide them with practical assistance;
- (c) Exchange activities for young people – The Promotion Centre will continue to collaborate with the youth innovation and entrepreneurial bases, youth associations and student groups in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area to organise different types of activities, such as sharing sessions and youth entrepreneurship bazaars, etc. It will also arrange experience sharing by young entrepreneurs and introduce various entrepreneurship and employment schemes and measures continuously launched by the HKSAR Government, so as to provide practical information and appropriate support to Hong Kong young people aspiring to set up their businesses and develop their career in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area, and to support them to unleash their strengths on a bigger stage in the Greater Bay Area; and
- (d) Study missions – The Promotion Centre will assist and arrange various Hong Kong organisations and groups to conduct visits to the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area, particularly in making arrangement for delegates to meet with representatives from local governments and enterprises, and introducing to delegates opportunities brought about by Greater Bay Area development, as well as helping delegates to expand and strengthen their networks, etc.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB009

(Question Serial No. 0715)

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
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please explain why the revised estimate for 2024-25 is \$17 million (+7.4%) higher than the original estimate, and how to ensure the actual estimate for 2025-26 will align with the proposed estimate.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yung (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)

Reply:

The revised estimate for 2024-25 is \$17 million (+7.4%) higher than the original estimate, of which about \$8.6 million is an additional subvention to the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) for promoting universal design and improving its information technology system in the next 2 financial years; and about \$8.4 million is an additional subvention to the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD) for enhancing its publicity and education work on personal data privacy protection, providing "Data Security" tools to support small and medium enterprises, and strengthening PCPD's network security etc. These subventions also include additional provision to the EOC and the PCPD in view of the civil service pay rise in 2024-25.

2. In 2025-26, the EOC and the PCPD will make flexible use of the estimated subventions allocated for effectively undertaking and promoting the work on equal opportunities and personal data privacy protection.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB010

(Question Serial No. 0716)

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
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

As regards Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025-26, in the course of promoting the mainstreaming and widespread adoption of the “universal design” concept in the community, will the Equal Opportunities Commission organise a series of programmes and activities to facilitate the building of a barrier-free environment in private housing estates, including strengthening publicity and education for property owners or owners’ corporations to enhance their understanding of the importance and actual use of barrier-free facilities? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yung (LegCo internal reference no.: 10)

Reply:

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) launched the first Universal Design Award Scheme (UDAS) in February 2024 to encourage both public and private sectors to adopt universal design through recognising the industries, and to provide an exchange platform for various sectors of the community to share practices in creating an inclusive environment. The UDAS covers premises and facilities frequently visited or used by the public in daily lives, including shopping malls and retail stores, offices, restaurants, sites with recreational, sports or cultural purposes, and revitalised building sites. To enhance the property management industry’s understanding of universal design, the EOC, together with the Property Management Services Authority, held a seminar in February 2025 for over 2 400 property management practitioners, to share the good practices adopted by awardees under the UDAS, and encourage the application of universal design at different types of premises. Starting from April this year, the EOC will also organise sharing sessions to further share with stakeholders the application of universal design and points to note in the management of premises.

2. In addition, the EOC will launch the second UDAS at the end of this year, which will include public and private residential buildings as a new application category, with the aim

of promoting participation of housing estates across the 18 districts in Hong Kong to demonstrate more good practices in universal design. By recognising premises that excel in adopting universal design, the UDAS seeks to encourage more organisations to follow the principle of universal design in designing and managing their premises.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB011

(Question Serial No. 0717)

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
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

As regards Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025-26, in terms of providing advice to the Government and relevant organisations on initiatives and reforms that affect personal data privacy, will the Commissioner explore ways to encourage and facilitate enhanced personal data sharing among departments on the premise of not contravening the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance and relevant codes of practice, so as to enable more convenient and efficient information flow and sharing when cross-departmental collaboration is needed for policy implementation, thereby enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of policy execution? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yung (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

To support the Government in enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of policy execution, the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD) has been providing professional advice to the Government and relevant organisations to facilitate their information flow and sharing while ensuring compliance with the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance. The pertinent policy measures include the “iAM Smart” mobile application for realising “single portal for online government services”, the “Consented Data Exchange Gateway” for fostering data exchanges within the Government, and the “eHealth+” platform that facilitates the sharing of electronic health records. The Government and the PCPD will maintain close communications in exploring how to further strengthen information flow on different policy areas, with a view to enhancing public services provided by the Government.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB012

(Question Serial No. 0718)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Would the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau advise:

1. whether it met the target of 1% reduction in recurrent expenditure under the Productivity Enhancement Programme in 2024-25, and of the main areas with reduction in recurrent expenditure;
2. of the direction for reducing recurrent expenditure in 2025-26; and
3. of the number of vacancies, with details on the duration of vacancy and the duties involved.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yung (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

1. and 2. The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) has implemented the Productivity Enhancement Programme when preparing the estimates for the financial years of 2024-25 and 2025-26. We fulfil the aim of enhancing the use of resources and increasing efficiency through flexible manpower deployment, re-engineering of business processes, re-prioritisation, and application of information technology, etc.
3. At present, there is only 1 vacancy in the CMAB, which is a post of Commercial Relations Manager, left vacant for about 4 months, in the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong. The grade concerned will deploy staff to take up the relevant post in accordance with the actual circumstances as soon as possible. During the period of vacancy, the Mainland Office has flexibly deployed manpower to ensure the efficient conduct of relevant work.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB013

(Question Serial No. 0719)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices, (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the provision for 2025-26 under Programmes (2), (3) and (4), there is an increase of 7.1% to 16.2% over the previous year, and this is mainly due to the increased provision for operating expenses rather than posts. Please advise:

1. of the specific items under operating expenses; and
2. whether the Bureau has expedited the digitalisation and automation of procedures to reduce operating expenses.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yung (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

Reply:

1. The operating expenses under Programmes (2), (3) and (4) of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) are mainly expenses on activities and publicity pertinent to the CMAB's policy areas and work, including strengthening the promotion and co-ordination work in taking forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, strengthening regional co-operation with the Mainland to facilitate Hong Kong's active integration into the overall national development, and organising different publicity and promotion initiatives to enable various sectors of the community to better grasp the importance of the new electoral system and the full implementation of the principle of "patriots administering Hong Kong" to Hong Kong, and develop among the public a comprehensive and accurate understanding of the relationship between "One Country" and "Two Systems" as well as the constitutional order of the HKSAR. Also included are actively promoting the unique strengths of Hong Kong in the Mainland, and launching more initiatives to support Hong Kong residents and enterprises in doing business and pursuing development in the Mainland in light of the new opportunities arising from the country's development strategies; and promoting public education and encouraging community participation to enhance public awareness and respect for the rights of the individual etc.

2. The CMAB has constantly reviewed and enhanced work processes, particularly by leveraging information technology to further increase efficiency. Following the launch of the electronic recordkeeping system in 2024-25, the CMAB will continue to study the feasibility of adopting digitalisation and automation in other services and work processes.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB014

(Question Serial No. 3099)

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
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The estimated expenditure under this Programme is 7.1% higher than that for last year, and the Bureau mentioned that this is mainly due to the increased provision for operating expenses. In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. The staff establishment and administrative expenses (or estimated expenditure) of the 5 Mainland Offices in 2024-25 and 2025-26.
2. In response to my written question last year, the Government mentioned that the 5 Mainland Offices provide appropriate assistance to Hong Kong people and businessmen in the Mainland as required, such as organising trade seminars, offering support and sponsorship to the activities organised by associations of Hong Kong people as appropriate, and disseminating information through Mainland's social media platforms. In view of the increased provision for operating expenses in the coming year, are there plans to enhance the relevant support measures, so as to holistically support Hong Kong people and businessmen in integrating into the overall national development? If so, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon CHOW Man-kong (LegCo internal reference no.: 39)

Reply:

The staff establishment and expenditure of the Mainland Offices of the HKSAR Government in 2024-25 and 2025-26 are set out in the table below:

Office	2024-25		2025-26	
	Staff establishment	Revised estimated expenditure (\$ million)	Staff establishment	Estimated expenditure (\$ million)
Beijing Office	22	90.11	22	88.63
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong	18	86.47	18	88.83
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Shanghai	16	69.47	16	68.08
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Chengdu	13	50.80	13	50.57
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Wuhan	13	49.44	13	49.12

2. Provision of appropriate assistance to Hong Kong people and enterprises in the Mainland has always been a major task of the Mainland Offices. We will periodically review the effectiveness of the relevant work and make ongoing improvements. In the coming year, we have earmarked appropriate resources for the Mainland Offices to launch more initiatives, having regard to the actual circumstances and needs, to support Hong Kong people and enterprises in operating and expanding in the Mainland, as well as to promote Hong Kong's unique strengths. This will allow all parties to seize opportunities and explore more business and development prospects arising from the country's overall development strategy.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB015

(Question Serial No. 1910)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the operation of the Mainland Offices, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. What were the major work areas covered by the Mainland Offices in the past year? Has assessment been made of the effectiveness, including the objectives achieved in fostering exchange between Hong Kong and the Mainland on various fronts?
2. What were the numbers of requests for assistance received by the Mainland Offices in the past year? Please set out the actual figures and types, including commercial and trade disputes, legal advisory service and employment support, as well as the progress and outcome of these cases.
3. What were the staff establishment and expenditure of the Mainland Offices in the past 5 years? Are the existing manpower and resources sufficient to meet operational needs?
4. It is mentioned that the strategies for promoting Hong Kong's strengths mainly focus on traditional media, such as offline events, pamphlets and press releases. Are there plans to enhance the use of online platforms and emerging online social media (such as Xiaohongshu and Douyin) for promotion purposes, so as to generate greater publicity and increase Hong Kong's influence in the Mainland (particularly among young people)? If so, what are the estimated expenditure and expected effectiveness of the relevant plans?

Asked by: Hon FOK Kai-kong, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 35)

Reply:

The major responsibilities of the Mainland Offices of the HKSAR Government include enhancing liaison and communication between Hong Kong and the Central People's Government as well as the provincial and municipal governments in the Mainland to promote exchange and co-operation; telling Hong Kong's good stories in the Mainland to promote the characteristics of Hong Kong as well as the investment opportunities and business advantages under the National 14th Five-Year Plan and development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, so as to encourage and attract Mainland enterprises and talents to establish presence in Hong Kong; fostering youth and cultural exchanges between Hong Kong and the Mainland; providing information and other appropriate support and assistance to Hong Kong residents and enterprises in the Mainland, etc. In 2024, the Mainland Offices actively organised and participated in large-scale events, such as forums, tours, exhibitions etc., and explored more business and development opportunities for Hong Kong people and enterprises through continuously deepening co-operation with provinces and municipalities in the areas of commerce and trade, finance, innovation and technology, creative industries, youth exchange, etc. Overall speaking, in 2024, the Mainland Offices completed the targets of the performance indicators on promoting Hong Kong's strengths and opportunities in the Mainland set out in the 2023 Policy Address, including organising no less than 3 200 visits to Mainland authorities or bodies, attending no less than 270 speaking occasions, conducting no less than 330 media interviews or briefings, and participating in no less than 800 business and trade meetings.

2. The numbers of requests for assistance from Hong Kong people received by the Mainland Offices in 2024 are set out in the table below:

Office	Assistance cases which were related to immigration and personal safety matters	Other assistance cases	Total
Beijing Office	79	11	90
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong	137	47	184
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Shanghai	83	9	92
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Chengdu	34	8	42
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Wuhan	28	5	33

“Assistance cases which were related to immigration and personal safety matters” refer to emergency assistance in relation to accidents (e.g. traffic accidents or fire) or other emergencies (e.g. robbery, assault, etc.), while “Other assistance cases” include commercial and trade disputes, complaints relating to real estate, and complaints against authorities in the Mainland, etc. The Mainland Offices have followed up and handled the above cases having regard to the actual circumstances.

3. The staff establishment of the Mainland Offices in the past 5 years is set out in the table below:

Office	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Beijing Office	23	23	22	22	22
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong	18	18	18	18	18
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Shanghai	15	15	15	15	16
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Chengdu	13	13	13	13	13
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Wuhan	13	13	13	13	13

The expenditures of the Mainland Offices in the past 5 years are set out in the table below:

Office	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
	Actual expenditure (\$ million)	Actual expenditure (\$ million)	Actual expenditure (\$ million)	Actual expenditure (\$ million)	Revised estimated expenditure (\$ million)
Beijing Office	80.43	83.65	98.69	89.30	90.11
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong	59.22	64.15	75.82	80.24	86.47
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Shanghai	66.11	62.86	70.96	70.12	69.47
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Chengdu	43.49	45.49	58.14	51.96	50.80
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Wuhan	46.53	47.05	53.42	50.58	49.44

The Mainland Offices will continue to flexibly deploy manpower and resources and make appropriate arrangements having regard to actual needs to achieve the best results.

4. The Mainland Offices have strived to make use of diversified channels and multimedia to promote Hong Kong and share good stories of Hong Kong on all fronts. In the light of the wide use of social media in the Mainland, the Mainland Offices from time to time disseminate information, newsletters, press releases, etc. to promote Hong Kong on social media platforms, including WeChat, Xiaohongshu and Weibo. In 2024, each Mainland Office on average published 1 to 2 posts per day on its WeChat Official Account, with a total viewership of over 14.3 million. In addition, the Mainland Offices have produced short

videos on various themes, including culture and arts, cuisine, featured attractions, etc. and uploaded them onto popular social media platforms in the Mainland to promote Hong Kong in all aspects. The response has been very positive. For example, the short video posted by the Beijing Office on “A Path to Glory - Jin Yong’s Centennial Memorial”, and the one released by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong introducing the newly completed Cha Kwo Ling Promenade have both recorded nearly 130 000 views. The expenses incurred by social media promotion have been included in the Mainland Offices’ overall operating and publicity expenditures which cannot be singled out and itemised. The Mainland Offices will select the most efficient means to publicise and promote Hong Kong having regard to the actual circumstances and needs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB016

(Question Serial No. 1911)

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
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the performance targets of the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), please advise this Committee of the following:

1. What initiatives were implemented by the EOC in the past 3 years to provide education opportunities for disadvantaged racial communities and persons with disabilities? What were the number of beneficiaries, and the resources and expenditure involved?
2. Further to the question above, what was the position of providing employment opportunities for relevant communities in the past 3 years? What were the number of beneficiaries, the number of enterprises, and the resources and expenditure involved?
3. Please explain why there is a decrease in various indicators for the EOC's "promotional/training activities" in the current year.

Asked by: Hon FOK Kai-kong, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 36)

Reply:

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) is responsible for implementing the 4 existing anti-discrimination ordinances, and discharges its statutory functions of promoting equal opportunities and eliminating discrimination as stipulated under these ordinances. The EOC has been promoting equal opportunities in education and employment for people of different races and persons with disabilities through prevention, public education and law enforcement. The reply to various parts of the question is as follows:

1. To encourage schools to promote racial inclusion, the EOC launched the Racially Friendly Campus Recognition Scheme (Recognition Scheme) in the 2022/23 school year. The number of schools recognised has substantially increased from 60 in the first round to 158 in the 2023/24 school year. Through the Recognition Scheme, the EOC

organised a total of 15 training sessions on “racially friendly campus” for over 500 teachers. In the past 3 years, the EOC attended 10 briefing sessions to introduce to teachers, community workers and non-ethnic Chinese parents the protection for people of different races in education under the Race Discrimination Ordinance and the racial equality policies in schools. The EOC also held 3 meetings of the Network for Promoting Equal Opportunities with local universities to promote good practices in supporting students with special educational needs (SEN) and to exchange views on measures that support persons with disabilities in education and employment, with the aim of better assisting students with SEN and students with disabilities to have a smooth transition from school to workplace.

2. To promote equal employment opportunities for ethnic minorities, the EOC launched the Racial Diversity and Inclusion Charter for Employers (Charter) in 2018, providing good practices for employers’ reference. The signatories undertake to foster racial equality in the workplace in three areas, viz. employment policies, staff culture and work environment. As of December 2024, the Charter had 504 signatories from both public and private sectors, covering over 500 000 local employees. The Charter encourages employers to, in light of their actual needs, review Chinese language proficiency requirements for various posts in the organisations, thereby further promoting equal opportunities for ethnic minorities. In the past 3 years, the EOC continued to collaborate with the signatories and non-governmental organisations to provide internship opportunities for over 150 non-ethnic Chinese tertiary students in Hong Kong, so as to enhance their competitiveness in future job-seeking. Additionally, in March 2024, the EOC organised 2 briefing sessions, where the Labour Department and its commissioned operators were invited to introduce their Racial Diversity Employment Programme, enabling over 80 employer representatives to understand the channels and support available for recruiting people of different races. In late 2024, the EOC partnered with the signatories and government departments to organise 2 recruitment events, providing over 200 job openings with no Chinese language proficiency requirements for people from diverse backgrounds to apply.

As the work mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 2 above is an integral part of EOC’s daily work, the resources and expenditure incurred cannot be singled out and itemised.

3. The EOC will make timely adjustments to the modes of its promotional work and training activities based on the actual circumstances. For example, the EOC has gradually developed online educational modules to replace school drama performances starting from the 2023/24 school year. As such, the item of “drama performances” has been removed from the related indicator, and the anticipated number of participants has to be adjusted accordingly. Furthermore, on top of its online resource platform, the EOC has actively expanded its promotional efforts to other social media platforms, resulting in visitor traffic of its online resource platform being diverted across such social media platforms. In brief, adjustments to the operational modes mentioned above will cause changes in relevant indicators. The EOC will make appropriate adjustments accordingly and continue to take forward its promotional work and training activities in a diversified manner.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB017

(Question Serial No. 1283)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding visits outside Hong Kong of the HKSAR Government, would the Government advise this Committee of:

1. a breakdown of the number, destinations, details, expenditures involved (including air tickets, board and lodging expenses, and travelling expenses) and manpower of the entourage of visits outside Hong Kong made by all politically appointed officials and directorate civil servants in the past 5 years respectively;
2. whether the Government has compiled statistics on the effectiveness of the visits outside Hong Kong made by all politically appointed officials and senior civil servants in the past 5 years; if so, of the details; if not, of the reasons; and
3. whether the Government has considered capping the number and expenditure of such visits for each year to better utilise limited financial resources; if so, of the details; if not, of the reasons?

Asked by: Hon IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

The expenditure for visits outside Hong Kong by politically appointed officials of the HKSAR Government is separately charged to the heads of respective offices/bureaux. After collating information provided by various offices of secretaries of departments and directors of bureaux, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau's reply to various parts of the question is as follows:

1. The numbers, destinations, details and expenditures of visits outside Hong Kong made by principal officials under the Political Appointment System and their entourage in the past 5 financial years are at **Annex**.

2. The HKSAR Government will continue to unite all sectors of society. Giving full play to its institutional strengths under the “One Country, Two Systems” principle and unique strengths in internationalisation, Hong Kong will further strengthen its bridging role between the Mainland and the world, effectively perform its roles and functions as “super connector” and “super value-adder”, actively integrate into national development, and contribute to initiatives such as the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area development and the Belt and Road Initiative, telling the world the good stories of the country and Hong Kong. To this end, the principal officials and civil servants of the HKSAR Government will continue to conduct duty visits based on operational needs.
3. The number of visits outside Hong Kong made by principal officials is determined, in a pragmatic manner, by the respective offices/bureaux based on actual needs. Regarding expenditure, Chapter 6 of the Code for Officials under the Political Appointment System specifies travel arrangements for principal officials (and their spouses where protocol requires the presence of the spouse), and that the rate and manner of subsistence allowance shall be the same as those applicable to civil servants.

Overview of Visits outside Hong Kong by Principal Officials under the Political Appointment System in the Past 5 Years

Principal Official	Number of Visits	Destinations	Purposes	Number of Entourage from the Office/Bureau Concerned	Expenditure¹ (HK\$)
Chief Secretary for Administration	24	Mainland (Beijing, Chengdu, Shenzhen, Wuhan, Chongqing, Hangzhou, Guangzhou, Foshan, Huizhou, Hainan, Shanghai, Harbin and Dongguan), Switzerland (Geneva)	Attended international and regional conferences, exchange meetings, seminars, visits and events (e.g. Hong Kong/Sichuan Co-operation Conference, the meeting of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group and plenary meeting of the United Nations Human Rights Council, etc), and met with relevant officials and leaders from various places to exchange views and share experiences, promote Hong Kong and strengthen liaison and bilateral relations	0-3	1.32 million

¹ Part of the expenses for visits towards the end of the year are estimated expenditures and are subjected to final calculation and verification. Some accommodation or travelling expenses sponsored by host governments/organisers, or incidental expenses arising from same-day return visits are not included.

Principal Official	Number of Visits	Destinations	Purposes	Number of Entourage from the Office/Bureau Concerned	Expenditure ¹ (HK\$)
Financial Secretary	31	Mainland (Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Nanjing, Hangzhou and Suzhou), Macao, Bahrain (Manama), Saudi Arabia (Riyadh), Indonesia (Bali and Jakarta), Switzerland (Davos), Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur), Singapore, France (Paris), United Kingdom (London), Germany (Berlin and Frankfurt), Morocco (Marrakech), United States (San Francisco, New York and Berkeley), Georgia (Tbilisi), Spain (Madrid), Australia (Melbourne and Sydney), Peru (Lima)	Attended various types of international and regional summits, forums and exchange events held on a regular or ad hoc basis (e.g. World Economic Forum Annual Meeting (Davos Forum), Group of Twenty Leaders (G20)' Summit, Joint Annual Meetings of International Monetary Fund and World Bank Group, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Finance Ministers' Meeting, China International Import Expo, Future Investment Initiative (FII), Bay to Bay Dialogue between the California Bay Area and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, US-China High-Level Event on Subnational Climate Action, Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and Europe (France) Economic and Trade Cooperation Conference, "Think Business, Think Hong Kong" global event, Global Regulatory Forum, VivaTech 2024, International Trade and Cooperation of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Forum, World AI Conference, Asian Logistics, Maritime and Aviation Conference, Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, etc) to highlight Hong	0-4 ²	10.63 million

² Some visits had the entourage of 5 staff members for providing more comprehensive support to related visits.

Principal Official	Number of Visits	Destinations	Purposes	Number of Entourage from the Office/Bureau Concerned	Expenditure¹ (HK\$)
			Kong's crucial roles and functions as an international financial centre, "super connector" and "super value-adder"; accompanied the Chief Executive on visits to the Mainland; led business and innovation and technology delegations to visit major economies; engaged in in-depth exchanges with local senior government officials and business leaders to promote trade co-operation and experience sharing, and strengthen bilateral and multilateral strategic connections; visited internationally competitive innovation and technology institutions, leading enterprises, and innovation hubs worldwide to actively promote the work on attracting business and investment, publicise Hong Kong's advantages in financing, talent recruitment, and policy innovation etc., and attract global high-end talents and innovative enterprises to establish presence in Hong Kong		

Principal Official	Number of Visits	Destinations	Purposes	Number of Entourage from the Office/Bureau Concerned	Expenditure¹ (HK\$)
Secretary for Justice	31	Mainland (Beijing, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Chengdu, Foshan and Zhuhai), Macao, Vietnam, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Brunei, Malaysia	Accompanied the Chief Executive to attend the celebration activities of the 100 th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China and conduct a visit regarding legal matters on establishing and improving the legal system and enforcement mechanisms for the HKSAR to safeguard national security by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress; met with and signed co-operation agreements with officials of various ministries, commissions and authorities, e.g. a record of meeting concerning mutual recognition of and assistance to insolvency proceedings between the courts of the Mainland and the HKSAR; attended various types of conferences, bilateral meetings, forums and seminars, and delivered speeches at events (e.g. Joint Conference on the Belt and Road Initiative, Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, China-ASEAN Prosecutors-General Conference, Hong Kong and Macao legal seminar, celebration of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone, signing of the Supplemental Arrangement Concerning Mutual Enforcement of Arbitral Awards between the Mainland and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, etc.); attended the 25th Anniversary Celebration of	0-3	1.16 million

Principal Official	Number of Visits	Destinations	Purposes	Number of Entourage from the Office/Bureau Concerned	Expenditure¹ (HK\$)
			Macao's Return to the Motherland and the Inauguration Ceremony of the Sixth-term Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region; led delegations from Hong Kong's legal and dispute resolution sectors to conduct visits and exchanges, etc.		
Deputy Chief Secretary for Administration	3	Mainland (Guangzhou, Beijing and Hainan), Macao	Attended the agreement signing ceremony of the Agreement on Civil Service Staff Exchange and Collaboration Programme with the Mainland Municipalities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, and events related to the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, including the opening ceremony of Culture and Arts Festival, the Welcoming Ceremony for Young People employed under Greater Bay Area Youth Employment Scheme, the gala dinner of Business Conference etc; joined an exchange activity of a youth delegation to the Mainland comprising youth representatives from Hong Kong and Macao; attended the Signing Ceremony of Hainan Hong Kong Memorandum of Cooperation	1-2	60 thousand

Principal Official	Number of Visits	Destinations	Purposes	Number of Entourage from the Office/Bureau Concerned	Expenditure¹ (HK\$)
Deputy Financial Secretary	3	Mainland (Nansha), Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia	Accompanied the Chief Executive to conduct overseas visits, and attended China Conference 2025.	2-4	0.23 million
Deputy Secretary for Justice	24	Mainland (Beijing, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Huizhou, Hainan, Changsha, Foshan, Dongguan, Hengqin, Zhongshan and Xinjiang), Macao, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Italy, Austria, Switzerland, Netherlands, Thailand	Accompanied the Chief Executive on visits to strengthen Hong Kong's external liaison in trade, investment and culture etc.; attended various types of conferences, forums and seminars (e.g. the 2nd Conference of Global Economic Development and Security Forum of Boao Forum for Asia, Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Legal Departments Joint Conference, Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation Joint Conference, Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Legal Forum, the 8th International Mediation Summit, the 8th China-Eurasia Expo, a forum on China-Uzbekistan co-operation, the inaugural Riyadh International Disputes Week, the 55th regular session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, meeting with the delegation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, etc); met with relevant international organisations/institutions; led delegations from the sectors to conduct visits, etc	1-3	1.86 million

Principal Official	Number of Visits	Destinations	Purposes	Number of Entourage from the Office/Bureau Concerned	Expenditure¹ (HK\$)
Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs	23	Mainland (Beijing, Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Chengdu, Chongqing, Dongguan, Jiangmen, Foshan, Huizhou and Zhuhai), Macao	Attended the celebration activities of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China; attended a discussion session in Qianhai hosted and convened by the Director of the Hong Kong and Macao Work Office of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council, Mr Xia Baolong; met with leaders of the central ministries and commissions and various provincial and municipal governments; conducted annual reciprocal visits to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; attended the 25th Anniversary Celebration of Macao's Return to the Motherland and the Inauguration Ceremony of the Sixth-term Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region; attended other conferences and events (e.g. Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation Joint Conference, celebration of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone, High-Level Meeting cum the Second Plenary Session of the Hong Kong/Sichuan Co-operation Conference, the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, meetings of the Task Force on the Development of the Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Co-operation	0-2	0.32 million

Principal Official	Number of Visits	Destinations	Purposes	Number of Entourage from the Office/Bureau Concerned	Expenditure ¹ (HK\$)
			Zone, the visit of the delegation of the HKSAR Government and the Legislative Council to the Greater Bay Area, the opening ceremony of Liantang Port/Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point, and exchange meetings on COVID-19, etc.)		
Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury	29	Mainland (Beijing, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Hainan and Shanghai), Philippines, Thailand, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Belgium, United Kingdom, South Korea, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Qatar, Egypt, Laos, Vietnam, United States, Netherlands, Spain, Portugal, Switzerland	Called on the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council, and the central ministries and commissions; accompanied the Chief Executive or the Financial Secretary to attend conferences and conduct visits in overseas countries and the Mainland; attended various types of conferences, forums and seminars (e.g. Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Finance Ministers' Meeting, Board of Directors' Meeting and Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, the session of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting organised by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Annual Conference of the Financial Street Forum, Zhongguancun Forum, Lujiazui Forum, etc) to promote Hong Kong's financial services and introduce the latest developments in Hong Kong and the	0-3	3.58 million

Principal Official	Number of Visits	Destinations	Purposes	Number of Entourage from the Office/Bureau Concerned	Expenditure¹ (HK\$)
			Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area; met and exchanged views with financial officials, industry leaders, business representatives and academics from various countries to promote Hong Kong's financial services and fintech development, etc		
Secretary for Security	22	Mainland (Shenzhen, Beijing, Guangzhou, Dongguan, Huizhou, Zhuhai, Jiangmen, Zhaoqing, Foshan, Zhongshan, Xi'an, Zhengzhou, Yan'an, Lianyungang, Guangdong, Shanghai and Hangzhou), Macao, Vietnam, Singapore, Thailand	Called on the Commission for Political and Legal Affairs of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and various national institutions; witnessed the signing of various letters of intent, co-operation agreements and memoranda of understanding (e.g. the five-year Letter of Intent of technical exchange and the Letter of Intent for a Five-Year Plan on Technical Co-operation, co-operation agreements, the Memorandum of Understanding on co-operation in respect of immigration matters between the HKSAR and Vietnam, and etc.); attended the commissioning ceremony of port clearance service; met with Macao's government officials; accompanied the Chief Executive and the Chief Secretary for Administration on visits; joined the HKSAR Government delegation to welcome the rescue team returning from Türkiye; participated in the co-ordination and rescue operation for Hong Kong residents lured to engage in illegal work;	0-3	0.48 million

Principal Official	Number of Visits	Destinations	Purposes	Number of Entourage from the Office/Bureau Concerned	Expenditure¹ (HK\$)
			visited stations of immigration inspection; led various types of exchange tours, study missions and field visits; attended the opening ceremony of national studies courses; met with Hong Kong people in different places; conducted study tours		
Secretary for Environment and Ecology	22	Mainland (Beijing, Shenzhen, Dongguan, Xiamen, Zhejiang Province, Guangzhou, Foshan and Jiangsu Province), Macao, United States (Seattle), Peru (Lima), United Arab Emirates (Dubai), Singapore, Azerbaijan (Baku)	Called on the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council, and visited various national institutions and facilities; attended various types of international and regional conferences, forums, seminars and events (e.g. the second High-level Conference of the Forum on Global Action for Shared Development, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Energy Ministerial Meeting, Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the 17th Singapore International Energy Week, the opening ceremony of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Ecological Environment Forum, Macao International Environmental Co-operation Forum & Exhibition, etc); witnessed the signing of the Cooperation Arrangement on Quality and Safety Management; accompanied the Chief Executive and Legislative Council Members to visit the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area; conducted other study tours (e.g.	1-3	1.35 million

Principal Official	Number of Visits	Destinations	Purposes	Number of Entourage from the Office/Bureau Concerned	Expenditure¹ (HK\$)
			conducting a duty visit to Jiangsu Province with the Legislative Council Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene)		
Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development	43	Mainland (Beijing, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Dongguan, Foshan, Chongqing, Guiyang, Shanghai, Urumqi and Zhengzhou), United States (New York, Detroit, San Francisco and Berkeley), Peru (Arequipa and Lima), France (Paris), Hungary (Budapest), Thailand (Bangkok), Cambodia (Phnom Penh and Siem Reap), Vietnam (Hanoi), Saudi Arabia (Riyadh), United Arab Emirates (Abu Dhabi and	Called on the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council, the central ministries and commissions, and various national institutions; attended various types of international conferences (e.g. Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Ministers Responsible for Trade Meeting, Ministerial Council Meeting of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, World Governments Summit, Association of Southeast Asian Nations Economic Ministers - Hong Kong, China Consultation, Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, the Arab-China Business Conference, a co-operation and exchange forum with Kazakhstan, etc); accompanied the Chief Executive, the Financial Secretary and the Secretary for Justice to attend meetings and conduct visits to overseas countries and the Mainland (e.g. World Economic Forum Annual Meeting, Bay to Bay Dialogue between	0-3	5.74 million

Principal Official	Number of Visits	Destinations	Purposes	Number of Entourage from the Office/Bureau Concerned	Expenditure ¹ (HK\$)
		Dubai), Japan (Tokyo), Singapore, Indonesia (Jakarta and Semarang), Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur), Germany (Munich), Laos, Switzerland (Davos)	the California Bay Area and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, Joint Conference on the Belt and Road Initiative, Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, High-Level Meeting cum Plenary Session of Hong Kong/Chongqing Co-operation Conference, Guangdong-Hong Kong Deepening Economic, Trade and Investment Cooperation Conference, Pan-Pearl River Delta Regional Co-operation Chief Executive Joint Conference, etc); joined the consuls and business delegation in Hong Kong led by the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the HKSAR to conduct visits; attended other meetings and events related to the Belt and Road Initiative and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area; met with senior government officials and business leaders/representatives from various places; attended expos; conducted other visits and study missions/ceremonies		
Secretary for Health (including the former Secretary for	23	Mainland (Beijing, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Shanghai, Foshan, Nansha, Dongguan, Wuhan and	Attended various types of international and regional conferences, medical forums and activities (e.g. World Health Assembly of the World Health Organization, Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Health	0-5	1.13 million

Principal Official	Number of Visits	Destinations	Purposes	Number of Entourage from the Office/Bureau Concerned	Expenditure¹ (HK\$)
Food and Health)		Dunhuang), Switzerland (Geneva)	Cooperation Conference, Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Conference on Inheritance, Innovation and Development of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Joint Meeting of Senior Health Officials of Mainland, Hong Kong and Macao, World Conference on Traditional Medicine, etc); called on national institutions, ministries and commissions; attended signing ceremonies of co-operation agreements; attended meetings on the anti-epidemic work of the Mainland and Hong Kong, etc.		
Secretary for Development	5	Mainland (Beijing, Shanghai, Huizhou, Guangzhou, and Weihai of Shandong)	Attended conferences and events (e.g. Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Modular Integrated Construction (MiC) Supply Chain Conference, the opening ceremony of Mainland and Hong Kong Construction Forum 2024, and the opening ceremony of World Cities Day China Observance); conducted a duty visit to Shanghai with members of the Legislative Council Panel on Development; paid courtesy calls	1-2	70 thousand
Secretary for Housing	4	Mainland (Hangzhou, Beijing, Zhuhai and Shenzhen), Singapore	Attended conferences and conducted visits	3	0.21 million

Principal Official	Number of Visits	Destinations	Purposes	Number of Entourage from the Office/Bureau Concerned	Expenditure¹ (HK\$)
Secretary for the Civil Service	5	Mainland (Beijing, Zhejiang Province, Guangzhou and Xiamen)	Called on the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and visited the National Academy of Governance; led a delegation of Permanent Secretaries and Heads of Departments for study and duty visits; attended the opening/graduation ceremonies of training programmes for civil servants; introducing Hong Kong students studying in the Mainland to the work of the HKSAR Government civil service and the employment opportunities available for young people; conducted other visits and study missions, etc.	2-4	0.18 million
Secretary for Education	30	Mainland (Shenzhen, Dongguan, Guangzhou, Beijing, Zhejiang Province, Shanghai, Chongqing, Chengdu, Beijing, Wuhan, Changsha, Xi'an, Nanjing, Guizhou, Shaanxi, Yunnan and Jiangxi), United Kingdom, Japan, Finland, Australia, Malta,	Organised and promoted Mainland study tours for senior secondary Civic and Social Development subject to provide students with firsthand experience of national development and help them foster a sense of national identity; organised Mainland study tours for newly appointed and promoted teachers to enhance their ability to cultivate students' national identity and pride; led presidents or representatives of Hong Kong's higher education institutions on visits to Beijing to grasp the country's overall development and strategies for building China into a leading country in	0-2	2.68 million

Principal Official	Number of Visits	Destinations	Purposes	Number of Entourage from the Office/Bureau Concerned	Expenditure¹ (HK\$)
		Germany, United States, France, Croatia	education; led Hong Kong universities to deliver keynote speeches at major global university recruitment and mobility conferences and exhibitions, and establishing a Hong Kong pavilion at the exhibitions to promote the brand of “Study in Hong Kong” and Hong Kong’s strengths as an international hub for post-secondary education to overseas partners; met with influential international education organisations, education officials from various countries, and university presidents to strengthen international education network connections; led the Hong Kong, China delegation to achieve its best-ever results at the WorldSkills Competition, and presented Hong Kong’s vocational and professional education development and universities of applied sciences at major international conferences		
Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry (including the former Secretary for	35	Mainland (Shenzhen, Beijing, Guangzhou, Hainan, Wuhan, Foshan, Chongqing, Guizhou, Hangzhou, Wuzhen, Fuzhou, Ningde, Shanghai and Xi’an), Macao,	Called on the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council, national institutions and facilities, and academic institutions, and met with leaders of the central ministries and commissions as well as provincial and municipal governments; attended or hosted various types of conferences, forums and exhibitions, and delivered speeches at events (e.g. Boao Forum	0-4	3.16 million

Principal Official	Number of Visits	Destinations	Purposes	Number of Entourage from the Office/Bureau Concerned	Expenditure¹ (HK\$)
Innovation and Technology)		Singapore, Germany, Indonesia (Jakarta), Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur), Switzerland, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Belgium, France, Canada, Spain, Portugal	for Asia, the meeting of the Mainland/Hong Kong Science and Technology Co-operation Committee, meetings on the anti-epidemic work of the Mainland and Hong Kong, the thematic meeting on the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, a press conference for the World Internet Conference Asia-Pacific Summit, Geneva International Exhibition of Inventions, etc); accompanied the Chief Executive to attend conferences and conduct visits (e.g. High-Level Meeting cum First Plenary Session of the Hong Kong/Chongqing Co-operation Conference, 2023 Pan-Pearl River Delta Regional Co-operation Chief Executive Joint Conference, Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, visits to 3 ASEAN countries, etc) to promote Hong Kong's latest advantages to the political and business sectors so as to strengthen economic, trade and investment co-operation; joined a study tour by Legislative Council Members; met with senior government officials, industry leaders and tech companies to strengthen liaison and co-operation with various countries; signed co-operation agreements with the Mainland (e.g. High-Level Meeting cum First Plenary Session of the Hong Kong/Chongqing Co-operation Conference, "Memorandum of		

Principal Official	Number of Visits	Destinations	Purposes	Number of Entourage from the Office/Bureau Concerned	Expenditure¹ (HK\$)
			Understanding on Facilitating Cross-boundary Data Flow within the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area”, “Co-operation Agreement on the Development of New Quality Productive Forces and the Promotion of New Industrialisation”); visited tech companies and conducted study tours, etc		
Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (including the former Secretary for Home Affairs)	18	Mainland (Xi’an, Wuhan, Shenzhen, Beijing, Guangzhou, Foshan, Zhejiang Province, Dunhuang, Chengdu, Tianshui of Gansu, Shanghai, Hengqin of Zhuhai, Dongguan and Zhengzhou), Macao, Singapore, Laos, Vietnam	Attended relevant conferences, events or ceremonies (including accompanied the Chief Executive to attend the Closing Ceremony of the 14th National Games of the People’s Republic of China, the closing ceremony of the 11th National Games for Persons with Disabilities and the 8th National Special Olympic Games of the People’s Republic of China; accompanied the Chief Executive to attend the First Plenary Session of the Hong Kong/Hubei Co-operation Conference, the inauguration ceremony of Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) Thematic Youth Internship Programmes to the Mainland, the departure ceremony of the 12th cultural exchange train for the youth from Shenzhen, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan, the sharing session regarding Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area youth innovation and entrepreneurship, the Public Fuxi	0-3	0.45 million

Principal Official	Number of Visits	Destinations	Purposes	Number of Entourage from the Office/Bureau Concerned	Expenditure ¹ (HK\$)
			Commemoration Ceremony 2024, the opening ceremony of the first batch of the training programme for the seventh-term District Council members, the meeting of the Guangdong-Hong Kong task force on youth employment, entrepreneurship and internship, a kick-off ceremony of a youth entrepreneurship event, a barracks visit for youths from Hong Kong and Macao, the kick-off ceremony of an entrepreneurship event for Hong Kong and Macao youths, the opening ceremony of the second HK Great Carnival, an event on women's development in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, the Ancestor Worship Ceremony of the Yellow Emperor in the Year of Yisi, etc); called on relevant departments and organisations in different places; led District Officers of the HKSAR Government to attend a study programme on district governance; visited community projects; visited member bases of the Alliance of Hong Kong Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurial Bases in the Greater Bay Area and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Guangdong) Innovation and Entrepreneurship bases; visited and exchanged views with the field units of the United Nations Volunteers - Hong Kong Universities Volunteer		

Principal Official	Number of Visits	Destinations	Purposes	Number of Entourage from the Office/Bureau Concerned	Expenditure¹ (HK\$)
			Internship Programme organised by HYAB; led exchange activities for Youth Development Commission Youth Ambassadors Programme and Youth Link members; met with Hong Kong students and young people		
Secretary for Labour and Welfare	13	Mainland (Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhongshan, Beijing, Foshan, Shanghai, Fujian and Hangzhou), Singapore, Philippines (Manila), Switzerland (Geneva)	Called on the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council, ministries and commissions, and national institutions; attended conferences and seminars (e.g. International Labour Conference, Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area High-quality Development Conference of Talent Service, a seminar on developing a high-level talent hub in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area); visited different cities to promote talent schemes; learnt about talent attraction policies and foreign domestic helper employment arrangements in different places; paid courtesy calls; visited social welfare organisations in various places; and participated in exchange and study tours, etc	1-3	0.77 million

Principal Official	Number of Visits	Destinations	Purposes	Number of Entourage from the Office/Bureau Concerned	Expenditure¹ (HK\$)
Secretary for Transport and Logistics (including the former Secretary for Transport and Housing)	23	Mainland (Shenzhen, Beijing, Guangzhou, Guiyang, Shanghai, Hangzhou, Tianjin and Nanning), Macao, United States (Detroit and San Francisco), Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam (Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City), Tokyo of Japan, Hamburg of Germany, Athens of Greece	Called on the central ministries and commissions, provincial and municipal leaders, and relevant departments; witnessed the signing ceremony for public-private partnership project; accompanied the Chief Executive on visits to strengthen Hong Kong's economic, trade and investment co-operation with other countries; attended and spoke at various types of conferences and forums (e.g. Global Sustainable Transport Summit 2023, Marintec China, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Transportation Ministerial Meeting, Pan-Pearl River Delta Regional Co-operation Chief Executive Joint Conference and meetings of the task force for collaboration on Guangdong-Hong Kong transportation, Bay to Bay Dialogue between the California Bay Area and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, US-China High-Level Event on Subnational Climate Action, the 27th Beijing Hong Kong Economic Cooperation Symposium and the Hong Kong Investment Promotion Conference, China Air Finance Development (DFTP) Summit, etc); called on leaders of various countries to promote Hong Kong's advantages as an international maritime and logistics hub and introduce the latest logistics	0-4	1.62 million

Principal Official	Number of Visits	Destinations	Purposes	Number of Entourage from the Office/Bureau Concerned	Expenditure ¹ (HK\$)
			developments; and conducted other study tours, etc		
Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism	29	Mainland (Beijing, Haikou, Gansu, Zhongshan, Foshan and Guangzhou, Hangzhou, Jiangmen and Zhuhai, Xiamen, Dongguan, Shenzhen, Shanghai, Xi'an, Qingdao, Chengdu and Harbin), Netherlands, Thailand, Italy, France, Vietnam, Paris, Portugal	Attended international and regional conferences, visits and events (e.g. meeting with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the General Administration of Sport of China in Beijing; attending an event organised by the Hong Kong Design Centre in the Netherlands, an annual cultural and tourism exchange programme, the 21st Greater Pearl River Delta Cultural Cooperation Meeting, the opening ceremony of the 19th Asian Games Hangzhou, Shanghai-Hong Kong City-to-City Culture Conference, the opening ceremony of the Hong Kong exhibition at the Venice Biennale, a plaque unveiling ceremony for a programme at the Palace Museum, the opening ceremony of Hong Kong Pavilion at the Cannes Film Market, events to cheer for Hong Kong athletes participating in the 2024 Paris Olympics Games and Paralympic Games, the signing ceremony of the co-operation agreement on the gift of a pair of giant pandas	1-2	2.46 million

Principal Official	Number of Visits	Destinations	Purposes	Number of Entourage from the Office/Bureau Concerned	Expenditure¹ (HK\$)
			from the Central Government to the HKSAR, 2024 General Assembly of the Association of National Olympic Committees, the opening ceremony of the 9th Asian Winter Games 2025); met with relevant officials and leaders in different places to exchange views and share experiences, promote Hong Kong and strengthen liaison and bilateral relations		

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB018

(Question Serial No. 1289)

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
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the work on promoting the Constitution, the Basic Law and patriotic education, please advise this Committee:

1. of the number of meetings of the Working Group on Patriotic Education since its establishment, and the staff establishment and expenditure for supporting the work of the Working Group;
2. as for the Constitution and Basic Law Promotion Activity and Research Sponsorship Scheme, of the (i) number of applications received; (ii) number of applications approved; (iii) details of sponsored activities; (iv) organisers; and (v) amount of sponsorship approved in the past 5 years; and
3. whether there are measures to evaluate the effectiveness of the above work; if so, of the details; if not, of the reasons.

Asked by: Hon IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

Reply:

The HKSAR Government attaches great importance to the promotion of patriotic education and endeavours to build mainstream values in the HKSAR characterised by patriotism with affection for our country and Hong Kong and in conformity with the principle of “One Country, Two Systems”. Under the guidance of the Chief Executive, the Working Group on Patriotic Education (Working Group) was formally established on 8 April 2024 under the Constitution and Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee to co-ordinate the work of government departments and non-governmental organisations in taking forward patriotic education.

2. There are 4 sub-groups under the Working Group, proposing concrete policy measures for effectively delivering patriotic education in major aspects including education, local

community, history, politics, economics and culture, and media publicity. Since its establishment, the Working Group held 2 meetings, whilst its 4 sub-groups held a few rounds of meetings. In future, the Working Group will continue to, having regard to the actual circumstances in Hong Kong, implement various short-, medium- and long-term policy measures for more effective implementation of patriotic education.

3. A Principal Assistant Secretary and 4 officers of other ranks in the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) provide secretariat support to the Working Group. The expenditure involved is subsumed under the overall provision for the CMAB, and hence no breakdown figures are available. The HKSAR Government's promotion work on patriotic education involves various bureaux and departments. The related expenditure and staff establishment are absorbed by the overall provision of the respective bureaux and departments, and therefore no breakdown figures are available.

4. The numbers of applications, approved applications and amounts of sponsorship under the Constitution and Basic Law Promotion Activity and Research Sponsorship Scheme ^{Note} in the past 5 years are as follows:

Year	Number of applications received	Number of applications approved	Amount of sponsorship (\$)
2020-21	53	35	Basic Law Promotion Activity Sponsorship Scheme: \$8,183,700
	13	3	Basic Law Promotion Research Sponsorship Scheme: \$2,319,950
2021-22	40	28	Basic Law Promotion Activity Sponsorship Scheme: \$6,685,300
	4	2	Basic Law Promotion Research Sponsorship Scheme: \$1,323,200
2022-23	53	21	Basic Law Promotion Activity Sponsorship Scheme: \$4,826,090
	4	2	Basic Law Promotion Research Sponsorship Scheme: \$1,304,000
2023-24	37	24	Constitution and Basic Law Promotion Activity and Research Sponsorship Scheme: \$8,242,835
2024-25	87	24	Constitution and Basic Law Promotion Activity and Research Sponsorship Scheme: \$6,217,580

Note: Before February 2023, the relevant sponsorship scheme was separated into 2 schemes, namely, Basic Law Promotion Activity Sponsorship Scheme and Basic Law Promotion Research Sponsorship Scheme.

5. Details of the sponsored projects are at Annex.

6. For the purpose of monitoring and evaluating the progress and effectiveness of sponsored projects, sponsored organisations are required to submit the progress reports, project final report and financial report on time. The project final report should state if the number of participants is in line with expectations and participants' feedback on the project (e.g. report on participants' responses), and attach project deliverables (e.g. winning entries of competitions, learning materials, and photos or videos of activities). The secretariat will

disburse funds to the organisation concerned only upon confirmation that the project has been completed with the targets met. Sponsored organisations' performance in previous projects will be considered in the assessment of their future applications.

Details of the sponsored projects under the Constitution and Basic Law Promotion Activity and Research Sponsorship Scheme in the past 5 years:

2020-21

Promotion activity	
Name of organisation	Title of project
New Home Association New Territories West Service Center	The Prosperity of Basic Law
Wofoo Leaders' Network	Learning Basic Law through history and tour
Chung Yeh Yuk Tsoi Educational Organization Company Limited	「愛・在香港」－《基本法》校園推廣計劃 2020-2021*
Joint Committee for The Promotion of The Basic Law of Hong Kong	Basic Law Promotion in Community and Schools 2020-21
Youth • Travel	「《基本法》與我」香港中小學生海報設計比賽 2020-2021*
National History Education (Hong Kong) Limited	Hong Kong Basic Law Multi-media Teaching and Learning kit: 2020 back and forth 30 years
Joint Committee for The Promotion of The Basic Law of Hong Kong	《基本法》多面體 — 全港學生辯論賽系列 2020-21*
Ma On Shan Youth Association	第二屆基本法推廣巡迴嘉年華 — 時空解迷*
Savantas Policy Institute	Know Your Basic Law Symposium
New Home Association Kowloon West Service Center	Basic Law Promotion in Community
Chinese History and Culture Enhancement Fund	Promotion of the Basic Law Education for Children
Tin Shui Wai Women Association Limited	Let's understand the basic law together
Hong Kong Youth Nurture Association	「一國兩制」與《基本法》標語創作比賽 2021*
Chin Ching Association	基本法與您同行*
Toi Shan Association Primary School	“Basic Law for Children's Learning” Creative Reading Sharing Project
Hong Kong Commerce & Industry Association LTD	《中學生電台節目製作基本法》*
Starian	星星法律匯：與基本法同行*
Hong Kong New Arrivals Services Foundation Limited	《基本法》大發現*

Joint Committee for The Promotion of The Basic Law of Hong Kong	第五屆全港大專生《基本法》推廣計劃*
Mong Kok Yin Ngai Societies	Singing Along to Basic Law
Hongkong Shine Tak Foundation Association Limited	善德基金會認識憲法、《國安法》、《基本法》— 與法治同行系列比賽2021*
Chinese History and Culture Enhancement Fund	Promotion of the Basic Law Education for Children (Phase 2)
National History Education (Hong Kong) Limited	Hong Kong Basic Law Multi-media Teaching and Learning kit: 2020 back and forth 30 years
Joint Committee for The Promotion of The Basic Law of Hong Kong	The 18 th Basic Law Ambassador Training Scheme
RSEFHK Maria College	《基本法》網上問答比賽*
Kowloon East Chaoren Association	齊來認識《基本法》— 推廣日、問答比賽暨頒獎禮*
Knowledge Association	Knowledge contest on the Basic Law for all primary and secondary schools in Hong Kong
Hong Kong Army Cadets Association	全城攜「守」基本法*
Academy of Chinese Studies	“To ensure the smooth and long-term successful practice – ‘one country, two systems’ policy and the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China” Learning and Teaching Packages
Zhongshan University Law Faculty Hong Kong Students Association Limited	Learning by Playing Basic Law Series Activity
Greater China Wisdom Charity Foundation Limited	基本法三十週年系列講座之「過去、現在、將來」*
Hong Kong Competence Education Research Institute	School Sharing Programme on Basic Law Education
Bauhinia Institute	第六屆「一國兩制」和《基本法》推廣活動*
Basic Law Foundation	紀念《基本法》頒布30周年巴士推廣*
Faculty of Law, University of Hong Kong	Public Lecture Series on the Chinese Constitution, the Basic Law and the National Security Law

Research project	
Research organisation	Subject of research
Hong Kong Policy Research Institute	社會事件對青少年《基本法》推廣工作的影響和建議*
One Country Two Systems Youth Forum Limited	A comparative analysis of the media reports of the implementation of One Country Two Systems and Basic Law by Mainland, UK and US
Basic Law Foundation	香港法庭案例判決和深層憲制及法理問題的研究*

* The organisation in question only submitted the Chinese title for the project.

2021-22

Promotion activity	
Name of organisation	Title of project
Kowloon City Youths Association	Light the City · Basic Law Promotion Activity
Youth · Travel	「《基本法》與我」香港中小學生海報設計比賽2021-2022*
Hong Kong Association of Youth Development Limited	「識」法精英培訓計劃*
New Home Association Kowloon West Service Center	Let's get to know the Basic Law
Federation of Industries and Commerce in Kwai Chung and Tsing Yi Charitable Foundation Ltd.	VR Adventures in Basic Law
Hong Kong Life Extension Association	「考基本·尋法寶」《基本法》推廣活動*
The HKFYG Institute for Leadership Development Limited	Engaged Learning: Basic Law Education Programme
Chung Yeh Yuk Tsoi Educational Organization Company Limited	第一屆青年法治領航員訓練計劃*
Joint Committee for The Promotion of The Basic Law of Hong Kong	Basic Law Promotion in Community and Schools 2021-2022
Chinese History and Culture Enhancement Fund	Promotion of the Basic Law Education for Children (Phase 3)
National History Education (Hong Kong) Limited	Hong Kong Basic Law Multi-media Teaching and Learning kit: 2020 back and forth 30 years
Tai Po Youths Association	Tai Po District Basic Law Promotion Programme 2021
Hong Kong Young Leaders Development Association	香港青少年基本法推廣視頻創作大賽2021*
Hong Kong Youth Nurture Association	「一國兩制」與《基本法》標語創作比賽2022*
New Home Association New Territories West Service Center	一·兩·知多點點基本法*
Zhongshan University Law Faculty Hong Kong Students Association Ltd	The 23rd online quiz competition on Basic Law & One Country Two System promotional activity
Hongkong Shine Tak Foundation Association Limited	慶祝香港回歸 25 週年 — 善德基金會「一國兩制」教育計劃 2022*
Hong Kong Higher Education Convergence	Project of “Children’s Book, Board Games, and Studying about the Basic Law”

Chung Yeh Yuk Tsoi Educational Organization Company Limited	全港小學生《基本法》校園推廣計劃 2022*
Joint Committee for The Promotion of The Basic Law of Hong Kong	Symposium in Commemoration of the 32nd Anniversary of the Promulgation of the Basic Law of the HKSAR
Joint Committee for The Promotion of The Basic Law of Hong Kong	The 19th Basic Law Ambassador Training Scheme
Basic Law Foundation Limited	12 月「國家憲法日」電車推廣、及 4 月「國家安全日」和「紀念《基本法》頒布 31 周年」巴士廣告推廣活動系列*
Basic Law Foundation Limited	《基本法》及法治電視教育節目項目*
Hong Kong Commerce & Industry Association Ltd	第二屆《中學生電台節目製作基本法》*
Flash Action	基本法遊走十八區*
Kowloon Federation of Associations	1st “Secure Homeland” Basic Law and NSL School Promotion Programme
Chinese History and Culture Enhancement Fund Limited	Promotion of the Basic Law Education for Children (Phase 4)
Endeavor Education Center	真識《基本法》2022*
Research project	
Research organisation	Subject of research
One Country Two Systems Youth Forum Limited	對學校、社會團體、媒體和網絡進行國家安全宣傳和教育初探*
Hong Kong Policy Research Institute	Case Studies of Junior and Senior Secondary School Basic Law Education: Lesson Preparation, Observation and Briefing

* The organisation in question only submitted the Chinese title for the project.

2022-23

Promotion activity	
Name of organisation	Title of project
National History Education (Hong Kong) Ltd.	Learning Basic Law through Board Games
Chung Yeh Yuk Tsoi Educational Organization Company Limited	The 2nd Hong Kong Young Leaders in Law Training Scheme
Hong Kong Basic Law Foundation Limited	2022 Basic Law Speech Contest
Hong Kong Life Extension Association	「考基本・尋法寶」《基本法》推廣活動 2023*
Youth·Travel	「《基本法》與我」香港中小學生海報設計比賽 2022-2023*
Joint Committee for The Promotion of The Basic Law of Hong Kong	《基本法》多面體 – 全港學生辯論賽系列 2022-2023*
Hong Kong Youth Nurture Association	「一國兩制」與《基本法》標語創作比賽 2023*
Youth Chain Limited	東區「看過・聽過・走過 – 基本法」*
Ngau Tau Kok Kaifong Welfare Assn. Ltd	Basic Law and Us
Hong Kong Basic Law Foundation Limited	1 st Basic Law and NSL Tertiary Students' Promotion Programme
Hong Kong Youth Power Association	「青識」基本法*
Kowloon Federation of Associations	「國安・家好」社區推廣系列活動2023*
Hong Kong Ladies Dynamic Association	齊來認識《憲法》、《基本法》*
Basic Law Foundation Limited	4月「紀念《基本法》頒布33周年」電車廣告推廣活動系列*
Hong Kong Elderly Charitable Limited	基本法「耆」望人人識*
East Teenagers Go	保家衛國基本法*
Hong Kong Wuyi Association Company Limited	Touch Base: Enhancing Basic Law awareness among youth in the community through immersive social games
Joint Committee for The Promotion of The Basic Law of Hong Kong	紀念《基本法》頒布三十三周年系列活動*
Joint Committee for The Promotion of The Basic Law of Hong Kong	The 20 th Basic Law Ambassador Training Scheme
Chin Ching Association	「始於基本 您我同心」基本法推廣計劃*
HK11 Association Limited	HK11 Law-abiding Elite Cultivate Program

Research project	
Research organisation	Subject of research
Beijing Institute of Hong Kong & Macau Scholars	Quantitative Study on the Differences in the Understanding of the Rights and Obligations of the Basic Law by Different Age Groups and the Corresponding Suggestions
One Country Two Systems Youth Forum Limited	基本法實施以來的重要議題研究-25年回顧與前瞻*

* The organisation in question only submitted the Chinese title for the project.

2023-24

Promotion activity	
Name of organisation	Title of project
Joint Committee for the Promotion of the Constitution and Hong Kong Basic Law	《基本法》多面體—全港學生辯論賽系列 2023-2024*
Chung Yeh Yuk Tsoi Educational Organisation Company Limited	The 3 rd Hong Kong Young Leaders in Law Training Scheme
Youth · Travel	「《基本法》與我」香港中小學生海報設計比賽 2023-2024*
New Home Association Kowloon West Service Center	Basic Law Community Ambassador Program
Basic Law Foundation Limited	2023年12月「國家憲法日」電車廣告推廣活動*
Hongkong Shine Tak Foundation Association Limited	善德基金會「一國兩制」教育計劃2023*
Hong Kong Commerce & Industry Association LTD	第三屆《中學生電台節目製作基本法》*
Hongkong Young Historian Institute Limited	「回到制憲現場」憲法及基本法香港青年培訓項目*
鳳凰薈^	「國家安全『PLAY · STEM · LEARN』」計劃*
To Kwa Wan Resident Service Organisation	《香港國安法》社區推廣計劃2023*
Rudolf Steiner Education Foundation Hong Kong Maria College	Basic Law Quiz & Speed Stacks Competition 2023
Hong Kong Basic Law Foundation Limited	2 nd Basic Law Speech Contest (Cantonese and Putonghua)
Hong Kong Life Extension Association	「考基本、尋法寶」《基本法》推廣活動 2023-2024*

Basic Law Foundation Limited	2024年4月「《基本法頒布紀念日》」電車推廣廣告活動*
International Probono Legal Services Association Limited	National Security Elite Training Program
Hong Kong Youth Nurture Association	「一國兩制」與《基本法》標語創作比賽2024*
Chin Ching Association	「識」「晰」相關--基本法推廣計劃*
Hongkong Shine Tak Foundation Association Limited	慶祝中華人民共和國成立75周年：善德基金會「認識憲法、《基本法》— 與法治同行」系列比賽*
Kowloon West Community Harmony and Solidarity Services Centre Limited	「憲」為「基本」之母*
Joint Committee for the Promotion of The Constitution and Hong Kong Basic Law	Basic Law Ambassador Training Scheme
Research project	
Research organisation	Subject of research
Path of Democracy Limited	探討香港市民對《香港基本法》保障人的權利及相應之義務的認識程度*
Hong Kong Policy Research Institute Ltd.	Case studies related to the implementation of the Hong Kong National Security Law
Hong Kong Huaxia Education Institute Limited	The Linkage between Patriotic Education and the “Three Laws” Education: A Case Study of Traditional Patriotic Schools
Basic Law Foundation Limited	Research on Situation of Community Education of the Hong Kong Basic Law and Chinese Constitution in the Hong Kong 18 Districts

* The organisation in question only submitted the Chinese title for the project.

^ The organisation in question only has a Chinese name.

2024-25

Promotion activity	
Name of organisation	Title of project
Youth · Travel	「《基本法》與我」香港中小學生海報設計比賽2024-2025*
鳳凰薈^	「國家安全『PLAY · STEM · LEARN』」計劃2.0*
Kowloon Federation of Associations Kwun Tong District Committee	中華人民共和國成立75周年暨國家憲法日設立10周年系列活動*
Hong Kong Basic Law Foundation Limited	2nd “Constitution” and “the Basic Law” Tertiary Students’ Promotion Programme – Understand the Relationship between the “Safeguarding National Security Ordinance” and the “One Country Two Systems”
Kowloon Federation of Associations	「國安·家好」社區推廣系列活動2024-2025*
Youth Concentric Association Limited	The Constitution and the Basic Law Opportunities Forum
Hong Kong STEM Education Award Limited	Hong Kong Primary and Secondary School Basic Law Game Making Competition
New Home Association Kowloon West Service Centre	Let’s get to know the Constitution and Basic Law
Hong Man Association	「基本法」青年同行計劃*
Youth’s Origin Association	Bilingual Junior Reporter – The Constitution and the Basic Law Training Programme
Basic Law Foundation Limited 2	2024年12月「國家憲法日」電車廣告推廣活動*
Hong Kong Youth Nurture Association	「一國兩制」與《基本法》標語創作比賽2025*
鳳凰薈^	A Holistic Approach to National Security – Project of PLAY·STEM·LEARN
New Home Association Kowloon East Service Centre	Basic Law Community Ambassador Program
Chin Ching Association	《憲法》和《基本法》與您息息相關*
Joint Committee for the Promotion of the Constitution and Hong Kong Basic Law	The 22nd Basic Law Ambassador Training Scheme
Hong Kong Basic Law Foundation	3rd Basic Law Speech Contest (Cantonese and

Limited	Putonghua)
Basic Law Foundation Limited	2025年4月「《基本法》頒布紀念日」電車廣告推廣活動*
Hongkong Shine Tak Foundation Association Limited	善德基金會「一國兩制」教育計劃2025 - 「認識憲法、《基本法》- 與法治同行」系列活動*
Hong Kong Life Extension Association	「考基本、尋法寶」《基本法》推廣活動2025*
Research project	
Research organisation	Subject of research
Path of Democracy Limited	完成《基本法》第二十三條對「新聞自由」影響的研究*
Youth Council Limited	回歸前《基本法》制訂與政制發展的歷程研究*
Tsinghua Law Association (Hong Kong) Limited	主要普通法系地區的非非法披露國家秘密罪相關案例研究*
Hong Kong Huaxia Education Institute Limited	Patriotic Education and the Education of the “Three Laws” in the Digital New Era: A Case Study of Primary and Secondary Schools in Hong Kong

* The organisation in question only submitted the Chinese title for the project.

^ The organisation in question only has a Chinese name.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB019

(Question Serial No. 2919)

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
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

For Programme (2), it is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025- 26 that the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau will continue to strengthen the promotion and co-ordination work in taking forward the development of the Greater Bay Area through the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Office). In this connection, please advise this Committee of:

1. the details of the Office's promotion and co-ordination work in taking forward the development of the Greater Bay Area in the past 5 years (2020-21 to 2024-25);
2. the establishment and ranks of staff and the estimated expenditure of the Office in the past 5 years (2020-21 to 2024-25);
3. the establishment and ranks of staff and the estimated expenditure of the Office for 2025-26; and
4. the number, destinations, objectives and achievements of visits outside Hong Kong made by the Commissioner for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area in the past 5 years (2020-21 to 2024-25).

Asked by: Hon KAN Wai-mun, Carmen (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government attaches great importance to the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area). Shortly upon the establishment of the current-term Government, the Steering Group on Integration into National Development, chaired by the Chief Executive and with three Secretaries of Departments as deputies, was set up to take forward and provide steer from the top level on the work on Hong Kong's integration into the overall national development, and dovetailing with key national strategies such as the development of the

Greater Bay Area. The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Office) has been rendering full support to the work of the Steering Group in taking forward Greater Bay Area development, and promoting and co-ordinating the HKSAR Government's policy measures introduced to foster high-level connectivity in the Greater Bay Area.

2. With the strong support from the Central Authorities and the concerted efforts of the Guangdong Province and the cities of the Greater Bay Area, good progress has been made in taking forward the high-quality development of the Greater Bay Area, fostering the efficient flow of essential factors of production, and pursuing deeper and wider harmonisation of rules and mechanisms, etc. For example, to promote the cross-boundary movement of people, the "Northbound Travel for Hong Kong Vehicles" scheme, the facilitation measures for "southbound and northbound" two-way flow of talent, and schemes for supporting youth innovation, entrepreneurship and employment within the Greater Bay Area have been introduced and well-received; whilst the Greater Bay Area Legal Professional Examination, the registration system for architectural and engineering related professionals, the Cross-boundary Wealth Management Connect Scheme 2.0, the new evaluation mechanism of "One Examination, Multiple Certification" for nurturing skilled workers, and the measures of allowing Hong Kong-invested enterprises to adopt Hong Kong law and to choose Hong Kong as the seat of arbitration have also greatly facilitated the professional services sector of Hong Kong in tapping the Mainland market of the Greater Bay Area.

3. To promote the flow of goods, the Airport Authority Hong Kong (AAHK) has been developing the "sea-air intermodal cargo-transshipment" mode in collaboration with Dongguan, which has greatly improved the efficiency of cross-boundary air cargo transshipment; and the AAHK's equity acquisition of Zhuhai Airport according to market principles has also promoted co-operation in and development of the high-end aviation industry between the two places.

4. Regarding the interconnectivity of the financial markets, the steady development of the Cross-boundary Wealth Management Connect Scheme since its launch has created new opportunities for financial institutions in the three places, and benefitted the further opening-up of the financial markets of the Mainland. Besides, the issuance of offshore Renminbi local government bonds by the Shenzhen Municipal Government and the Guangdong Provincial Government, etc. in Hong Kong has further consolidated Hong Kong's position as the world's largest offshore Renminbi business hub.

5. The Shenzhen-Hong Kong Loop is one of the key co-operation platforms in the Greater Bay Area. In November 2024, the HKSAR Government promulgated the Development Outline for the Hong Kong Park of the Hetao Shenzhen-Hong Kong Science and Technology Innovation Co-operation Zone to lead the high-quality development of the Hong Kong Park. The first three buildings in the Hong Kong Park have been completed, and the Greater Bay Area International Clinical Trial Institute has officially opened in the Hong Kong Park. In accordance with the principles of "One Country, Two Systems" and "one zone, two parks", the HKSAR Government will continue to join forces with the Shenzhen Municipal Government in developing the Loop into a world-class key innovation and technology co-operation platform and an important engine for the high-quality development of the Greater Bay Area.

6. As for the other policy areas, there is also extensive co-operation among the three places. Examples include the special measure of using Hong Kong-registered drugs and medical devices used in Hong Kong public hospitals in the Greater Bay Area, the Elderly Health Care Voucher Greater Bay Area Pilot Scheme, the Residential Care Services Scheme in Guangdong, the convenient “unilateral recognition” policy for cross-boundary motor insurance, Greater Bay Area Standards, Greater Bay Area Certification, Cross-boundary Public Services, as well as co-operation in the areas of higher education, ecological conservation and emergency response, etc. They are of great significance to the promotion of wider scope of integrated development in the Greater Bay Area.

7. Based on the spirits of pragmatism and mutual benefits, policy bureaux will continue to strengthen liaison with relevant Central Ministries and Commissions, the Guangdong Provincial Government and the Macao Special Administrative Region Government, jointly seek policy innovations and breakthroughs, and strive to pursue more policy measures which will benefit Hong Kong and contribute to the development of our country and the Greater Bay Area.

8. At the same time, the Office also strives to promote the significant opportunities brought about by the Greater Bay Area development to local, Mainland and overseas stakeholders through diversified and multi-media means and channels, including traditional media, the Internet and social media platforms, the “Greater Bay Area Information Stations” set up in various districts of Hong Kong, physical activities and exhibitions, as well as the Office’s Newsletters, etc. The Office also maintains close liaison with consulates in Hong Kong, chambers of commerce of various sectors, professional bodies, youth associations, think-tanks, etc. Through organising and participating in online and offline seminars, etc., the Office elucidates to these organisations and stakeholders the significance and unlimited opportunities of Greater Bay Area development to Hong Kong.

9. Furthermore, the Office also continues to promote to overseas stakeholders the significant opportunities brought about by Greater Bay Area development, as well as the unique advantages of Hong Kong as a core city of the Greater Bay Area, with a view to attracting overseas talents, enterprises and capital to Hong Kong and tap the opportunities brought about by the enormous markets and rapid development of Greater Bay Area and of the Mainland. In 2024, the Commissioner for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and her representatives visited Toronto in Canada, Paris in France, California in the United States, Seoul in South Korea, Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia, Melbourne in Australia and Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam, etc. respectively to promote the opportunities in the Greater Bay Area. In February 2025, the Commissioner visited Bangkok in Thailand as well. The Office also plans to visit some European, ASEAN and Middle Eastern countries later this year.

10. The staff establishment and expenditure of the Office for taking forward the development of the Greater Bay Area in the past 5 years are as follows:

Year	Staff establishment	Revised estimate		Sub-total (\$ million)
		Staff cost on civil service posts (\$ million)	Other expenses (\$ million)	
2020-21	33	31	35.22	66.22
2021-22	33	32	27.50	59.50
2022-23	33	32	41.25	73.25
2023-24	33	33	29.70	62.70
2024-25	31	33	30.10	63.10

For 2025-26, the number of staff in the establishment of the Office is 31, and the estimated expenditure is about \$64.7 million (including staff cost of about \$34 million on civil service posts and other expenses of about \$30.7 million).

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB020

(Question Serial No. 3261)

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
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD) has taken on more tasks in recent years, including the work related to doxxing and personal data breach incidents etc. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. The expenditure and manpower allocation, with a breakdown by area of work, in each of the past 5 years (2020-21 to 2024-25).
2. The estimated expenditure of the PCPD for 2025-26 is 6.9% lower than the revised estimate for 2024-25. What are the areas and reasons involved in the decreased expenditure? As the PCPD needs to undertake work on data security, legislative amendment of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance etc., will the Government consider allocating more resources to support the work of the PCPD? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
3. Regarding the legislative amendment of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance, what are the progress and timetable, and the staff establishment and estimated expenditure involved?
4. As the Government is thinking about effecting the legislative amendments to the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance by phases, will it consider first introducing the amendment proposals on “establishing a mandatory personal data breach notification mechanism” and “directly regulating data processors”? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
5. The PCPD received 1 158 enquiries relating to suspected personal data frauds last year, which represented a 46% increase over the previous year. The situation is undesirable. Will the Government support the PCPD in conducting joint compliance checks with other organisations (including the Office of the Communications Authority and the

Hong Kong Monetary Authority) to strengthen regulation of fraud prevention? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon KAN Wai-mun, Carmen (LegCo internal reference no.: 42)

Reply:

The expenditure and manpower allocation of the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD) (by area of work) in the past 5 years (2020-21 to 2024-25) are at **Annex**.

2. The PCPD's estimated expenditure for 2025-26 is 6.9% lower than the revised estimate for 2024-25, mainly because the revised estimate for 2024-25 includes some one-off non-recurrent provision, including the resources for the PCPD to organise major publicity activities such as "Privacy-Friendly Awards" and to strengthen its information security system etc. Furthermore, under the Productivity Enhancement Programme in the 2025-26 Budget, the PCPD's recurrent provision for 2025-26 has to be adjusted downwards accordingly to tie in with the overall target of fiscal consolidation.

3. Regarding the progress of studying amendments to the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (PDPO), the PCPD's proposed amendments upon a comprehensive review of the PDPO include: (1) establishing a mandatory personal data breach notification mechanism; (2) directly regulating data processors; (3) requiring data users to establish a personal data retention period policy; (4) strengthening sanctions and empowering the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data to hand down administrative fines; and (5) clarifying the definition of personal data, etc.

4. The PCPD earlier consulted the Personal Data (Privacy) Advisory Committee and the Standing Committee on Technological Developments on the proposed amendments to the PDPO, and listened to the views of different sectors. There are industry representatives expressing concern about the compliance costs arising from the tightened regulation and the strengthened sanctions proposed, in particular the considerable effect and pressure on the industries especially small and medium enterprises, under the current difficult economic situation. In response to industry concerns, the Government is actively studying how to appropriately adjust the legislative amendment proposals, including whether and how to effect the proposed legislative amendments by phases such as first introducing the amendment proposals on "establishing a mandatory personal data breach notification mechanism" and "directly regulating data processors", in an attempt to reduce the possible effect on the industries. At the same time, the Government is examining relevant factors to suitably determine the amount of administrative fines, ensuring they are set at an acceptable level while serving as a deterrent against contravention of the PDPO. We will carefully study the most opportune time for introducing the proposed legislative amendments, and consult the Legislative Council Panel on Constitutional Affairs for their views in a timely manner. The PCPD's work related to the amendment of the PDPO is mainly undertaken by the staff of PCPD's Legal Division, who are also responsible for other duties. As the expenditure involved is subsumed under the recurrent expenditure, a separate breakdown is not available.

5. To prevent leaked personal data being used for frauds and other unlawful acts, the PCPD has been proactively conducting compliance checks to assist organisations in taking appropriate measures to protect personal data under their control. In 2024, the PCPD

conducted a total of 400 compliance checks, which covered industries including banking and finance, retail, social services, education, healthcare, and government departments. The PCPD will continue to conduct relevant compliance checks, including exploring with other regulatory bodies (such as the Office of the Communications Authority and the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, etc.) the possibility of conducting joint compliance checks under the respective legal frameworks, with a view to further protecting personal data privacy of the public.

The recurrent expenditure and manpower allocation (by area of work) of PCPD

Area of work	2020-21		2021-22		2022-23		2023-24		2024-25 (as at end-February 2025)	
	Recurrent expenditure* (\$ million)	Manpower allocation	Recurrent expenditure* (\$ million)	Manpower allocation	Recurrent expenditure* (\$ million)	Manpower allocation	Recurrent expenditure* (\$ million)	Manpower allocation	Recurrent expenditure* [#] (\$ million)	Manpower allocation [#]
Compliance and enquiries	14.5	20	13.3	15	12.2	15	13.1	21	17.5	26
Complaints and criminal investigation	16.6	22	18.3	23	24.9	31	30.1	33	31	36
Legal	9.5	8	8.6	8	8.2	8	11.1	10	14.6	10
Global affairs and research	3.6	4	4.0	7	4.4	5	7.3	8	6.7	6
Corporate communications	9	9	9.5	11	13.9	10	16.4	12	16.2	12
Corporate support	11.3	16	11.0	16	11.8	15	12.5	15	12.1	15

* Including manpower expenditure.

[#] In 2024-25, to study the implementation of policy measures under the “Memorandum of Understanding on Facilitating Cross-boundary Data Flow within the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area”, the Innovation, Technology and Industry Bureau provided \$11.4 million of recurrent expenditure to the PCPD for employing 13 staff and carrying out the relevant work.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB021

(Question Serial No. 1661)

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
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The HKSAR Government established the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Office) in November 2020 to strengthen the promotion and co-ordination work in taking forward the development of the Greater Bay Area. Please set out the estimated staff establishment, expenditure on emoluments and operating expenses of the Office for the current year.

1. Will the Bureau consider allocating additional resources to the Office, including manpower and provision for salary and operating expenses? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
2. Will the Bureau consider introducing specific key performance indicators to evaluate the Office's effectiveness in taking forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
3. Has the Bureau pursued with the Mainland authorities the implementation of more preferential measures that facilitate Hong Kong people to work, study, purchase property and live in the Greater Bay Area? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
4. Will the Bureau consider establishing official organisations of the HKSAR Government in the nine Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area to strengthen support for Hong Kong enterprises and people there? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon KOON Ho-ming, Peter Douglas (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

Reply:

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government attaches great importance to the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area

(Greater Bay Area). Since the promulgation of the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, with the strong support from the Central Authorities and the concerted efforts of the Guangdong Province and various Greater Bay Area cities, a number of policy measures in various areas have been introduced to support Hong Kong residents and enterprises to pursue development in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area, as well as to assist the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area in tapping into international markets, thereby leveraging Hong Kong's dual roles in "going global and attracting foreign investment".

2. The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Office) is the main unit of the HKSAR Government responsible for liaison with the Mainland authorities and the Macao Special Administrative Region Government on the development of the Greater Bay Area. The HKSAR Government will continue to proactively maintain close liaison with relevant Central Ministries and Commissions, the Guangdong Provincial Government, and the Macao Special Administrative Region Government, so as to seek further policy innovations and breakthroughs based on the spirits of mutual benefits and complementarity, and strive to introduce more policy measures which will benefit Hong Kong and contribute to the development of our country and the Greater Bay Area. As regards key performance indicators, as stated in the 2024 Policy Address, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau plans to organise and participate in promotional programmes and networking sessions to be attended by no less than 10 000 persons, and reach out to no less than 1 200 entrepreneurs and representatives of business firms in 2025.

3. The number of staff in the establishment of the Office is 31; and the estimated expenditure of the Office is about \$64.7 million (including staff cost of about \$34 million on civil service posts and other expenses of about \$30.7 million). The Office will consider its manpower and resource requirements having regard to the actual circumstances and needs, and will cope with the increased workload through re-prioritisation of work and deployment of internal resources, etc. if necessary.

4. To more effectively promote the significant opportunities brought about by the Greater Bay Area to Hong Kong people and enterprises, the HKSAR Government established the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Promotion Centre (Promotion Centre) in Guangzhou. Spearheaded by the Office, the Promotion Centre has forged strategic co-operation with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, Invest Hong Kong and relevant Mainland organisations and institutions. The Promotion Centre organises different types of activities from time to time, including seminars and study missions, etc., to promote the opportunities brought about by Greater Bay Area development to Hong Kong residents and enterprises pursuing development in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area, and seeks to better understand their needs so as to provide them with practical assistance.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB022

(Question Serial No. 1662)

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
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The HKSAR Government has established an office in Beijing, the Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan, as well as Liaoning and Tianjin Liaison Units under the Beijing Office, Shenzhen, Fujian and Guangxi Liaison Units under the Guangdong ETO, Chongqing and Shaanxi Liaison Units under the Chengdu ETO, Shandong and Zhejiang Liaison Units under the Shanghai ETO, and Hunan and Henan Liaison Units under the Wuhan ETO. These offices serve as bridges between the HKSAR Government and the Mainland.

1. Please set out the staff establishment of all Mainland Offices in the past 3 years.
2. Please provide, in tabular form, the numbers of requests for assistance from Hong Kong people received by all Mainland Offices in the past 3 years, with a breakdown by nature.
3. Will the Government consider enhancing the functions of the Mainland Offices so as to strengthen the capabilities of handling Mainland affairs, support Hong Kong's integration into the Greater Bay Area development, and pursue advance planning for the National 15th Five-Year Plan? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon KOON Ho-ming, Peter Douglas (LegCo internal reference no.: 14)

Reply:

The staff establishment of the Mainland Offices of the HKSAR Government in the past 3 years is set out in the table below:

Office	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Beijing Office	22	22	22
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong	18	18	18
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Shanghai	15	15	16
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Chengdu	13	13	13
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Wuhan	13	13	13
Total	81	81	82

2. The numbers of requests for assistance received by the Mainland Offices of the HKSAR Government in the past 3 years are set out in the table below:

Office	Year	Assistance cases which were related to immigration and personal safety matters	Other assistance cases	Total
Beijing Office	2022	32	21	53
	2023	84	15	99
	2024	79	11	90
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong	2022	595	134	729
	2023	225	60	285
	2024	137	47	184
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Shanghai	2022	268	3	271
	2023	75	21	96
	2024	83	9	92
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Chengdu	2022	185	2	187
	2023	27	4	31
	2024	34	8	42
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Wuhan	2022	20	17	37
	2023	17	18	35
	2024	28	5	33

“Assistance cases which were related to immigration and personal safety matters” refer to emergency assistance in relation to accidents (e.g. traffic accidents or fire) or other emergencies (e.g. robbery, assault, etc.), while “Other assistance cases” include commercial and trade disputes, complaints relating to real estate, and complaints against authorities in the Mainland, etc.

3. The key functions of the Mainland Offices of the HKSAR Government include enhancing liaison and communication between Hong Kong and the Central People’s Government as well as the provincial and municipal governments in the Mainland to promote exchange and co-operation; telling Hong Kong’s good stories in the Mainland to promote the characteristics of Hong Kong as well as the investment opportunities and business advantages under the National 14th Five-Year Plan and the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, so as to encourage and attract Mainland enterprises and talents to establish presence in Hong Kong; fostering youth and cultural exchanges between Hong Kong and the Mainland; and providing information and other appropriate support and assistance to Hong Kong people and enterprises in the Mainland, etc. The HKSAR Government will continue to review the functions and service scope of the Mainland Offices from time to time, and keep on enhancing and improving the work and service of the Mainland Offices in light of the new opportunities arising from the country’s overall development strategies, and having regard to the actual circumstances and needs. These will enable the Mainland Offices to provide the most appropriate assistance and services to Hong Kong people and enterprises in the Mainland and support them for better integration into the overall national development.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB023

(Question Serial No. 1663)

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
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

To further promote public awareness and understanding of the Constitution, the Basic Law and the Hong Kong National Security Law, and to enhance citizens' national security and law-abiding awareness, will the Government continue to strengthen relevant publicity and education work? If yes, what are the details? What are the staff establishment and estimated expenditure for the coming year? If no, what are the reasons?

Has the Government assessed and reviewed the effectiveness of the format and content of promotional activities in relation to the Constitution, the Basic Law and the Hong Kong National Security Law, and enhanced the promotion strategy in light of the number and feedback of participants? If yes, what are the details of assessment? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon KOON Ho-ming, Peter Douglas (LegCo internal reference no.: 15)

Reply:

Under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Constitution and Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (CBLPSC) provides advice and steer on the overall strategy and key work plans for promoting the Constitution, the Basic Law and national security-related legislation, and monitors, evaluates and reviews promotional programmes undertaken by government departments and non-governmental organisations. The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) provides secretariat support to the CBLPSC. The 5 sub-groups under the CBLPSC (namely Local Community Sub-group; Teachers and Students Sub-group; Civil Servants Sub-group; Industrial, Commercial and Professional Sectors Sub-group; and Community Outside Hong Kong Sub-group) have been planning and organising various types of activities for promotion on various fronts to the general public and related sectors.

2. The CMAB has been carrying out promotion and publicity work through different means and in a diversified manner to enable the public to have a more comprehensive and thorough understanding of the Constitution, the Basic Law and national security-related

legislation. Specific promotion work include:

- (a) organising thematic seminars, e.g. Constitution Day Seminar;
- (b) using electronic means, online platforms and social media to promote widely to different strata of society, e.g. co-producing with Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) and launching a theme song “Wings” to promote the Constitution and the Basic Law, posting advertisements on social media for promotion of the videos on the Constitution and the Basic Law, designing online games, producing and launching animation videos, and co-producing different types of television programmes with RTHK to introduce the Constitution and the Basic Law in an easy-to-understand manner, such as “Letter to the Basic Law”, “Basic Law Daily”, and the series of “Root & Origin: The Constitution”;
- (c) displaying large publicity banners outdoors, and producing publicity leaflets, posters and picture books on “One Country, Two Systems” for distribution to schools, public housing estates, etc.;
- (d) enhancing awareness and understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law by the general public and students through mobile promotional activities in physical form at the district level (e.g. organising roving exhibitions and parent-child workshops at shopping centres in various districts, and arranging the mobile resource centre and the mobile game booth to pay visits to different districts and schools); and
- (e) providing sponsorship to non-governmental organisations and community organisations through the “Constitution and Basic Law Promotion Activity and Research Sponsorship Scheme” for staging various promotional and research activities on the Constitution, the Basic Law and national security education, such as promotion ambassador training schemes, speaking contests and slogan design competitions, in order to get across the messages widely in the community.

3. The estimated expenditure of the CMAB for promoting the Constitution and the Basic Law in the 2025-26 financial year is about \$25 million. The CMAB will suitably deploy resources based on the actual circumstances to conduct the relevant work. At present, the CMAB’s promotion work on the Constitution and the Basic Law is undertaken by a team including a Principal Assistant Secretary and 5 supporting officers.

4. The CBLPSC and its sub-groups will review the format, content and effectiveness of promotional activities from time to time through evaluating their popularity and efficacy based on the number and feedback of participants, and advise how to optimise the promotion strategy in light of the development and trend of promotional media and information technology. Relevant Directors of Bureaux are also members of the CBLPSC to offer advice and necessary support for the purpose of effectively promoting the Constitution, the Basic Law and national security-related legislation. We will continue to make good use of the platform of the CBLPSC and keep a close eye on the effectiveness of various promotional activities, and adjust the promotion strategy as appropriate having regard to the actual circumstances in order to achieve the best results.

5. Apart from the circumstances mentioned in paragraph 3, the HKSAR Government's promotion work on the Constitution, the Basic Law and national security-related legislation involves various bureaux and departments. The related expenditure and staff establishment are absorbed by the overall provision of the respective bureaux and departments, and therefore no breakdown figures are available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB024

(Question Serial No. 1664)

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
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

What are the numbers of personal data breach notifications received by the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD) since the issuance of the *Guidance on Data Breach Handling and the Giving of Breach Notifications* in June 2010 and its subsequent update in January 2019 respectively? What are the breakdown figures by government departments (including public organisations) and private organisations?

What are the respective numbers of notifications on suspected personal data breach received by the PCPD from government departments (including public organisations) and private organisations during the same period?

After the Personal Data (Privacy) (Amendment) Bill 2021 was published in the Gazette and took effect on 8 October 2021, has the PCPD carried out any arrest operation? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon KOON Ho-ming, Peter Douglas (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

The Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD) updated the *Guidance on Data Breach Handling and the Giving of Breach Notifications* in January 2019 and June 2023 after its issuance in June 2010. The numbers of personal data breach notifications involving government departments (including public organisations) and private organisations received by the PCPD before and after the Guidance updates are as follows:

Number of personal data breach notifications			
	Government departments (including public organisations)	Private organisations	Total
June 2010 to December 2018	336	317	653
January 2019 to February 2025	304	571	875
Total:	640	888	1 528

2. Since the Personal Data (Privacy) (Amendment) Ordinance 2021 came into effect on 8 October 2021 and up till 28 February 2025, the PCPD carried out a total of 64 doxxing arrest operations (including 3 joint operations with the Police), arresting 66 persons in total, 44 of which were eventually prosecuted with 33 being found guilty. Those arrested mainly committed doxxing acts relating to monetary, work or relationship disputes, and the doxxing channels involved social media platforms, instant messaging software and pamphlets, etc.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB025

(Question Serial No. 0424)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In the past 3 years, did the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau engage external lawyers for consultancy services under the Stores and Procurement Regulations of the Government without working through the Department of Justice? If so, what were the nature of such services and the expenditures incurred?

Asked by: Hon LAM San-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

In the past 3 years, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau did not engage external lawyers for consultancy services under the Stores and Procurement Regulations of the Government.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB026

(Question Serial No. 1562)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Under “One Country, Two Systems”, Hong Kong has become the only place that combines the global advantage and the China advantage. That said, some international investors are concerned that according to Article 5 of the Basic Law, the capitalist system shall remain unchanged for 50 years, that is, until 2047. In this connection, please advise this Committee:

1. whether the Government has put forward measures to promote to international investors that Hong Kong will remain unchanged after 2047; and
2. whether the Government has earmarked provision for publicity purposes.

Asked by: Hon LAM San-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

At the meeting celebrating the 25th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to the motherland in 2022, President Xi Jinping said that, “‘One Country, Two Systems’ has been tested repeatedly in practice. It serves the fundamental interests of not only Hong Kong, but also those of our country and the nation, so there is no reason for us to change such a good policy, and we must adhere to it in the long run.” President Xi reiterated in his report to the 20th National Congress that “the policy of ‘One Country, Two Systems’ is a great innovation of socialism with Chinese characteristics. It has proven to be the best institutional arrangement for ensuring sustained prosperity and stability in Hong Kong after its return to the motherland. The policy must be adhered to over the long term.” These fully demonstrate to the world the Central Authorities’ firm commitment to the principle of “One Country, Two Systems”, which will not be altered, nor shaken. Further, it is essential to ensure that “One Country, Two Systems” is fully and faithfully implemented in Hong Kong without being bent or distorted, and will always advance in the right direction. To make it clear to the world that it is our country’s enduring policy to implement “One Country, Two Systems” resolutely, fully and faithfully, and to showcase the historic and significant achievements made under “One Country, Two Systems” since its implementation, the

HKSAR Government will continue to spare no effort in external promotion and telling the good stories of “One Country, Two Systems” and Hong Kong. This includes widely promoting the successful implementation of “One Country, Two Systems” and Hong Kong’s various strengths and opportunities through overseas visits by senior officials in meeting with dignitaries, the business sector, the media and Chinese groups, and through different activities organised by the overseas Economic and Trade Offices, such as meetings with local governments and organisations, media interviews and seminars, etc. We will also actively encourage different organisations to host major international events in Hong Kong, bringing people from all over the world and all walks of life to witness the rapid development of Hong Kong and our remarkable achievements in the implementation of “One Country, Two Systems”.

2. As the above work is an integral part of regular duties of various relevant bureaux and departments of the HKSAR Government, a breakdown of expenditure is not available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB027

(Question Serial No. 1389)

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
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

This year marks the 80th anniversary of victory in the War of Resistance, and the HKSAR Government will organise a series of commemorative activities. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

Please set out in tabular form the estimated expenditure and manpower arrangement for various activities commemorating the 80th anniversary of victory in the War of Resistance.

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)

Reply:

This year marks the 80th anniversary of victory in the War of Resistance. The Chief Executive announced in the 2024 Policy Address that the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government will host commemorative activities to strengthen the sense of patriotism. The Working Group on Patriotic Education led by the Chief Secretary for Administration will co-ordinate relevant bureaux and departments in launching a series of commemorative activities, including:

- (a) The HKSAR Government will host a solemn official ceremony at the Hong Kong City Hall Memorial Garden on 3 September 2025, the Victory Day of the War of Resistance, to honour the occasion. The commemoration will feature a rendition of the national anthem, ceremonial flag raising, a Rifle Volley by the Police Rifle Squad, an observation of silence, and bowing in tribute;
- (b) With the funding and support from the Home Affairs Department, 3 major associations, namely the Hong Kong Island Federation, the Kowloon Federation of Associations and the New Territories Association of Societies, will organise activities on 3 September this year to commemorate the victory of the War of Resistance. Examples of these activities include a talk by veterans to recount their experiences during the War and a film show about the War, with a view to

deepening the understanding among members of the public about the historical events of the War of Resistance on the Mainland and in Hong Kong and fostering their sense of patriotism;

- (c) The Hong Kong Museum of History under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) is currently liaising closely with the National Museum of China on co-organising a large-scale thematic exhibition scheduled to launch in early September this year for a period of about 3 months. The exhibition will mainly feature our country's unyielding spirit of resistance during the War, as well as contents on Hong Kong people's support for the Mainland compatriots, and the three years and eight months of Japanese occupation of Hong Kong, with a view to giving Hong Kong citizens (particularly the younger generation) a better understanding of the War of Resistance;
- (d) The Hong Kong Museum of the War of Resistance and Coastal Defence (MWRCD) is discussing with the Guangdong Museum of Revolutionary History the organisation of a thematic exhibition on the 80th anniversary of victory in the War of Resistance. The exhibition will focus on an overview of the anti-war activities of the Chinese Communist Party in Guangdong Province and Hong Kong during the War of Resistance. Through the display of valuable exhibits, historical photographs and multi-media programmes, the exhibition aims to enlighten the public about the history of the War, thereby promoting and inheriting the spirit of patriotic education. The thematic exhibition is scheduled for the third quarter in this year;
- (e) The LCSD museums will also organise a diverse array of public and educational programmes, including thematic talks, workshops, field trips, and film screenings, to raise public awareness of the history of the War of Resistance;
- (f) The LCSD will, from August to December this year, organise a thematic talk "Reapproaching the Japanese Occupation of Hong Kong from interactive map, 1941-1945" and a book display "Days of War" at the Hong Kong Central Library, as well as book displays, photo exhibitions and thematic talks at public libraries in different districts to introduce relevant collections and information, so as to enable citizens to learn about the history of the War of Resistance as well as the unity and resilience of the Chinese people in the fight for peace. These include the thematic talk cum roving exhibition "War of Resistance in Hong Kong: Sai Kung" to be held in Sai Kung District, guided tours of the Hong Kong Sha Tau Kok Anti-war Memorial Hall to be held in North District, and thematic talk series "Wartime Sham Shui Po" to be held in Sham Shui Po District, etc;
- (g) In terms of teachers and students, the Education Bureau (EDB) has always attached great emphasis on the education about the history of the War of Resistance, and continuously organises relevant activities for teachers and students to help them understand the history of the War and the heroic deeds of the martyrs, experience the indomitable spirit of the Chinese nation, learn to cherish peace through remembering history, as well as cultivate their sense of identity, belonging, responsibility and patriotic spirit. On teacher training activities, the EDB plans to organise an academic seminar on the 80th anniversary of victory in the War of

Resistance, lecture on the contributions of the Hong Kong and Kowloon Independent Brigade of the East River Column, visits to places such as the Chinese People's Liberation Army Hong Kong Garrison Exhibition Center at Ngong Shuen Chau Barracks, the Hong Kong Sha Tau Kok Anti-war Memorial Hall, and the Wu Kau Tang Martyrs Memorial Garden, as well as a study tour for teachers in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area themed on the footprints in relation to the War of Resistance. On student activities, the EDB plans to roll out the "Visual Narrative of the War of Resistance: Territory-wide Creative Competition", the History e-Reading Award Scheme themed on the 80th anniversary of victory in the War of Resistance, the second "Learn from Museums - Novice Curator Training Programme" co-organised with the MWRCd, as well as field study activities related to the history of the War of Resistance in both the local region and the Mainland; and

- (h) The Information Services Department is actively planning to collaborate with Radio Television Hong Kong on programme production under the theme of "Commemorating the 80th Anniversary of Victory in the War of Resistance", so as to promote patriotic spirit through storytelling in a vivid manner.

2. The HKSAR Government's work on hosting activities commemorating the 80th anniversary of victory in the War of Resistance involves various bureaux and departments. The related expenditure and staff establishment are absorbed by the overall provision of the respective bureaux and departments, and therefore no breakdown figures are available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB028

(Question Serial No. 2416)

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
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Following the official promulgation for implementation of the Hong Kong National Security Law, stability and order have been restored in Hong Kong. In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. Please provide, in tabular form, details on the work undertaken by the Government to publicise, explain and promote the Hong Kong National Security Law and the Basic Law in the past year, including the use of social media platforms, such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram, as well as the staff establishment and expenditure involved.
2. What are the staff establishment and expenditure for the work to publicise, explain and promote the Hong Kong National Security Law and the Basic Law in the coming year?
3. What specific plans are in place to publicise and continuously promote the Hong Kong National Security Law and the Basic Law, so that young people will attach greater importance to and acquire a deeper understanding of safeguarding national security?

Asked by: Hon LEE Chun-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

Under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Constitution and Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (CBLPSC) provides advice and steer on the overall strategy and key work plans for promoting the Constitution, the Basic Law and national security-related legislation, and monitors, evaluates and reviews promotional programmes undertaken by government departments and non-governmental organisations. The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) provides secretariat support to the CBLPSC. The 5 sub-groups under the CBLPSC (namely Local Community Sub-group; Teachers and Students Sub-group; Civil Servants Sub-group; Industrial, Commercial and Professional Sectors Sub-group; and Community Outside Hong Kong

Sub-group) assisted by the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB), the Education Bureau (EDB), the Civil Service Bureau (CSB), Trade and Industry Department (TID) and Information Services Department (ISD) respectively have been planning and organising various types of activities for promotion on various fronts to the general public and related sectors.

2. The CMAB has been carrying out promotion and publicity work through different means and in a diversified manner to enable the public to have a more comprehensive and thorough understanding of the Constitution, the Basic Law and national security-related legislation. Specific promotion work include:

- (a) organising thematic seminars, e.g. Constitution Day Seminar;
- (b) using electronic means, online platforms and social media to promote widely to different strata of society, e.g. co-producing with Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) and launching a theme song “Wings” to promote the Constitution and the Basic Law, posting advertisements on social media for promotion of the videos on the Constitution and the Basic Law, designing online games, producing and launching animation videos, and co-producing different types of television programmes with RTHK to introduce the Constitution and the Basic Law in an easy-to-understand manner, such as “Letter to the Basic Law”, “Basic Law Daily”, and the series of “Root & Origin: The Constitution”;
- (c) displaying large publicity banners outdoors, and producing publicity leaflets, posters and picture books on “One Country, Two Systems” for distribution to schools, public housing estates, etc.;
- (d) enhancing awareness and understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law by the general public and students through mobile promotional activities in physical form at the district level (e.g. organising roving exhibitions and parent-child workshops at shopping centres in various districts, and arranging the mobile resource centre and the mobile game booth to pay visits to different districts and schools); and
- (e) providing sponsorship to non-governmental organisations and community organisations through the “Constitution and Basic Law Promotion Activity and Research Sponsorship Scheme” for staging various promotional and research activities on the Constitution, the Basic Law and national security education, such as promotion ambassador training schemes, speaking contests and slogan design competitions, in order to get across the messages widely in the community.

3. In the 2024-25 financial year, the actual annual expenditure of the CMAB for the promotion of the Constitution and the Basic Law is about \$31 million. As for the 2025-26 financial year, the estimated expenditure on relevant work is about \$25 million. The CMAB will, having regard to the actual circumstances, consider devoting additional resources through internal deployment to conduct the relevant work. At present, the CMAB’s promotion work on the Constitution and the Basic Law is undertaken by a team including a Principal Assistant Secretary and 5 supporting officers.

4. Since the promulgation for implementation of the National Security Law in the HKSAR on 30 June 2020, the HKSAR Government has introduced the National Security Law to different people through different channels and means (including publishing pamphlets and compendium of articles, issuing press releases, placing newspaper advertisements, and officials taking part in interviews on television, radio and other media, and organising/attending seminars (including webinars), etc.), as well as through the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices. Furthermore, since the Safeguarding National Security Ordinance came into effect on 23 March 2024, the HKSAR Government has stepped up promotional efforts to explain to the public the crucial role of the legal system as a pillar in safeguarding national security.

5. Among others, the National Security Exhibition Gallery, located at the Hong Kong Museum of History, is the first dedicated exhibition in Hong Kong to systematically introduce national security. Since its opening with free admission in August 2024, it has received over 470 000 visitors as of February this year. The National Security Exhibition Gallery will roll out thematic exhibitions this year marking the 10th National Security Education Day and the 5th anniversary of the promulgation and implementation of the National Security Law.

6. In addition, the Hong Kong National Security Law online virtual exhibition first launched by the HKSAR Government in July 2021 covers the importance of the National Security Law, the legal regime, enforcement mechanisms, major provisions and effectiveness, and introduction of the work of the disciplined forces in safeguarding national security, with mini games provided. As at 14 March 2025, the virtual exhibition recorded over 800 000 visits. In July 2024, the Security Bureau (SB) updated the virtual exhibition with enriched content to introduce the Safeguarding National Security Ordinance and incorporate the mascot “Security Bear” as a new element, and launched the online national security-themed animation series to explain to the younger generation the importance and main concepts of national security.

7. Moreover, the SB and EDB have jointly organised the “Let’s Join Hands in Safeguarding National Security” Programme for 4 consecutive years since the 2021/22 school year. The “Let’s Join Hands in Safeguarding National Security” Programme in the 2024/25 school year features a short speech competition for students, and a lesson plan design selection for teachers to promote the joint participation of all teachers and students across the territory. The award presentation ceremony for the programme was held in early July 2024 to commend the winning schools and students.

8. The SB, Department of Justice (DoJ), EDB, and Hong Kong Shine Tak Foundation continued to organise the “Territory-wide Inter-school National Security Knowledge Challenge” in 2024/25, which aims at enhancing students’ understanding of the Constitution, the Basic Law and the National Security Law. The Challenge is conducted in the form of a quiz. In addition to primary school and secondary school sections, an English section is set up for the first time for non-Chinese speaking secondary school students. The Challenge has attracted the participation of a total of more than 126 000 students from 610 primary and secondary schools, an increase of over 20% in participants compared to last year. The finals will be held at a shopping centre on 15 April, National Security Education Day, this year, with a view to bringing national security education to the community.

9. Through their youth groups, the disciplined services departments under the SB have all

along assisted youths to cultivate good character, positive thinking and law-abiding awareness, and facilitated their understanding of national development to enhance their sense of national identity. In future, the disciplined services departments will continue their efforts in taking forward national security education for members of the youth groups, with a view to raising the awareness of national security among youngsters.

10. Furthermore, the HKSAR Government has produced Announcements in the Public Interest for broadcasting on television and radio, as well as at government buildings, online platforms and webinars, to highlight the effectiveness of the National Security Law and the Safeguarding National Security Ordinance in stopping chaos and restoring order in Hong Kong, and in ensuring the steadfast and successful implementation of the “One Country, Two Systems” principle as well as the long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong.

11. In regard to primary and secondary schools, the EDB has continuously stepped up efforts in recent years to support schools in promoting national education (including education on the Constitution, the Basic Law and national security) through “organic integration”, “natural connection”, “diversified strategies”, “mutual co-ordination”, “learning within and beyond the classroom” and “whole-school participation”. The EDB’s support measures include enriching and enhancing curricula, developing rich learning and teaching resources, strengthening teacher training, organising life-wide learning activities for students etc., which aim to support schools in integrating national education, national security education and patriotic education into daily learning and teaching to deepen students’ understanding of the country and national affairs, and to strengthen their sense of national identity and national pride.

12. In future, the HKSAR Government will continue to allocate resources for its promotion work on the National Security Law through different channels (including online channels), so as to raise the national security and law-abiding awareness of Hong Kong residents, especially our youths. Major measures in 2025 include: to continue to promote the National Security Law and the Safeguarding National Security Ordinance through the National Security Exhibition Gallery and community courses on national security, as well as other initiatives, including the online virtual exhibition and the mechanism of youth uniformed groups under the disciplined services departments; to bring the online national security-themed animation series offline through activities including showing the “Security Bear and Andy’s Family” drama in schools for interaction with students and preparing printed picture books; and to jointly produce with the DoJ and RTHK a new series of information programmes on national security laws titled “NSL Chronicles III”, which features the introduction of the Safeguarding National Security Ordinance to further enhance public understanding of the ordinance.

13. Apart from the circumstances mentioned in paragraph 3, the HKSAR Government’s promotion work on the Constitution, the Basic Law and national security-related legislation involves various bureaux and departments. The related expenditure and staff establishment are absorbed by the overall provision of the respective bureaux and departments, and therefore no breakdown figures are available.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB029

(Question Serial No. 2444)

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
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Constitution and the Basic Law together form the constitutional basis of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, providing the strongest safeguard for the long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong. In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. The staff establishment and expenditure for promoting the Constitution and the Basic Law in the past 3 years.
2. The publicity expenditure on the Constitution and the Basic Law in the past 3 years.
3. The estimated publicity expenditure on the Constitution and the Basic Law for the 2025-26 financial year.
4. At the district level, the projects promoting the Constitution and the Basic Law supported by the Government in each district over the past year, as well as the expenditure and effectiveness.

Asked by: Hon LEE Hoey Simon (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

Under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Constitution and Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (CBLPSC) provides advice and steer on the overall strategy and key work plans for promoting the Constitution and the Basic Law, and monitors, evaluates and reviews promotional programmes undertaken by government departments and non-governmental organisations. The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) provides secretariat support to the CBLPSC. The 5 sub-groups under the CBLPSC (namely Local Community Sub-group; Teachers and Students Sub-group; Civil Servants Sub-group; Industrial, Commercial and Professional Sectors Sub-group; and Community Outside Hong Kong Sub-group) assisted by the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB),

the Education Bureau (EDB), the Civil Service Bureau (CSB), Trade and Industry Department (TID) and Information Services Department (ISD) respectively have been planning and organising various types of activities for promotion on various fronts to the general public and related sectors.

2. The CMAB has been carrying out promotion and publicity work through different means and in a diversified manner to enable the public to have a more comprehensive and thorough understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law. Specific promotion work include:

- (a) organising thematic seminars, e.g. Constitution Day Seminar;
- (b) using electronic means, online platforms and social media to promote widely to different strata of society, e.g. co-producing with Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) and launching a theme song “Wings” to promote the Constitution and the Basic Law, posting advertisements on social media for promotion of the videos on the Constitution and the Basic Law, designing online games, producing and launching animation videos, and co-producing different types of television programmes with RTHK to introduce the Constitution and the Basic Law in an easy-to-understand manner, such as “Letter to the Basic Law”, “Basic Law Daily”, and the series of “Root & Origin: The Constitution”;
- (c) displaying large publicity banners outdoors, and producing publicity leaflets, posters and picture books on “One Country, Two Systems” for distribution to schools, public housing estates, etc.;
- (d) enhancing awareness and understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law by the general public and students through mobile promotional activities in physical form at the district level (e.g. organising roving exhibitions and parent-child workshops at shopping centres in various districts, and arranging the mobile resource centre and the mobile game booth to pay visits to different districts and schools); and
- (e) providing sponsorship to non-governmental organisations and community organisations through the “Constitution and Basic Law Promotion Activity and Research Sponsorship Scheme” for staging various promotional and research activities on the Constitution, the Basic Law and national security education, such as promotion ambassador training schemes, speaking contests and slogan design competitions, in order to get across the messages widely in the community.

3. In the past 3 financial years (i.e. 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25), the actual annual expenditure of the CMAB for the promotion of the Constitution and the Basic Law is about \$32 million, \$33 million and \$31 million (estimated actual expenditure) respectively. As for the 2025-26 financial year, the estimated expenditure on relevant work is about \$25 million. The CMAB will, having regard to the actual circumstances, consider devoting additional resources through internal deployment to conduct the relevant work. At present, the CMAB’s promotion work on the Constitution and the Basic Law is undertaken by a team including a Principal Assistant Secretary and 5 supporting officers.

4. At the district level, the Government has been sponsoring different non-governmental organisations and district organisations through various sponsorship schemes, such as the “Constitution and Basic Law Promotion Activity and Research Sponsorship Scheme” and the “Community Participation Scheme”, to organise a diverse range of activities, with a view to widely promoting the Constitution, the Basic Law and national security-related legislation to the community. Besides, the District Offices of 18 districts have been striving to enhance the national and civic awareness of members of the public, including working with different district organisations to co-organise or sponsor activities to promote the Constitution and the Basic Law, as well as strengthening the promotional efforts through the networks of the District Councils and the District Services and Community Care Teams. These activities include promotions and exhibitions, seminars, workshops, carnivals and quiz competitions etc., as well as displaying the national flag and organising the carnival under the theme of the Constitution and the Basic Law on the Constitution Day to publicise and promote the related messages to the public. In 2024, the District Offices, together with district organisations, organised a total of 75 promotional activities, with approximately 63 000 participants.

5. Apart from the circumstances mentioned in paragraph 3, the HKSAR Government’s promotion work on the Constitution and the Basic Law involves various bureaux and departments. The related expenditure and staff establishment are absorbed by the overall provision of the respective bureaux and departments, and therefore no breakdown figures are available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB030

(Question Serial No. 0688)

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
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. What are the specific plans for strengthening publicity and education on the Constitution and the Basic Law in 2025-26? What is the estimated expenditure involved, and how will it be allocated among publicity activities, education programmes and community promotion? How will the effectiveness be evaluated?
2. What are the plans to enhance Hong Kong people's knowledge of the functions, powers and operation of the National People's Congress? What is the estimated expenditure involved? How will the effectiveness of these activities be evaluated?
3. What plans does the Government have this year to enhance Hong Kong people's knowledge of the legal system as well as everyday laws and regulations of the Mainland? Will any courses or information platforms be launched? What is the estimated expenditure involved? How will the effectiveness of these plans be evaluated?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

Under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Constitution and Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (CBLPSC) provides advice and steer on the overall strategy and key work plans for promoting the Constitution, the Basic Law and national security-related legislation, and monitors, evaluates and reviews promotional programmes undertaken by government departments and non-governmental organisations. The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) provides secretariat support to the CBLPSC. The 5 sub-groups under the CBLPSC (namely Local Community Sub-group; Teachers and Students Sub-group; Civil Servants Sub-group; Industrial, Commercial and Professional Sectors Sub-group; and Community Outside Hong Kong Sub-group) have been planning and organising various types of activities for promotion on various fronts to the general public and related sectors.

2. The CMAB has been carrying out related promotion and publicity work through different means and in a diversified manner to enable the public to have a more comprehensive and thorough understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law. Specific promotion work include:

- (a) organising thematic seminars, e.g. Constitution Day Seminar;
- (b) using electronic means, online platforms and social media to promote widely to different strata of society, e.g. co-producing with Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) and launching a theme song “Wings” to promote the Constitution and the Basic Law, posting advertisements on social media for promotion of the videos on the Constitution and the Basic Law, designing online games, producing and launching animation videos, and co-producing different types of television programmes with RTHK to introduce the Constitution and the Basic Law in an easy-to-understand manner, such as “Letter to the Basic Law”, “Basic Law Daily”, and the series of “Root & Origin: The Constitution”;
- (c) displaying large publicity banners outdoors, and producing publicity leaflets, posters and picture books on “One Country, Two Systems” for distribution to schools and public housing estates, etc.;
- (d) enhancing awareness and understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law by the general public and students through mobile promotional activities in physical form at the district level (e.g. organising roving exhibitions and parent-child workshops at shopping centres in various districts, and arranging the mobile resource centre and the mobile game booth to pay visits to different districts and schools); and
- (e) providing sponsorship to non-governmental organisations and community organisations through the “Constitution and Basic Law Promotion Activity and Research Sponsorship Scheme” for staging various promotional and research activities on the Constitution, the Basic Law and national security education, such as promotion ambassador training schemes, speaking contests and slogan design competitions, in order to get across the messages widely in the community.

3. The estimated expenditure of the CMAB for promoting the Constitution and the Basic Law in the 2025-26 financial year is about \$25 million. The CMAB will suitably deploy resources based on the actual circumstances to conduct the relevant work.

4. On school education, the Education Bureau (EDB) has been continuously adopting diversified and specific measures to fully support schools in planning and promoting national education (including education on the Constitution, the Basic Law and national security) within and beyond the classroom through whole-school participation, with a view to enhancing the sense of national identity and of belonging to the country among students. For example, the senior secondary Citizenship and Social Development subject has been fully implemented from Secondary 4 to Secondary 6, with curriculum contents covering national affairs and development, and providing the opportunities of study tours to the Mainland; and the junior secondary Citizenship, Economics and Society subject has been implemented from Secondary 1 starting from the 2024/25 school year, with curriculum contents covering “One

Country, Two Systems”, and education on the Constitution, the Basic Law and national security, so as to enhance students’ understanding of the country, and develop them into good nationals with a sense of national identity and law-abidingness. Moreover, starting from the 2025/26 school year, the Primary Humanities curriculum will be implemented with learning contents of education on the Constitution, the Basic Law and national security enriched, in order to help students comprehensively and accurately understand the Constitution and the Basic Law, cultivate the awareness of the rule of law and law-abidingness from an early age, strengthen their sense of national identity, and correctly understand and uphold “One Country, Two Systems”.

5. Regarding promotion in the community, the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) and the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education (CPCE) have been co-operating closely to promote the Constitution and the Basic Law to the public at the community level through different channels and in a diversified manner, including organising Basic Law Quiz Competition, Basic Law Seminar and Civic Education Exhibition, producing Civic Education Calendar, sponsoring eligible local organisations to organise related promotional activities, organising permanent and thematic exhibitions, providing relevant reference materials in the Civic Education Resource Centre, and disseminating information through CPCE’s parent-child magazine, its website and social media platforms, etc.

6. The expenditure and manpower involved in the above work of the EDB and HYAB are covered by their respective overall provision and staff establishment, and no relevant breakdown figures are available.

7. The CBLPSC and its sub-groups will review the format, content and effectiveness of promotional activities from time to time through evaluating their popularity and efficacy based on the number and feedback of participants, and advise how to optimise the promotion strategy in light of the development and trend of promotional media and information technology. We will continue to keep a close eye on the effectiveness of various promotional activities, and adjust the promotion strategy as appropriate having regard to the actual circumstances in order to achieve the best results.

8. The HKSAR Government has been organising various types of educational activities for different sectors to enhance public understanding of the legal systems of Hong Kong and the Mainland. For example, the Department of Justice (DoJ) has rolled out the ROLE Stars Train-the-Leaders Programme (Programme) since November 2023 with a focus on the rule of law principles. Fundamental topics related to Hong Kong’s rule of law and legal system under the principle of “One Country, Two Systems”, covering the Constitution, the Basic Law, the National Security Law, the Mainland’s legal system, the functions of the National People’s Congress and the basic elements of Hong Kong’s common law system, are taught in an easy-to-understand manner. At the same time, the Programme attaches much importance to the practice of the rule of law. Through visits to the law enforcement agencies and mock court trial activities, the Programme seeks to further deepen the trainees’ understanding of the legal system and the implementation of legal procedures in real life, and enhance the promotion of correct messages on the rule of law in the community. So far, the DoJ has completed 2 phases of the Programme, with a total of around 290 trainees participating, drawing from 21 organisations responsible for youth-related and community work and more than 100 secondary schools. In addition to continuously organising relevant courses in

2025, the DoJ plans to launch new training activities to strengthen the trainees' understanding of the law on specific areas, such as common criminal offences and civil law topics which are closely related to daily life.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB031

(Question Serial No. 0703)

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
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

To implement the Patriotic Education Law of the People's Republic of China and the newly amended National Defense Education Law, and to further promote patriotic education in Hong Kong, would the HKSAR Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. In 2025-26, are there plans to collaborate with Mainland provinces to integrate resources, exhibition halls and museums of red tourism, and establish more patriotic red tourism bases and routes to provide Hong Kong students with more exchange destinations of educational significance? If so, what are the details, estimated expenditure and timetable of relevant plans?
2. As this year marks the 80th anniversary of victory in the War of Resistance, will the Government, in collaboration with relevant ministries and commissions of the country, organise a series of thematic exhibitions and commemorative activities at the Hong Kong Museum of the War of Resistance and Coastal Defence? What are the details and estimated expenditure involved?
3. What are the initiatives to make full use of Hong Kong's existing red education resources and encourage various sectors to organise different types of activities to promote patriotism? What are the details and estimated expenditure of relevant initiatives?
4. With the regularisation of visits by the country's naval fleet to Hong Kong, what arrangements are in place to further strengthen national defence education? For example, will the Government consider reflecting to the Central Authorities about combining these visits with open days of the Hong Kong Garrison barracks, so that citizens can have the opportunity to get a full picture of national defence capabilities?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 34)

Reply:

In terms of the Mainland study tours of the Citizenship and Social Development subject and the Mainland exchange programmes for students organised by the Education Bureau (EDB), “red resources” have all along been used to foster students’ sense of national identity. The EDB has set an indicator of providing at least 30 routes with “red resources” through the Mainland exchange programmes and study tours for students starting from the 2024/25 school year. Also, more relevant visiting spots, including historical sites, museums and thematic memorial halls, as well as learning activities, will be incorporated to deepen students’ understanding of the revolutionary stories and arduous struggles of our revolutionary predecessors and foster their national spirit.

2. This year marks the 80th anniversary of victory in the War of Resistance. The Chief Executive announced in the 2024 Policy Address that the HKSAR Government will host commemorative activities to strengthen the sense of patriotism. The Working Group on Patriotic Education will co-ordinate relevant bureaux and departments in launching a series of commemorative activities, including organising thematic exhibitions. The Hong Kong Museum of the War of Resistance and Coastal Defence (MWRCD) under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department is currently discussing with the Guangdong Museum of Revolutionary History the organisation of a thematic exhibition on the 80th anniversary of victory in the War of Resistance. The exhibition will focus on an overview of the anti-war activities of the Chinese Communist Party in Guangdong Province and Hong Kong during the War of Resistance. Through the display of valuable exhibits, historical photographs and multi-media programmes, the exhibition aims to enlighten the public about the history of the War, thereby promoting and inheriting the spirit of patriotic education. The thematic exhibition is scheduled for the third quarter of 2025. Moreover, the MWRCD will organise various activities such as guided tours, public talks, workshops, study visits, training courses for students, etc.

3. There are abundant historical relics from the War of Resistance found in various locations throughout Hong Kong. We have been actively developing historical and heritage trails related to the War of Resistance and modern historical events, with a view to promoting patriotic education. The Tourism Commission, in collaboration with the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), has been taking forward the Enhancement of Hiking Trails (Project) since 2018 to enhance the tourism supporting facilities of 20 hiking trails in country parks which are popular and with tourism potential. The Project covers hiking trails relating to war history, namely Lion Rock Historic Walk, Shing Mun War Relics Trail and Luk Keng War Relics Trail. The AFCD completed the enhancement works at Lion Rock Historic Walk in December 2023, whereas those at Shing Mun War Relics Trail and Luk Keng War Relics Trail are expected to be completed progressively in 2026. In addition, the AFCD installed at the Robin’s Nest Country Park interpretation panels about its war relics and the deeds of nearby villagers at the War of Resistance, and produced a video for broadcasting on social media platforms, thereby showcasing the history of the War of Resistance at the Robin’s Nest Country Park. At present, various government departments are proactively promoting the optimal use of these abundant historical resources (including “red resources”) in Hong Kong for the purpose of patriotic education. For example, on teacher training, the EDB organised seminars and field visits in commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the founding of the Hong Kong and Kowloon Independent Brigade of the East River Column, and from time to time arranges visits to the Chinese People’s Liberation Army (PLA) Hong Kong Garrison Exhibition Center, Sik Lo in Yuen Long, the Hong Kong

Sha Tau Kok Anti-war Memorial Hall and so forth. On student activities, the EDB plans to roll out the second “Learn from Museums - Novice Curator Training Programme” co-organised with the MWRCD, as well as field study activities related to the history of the War of Resistance in the local region.

4. Besides, the HKSAR Government and the PLA Hong Kong Garrison have co-organised different activities to promote the spirit of patriotism to the public. To celebrate Hong Kong’s return to the Motherland, the Hong Kong Garrison organises barracks open days around every 1 July to further enhance communication and exchange with various sectors of Hong Kong society. The Hong Kong Garrison set up its Exhibition Center at Ngong Shuen Chau Barracks in 2021, where the exhibition themed “Dreams of the East” is staged. Historical photos, antiques and models of the PLA’s military equipment are displayed at the 3 thematic exhibition halls (namely “the Chinese Dream”, “the Dream of a Strong Military” and “the PRC HK Garrison”) and the weaponry and equipment area, in order to strengthen visitors’ understanding of the remarkable achievements of the country, as well as the nation’s military history and the work of the Hong Kong Garrison. In November 2024, the PLA Navy fleet “31” visited Hong Kong for exchanges. The visit not only enabled the public to learn more about the country’s military development and achievements, but also strengthened the sense of national identity and national pride among Hong Kong citizens. The HKSAR Government will continue to maintain liaison with the Hong Kong Garrison and support its discharge of duties.

5. The HKSAR Government’s work on promoting patriotic education involves various bureaux and departments. The related expenditure and staff establishment are absorbed by the overall provision of the respective bureaux and departments, and therefore no breakdown figures are available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB032

(Question Serial No. 0705)

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
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

To further leverage the roles of Hong Kong's overseas Chinese community in connecting with overseas Chinese, promoting national unity and supporting Hong Kong's integration into overall national development, would the HKSAR Government advise this Committee:

1. whether it will reflect to the Central Government about drawing on the experience of Overseas Chinese Affairs Offices of various ministries and commissions and the All-China Federation of Returned Overseas Chinese to co-ordinate and interface with relevant departments and strengthen the work on overseas Chinese affairs both domestically and globally, so as to promote communication, ties and mutual visits between the overseas Chinese community in Hong Kong and overseas Chinese in foreign countries; if so, of the details; if not, of the reasons;
2. whether consideration will be given to using the Greater Bay Area as a pilot area to introduce preferential policies (such as tax concessions) targeting overseas Chinese and overseas Chinese-funded enterprises, and encourage overseas Chinese-funded enterprises to participate in the country's "Belt and Road" development and promote China's development advantages, thereby enabling overseas Chinese-funded enterprises to play the role of "non-governmental ambassador" abroad; if so, of the details; if not, of the reasons; and
3. what plans will be implemented in 2025-26 to strengthen communication and ties between young people among Hong Kong's overseas Chinese community and the outstanding overseas Chinese youth all over the world, and to attract more young talents to expand the overseas Chinese youth team, so that young overseas Chinese can make contributions to national development.

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 36)

Reply:

The HKSAR Government always attaches great importance to the liaison with overseas Chinese and the overseas Chinese community outside Hong Kong. At present, the 14 overseas Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) and 5 Mainland Offices (MOs) of the HKSAR Government have been taking forward their external liaison and promotion work via different channels through their respective networks. The ETOs have established extensive network with different contacts, covering overseas Hong Kong people and Chinese organisations, in addition to stakeholders from various sectors, to strengthen the support for the HKSAR from all sectors. The ETOs further actively promote Hong Kong's unique advantages of enjoying strong support of the Motherland and being closely connected to the world under "One Country, Two Systems", and actively promote the opportunities brought by national strategies such as the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and the high-quality development of the Belt and Road Initiative.

2. In addition, through the Dedicated Teams for Attracting Businesses and Talents of the ETOs and MOs, Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK) also leverages Hong Kong's roles as a "super connector" and a "super value-adder", as well as collaborates with relevant organisations, chambers of commerce (including local Chinese chambers of commerce and overseas Chinese chambers of commerce in the Mainland) and professional bodies, etc, to organise different kinds of investment promotion activities, including meetings, conferences, roadshows, seminars and exhibitions, etc., so as to proactively provide potential overseas investors and enterprises with the latest information on Hong Kong's business environment and attract overseas enterprises to set up or expand their businesses in Hong Kong. InvestHK will continue to maintain close communication with stakeholders, including local Chinese chambers of commerce and overseas Chinese chambers of commerce in the Mainland, to strengthen co-operation and exchanges. At the same time, the Dedicated Teams for Attracting Businesses and Talents will recruit talents from different places, including overseas Chinese and Hong Kong people who study or work in foreign countries or the Mainland, encouraging them to return to Hong Kong to unleash their potential. Also, the MOs have exchange and contact with the national and regional overseas Chinese organisations, and invite them to participate in activities organised by the MOs to contribute to the development of the country and Hong Kong.

3. We also attach great importance to the communication and co-operation with overseas Chinese organisations in Hong Kong. The members of the relevant organisations include returned overseas Chinese, relatives of overseas Chinese, descendants of overseas Chinese, and young people who have returned to Hong Kong after studying abroad, etc. They have a world-wide network of kinship, clansman relationship and friendship with overseas Chinese in the Mainland and foreign countries. Many overseas Chinese organisations in Hong Kong have all along supported "One Country, Two Systems". Many returned overseas Chinese have actively participated in the country's reform and opening up, made huge investment, and contributed significantly to the modernisation of the country and the prosperity and stability of Hong Kong. They form a very important force of love of both the Motherland and Hong Kong. In fact, the HKSAR committee members of the All-China Federation of Returned Overseas Chinese are also electors of the Fifth Sector of the Election Committee, who can nominate and elect the Chief Executive and Legislative Council Members. It demonstrates that both our country and the HKSAR attach great importance to it.

4. The HKSAR Government will review the work on overseas Chinese affairs from time to time, and make improvements according to actual situations and needs to enhance the effectiveness. The HKSAR Government will also continue to strengthen ties and co-operation with various sectors, and unite the force of love of both the Motherland and Hong Kong from all parties, so as to make contributions to building a better Hong Kong and tell the world the good stories of China and Hong Kong.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB033

(Question Serial No. 2115)

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
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding personal data breach incidents, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. The number of public complaints received and the number of notifications given by organisations on their own initiative in each of the past 3 years, and among which, the number of cases where follow-up actions were taken.
2. The numbers of advisory letters, warning letters or enforcement notices issued in the past 3 years up till now.
3. In view of the recent increase in data breaches by organisations, has the Government deployed personnel to assist organisations, particularly small and medium enterprises, in strengthening education to heighten awareness and offer advice on data keeping? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Hei, Edward (LegCo internal reference no.: 120)

Reply:

Regarding personal data breach cases, the number of public complaints and the number of notifications given by organisations on their own initiative as received by the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD) in the past three years are as follows:

Personal Data Breach Cases		
Year	Number of public complaints	Number of notifications given by organisations on their own initiative
2022	205	105
2023	267	157
2024	421	203

2. The PCPD has taken follow-up actions on all of the above personal data breach cases, including ascertaining whether they involved contravention of the requirements of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (PDPO), and as appropriate, issuing an advisory letter or warning letter to or serving an enforcement notice on the organisation concerned, directing it to take appropriate remedial measures to prevent recurrence of the situation. Relevant figures of follow-up actions on these cases are as follows:

PCPD's Follow-up Actions on Personal Data Breach Cases				
Year	Issuance of advisory letter	Issuance of warning letter	Serving of enforcement notice	Total
2022	150	13	6	169
2023	141	17	5	163
2024	231	24	12	267

3. In light of the rising trend of personal data breach cases in recent years, the Government and the PCPD are both deeply concerned about the issue. To strengthen awareness of enterprises and organisations (particularly small and medium enterprises) of protecting personal data privacy and assist them in complying with relevant requirements of the PDPO, the PCPD has strived to implement different measures in recent years which include:

- (a) Providing “Data Security” tools to support the industries: including (i) launching a one-stop thematic webpage on “Data Security”; (ii) establishing the “Data Security Scanner” for organisations to evaluate the security level of their data security measures; (iii) planning to provide SMEs with free website security scan services, including provision of website security reports and advisory services; (iv) introducing a “Data Security Hotline” for receiving enquiries from the industries; and (v) publishing data security guidelines, such as “Guidance on Data Breach Handling and Data Breach Notifications” and “Guidance Note on Data Security Measures for Information and Communications Technology”, etc;

- (b) Offering data security training to the industries: including (i) launching the “Data Security” Package, under which SMEs will receive free training quotas upon an assessment by the “Data Security Scanner”; (ii) launching the “Data Security Training Series for SMEs” in collaboration with the Hong Kong Productivity Council to explain how SMEs can prevent cyber attacks, handle personal data breach incidents and address the data security and privacy risks associated with artificial intelligence; (iii) collaborating with the Hong Kong Police Force, the Digital Policy Office and the Hong Kong Monetary Authority etc. to organise or participate in seminars and activities relating to data security and handling of personal data breach incidents; and (iv) launching the flagship event “Privacy-Friendly Awards” with the theme of “Safeguarding Data Security: Marching towards a New Digital Era”, which aims to encourage organisations to implement good data governance and strengthen data security; and
- (c) Organising various promotional activities: including (i) arranging mobile exhibition vehicles to conduct publicity in the community for “Privacy Awareness Week 2024” under the theme of “Safeguard Data Security • Safeguard Privacy”; (ii) introducing “Data Guardian”, a data security mascot; and (iii) publishing articles in Chinese and English newspapers, online media and professional journals to explain to the public and the industries the importance of data security.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB034

(Question Serial No. 3033)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

As stated in paragraph 170 of the Budget Speech, Hong Kong will continue to support Qianhai in trying out new policies on a pilot basis and pursuing more policy innovation and breakthroughs, with a view to promoting the successful policies to the rest of the Greater Bay Area and even the entire country. In this connection, please advise this Committee:

1. of the areas in which the HKSAR Government plans to pursue innovation and breakthroughs; and
2. whether there are specific timetables and road maps; if so, of the details; if not, of the reasons.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

Qianhai is one of the major co-operation platforms of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area). The development of the Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Co-operation Zone (Qianhai Co-operation Zone) is an important initiative for supporting Hong Kong's social and economic development; fostering a higher level of co-operation among Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao; and establishing a new development paradigm in pursuing opening up. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government has all along attached great importance to the co-operation with Qianhai, and maintained close liaison with the Guangdong Provincial Government, the Shenzhen Municipal Government, and the Authority of Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Co-operation Zone of Shenzhen Municipality (Qianhai Authority). Meanwhile, the HKSAR Government has continuously stepped up its efforts to support Hong Kong talents and enterprises in actively participating in the development of Qianhai and taking forward the high-quality development of the Greater Bay Area.

As the only Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Co-operation Zone in the country, Qianhai shoulders the responsibility of exploring and enriching synergistic and co-ordinated development with Hong Kong and supporting Hong Kong and Macao to better integrate into the overall national development under the principle of “One Country, Two Systems”. With the support of the Central Government, the governments of Hong Kong and Shenzhen have done a lot of work over the years for Hong Kong professional services sectors to tap into the Qianhai market. At present, there are over 9 000 Hong Kong-invested enterprises in Qianhai, covering sectors such as financial services, modern service industries, information services, and technology services. Since the promulgation of the “Overall Development Plan for the Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Co-operation Zone”, Hong Kong-Shenzhen co-operation has achieved significant progress in various policy areas, providing strong support for further deepening co-operation and pursuing more policy innovations and breakthroughs in the future.

On legal services, with the unique advantages of “one country, two systems and three jurisdictions”, the Greater Bay Area is a demonstration zone of the country’s high-quality development. In particular, the Qianhai Co-operation Zone is a prime pilot area for related liberalisation measures, and a frontier zone for the construction of foreign-related rule of law of the country. Qianhai has a significant number of partnership associations set up between Hong Kong and Mainland law firms as well as legal practitioners in the Greater Bay Area. Hong Kong legal experts have been instrumental in assisting the Qianhai Court in verifying Hong Kong law or foreign laws in quite a number of cases. Besides, Qianhai is the first pilot area to implement the measure of “allowing Hong Kong-invested enterprises to adopt Hong Kong law”, which has been well-received by various sectors. The successful implementation of the measure of “allowing Hong Kong-invested enterprises to adopt Hong Kong law” in Qianhai has provided a good foundation for its further extension. In February this year, the Supreme People’s Court and the Ministry of Justice extended the measure of “allowing Hong Kong-invested enterprises to adopt Hong Kong law” to Shenzhen and Zhuhai, and the measure of “allowing Hong Kong-invested enterprises to choose Hong Kong as the seat of arbitration” to the nine Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area. In the future, the Department of Justice will continue to maintain close collaboration with Qianhai to optimise and promote its successful experiences, foster the interface of cross-boundary regulatory frameworks between Hong Kong and Shenzhen, and contribute to the development of a market-oriented and internationalised business environment underpinned by the rule of law in the Greater Bay Area.

Regarding mutual recognition of qualifications for professional services sectors, 25 categories of professionals can now provide professional services in Qianhai directly or upon registration without having to take the Mainland’s professional qualification examinations. These include registered architects and registered engineers from Hong Kong, and tax advisors and tour guides from Hong Kong and Macao. The mutual recognition of qualifications for professional services sectors and the market integration of professional services between the two places have been gradually taking shape. In terms of architectural and engineering related professional services, the Qianhai Authority has launched a number of architectural and engineering pilot projects since 2023, including design and construction projects of two primary and secondary schools and two bridges, to try out Hong Kong’s project management model and enable Hong Kong relevant enterprises to submit tenders with Mainland qualifications obtained through the registration system, thereby injecting the elements of Hong Kong’s design and project management, etc. As of March

2025, a Hong Kong architectural firm and a Hong Kong engineering consultant have been commissioned to provide professional services in feasibility study, design and site investigation for the projects of two schools and one bridge respectively, while the tender result of consultancy service for the remaining bridge project has yet to be announced. The site supervision and construction contracts for the schools have also been awarded to a Hong Kong architectural firm and a Hong Kong contractor respectively. Looking ahead, the Development Bureau will continue to discuss with relevant Mainland authorities to strive for more architectural and engineering pilot projects in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area, thereby enabling more Hong Kong enterprises and professionals to participate in the country's development; and to further pursue innovation in the project management system, including exploring the possibility of adopting Hong Kong's engineering contract form and Smart Site Safety System, thereby jointly developing the Greater Bay Area into a renowned international bay area.

Regarding the financial sector, the HKSAR Government has been actively promoting collaborative development with Qianhai in the realm of finance, jointly contributing to our country's development into a financial powerhouse. The Shenzhen-Hong Kong Financial Co-operation Committee, established in June 2024, has held two high-level meetings thus far, which gathered official members from the Central Authorities, Shenzhen and Hong Kong, as well as leaders of the financial industry in both places, to discuss the latest developments of various financial co-operation initiatives of Shenzhen and Hong Kong, including Qianhai. Moreover, the Qianhai Mercantile Exchange, a subsidiary of the Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited (HKEX), has seen rapid development over the past few years, with the turnover exceeding RMB100 billion in 2024. It operates our country's only offshore spot trading platform for soybeans. In the future, HKEX will actively foster synergistic development between the two places and explore new modes of cross-boundary co-operation through the Qianhai Mercantile Exchange.

To strengthen the collaboration between Hong Kong and Qianhai, Cyberport and the Qianhai Authority signed the first Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in January 2021. Subsequently, the two parties announced a deeper collaboration and signed another MoU in August 2024 to enhance the cooperation between the two parks and to recommend start-up enterprises to land in each other's park. Cyberport and the Qianhai Authority have put in place a regular meeting mechanism to discuss ways to take forward the latest work on nurturing start-ups and talents. Both sides also provide one-on-one consultation services for start-ups which are interested in setting up operations in Qianhai/Cyberport. In 2024, two enterprises on artificial intelligence and digital entertainment from Qianhai joined the Cyberport community as a tenant and an incubatee respectively. In addition, some ten Cyberport enterprises, covering different digital fields such as artificial intelligence, e-commerce and health technology, are exploring setting up their operations in Qianhai. Cyberport will continue to use its resources to take forward the above work.

The Qianhai Co-operation Zone serves as an important platform for the industries where Hong Kong enjoys clear advantages to tap into the Mainland market, and a key gateway for Mainland enterprises to expand their overseas market by leveraging Hong Kong's roles in "going global and attracting foreign investment". This is conducive to consolidating and enhancing Hong Kong's status as international financial, maritime and trade centres, as well as an international aviation hub, and thus supporting Hong Kong's social and economic development. Hong Kong will continue to support Qianhai in trying out new policies on a

pilot basis and pursuing more policy innovation and breakthroughs, with a view to promoting the successful policies to the rest of the Greater Bay Area and even the entire country, thereby making greater contributions to the further reform and opening up of the country.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB035

(Question Serial No. 0778)

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
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The provision for 2025-26 is \$32.7 million (16.2%) higher than the revised estimate for 2024-25, and this is mainly due to the increased provision for operating expenses. In addition, there will be a net decrease of 1 post in 2025-26. Besides, Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025-26 include continuing to strengthen the promotion and co-ordination work in taking forward the development of the Greater Bay Area through the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office. In this connection, please advise this Committee:

1. of the details on the increased provision for operating expenses and the net decrease of 1 post; and
2. given that the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area has entered a new phase of accelerated development with greater breadth and depth, of the details on the work to promote harmonisation of rules and mechanisms between the two places and to drive market integration in the Greater Bay Area in 2025-26.

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (LegCo internal reference no.: 15)

Reply:

1. The estimate for 2025-26 is \$32.7 million (+16.2%) higher than the revised estimate for 2024-25, and this is mainly due to the earmarked provision for strengthening the promotion and co-ordination work in taking forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area), strengthening regional co-operation with the Mainland to facilitate Hong Kong's active integration into the overall national development, and organising different publicity and promotion initiatives to enable various sectors of the community to better grasp the importance of the new electoral system and the full implementation of the principle of "patriots administering Hong Kong" to Hong Kong, and develop among the public a comprehensive and accurate understanding of the relationship between "One

Country” and “Two Systems” as well as the constitutional order of the HKSAR etc. As for the net decrease of 1 post in 2025-26, it involves a Clerical Assistant.

2. The high-quality development of the Greater Bay Area is one of the very important tasks of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government. Shortly upon the establishment of the current-term Government, the Chief Executive promptly set up the Steering Group on Integration into National Development (Steering Group) chaired by himself, which takes forward and provides steer from the top level on the work on integration into the overall national development, and the high-quality development of the Greater Bay Area. With the strong support of the Central Authorities and the concerted efforts of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, fruitful results have been achieved in the development of the Greater Bay Area. The infrastructure of the Greater Bay Area has continued to improve and the cross-boundary movement of people has become more convenient; the development and formation of new quality productive forces have accelerated; and innovation and technology resources and international high-end talents have converged. This has, on the one hand, supported different sectors of the HKSAR in capitalising on the opportunities arising from the development of the Greater Bay Area, and at the same time supported Mainland and overseas talents and enterprises in leveraging Hong Kong’s important roles for “going global and attracting foreign investment” under the principle of “One Country, Two Systems”. The HKSAR Government will continue to proactively maintain close liaison with relevant Central Ministries and Commissions, the Guangdong Provincial Government, and the Macao Special Administrative Region Government, so as to promote further policy innovations and breakthroughs in the alignment of rules and mechanisms in the Greater Bay Area under the spirit of complementarity and mutual benefits, and strive to introduce more policy measures which are beneficial to Hong Kong and conducive to the development of our country and the Greater Bay Area at the same time. Moreover, the HKSAR Government will also maintain close communication with the Mainland authorities, continue to expand the content and arrangements of the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA), whilst also strengthening liaison and co-operation with the Guangdong and Macao authorities, to promote the development of Greater Bay Area Standards for more products and services in different fields, in order to promote market integration in the Greater Bay Area.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB036

(Question Serial No. 0928)

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
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB)'s main responsibilities under this Programme are to, among others, "promote and co-ordinate co-operation and liaison with the Mainland, Macao Special Administrative Region and Taiwan, and advise bureaux and departments on related matters as necessary". Please advise this Committee of CMAB's work to promote and co-ordinate co-operation and liaison with Taiwan in 2024-25 and the expenditure involved; the areas and extent of co-operation and liaison as well as the projects included; and the specific work plan, estimated expenditure and timetable for the coming year.

Asked by: Hon NG Kit-chong, Johnny (LegCo internal reference no.: 26)

Reply:

In 2024-25, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) has continued to offer advice to policy bureaux and departments on the handling of matters related to Taiwan. While the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taipei has suspended operation with effect from May 2021, it does not affect communication and liaison between the two places on a case-by-case basis when necessary, for example, provision of appropriate assistance for the Hong Kong people and their families when Hong Kong people are in distress in Taiwan. The CMAB will continue with the above-mentioned work in the coming year. As the relevant work is an integral part of the work of the CMAB, the provision required cannot be singled out and itemised.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB037

(Question Serial No. 0929)

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
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

As regards Matters Requiring Special Attention under this Programme, the Mainland Offices will, among others, “promote the strengths of Hong Kong in the Mainland, especially the distinctive advantages of enjoying strong support of the Motherland and being closely connected to the world”. Please advise this Committee of the expenditure and manpower for promoting Hong Kong’s strengths in the Mainland during 2024-25, and give details to illustrate the effectiveness. Please also provide information on the specific work plan, timetable and estimated expenditure for 2025-26.

Asked by: Hon NG Kit-chong, Johnny (LegCo internal reference no.: 27)

Reply:

One of the key functions of the Mainland Offices of the HKSAR Government is to promote the strengths of Hong Kong, including the distinctive advantages brought by the “eight centres” positioning under the National 14th Five-Year Plan, and the infinite opportunities arising from the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, etc. To this end, the Mainland Offices from time to time organise and participate in different forms of promotional activities, including seminars, exhibitions, film festivals, concerts, gala dinners etc., to tell Hong Kong’s good stories comprehensively from multiple perspectives such as economy and trade, culture, arts, sports and tourism, and to encourage and attract Mainland talents and enterprises to explore more development opportunities in Hong Kong by leveraging on Hong Kong’s unique position of being closely connected to the world under “One Country, Two Systems”, as well as its high level of internationalisation, market-orientation, rule of law and professional services. In addition, the Mainland Offices make optimal use of social media platforms in the Mainland, such as WeChat, Douyin, Bilibili, Xiaohongshu and Weibo, to provide updates on Hong Kong’s economy and trade, culture, mega events and tourism for enhancing publicity effect.

2. Specifically, the Mainland Offices completed in 2024 the targets of the performance indicators on promoting Hong Kong’s strengths and opportunities in the Mainland set out in

the 2023 Policy Address, including organising no less than 3 200 visits to Mainland authorities or bodies, attending no less than 270 speaking occasions, conducting no less than 330 media interviews or briefings, and participating in no less than 800 business and trade meetings. Furthermore, the Mainland Offices organised and participated in various large-scale events, such as forums, seminars, study missions and exhibitions, to promote the strengths of Hong Kong, which have achieved positive outcomes. For example, from June to September 2024, the Beijing Office organised the “Hong Kong: A Dazzling World City” roving exhibition in 8 municipalities, including Tianjin, Changchun and Shenyang, with a total of 800 000 participants. In August 2024, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (ETO) in Guangdong assisted in organising the “Immersive Hong Kong @Guangzhou” exhibition in Guangzhou, which showcased Hong Kong’s cosmopolitan appeal, advantages and opportunities to date by means of interactive arts technology and was successful in attracting over 160 000 participants. In November and December 2024, the Shanghai ETO organised the “Fun in Hong Kong - 2024 Hong Kong Miniature Art Exhibition” in Hefei and Qingdao, and introduced Hong Kong’s various talent admission schemes at the exhibition, with the total number of participants reaching 500 000. In June 2024, the Chengdu ETO organised the “Hong Kong Thematic Exhibition 2024” in Chongqing, with the number of participants exceeding 300 000. In September 2024, the Wuhan ETO set up “Hong Kong Pavilion” in the 9th China International Food & Catering Expo, with the number of participants exceeding 140 000. As promoting the strengths of Hong Kong is an integral part of the work of the Mainland Offices, the provision and manpower required have not been singled out and itemised.

3. The 2025 key performance indicators for the Mainland Offices set out in the 2024 Policy Address are higher than those of last year, including organising no less than 3 300 visits to Mainland authorities or bodies, attending no less than 280 speaking occasions, conducting no less than 340 media interviews or briefings, and participating in no less than 850 business and trade meetings. The Mainland Offices will continue to actively liaise with the provincial, municipal and autonomous regional governments in their service areas to promote exchange and communication between Hong Kong and the Mainland in areas of economy and trade, investment, culture and youth affairs, etc., while further promoting Hong Kong’s strengths and opportunities in the Mainland. In 2025, the Mainland Offices will actively organise and attend more large-scale events, and continue to explore more business and development opportunities for Hong Kong people and enterprises by deepening co-operation with various provinces and municipalities in commerce and trade, finance, innovation and technology, creative industries, youth exchange and so forth.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB038

(Question Serial No. 2489)

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
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Hong Kong National Security Law was officially promulgated by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress on 30 June 2020 to restore stability and order in Hong Kong. The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau's responsibilities are to, among others, promote public understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law, and conduct elections in accordance with the Basic Law and the decisions of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress. Would the Government provide information on the following:

1. What work was undertaken by the Government to publicise, explain or promote the Hong Kong National Security Law and the Improving Electoral System Ordinance in the past year? Please provide details in tabular form, including the statistics on the use of social media platforms such as facebook, Twitter and Instagram. What are the staff establishment and expenditure involved? What is the number of people reached out? Is the Government certain that such promotion work could effectively generate publicity among young people?
2. Will additional resources be allocated in future to publicise or continuously promote the Hong Kong National Security Law and the Improving Electoral System Ordinance on social media platforms, so as to enhance young people's understanding of the above initiatives? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
3. Please set out the establishment and ranks of staff dedicated to the promotion and education of the Constitution and the Basic Law, and the estimated expenditure involved.
4. What are the specific targets and details of the work? Apart from producing publications, displaying publicity banners and broadcasting Announcements in the Public Interest on television, what other measures are taken to equip the public with an accurate understanding of important constitutional documents and political systems (including the arrangements for improving the electoral system)?

5. Further to the question above, how many target groups are identified by the Government for its publicity work, e.g. members of the public, civil servants, university students, secondary school students, business associations, and expatriates working in Hong Kong? How does the Government assess if the target groups have acquired an accurate understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law? On the promotion and education of the Constitution and the Basic Law, what is the division of work between the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau and other bureaux, such as Chief Secretary and Deputy Chief Secretary for Administration, Secretary and Under Secretary for Education, and Secretary and Under Secretary for Security? How effective collaboration across bureaux is achieved to reach the targets of the promotion work?

Asked by: Hon SHANG Hailong (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

Under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Constitution and Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (CBLPSC) provides advice and steer on the overall strategy and key work plans for promoting the Constitution, the Basic Law and national security-related legislation, and monitors, evaluates and reviews promotional programmes undertaken by government departments and non-governmental organisations. The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) provides secretariat support to the CBLPSC. The 5 sub-groups under the CBLPSC (namely Local Community Sub-group; Teachers and Students Sub-group; Civil Servants Sub-group; Industrial, Commercial and Professional Sectors Sub-group; and Community Outside Hong Kong Sub-group) assisted by the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB), the Education Bureau (EDB), the Civil Service Bureau (CSB), Trade and Industry Department (TID) and Information Services Department (ISD) respectively have been planning and organising various types of activities for promotion on various fronts to the general public and related sectors.

2. The CMAB has been carrying out promotion and publicity work through different means and in a diversified manner to enable the public to have a more comprehensive and thorough understanding of the Constitution, the Basic Law and national security-related legislation. Specific promotion work include:

- (a) organising thematic seminars, e.g. Constitution Day Seminar;
- (b) using electronic means, online platforms and social media to promote widely to different strata of society, e.g. co-producing with Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) and launching a theme song “Wings” to promote the Constitution and the Basic Law, posting advertisements on social media for promotion of the videos on the Constitution and the Basic Law, designing online games, producing and launching animation videos, and co-producing different types of television programmes with RTHK to introduce the Constitution and the Basic Law in an easy-to-understand manner, such as “Letter to the Basic Law”, “Basic Law Daily”, and the series of “Root & Origin: The Constitution”;
- (c) displaying large publicity banners outdoors, and producing publicity leaflets, posters and picture books on “One Country, Two Systems” for distribution to schools, public housing estates, etc.;

- (d) enhancing awareness and understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law by the general public and students through mobile promotional activities in physical form at the district level (e.g. organising roving exhibitions and parent-child workshops at shopping centres in various districts, and arranging the mobile resource centre and the mobile game booth to pay visits to different districts and schools); and
- (e) providing sponsorship to non-governmental organisations and community organisations through the “Constitution and Basic Law Promotion Activity and Research Sponsorship Scheme” for staging various promotional and research activities on the Constitution, the Basic Law and national security education, such as promotion ambassador training schemes, speaking contests and slogan design competitions, in order to get across the messages widely in the community.

3. In the 2024-25 financial year, the actual annual expenditure of the CMAB for the promotion of the Constitution and the Basic Law is about \$31 million. As for the 2025-26 financial year, the estimated expenditure on relevant work is about \$25 million. The CMAB will, having regard to the actual circumstances, consider devoting additional resources through internal deployment to conduct the relevant work. At present, the CMAB’s promotion work on the Constitution and the Basic Law is undertaken by a team including a Principal Assistant Secretary and 5 supporting officers.

4. The CBLPSC and its sub-groups will review the format, content and effectiveness of promotional activities from time to time through evaluating their popularity and efficacy based on the number and feedback of participants, and advise how to optimise the promotion strategy in light of the development and trend of promotional media and information technology. Relevant Directors of Bureaux are also members of the CBLPSC to offer advice and necessary support for the purpose of effectively promoting the Constitution, the Basic Law and national security-related legislation. We will continue to make good use of the platform of the CBLPSC and keep a close eye on the effectiveness of various promotional activities, and adjust the promotion strategy as appropriate having regard to the actual circumstances in order to achieve the best results.

5. In addition, the HKSAR Government has spared no effort to explain to the people from all walks of life the necessity, advancement and superiority of the improved electoral system. On publicity work, the CMAB has earmarked around \$6 million to publicise and promote the improved electoral system in the 2025-26 financial year. For example, educational videos will be produced and promoted for use as teaching materials in schools. As the work is undertaken by a Principal Assistant Secretary and 1 supporting officer who are also responsible for electoral affairs, no breakdown figures of the manpower and expenditure involved are available.

6. On promotion of national security-related legislation, since the promulgation for implementation of the National Security Law in the HKSAR on 30 June 2020, the HKSAR Government has introduced the National Security Law to different people through different channels and means (including publishing pamphlets and compendium of articles, issuing press releases, placing newspaper advertisements, and officials taking part in interviews on television, radio and other media, and organising/attending seminars (including webinars),

etc.), as well as through the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices. Furthermore, since the Safeguarding National Security Ordinance came into effect on 23 March 2024, the HKSAR Government has stepped up promotional efforts to explain to the public the crucial role of the legal system as a pillar in safeguarding national security.

7. Among others, the National Security Exhibition Gallery, located at the Hong Kong Museum of History, is the first dedicated exhibition in Hong Kong to systematically introduce national security. Since its opening with free admission in August 2024, it has received over 470 000 visitors as of February this year. The National Security Exhibition Gallery will roll out thematic exhibitions this year marking the 10th National Security Education Day and the 5th anniversary of the promulgation and implementation of the National Security Law.

8. In addition, the Hong Kong National Security Law online virtual exhibition first launched by the HKSAR Government in July 2021 covers the importance of the National Security Law, the legal regime, enforcement mechanisms, major provisions and effectiveness, and introduction of the work of the disciplined forces in safeguarding national security, with mini games provided. As at 14 March 2025, the virtual exhibition recorded over 800 000 visits. In July 2024, the Security Bureau (SB) updated the virtual exhibition with enriched content to introduce the Safeguarding National Security Ordinance and incorporate the mascot “Security Bear” as a new element, and launched the online national security-themed animation series to explain to the younger generation the importance and main concepts of national security.

9. Moreover, the SB and EDB have jointly organised the “Let’s Join Hands in Safeguarding National Security” Programme for 4 consecutive years since the 2021/22 school year. The “Let’s Join Hands in Safeguarding National Security” Programme in the 2024/25 school year features a short speech competition for students, and a lesson plan design selection for teachers to promote the joint participation of all teachers and students across the territory. The award presentation ceremony for the programme was held in early July 2024 to commend the winning schools and students.

10. The SB, Department of Justice (DoJ), EDB, and Hong Kong Shine Tak Foundation continued to organise the “Territory-wide Inter-school National Security Knowledge Challenge” in 2024/25, which aims at enhancing students’ understanding of the Constitution, the Basic Law and the National Security Law. The Challenge is conducted in the form of a quiz. In addition to primary school and secondary school sections, an English section is set up for the first time for non-Chinese speaking secondary school students. The Challenge has attracted the participation of a total of more than 126 000 students from 610 primary and secondary schools, an increase of over 20% in participants compared to last year. The finals will be held at a shopping centre on 15 April, National Security Education Day, this year, with a view to bringing national security education to the community.

11. Through their youth groups, the disciplined services departments under the SB have all along assisted youths to cultivate good character, positive thinking and law-abiding awareness, and facilitated their understanding of national development to enhance their sense of national identity. In future, the disciplined services departments will continue their efforts in taking forward national security education for members of the youth groups, with a view to raising the awareness of national security among youngsters.

12. Furthermore, the HKSAR Government has produced Announcements in the Public Interest for broadcasting on television and radio, as well as at government buildings, online platforms and webinars, to highlight the effectiveness of the National Security Law and the Safeguarding National Security Ordinance in stopping chaos and restoring order in Hong Kong, and in ensuring the steadfast and successful implementation of the “One Country, Two Systems” principle as well as the long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong.

13. In regard to primary and secondary schools, the EDB has continuously stepped up efforts in recent years to support schools in promoting national education (including education on the Constitution, the Basic Law and national security) through “organic integration”, “natural connection”, “diversified strategies”, “mutual co-ordination”, “learning within and beyond the classroom” and “whole-school participation”. The EDB’s support measures include enriching and enhancing curricula, developing rich learning and teaching resources, strengthening teacher training, organising life-wide learning activities for students etc., which aim to support schools in integrating national education, national security education and patriotic education into daily learning and teaching to deepen students’ understanding of the country and national affairs, and to strengthen their sense of national identity and national pride.

14. In future, the HKSAR Government will continue to allocate resources for its promotion work on the National Security Law through different channels (including online channels), so as to raise the national security and law-abiding awareness of Hong Kong residents, especially our youths. Major measures in 2025 include: to continue to promote the National Security Law and the Safeguarding National Security Ordinance through the National Security Exhibition Gallery and community courses on national security, as well as other initiatives, including the online virtual exhibition and the mechanism of youth uniformed groups under the disciplined services departments; to bring the online national security-themed animation series offline through activities including showing the “Security Bear and Andy’s Family” drama in schools for interaction with students and preparing printed picture books; and to jointly produce with the DoJ and RTHK a new series of information programmes on national security laws titled “NSL Chronicles III”, which features the introduction of the Safeguarding National Security Ordinance to further enhance public understanding of the ordinance.

15. Apart from the circumstances provided above, the HKSAR Government’s promotion work on various fronts mentioned above involves various bureaux and departments. The expenditure and staff establishment involved are absorbed by the overall provision of the respective bureaux and departments, and therefore no breakdown figures are available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB039

(Question Serial No. 2646)

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
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the case of Sham Tsz Kit v Secretary for Justice, the Court of Final Appeal ruled that the Government should establish an alternative framework for legal recognition of same-sex relationship. Please provide a breakdown of expenditure incurred by ongoing work of the Government.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 26)

Reply:

In the light of the CFA's relevant judgment, we have been actively working with the Department of Justice and relevant bureaux to conduct research and drafting work on the alternative framework. We will consult the Legislative Council when a concrete proposal is available. The resources required are subsumed under the recurrent expenditure of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau and a separate breakdown is not available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB040

(Question Serial No. 2655)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual, (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Government established the Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Unit (GISOU) in May 2005, and has set up the Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme (Funding Scheme) to provide funding support to worthwhile community projects, with a view to promoting equal opportunities for people of different sexual orientations or transgenders, or providing support services for the sexual minorities. In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. The existing establishment, salary and work nature of GISOU's staff.
2. GISOU's actual expenditure in the past 5 years and estimated expenditure for the current year.
3. The total amount of sponsorship granted to community organisations under the Funding Scheme in the past 5 years, and the details of the sponsored community projects, including the actual amount of sponsorship approved for each community organisation.
4. Has the Government taken note of the concern relayed by some community organisations that some organisations have been granted sponsorship under the Funding Scheme despite having made discriminatory remarks against people of different sexual orientations or gender identities in public, contravening the original intention of the Funding Scheme, and what are the reasons for granting sponsorship to these organisations?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 51)

Reply:

At present, the staff establishment of the Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Unit (GISOU) comprises 1 Executive Officer I and 1 Executive Officer II. The Unit is mainly responsible for managing and monitoring the Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme (Funding Scheme), handling enquiries and complaints related to gender identity and sexual orientation, carrying out education and promotion programmes, etc.

2. In the past 5 years, GISOU's resources for publicity work on elimination of discrimination against sexual minorities are \$2.52 million, \$2.42 million, \$2.45 million, \$2.25 million and \$1.79 million respectively, and the estimated expenditure for 2025-26 is \$1 million. The total amounts of sponsorship approved under the Funding Scheme are \$1.34 million, \$1.34 million, \$1.34 million, \$1.34 million and \$0.69 million respectively, and details of the sponsored projects are set out at Annex. The estimated expenditure for 2025-26 is \$1.2 million.

3. To ensure that the sponsored projects meet the objectives of the Funding Scheme, an Assessment Committee, which comprises non-officials as members and chairperson, was set up under the assessment mechanism. Only applications which tie in with the objectives of the Funding Scheme, i.e. promoting equal opportunities for people of different orientations and transgenders or providing support services for sexual minorities, will be considered for sponsorship. In considering applications, the Assessment Committee will consider the project's content, feasibility, budgetary considerations, anticipated number of beneficiaries, and applicants' experience and management capability, etc. If the Assessment Committee is aware that the applicant has contradicted the purpose or objectives of the Funding Scheme, it will give due consideration when assessing its application.

2020-21

Name of Applicant	Nature of Project	Approved Sponsorship (\$)
Down to Earth	Workshops, publication production and counselling services	123,557
Gender Empowerment	Support groups, workshops and counselling services	23,257
The Boys' & Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong Jockey Club South Kwai Chung Children and Youth Integrated Services Centre	Support groups and drama performance	111,168
Hong Kong Women Christian Council	Workshops, drama performance and multimedia production	74,445
The Society of Truth and Light	Publication production	29,442
Sexuality Education and Counselling Association	Workshops, publication production and multimedia production	49,822
Merit Minds Workshop	Drama performance	148,240
Hong Kong Blessed Minority Christian Fellowship	Workshops, publication production and counselling services	17,955
AIDS Concern	Workshops, publication production and online services	61,173
Project Touch, The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong	Workshops, publication production, counselling services and online services	29,400
Association of World Citizens Hong Kong China	Workshops	15,571
Association of World Citizens Hong Kong China	Workshops and exhibitions	43,102
Hong Kong Psychosexual Education Association	Workshops, multimedia production and counselling services	58,650
Post Gay Alliance	Support groups, workshops and counselling services	77,200
Hong Kong Pride Parade	Outreach activities	18,900
Gay Harmony	Workshops, outreach activities and counselling services	67,798
Gay Harmony	Workshops and exhibitions	57,960
Les Corner Empowerment Association	Publication production, outreach activities and counselling services	43,480
GIA Theatre	Drama performance	106,732
yat1sai3m4bat1yip6: Chow Yiu Fai Lyrics Writing Course Alumni	Music performance and multimedia production	73,767
Bravo Theatre	Multimedia production	116,800

Name of Applicant	Nature of Project	Approved Sponsorship (\$)
AIDS Concern	Sharing sessions/seminars, and publication production	60,228
Down to Earth	Support groups, sharing sessions/seminars, and counselling/support services	123,558
Pride Lab	Video production and broadcast	50,505
Pride Lab	Video production and broadcast, and sharing sessions/seminars	32,897
Gay Harmony	Counselling/support services, workshops, and outreach activities/services	63,258
Gay Harmony	Publication production, outreach activities/services, and video production and broadcast	67,463
Les Corner Empowerment Association	Support groups, support services, and publication production	47,565
Midnight Blue	Workshops/seminars, and publication production	18,900
Bravo Theatre	Drama performance/educational theatre performance	146,550
Association of World Citizens Hong Kong China	Exhibitions and publication production	20,738
Association of World Citizens Hong Kong China	Workshops	19,320
Add Oil Workshop	Drama performance	57,593
yat1sai3m4bat1yip6: Chow Yiu Fai Lyrics Writing Course Alumni	Music performance, and video/multimedia production and broadcast	129,465
Gender Empowerment	Support groups, workshops, and counselling/support services	22,418
The Society for Truth and Light	Support groups, and video/multimedia production and broadcast	25,883
Post Gay Alliance	Support groups, workshops, and counselling/support services	75,500
Project Touch, The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong	Support groups and workshops	29,400
The Boys' & Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong Jockey Club South Kwai Chung Children and Youth Integrated Services Centre	Support groups, workshops and drama performance	111,169
Hong Kong Psychosexual Education Association	Support groups, counselling/support services, workshops, and video/multimedia production and broadcast	44,205

Name of Applicant	Nature of Project	Approved Sponsorship (\$)
Grey and Pride	Video/multimedia production and broadcast, and sharing sessions/seminars	16,275
Freedom of Love Project	Support groups	9,083
Merit Minds Workshop	Drama performance/educational theatre performance, and exhibitions	130,914

Name of Applicant	Nature of Project	Approved Sponsorship (\$)
Pride Lab	Video production and broadcast, and outreach activities/services	82,372
Gay Harmony	Publication production, video production and broadcast, and outreach activities/services	51,765
Gay Harmony	Counselling/support services, workshops, and outreach activities/services	49,192
Les Corner Empowerment Association	Video production and broadcast	25,515
Midnight Blue	Video/multimedia production and broadcast, and sharing sessions	81,847
Bravo Theatre	Drama performance/educational theatre performance	149,950
Add Oil Workshop	Drama performance	85,890
Gender Empowerment	Support groups, workshops, sharing sessions/seminars, and counselling/support services	149,462
E-Life Education Limited	Workshops and counselling/support services	21,630
Post Gay Alliance	Support groups, workshops, and counselling/support services	58,400
The Boys' & Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong Jockey Club South Kwai Chung Children and Youth Integrated Services Centre	Workshops/sharing sessions and drama performance	110,275
Hong Kong Psychosexual Education Association Limited	Support groups, workshops, and counselling/support services	38,955
Transgender Equality Hong Kong	Video/multimedia production and broadcast, and publication production	30,450
FREEDOM OF LOVE PROJECT	Sharing sessions and drama performance	47,775
New Creation Association Limited	Support groups, workshops, and counselling/support services	29,935
Quarks	Workshops/sharing sessions, and video/documentary production and broadcast	24,990
GIA theatre	Workshops/sharing sessions, and drama performance	86,940
GIA theatre	Drama performance	138,600
AIDS Concern	Sharing sessions/seminars, and publication production	63,997

Name of Applicant	Nature of Project	Approved Sponsorship (\$)
Midnight Blue	Workshops/seminars, and publication production	32,917.50
Pride Lab	Workshops/talks	22,575.00
Pride Lab	Sharing sessions/talks	49,350.00
Hong Kong Psychosexual Education Association Limited	Support groups, workshops, and counselling/support services	33,600.00
Post Gay Alliance	Support groups, workshops, and counselling/support services	35,950.00
Gay Harmony	Publication production, video production, and outreach activities/services	40,845.00
Gay Harmony	Counselling/support services, workshops, and outreach activities/services	49,507.50
Freedom of Love Project	Support groups, workshops, sharing sessions/seminars, and counselling/support services	119,910.00
AIDS Concern	Sharing sessions/seminars, and publication production	69,195.00
Gender Empowerment Limited	Support groups, workshops, sharing sessions/seminars, and counselling/support services	149,655.00
New Creation Association Limited	Support groups, workshops, and counselling/support services	24,685.00
Add Oil Workshop	Drama performance and exhibition	103,845.00
The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups Tsuen King Youth S.P.O.T	Talks/sharing sessions, video production, and exhibition	46,126.50
The Moderati Limited	Multimedia production and music performance	46,725.00
Fluid Hong Kong Education Limited	Workshops, video production, and counselling/support services	49,350.00
yat1sai3m4bat1yip6: Chow Yiu Fai Lyrics Writing Course Alumni	Multimedia production and music performance	147,675.00
Wellness Social Service Centre Limited	Drama performance	33,075.00
SWAN Academy Association Limited	Workshops and publication production	20,475.00
Les Corner Empowerment Association	Video production	22,470.00
The Boys' & Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong Jockey Club South Kwai Chung Children and Youth Integrated Services Centre	Workshops/sharing sessions, and music performance	40,687.50
The Society for Truth and Light	Publication production	29,925.00
Silence Limited	Sharing sessions and publication production	19,635.00
GIA theatre	Drama performance	142,670.00

Name of Applicant	Nature of Project	Approved Sponsorship (\$)
Hong Kong Psychosexual Education Association Limited	Support groups, workshops, and counselling/support services	51,240.00
Post Gay Alliance	Support groups, workshops, and counselling/support services	71,000.00
Hong Kong Grassroots Concern Association Limited	Workshops	33,390.00
Gender Empowerment Limited	Support groups, workshops, outreach activities/services, and counselling/support services	149,710.00
Project Touch, The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong	Workshops and publication production	58,300.00
Hong Kong Sex Culture Society Limited	Multimedia production	42,000.00
Sexuality for All	Workshops, multimedia production, and research/study	91,350.00
The Moderati Limited	Multimedia production/music performance	97,335.00
AIDS Concern Foundation Limited	Workshops and publication production	96,673.50
Transgender Equality Hong Kong	Publication production and multimedia production	7,980.00

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB041

(Question Serial No. 2656)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual, (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the promotional efforts of the Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Unit to eliminate discrimination against sexual minorities in the past 5 years, please set out the expenditure on posters, pamphlets, Announcements in the Public Interest on television and radio as well as mobile publicity; the promotion platforms (such as television, radio, light boxes at MTR stations and bus stops, newspaper advertisements, etc.), time slots (the months when the promotional messages were broadcast or published) and frequencies; and the manpower and resources involved in the promotional work?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 52)

Reply:

In the past 5 years, Announcements in the Public Interest which promote the message “Eliminate Discrimination, Embrace Inclusion” were broadcast for over 3 600 times on television and radio. Meanwhile, the promotional video was broadcast for more than 26 million times in over 200 government premises, public transport network (including the display platforms in railway stations, bus stops, train compartments and ferries) and lift lobbies of commercial buildings, and over 12 million click-throughs were made on the Internet. Furthermore, promotional posters on “Eliminate Discrimination, Embrace Inclusion” were displayed at places such as government premises, public transport network, lobbies of residential buildings, footbridges and subways, etc. In the past 5 years, the resources allocated to the publicity efforts mentioned above are \$2.52 million, \$2.42 million, \$2.45 million, \$2.25 million and \$1.79 million respectively. As for the enquiries on other breakdown figures, the Government does not maintain such relevant information.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB042

(Question Serial No. 2657)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual, (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

What are the manpower and costs involved in the production of television advertisements on promoting elimination of discrimination against sexual minorities? Has the Government evaluated the effectiveness of such promotional efforts? Regarding the Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Unit's promotional work on elimination of discrimination against sexual minorities, what is the estimated expenditure for the coming year?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 53)

Reply:

In 2024-25, the Announcement in the Public Interest which promotes the message "Eliminate Discrimination, Embrace Inclusion" was broadcast for over 380 times on television, and more than 5.6 million times in over 200 government premises, public transport network and lift lobbies of commercial buildings, delivering the message of equal opportunities for people of different sexual orientations and transgenders to the public. The production cost of the promotional video is \$1.16 million, and the manpower involved is subsumed under the existing staff establishment of the Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Unit, Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau. In 2025-26, we will concentrate resources on online platforms to promote the message of "Eliminate Discrimination, Embrace Inclusion", and promoting the Code of Practice against Discrimination in Employment on the Ground of Sexual Orientation to chambers of commerce and employers. The estimated expenditure involved is \$1 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB043****(Question Serial No. 3293)**Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs BureauSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (4) Rights of the IndividualControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(Ms Gracie FOO)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

Please provide the number of enquiries and complaints received in the past 5 years by the Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Unit through the hotline which is set up for handling enquiries and complaints on issues relating to gender identity and sexual orientation, and among which, the number of cases being processed, being followed up or with investigation completed, the number of confirmed cases of discrimination on the ground of gender identity or sexual orientation, and the domains that the discrimination is said to have occurred (including workplace; education; provision of services and goods; premises; public services; religious sites; etc.) (please provide information in tabular form); as well as the manpower and resources involved in manning of the hotline.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-Yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 54)Reply:

In the past 5 years, the Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Unit (GISOU) received a total of 31 enquiries and 3 complaints. The relevant numbers are as follows:

Financial year	Number of enquiries	Number of complaints
2020-21	4	2
2021-22	6	0
2022-23	7	0
2023-24	7	0
2024-25 (as at end-February 2025)	7	1

Among the above 3 complaint cases concerning discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation, 2 cases were related to the services of government departments/public bodies, and 1 case was related to recruitment/employment. Upon investigations, these complaints were not substantiated. Responses were made to the complainants on the findings, including the follow-up actions taken by the organisations under complaint. As handling enquiries and complaints is part of the GISOU's daily work, there is no separate breakdown on manpower resources in this respect.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB044

(Question Serial No. 2676)

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
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. The number, establishment and ranks of staff of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office, as well as the expenditure involved in the past 3 years.
2. The Mainland cities with which the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office had liaison in the past 3 years; and the number, establishment and ranks of staff responsible for liaising with those cities, as well as the expenditure involved.
3. The work undertaken by the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office in the past 3 years on strengthening exchange between different professional and industry organisations and the relevant departments in the Greater Bay Area, as well as the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon WONG Chun-sek, Edmund (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)

Reply:

In 2022-23 and 2023-24, the number of staff in the establishment of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Office) was 33, including 4 Administrative Officers Staff Grade A/B/C; 6 Senior Administrative Officers/Administrative Officers; 8 Chief Executive Officers/Senior Executive Officers/Executive Officers I; 3 Chief Information Officer/Senior Information Officer/Information Officer; 6 Assistant Clerical Officers; 5 Senior Personal Secretary/Personal Secretaries I/Personal Secretary II; and 1 Motor Driver. In 2024-25, the number of staff in the establishment of the Office was reduced to 31 following the deletion of 2 time-limited Senior Administrative

Officer/Administrative Officer posts upon their expiry. The staff costs in the past 3 years were about \$32 million, \$33 million and \$33 million respectively.

2. The Office is the main unit of the HKSAR Government responsible for liaison with the Mainland authorities and the Macao Special Administrative Region Government on the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area). The Office has been maintaining close liaison with relevant Central Ministries and Commissions, the Guangdong Provincial Government, the Macao Special Administrative Region Government and the municipal governments of the nine Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area, including arranging high-level visits and meetings, as well as conducting exchanges on various issues. In the past 3 years, the Office has conducted visits to various Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area to discuss co-operation matters. As the liaison work is an integral part of the work of the Office, a breakdown of manpower and expenditure involved is not available.

3. In the past 3 years, the Office continued to organise and participate in online and physical seminars to introduce the latest development of the Greater Bay Area to the business sector, professionals and investors interested in pursuing development in the Greater Bay Area regardless of their sectors. These seminars also facilitate exchanges and expand business opportunities among participants for joint exploration of development opportunities in the Greater Bay Area. For example, the Office has collaborated with its Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Promotion Centre and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council to organise a number of “GoGBA Development Day” seminars in Hong Kong and the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area since September 2022. Government officials from the Greater Bay Area cities as well as relevant industry representatives and experts were invited to these events, and a series of seminars, business advisory services and one-on-one consultation sessions were arranged to introduce the latest policies and information to Hong Kong people and enterprises interested in pursuing development in the Greater Bay Area. Among them, the “GoGBA Development Day” seminars for the Hong Kong accounting and legal sectors were held in June and July 2024 respectively, providing targeted information and support for the relevant sectors. Thereafter in July 2024, the “GoGBA Business Mission for Accounting Sector” was organised for representatives of Hong Kong accounting firms and professionals to visit Shenzhen. Through exchange sessions and study missions, delegates learnt about the latest business environment of the local accounting sector, and established contacts with local government officials, chambers of commerce and representatives of enterprises, so as to keep abreast of the market development trend in the Greater Bay Area. As the above work is an integral part of the work of the Office, a breakdown of expenditure is not available.

4. Apart from the Office, various policy bureaux have also supported the respective industries in strengthening exchanges with the relevant parties in the Greater Bay Area cities. For example, the Development Bureau has on a number of occasions arranged for the construction and related engineering industries to meet with the relevant departments in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area, and invited the relevant officials from the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area to introduce the business opportunities and tender systems of the cities concerned in the seminars organised by the Development Bureau. The Education Bureau, with the support of the Ministry of Education, established the first teacher training and exchange base at the South China Normal University in Guangzhou in January 2024 to strengthen exchange among teachers in the Greater Bay Area. The Financial Services and

the Treasury Bureau, together with the Central Authorities and Shenzhen, has established the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Financial Co-operation Committee in June 2024, which gathers leaders of the financial industry in both places as non-official members to offer advice on Shenzhen-Hong Kong financial co-operation as well as the development of financial infrastructure of the Greater Bay Area, etc.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB045

(Question Serial No. 1197)

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
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

It is mentioned under the Programme that during 2025-26, the Bureau will continue to strengthen the promotion and co-ordination work in taking forward the development of the Greater Bay Area through the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office, and support the Steering Group on Integration into National Development chaired by the Chief Executive in actively dovetailing with the national strategies including the National 14th Five-Year Plan and the Greater Bay Area development, and strengthening regional co-operation with the Mainland. In this connection, please advise this Committee:

1. of the staff establishment and the total expenditure on emoluments, allowances and personnel-related expenses of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office in the past two years;
2. of the details on the work of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office to promote the development of the Greater Bay Area and closer alignment of rules and mechanisms etc., and to support the Steering Group on Integration into National Development its research work;
3. whether an alignment plan and a road map for action plans have been worked out for promoting the implementation of the Nansha Plan; if so, of the details; if not, of the reasons; and
4. whether key performance indicators will be set to ensure accurate achievement of the development targets for 2025 and 2035 of the Nansha Plan; if so, of the details; if not, of the reasons.

Asked by: Hon WONG Kwok, Kingsley (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

The staff establishment and expenditure of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Office) in the past two years are as follows:

Year	Staff establishment	Revised estimate		Sub-total (\$ million)
		Staff cost on civil service posts (\$ million)	Other expenses (\$ million)	
2023-24	33	33	29.7	62.7
2024-25	31	33	30.1	63.1

2. The high-quality development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area) is a top priority of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government. Shortly upon the establishment of the current-term Government, the Chief Executive promptly set up the Steering Group on Integration into National Development (Steering Group) chaired by himself, which takes forward and provides steer from the top level on the work on Hong Kong's integration into the overall national development, and dovetailing with key national strategies such as the development of the Greater Bay Area. The Office has been rendering full support to the work of the Steering Group in taking forward the development of the Greater Bay Area, as well as in monitoring the implementation of various policy measures for the promotion of high-level connectivity in the Greater Bay Area. With the strong support of the Central Authorities and the concerted efforts of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, fruitful results have been achieved in the development of the Greater Bay Area. The infrastructure of the Greater Bay Area has continued to improve and the cross-boundary movement of people has become more convenient; the development and formation of new quality productive forces have accelerated; and innovation and technology resources and international high-end talents have converged. This has, on the one hand, supported different sectors of the HKSAR in capitalising on the opportunities arising from the development of the Greater Bay Area, and at the same time supported Mainland and overseas talents and enterprises in leveraging Hong Kong's important roles for "going global and attracting foreign investment" under the principle of "One Country, Two Systems".

3. At the same time, the Office supports the Steering Group in conducting in-depth and extensive research work and further strengthening policy research and continuous formulation of new policy recommendations. As instructed by the Chief Executive, policy bureaux and relevant departments of the HKSAR Government communicate with the industries and stakeholders in the respective policy areas and listen to their views, so as to fully grasp policy recommendations that facilitate the sectors' development in the Greater Bay Area for the steer and guidance by the Steering Group. For example, with the strong support of the governments of Guangdong and Macao, the HKSAR Government has extended the facilitation measure on "Standard Contract for the Cross-boundary Flow of Personal Information Within the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Mainland, Hong Kong)" to all sectors, promoting more cross-boundary services to benefit the public and businesses while facilitating data flow throughout the Greater Bay Area; enhanced the Greater Bay Area Youth Employment Scheme to assist young people to enhance employability and promote sustainable development; launched the Cross-boundary Wealth Management

Connect Scheme 2.0; gradually extended the Elderly Health Care Voucher Greater Bay Area Pilot Scheme to cover more medical institutions in the nine Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area; and incorporated more residential care homes for the elderly as Recognised Service Providers under the Residential Care Services Scheme in Guangdong. These policies are of great significance to the promotion of wider scope of integrated development, as well as the alignment of rules and mechanisms in the Greater Bay Area.

4. The HKSAR Government will continue to proactively maintain close liaison with relevant Central Ministries and Commissions, the Guangdong Provincial Government, and the Macao Special Administrative Region Government, so as to seek further policy innovations and breakthroughs under the spirit of complementarity and mutual benefits, and strive to introduce more policy measures which are beneficial to Hong Kong and conducive to the development of our country and the Greater Bay Area at the same time.

5. Nansha of Guangzhou is a co-operation platform in the Greater Bay Area of great importance. The Overall Plan for Deepening Globally Oriented Comprehensive Co-operation amongst Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao in Nansha of Guangzhou (Nansha Plan) promulgated by the Central Authorities to accelerate the deepening of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao comprehensive co-operation in Nansha of Guangzhou is a significant initiative to build a high-level gateway for opening up, promote innovative development and create a high-quality living circle. It also aims to develop Nansha into a major strategic platform that is anchored in the Greater Bay Area, linked with Hong Kong and Macao, and oriented towards the world, so as to better play the role in leading and driving the development of the Greater Bay Area.

6. The Nansha Plan sets development targets for 2025 and 2035, and specifically outlines development goals in areas such as technological innovation, industrial development, living environment, public service standards, business environment, etc. Both Hong Kong and Guangzhou attach great importance to the Nansha Plan as it is crucial for the high-quality development of the Greater Bay Area. The HKSAR Government has been maintaining close liaison with the Guangdong Provincial Government and the Guangzhou Municipal Government to jointly explore enhanced collaboration for actively pursuing policy measures that are conducive to the development of Nansha and beneficial to Hong Kong. The aims are to support different sectors of the HKSAR in fully seizing the unlimited opportunities brought by the Nansha Plan, and at the same time, to enable Hong Kong to continue leveraging its advantages and spare no efforts in assisting the development of Nansha into a high-level gateway for opening up in the Greater Bay Area. On promoting the development of Nansha, the Office and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council organised the “GoGBA Development Day” seminars for Hong Kong’s accounting sector and legal services sector in June and July 2024 respectively, providing tailor-made information and support for the sectors. Representatives from the People’s Government of Nansha District of the Guangzhou Municipality were invited to introduce Nansha’s latest preferential policies applicable to these sectors at the seminars. Besides, the Office has produced a new programme entitled “Hello GBA, Hello Nansha!” for broadcast on television and MTR train compartments, which features the policies and opportunities of the development of Nansha. The Office will organise online and offline activities (including talks and seminars) and produce television programmes as appropriate to further promote the latest development of Nansha.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB046

(Question Serial No. 1198)

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
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

It is mentioned under the Programme that the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau will work closely with the Electoral Affairs Commission to ensure that elections are conducted in a fair, just, honest, safe and orderly manner; continue to enhance the electoral arrangements; and further enhance efficiency and make the arrangements user-friendly. In this connection, please advise this Committee:

1. as the Government announced that smart ballot boxes will not be used in the upcoming election, whether any expenses, such as preliminary procurement, have been incurred for the original plan of introducing the smart ballot boxes; if so, of the expenditure;
2. as the Government announced that ballot paper checking machines will continue to be provided for electors' voluntary use in the upcoming election, whether it is necessary to have additional ballot paper checking machines; if so, of the expenditure;
3. as more and more Hong Kong people are working and living in the Greater Bay Area of the Mainland, who may no longer have principal residence in Hong Kong, how their voting rights can be ensured on the premise of supporting integration within the Greater Bay Area;
4. apart from setting up Near Boundary Polling Stations, whether other arrangements are in place to facilitate Hong Kong people in the Mainland to cast their votes; if so, of the details; if not, of the reasons; and
5. of the progress of preparatory work for the election for the eighth term Legislative Council, including the proposed nomination period and polling day.

Asked by: Hon WONG Kwok, Kingsley (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)

Reply:

The Government's earlier proposal to introduce smart ballot boxes in elections was intended to assist electors in verifying whether their ballot papers are correctly marked, thereby better protecting their voting rights. However, some Members considered that this may lead to electors' concern about ballot secrecy, and suggested maintaining the existing practice of providing ballot paper checking machines for electors' voluntary use. Upon consideration, the Government readily heeded the good advice and adopted the suggestion. The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) had only conducted preliminary study and evaluation on the technical feasibility and costs of smart ballot boxes without incurring any procurement expense.

2. In the previous Legislative Council general election, ballot paper checking machines were provided for electors' voluntary use in the Election Committee constituency, and the results were apparent. For the Legislative Council general election to be held later this year, the REO plans to continue this arrangement in accordance with the actual circumstances. However, as the related election preparation work is still underway, the specific implementation arrangements and relevant expenditure are not yet available.

3. In accordance with the prevailing legislative requirements, individuals registering as electors must "ordinarily reside in Hong Kong", and the main purpose is to ensure that electors casting their votes have a connection with their respective geographical constituencies. In general, if an elector is only temporarily residing and living in the Mainland, and still maintains a certain degree of connection with Hong Kong and is able to provide a principal or sole residential address, his/her electoral status will not be affected.

4. In view of the substantial number of electors currently working and living in the Mainland, the Government has introduced different measures to facilitate electors to exercise their right to vote, including setting up boundary control point polling stations for the 2021 Legislative Council General Election and the near boundary polling stations for the 2023 District Council Ordinary Election. In the future, the Government will continue to actively explore appropriate arrangements to encourage and facilitate electors in the Mainland to return to Hong Kong and vote.

5. The Government has announced that the general election for the eighth term Legislative Council will be held on 7 December this year. The Government and the Electoral Affairs Commission are now actively preparing for the election. Detailed arrangements will be announced at an appropriate juncture.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB047

(Question Serial No. 1199)

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 (Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the estimated subvention of \$131 million to the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) in 2025-26, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. Among the 31 applications for legal assistance handled by the EOC in 2023 and 2024, assistance was granted to 16 cases. What were the total litigation costs involved, and the percentage of successful cases with litigation costs awarded?
2. The EOC rejected a total of 12 applications for legal assistance in 2023 and 2024. Has follow-up assistance been provided for such cases?
3. According to the survey findings released by the EOC in 2022, 11.8% of respondents reported having been sexually harassed at work in the 24 months prior to the survey. Yet, the Anti-Sexual Harassment Unit's enquiry hotline only received 588 enquiries in 2024. Will the EOC explore reasons for the relatively low usage rate of the hotline? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon WONG Kwok, Kingsley (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

In 2023 and 2024, the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) granted assistance to 16 applications for legal assistance, and proceedings were initiated for 4 of them. Such legal assistance was provided by the EOC's in-house lawyers, who also represented the parties in court proceedings. As such, apart from staff cost and administrative expenses, no litigation costs such as hiring external lawyers were involved.

2. Regarding the 12 cases mentioned in the question, the applicants did not seek other assistance from the EOC after learning that their applications were rejected.

3. The EOC has been actively promoting the message of anti-sexual harassment in the workplace, including collaborating closely with the business sector. Through research and surveys, provision of recommendations and training and so forth, the EOC encourages and facilitates corporates in establishing anti-sexual harassment policies and complaint mechanisms, so as to put in place more immediate and direct channels for handling employees' complaints or enquiries related to sexual harassment. In addition, the enquiry hotline of the EOC's Anti-Sexual Harassment Unit, officially launched in 2021, saw a rise in usage from 373 cases in 2022 to 588 cases in 2024. This also indicates that thanks to the EOC's public education efforts, public awareness about preventing sexual harassment has been significantly heightened.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB048

(Question Serial No. 1200)

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
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

It is mentioned under the Programme that the Equal Opportunities Commission's work includes promoting inclusion, advocating education and employment opportunities and access to services for disadvantaged racial communities and persons with disabilities (PWDs), as well as exchanging and exploring collaboration with organisations in the Greater Bay Area on promoting equal opportunities. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. The EOC launched the Racial Diversity and Inclusion Charter for Employers in 2018, inviting Charter signatories to provide suitable job opportunities for ethnic minorities. What is the number of posts provided by these organisations to date, and what is the actual headcount or number of ethnic minorities employed?
2. The EOC will conduct the Study on Integration of Mainland and Overseas Talents in Hong Kong. When are the study results expected to be released?
3. Apart from organising and participating in exchange sessions, what other work will the EOC undertake to promote synergistic development of services for PWDs in the Greater Bay Area and leverage Hong Kong's strengths to serve the needs of the Greater Bay Area?

Asked by: Hon WONG Kwok, Kingsley (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)

Reply:

To promote employers' awareness of equal employment opportunities for ethnic minorities, the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) launched the Racial Diversity and Inclusion Charter for Employers (Charter) in 2018, providing good practices for employers' reference. The signatories undertake to foster racial equality in the workplace in three areas, viz. employment policies, staff culture and work environment. As of

December 2024, the Charter had 504 signatories from both public and private sectors, covering over 500 000 local employees. The Charter's purpose is not to mandate signatories to provide suitable job opportunities for ethnic minorities, but rather to encourage employers to, in light of their actual needs, review Chinese language proficiency requirements for various posts in the organisations, thereby further promoting equal opportunities for ethnic minorities. As the actual recruitment results of relevant posts are subject to different factors (such as candidates' qualifications and performance), the EOC does not maintain relevant figures.

2. The EOC will conduct the Study on Integration of Mainland and Overseas Talents in Hong Kong, results of which are expected to be released in 2026.

3. The EOC has maintained close liaison and exchange with organisations promoting services for as well as rights and interests of persons with disabilities (PWDs) in the Greater Bay Area, such as inviting Mainland experts to share the development of barrier-free cities in the Mainland at the EOC's seminars, and participating in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Exchange Forum on Synergistic Promotion of Disability Rights and Services in 2023 and 2024 to promote equal opportunities as well as rights and interests of PWDs. In addition, through active participation in exchange activities with organisations serving PWDs in the Greater Bay Area, the EOC has shared its experience in handling disability discrimination complaints and conducting conciliation, and its efforts to promote accessibility, thereby further deepening mutual exchange. In 2025, the EOC will co-host the exchange forum with the Guangdong Disabled Persons' Federation, with a view to further enhancing liaison between the EOC and organisations serving PWDs in the Greater Bay Area for closer collaboration, and fostering community participation of PWDs and individuals with different needs in the Greater Bay Area.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB049

(Question Serial No. 1201)

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
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

It is mentioned under the Programme that the responsibilities of the Beijing Office and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan (the Mainland Offices) include providing information and other appropriate support to Hong Kong residents and enterprises in the Mainland. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. The staff establishment and expenditure on emoluments of each Office in the past 2 years; if rental is involved, what are the expenses?
2. The number of requests for assistance received from Hong Kong residents by each Office regarding property purchase, remittance and studies in the Mainland in the past 2 years.
3. Is information on the number of Hong Kong residents residing in various Mainland provinces available? If so, please provide a breakdown by province. If not, will a census be conducted?
4. Is information on the number of Hong Kong students studying in various Mainland provinces available? If so, please provide a breakdown by province. If not, will a census be conducted?
5. The number of calls on senior officials/personnel/organisations by Mainland Offices reached 6 368 in 2023 and 2024, and the estimate for 2025 is 3 300. Has evaluation been made of the number of calls and the effectiveness in promoting Hong Kong's strengths?
6. The numbers of newsletters/pamphlets/press releases issued by the Mainland Offices were 4 003, 4 079 and 4 202 in 2023 and 2024. What are the breakdown figures? Will evaluation be made of the number of pamphlets for the purpose of enhancing publicity and promotion and facilitating assistance seeking?

Asked by: Hon WONG Kwok, Kingsley (LegCo internal reference no.: 21)

Reply:

The staff establishment and expenditure of the 5 Mainland Offices in the past 2 years are set out in the table below. Around 40% of the expenditure was spent on emoluments, while office rental expenses accounted for about 5% of the total expenditure.

Office	2023-24		2024-25	
	Staff establishment	Actual expenditure (\$ million)	Staff establishment	Revised estimated expenditure (\$ million)
Beijing Office	22	89.30	22	90.11
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong	18	80.24	18	86.47
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Shanghai	15	70.12	16	69.47
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Chengdu	13	51.96	13	50.80
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Wuhan	13	50.58	13	49.44

2. The numbers of requests for assistance from Hong Kong people received by the Mainland Offices in the past 2 years are set out in the table below:

Office	Year	Assistance cases which were related to immigration and personal safety matters	Other assistance cases	Total
Beijing Office	2023	84	15	99
	2024	79	11	90
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong	2023	225	60	285
	2024	137	47	184
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Shanghai	2023	75	21	96
	2024	83	9	92
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Chengdu	2023	27	4	31
	2024	34	8	42

Office	Year	Assistance cases which were related to immigration and personal safety matters	Other assistance cases	Total
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Wuhan	2023	17	18	35
	2024	28	5	33

“Assistance cases which were related to immigration and personal safety matters” refer to emergency assistance in relation to accidents (e.g. traffic accidents or fire) or other emergencies (e.g. robbery, assault, etc.), while “Other assistance cases” include commercial and trade disputes, complaints relating to real estate, and complaints against authorities in the Mainland, etc.

3. According to the Census and Statistics Department, the statistics on Hong Kong residents usually staying in the Guangdong Province in 2023-24 by gender and age group are set out at **Annex 1**. We do not have relevant statistics on Mainland provinces and municipalities other than the Guangdong Province. The HKSAR Government will continue to monitor the living and development situations and needs of the Hong Kong people living in the Mainland, and consider collecting and compiling other information and data for policy research, having regard to the actual circumstances and needs.

4. According to the latest information provided by the Ministry of Education, as at March 2025, 29 258 Hong Kong students were studying at higher education institutions and research institutes in the Mainland. A breakdown of the figures by region and level of study is set out at **Annex 2**.

5. One of the major functions of the Mainland Offices is to strengthen liaison with the Mainland authorities at central, provincial and municipal levels and enhance mutual ties and understanding through visits and participation in the latter’s activities. The Mainland Offices will submit timely reports to relevant bureaux and departments for the HKSAR Government to keep abreast of the Mainland’s latest economic and trade policies and developments. The Mainland Offices also proactively provide information to the provincial and municipal governments about Hong Kong’s current and future development and explain the HKSAR Government’s major policy measures, enabling them to have a comprehensive understanding of Hong Kong’s latest situation and future development plan from different perspectives. Furthermore, the Mainland Offices provide support for the work of the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises and facilitate its policies and work targets. They proactively liaise with and visit potential enterprises and relevant commercial and industrial organisations to promote advantages of Hong Kong, and provide assistance and full services to enterprises which are interested in investing to Hong Kong. In 2024, the Mainland Offices visited over 1 300 high-quality enterprises in the Mainland, and successfully facilitated 223 Mainland enterprises to set up or expand their business in Hong Kong.

6. The Mainland Offices have strived to make use of diversified channels and multimedia to promote Hong Kong and to share the good stories of Hong Kong on all fronts. In 2023 and 2024, the numbers of newsletters/pamphlets/press releases issued by the Mainland Offices

reflect the number of work undertaken instead of the quantity printed. In the light of widely use of social media in the Mainland, the Mainland Offices from time to time disseminate information, newsletters, press releases, etc. promoting Hong Kong on social media platforms, such as WeChat, Xiaohongshu and Weibo. To effectively reach out to target groups at exhibitions or promotional events, the Mainland Offices will choose the most efficient publicity and promotion means, including distribution of publications or pamphlets having regard to the actual circumstances and needs.

**Statistics on Hong Kong residents usually staying in the Guangdong Province
in 2023-24 by sex and age group**

Reference time-point	Sex	Age group					Total
		0-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65+	
End-2023	Male	56 600	39 400	46 600	74 800	57 900	275 300
	Female	46 800	35 100	40 500	62 300	35 800	220 500
	Sub-total	103 500	74 400	87 200	137 100	93 700	495 900

Note:

The figures above refer to the number of Hong Kong permanent residents who have stayed in the Guangdong Province for 6 months and above during the 1-year period from 6 months before the reference time-point to 6 months after the reference time-point. Statistics of 2024 are still under compilation.

https://www.censtatd.gov.hk/en/web_table.html?id=115-01031¶m=N4IgxgbiBcoMJwJqJqAjDEAxADCANCAPoAuRmehRADudGgL6EDKAogBqogbQgDMBYmUwAmQTTo4mIAIIBxVlwAsmAGrjhvMvVowphABJce-DXRCViu+g2kBnKLCt0RhgNIAIOQAUYAbRAPAEMAdxoAUwAnIgA7EABdaQAbGBJlgFdwhiA#

**Number of Hong Kong students studying at
higher education institutions and research institutes in the Mainland
(as at March 2025)**

Province/Municipality/ Autonomous Region	Post-secondary Programme	Bachelor's Programme	Master's Programme	Doctoral Programme
Beijing	-	1 526	913	157
Tianjin	2	176	11	3
Hebei	1	45	-	-
Shanxi	1	19	-	-
Inner Mongolia	1	1	-	-
Liaoning	-	137	-	2
Jilin	1	68	7	-
Heilongjiang	1	65	13	1
Shanghai	13	787	219	179
Jiangsu	18	760	51	26
Zhejiang	10	540	77	13
Anhui	4	51	5	1
Fujian	360	4 592	278	31
Jiangxi	3	422	8	41
Shandong	1	284	9	3
Henan	4	80	-	-
Hubei	16	854	95	142
Hunan	21	704	56	5
Guangdong	1 488	10 895	998	523
Guangxi	21	128	6	2
Hainan	24	31	2	-
Chongqing	9	339	23	2
Sichuan	14	481	44	6
Guizhou	3	22	1	-
Yunnan	5	40	3	1
Shaanxi	1	194	12	2
Gansu	-	13	-	-
Qinghai	-	1	-	-
Ningxia	-	9	-	-
Xinjiang	-	1	-	-
Total	2 022	23 265	2 831	1 140

Note: The above information was provided by the Ministry of Education.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB050

(Question Serial No. 1202)

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
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

It is mentioned under the Programme that the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data will strengthen enforcement work, including the issue of advisory letter, warning letter or enforcement notice for personal data breach incidents that involve contravention of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance to resolve the violation. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. The number of cases and individuals involving the breach of employees' personal data in the past 2 years.
2. Were there complaints about personal data breaches resulting from "bogus recruitment" in the past 2 years?
3. In 2023 and 2024, there were respectively 124 and 142 criminal investigations against doxxing-related acts. Among these, what was the number of cases with prosecution concluded, and what were the minimum and maximum penalties?
4. Did investigations into doxxing-related acts involve "online patrols" during non-office hours? If so, what were the manpower hours and expenditure on overtime allowances in the past year?

Asked by: Hon WONG Kwok, Kingsley (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)

Reply:

1. In 2023 and 2024, the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD) received a total of 93 notifications of breach of employees' personal data, and the number of employees affected was around 57 000.

2. In 2023 and 2024, the PCPD received a total of 10 complaints related to “bogus recruitment”, 8 of which involved a breach of job seekers’ personal data.
3. In 2023 and 2024, there were a total of 30 prosecuted and convicted cases involving suspected doxxing-related offences. The penalties included immediate imprisonment, suspended sentences, community service orders and probation orders, with the maximum penalty being 30 days’ imprisonment and the minimum being a one-year probation order.
4. To target doxxing acts, the PCPD’s online patrols are conducted during non-office hours from time to time. The PCPD has flexibly deployed manpower in conducting the relevant work, and hence no additional staff costs were involved.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB051

(Question Serial No. 1203)

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
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) launched the Universal Design Award Scheme 2024/25 in 2024, under which organisations with outstanding performance were commended and given a certificate of recognition. It is mentioned under the Programme that the EOC will continue to promote the “universal design” concept. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. With the accelerated development of the Northern Metropolis and the completion of more new public housing estates in the near future, are there initiatives to promote the adoption of more “universal design” in such projects for “barrier-free” access?
2. The numbers of complaints and contravention cases in the past 5 years that involved refusing the entry of persons with disabilities to premises, or discrimination against persons with disabilities in terms, conditions or means of providing goods, services or facilities.
3. Are there plans to promote the establishment of award money or grants to encourage existing private premises to incorporate more “universal design”?
4. Will consideration be given to setting up a design award to encourage public and private organisations to design premises with the “universal design” concept?

Asked by: Hon WONG Kwok, Kingsley (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) has been striving to foster the society's equal opportunities and to eliminate discrimination through prevention, public education and law enforcement. As part of its work to eliminate discrimination, the EOC actively promotes the concept of universal design to the public, and encourages all sectors of the society to work

together to create an accessible and inclusive living environment. The reply to various parts of the question is as follows:

1. The Buildings Department commissioned a consultant in February 2024 to review the Design Manual: Barrier Free Access 2008 (Design Manual), with a view to enhancing the standards of barrier-free facilities in new private buildings to align with the latest needs and international trends, and ensuring that concepts of universal design are incorporated in a way that is feasible and pragmatic in local settings.
2. In the past 5 years, the EOC received a total of 562 complaints related to provision of goods, services or facilities, and 132 complaints about access to premises under the Disability Discrimination Ordinance.
3. & 4. The EOC launched the first Universal Design Award Scheme (UDAS) in February 2024 to encourage both public and private sectors to adopt universal design through recognising the industries, and to provide an exchange platform for various sectors of the community to share practices in creating an inclusive environment. The UDAS covers premises and facilities frequently visited or used by the public in daily lives, including shopping malls and retail stores, offices, restaurants, sites with recreational, sports or cultural purposes, and revitalised building sites. Yet, section 65 of the Sex Discrimination Ordinance only authorises the EOC to, upon the approval of the Government, provide financial assistance to other persons for undertaking research and educational activities. This section does not authorise the EOC to provide award money or grants outside the Ordinance. Therefore, the EOC will continue to promote universal design through recognition, rather than in the form of award money or grants.

The EOC will launch the second UDAS at the end of this year, which will include public and private residential buildings as a new application category, with the aim of promoting participation of housing estates across the 18 districts in Hong Kong to demonstrate more good practices in universal design. By recognising premises that excel in adopting universal design, the UDAS seeks to encourage more organisations to follow the principle of universal design in designing and managing their premises.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB052****(Question Serial No. 2920)**Head: (163) Registration and Electoral OfficeSubhead (No. & title):Programme: Electoral ServicesControlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (Ms Natalie CHAN)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

The estimated expenditure on electoral services in 2025-26 is about \$1.83 billion, increasing by 174.1% over the revised estimate for 2024-25. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

- 1) Set out in table form a breakdown of the specific estimated expenditure, the relevant amounts and the manpower arrangements involved (including the 2025 Election Committee Subsector By-elections and the 2025 Legislative Council General Election);
- 2) The estimated expenditure relating to the Legislative Council General Election in 2025-26, the year-on-year rate of change as compared with the last general election, as well as the reasons for the increase/decrease.

Asked by: Hon KAN Wai-mun, Carmen (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)Reply:

The provision for 2025-26 under the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) for the preparation and conduct of the 2025 Election Committee Subsector (ECSS) By-elections and the 2025 Legislative Council General Election (LCGE) is about \$1.513 billion (including the preparation and conduct of the 2025 voter registration cycle and relevant work), with breakdown as follows:

	Expenditure on the preparation and conduct of the ECSS By-elections and LCGE	2025-26 (Provision) \$ million
(1)	Staff cost	370
(2)	Publicity	181
(3)	Other expenses (including the costs of hiring venues, manning polling and counting stations, transportation, postage, free mailing, printing, and rental cost of temporary offices and stores, etc.)	962
	Total	1,513

2. The REO preliminarily estimates that it will need to recruit about 38 500 government employees to participate in the various electoral work for the above two elections.

3. The provision for 2025-26 for the preparation and conduct of the 2025 LCGE is about \$1.28 billion (including the provision for the preparation and conduct of the 2025 voter registration cycle and relevant work). This represents an increase of about 52% over the expenditure for the preparation and conduct of the 2021 LCGE in 2021-22 which was about \$841 million (including the provision for the preparation and conduct of the 2021 voter registration cycle and relevant work). The increase is mainly due to publicity expenses, expenditure on information technology support, rental cost of polling station venues, as well as staff remuneration, etc.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB053****(Question Serial No. 0599)**Head: (163) Registration and Electoral OfficeSubhead (No. & title):Programme: Electoral ServicesControlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (Ms Natalie CHAN)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

Regarding the estimated election expenses of \$1.53 billion of the Registration and Electoral Office in 2025-26, will the Government inform this Committee of the estimated expenditure and the provision earmarked for the preparation and conduct of the 2025 Legislative Council General Election, as well as the breakdown in this respect?

Asked by: Hon LAI Tung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)Reply:

The provision for 2025-26 under the Registration and Electoral Office for the preparation and conduct of the 2025 Legislative Council General Election (LCGE) is about \$1.28 billion (including the provision for the preparation and conduct of the 2025 voter registration cycle and relevant work), with breakdown as follows:

Expenditure on the preparation and conduct of the LCGE		2025-26 (Provision) \$ million
(1)	Staff cost	289
(2)	Publicity	177
(3)	Other expenses (including the costs of hiring venues, manning polling and counting stations, transportation, postage, free mailing, printing, and rental cost of temporary offices and stores, etc.)	814
<hr/> Total		1,280

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB054****(Question Serial No. 2422)**Head: (163) Registration and Electoral OfficeSubhead (No. & title):Programme: Electoral ServicesControlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (Ms Natalie CHAN)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

The Registration and Electoral Office stated in the Programme that its work plan for 2025-26 includes the conduct and supervision of the 2025 Election Committee Subsector By-elections and the 2025 Legislative Council General Election. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of:

1. the details of the work plan and the estimated staff establishment and expenditure for the Election Committee Subsector By-elections; and
2. the details of the work plan and the estimated staff establishment and expenditure for the Legislative Council General Election?

Asked by: Hon LEE Chun-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 10)Reply:

The provision for 2025-26 under the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) for the preparation and conduct of the 2025 Election Committee Subsector (ECSS) By-elections is about \$233 million with breakdown as follows:

Expenditure on the preparation and conduct of the ECSS By-elections		2025-26 (Provision) \$ million
(1)	Staff cost	81
(2)	Publicity	4
(3)	Other expenses	148
	(including the costs of hiring venues, manning polling and counting stations, transportation, postage, free mailing, printing, and rental cost of temporary offices and stores, etc.)	
Total		233

2. The provision for 2025-26 under the REO for the preparation and conduct of the 2025 Legislative Council General Election (LCGE) is about \$1.28 billion (including the provision for the preparation and conduct of the 2025 voter registration cycle and relevant work), with breakdown as follows:

	Expenditure on the preparation and conduct of the LCGE	2025-26 (Provision) \$ million
(1)	Staff cost	289
(2)	Publicity	177
(3)	Other expenses (including the costs of hiring venues, manning polling and counting stations, transportation, postage, free mailing, printing, and rental cost of temporary offices and stores, etc.)	814
	<hr/> Total	<hr/> 1,280

3. The REO preliminarily estimates that it will need to recruit about 1 500 and 37 000 government employees to participate in the electoral work for the 2025 ECSS By-elections and the 2025 LCGE respectively. Currently, the Government is working actively with the Electoral Affairs Commission on the detailed electoral arrangements and will announce the specific arrangements in due course.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB055****(Question Serial No. 1946)**Head: (163) Registration and Electoral OfficeSubhead (No. & title):Programme: Electoral ServicesControlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (Ms Natalie CHAN)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

1. Please list out the total amount of expenditure of the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) each year from 2019 to 2024 on A. voter registration, B. verification of voter registration and C. publicity of voter registration; the manpower required by the REO to complete the relevant work; and the emoluments and benefits involved.
2. Please list out the projects undertaken by the REO in the recent 5 years for enhancing its information technology and electronic systems; and the amount spent on these projects each year. How much manpower was saved or how was work efficiency improved by these projects for the REO?

Asked by: Hon LI Sai-wing, Stanley (LegCo internal reference no.: 32)Reply:

In the past 5 years, the establishment and expenditure of the Voter Registration Division responsible for voter registration matters under the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) are tabulated below:

Financial year	Establishment	Expenditure#
2020-21	127	\$184 million
2021-22	131	\$168 million
2022-23	127	\$130 million
2023-24	124	\$165 million
2024-25 (Revised estimate)	124	\$144 million

Inclusive of staff remuneration and operating expenses

2. After improving the electoral system, the REO normally launches the Voter Registration Campaign in April every year. The deadline for submitting applications for new registration/report on change of particulars is set on 2 June every year. The publicity expenses for the Voter Registration Campaign in the past 3 years are tabulated below:

Voter Registration Campaign	Expenditure
2022	\$5.16 million
2023	\$13.60 million
2024	\$7.06 million

3. In line with the improved electoral system, the REO has been applying information technology (IT) more extensively in elections in recent years. In addition to using the Electronic Poll Register System for issuing ballot papers and the Electronic Vote Counting System to assist in vote counting, the REO has continuously applied IT in other electoral processes to enhance efficiency and introduce more user-friendly arrangements. For example: (1) enhancing the Online Voter Information Enquiry System to enable voters to log in the system through “iAM Smart”, and submit applications for new registration or report on change of registration particulars by an elector in a geographical constituency, etc. via “iAM Smart+” so as to facilitate voters; (2) utilising the Electronic Platform for Recruitment of Electoral Staff and the E-sign in/sign out System for Electoral Staff to optimise the recruitment, management and attendance record arrangements for electoral staff; (3) launching the Polling Station Management System to monitor the progress of delivering electoral materials to polling stations before the election and support the replenishment of materials on the polling day; and (4) launching the Mobile Input System for Electoral Statistics to enable polling and counting staff to input, calculate and verify various electoral data of polling and counting stations and upload such data to the Statistical Information Centre of the REO on the polling day in a more convenient and efficient manner, so as to make the data collection process more efficient and accurate. The expenditures on the administration and maintenance of the systems (including the staff costs) are part of the REO’s recurrent expenditure and thus cannot be itemised separately.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB056

(Question Serial No. 0779)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (Ms Natalie CHAN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Provision for 2025-26 is \$1.1593 billion (174.1%) higher than the revised estimate for 2024-25, mainly due to the conduct of the 2025 Election Committee Subsector By-elections and the 2025 Legislative Council General Election, which are included in Matters Requiring Special Attention this year. In addition, there will be a net decrease of 4 posts in 2025-26. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) the estimated expenditures and manpower arrangements for the 2 elections, the reasons for proposing the earmarked provision, and whether other methods such as technology will be adopted to reduce costs and enhance efficiency;
- (2) the details regarding the net decrease of 4 posts in 2025-26;
- (3) the Administration has stated that publicity work for future public elections will be conducted through various “innovative, diversified and down-to-earth” means, so as to encourage the public to vote in the Legislative Council election. What are the innovative measures for promoting elections in the context of a fiscal deficit?

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

The provision for 2025-26 under the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) for the preparation and conduct of the 2025 Election Committee Subsector (ECSS) By-elections is about \$233 million and the provision for the preparation and conduct of the 2025 Legislative Council General Election (LCGE) is about \$1.28 billion (including the provision for the preparation and conduct of the 2025 voter registration cycle and relevant work).

2. The REO preliminarily estimates that it will need to recruit about 1 500 and 37 000 government employees to participate in the electoral work for the 2025 ECSS By-elections and the 2025 LCGE respectively.

3. The above mentioned provisions are to ensure the smooth conduct of the two elections, ensuring that the elections will be fair, just and honest, as well as safe, orderly, efficient and user-friendly. In respect of election publicity, the REO is dedicated to launching diversified and extensive publicity activities to promote public understanding of and support to the elections, thereby creating a lively election atmosphere which will encourage electors to vote actively.

4. The REO has been applying information technology (IT) more extensively in the elections in recent years. In addition to using the Electronic Poll Register system for issuing ballot papers and the Electronic Vote Counting System to assist in vote counting, the REO has also applied IT in other electoral processes. Examples are launching the Polling Station Management System to monitor the progress of delivering electoral materials to polling stations before the election and support the replenishment of such materials on the polling day; and introducing the Mobile Input System for Electoral Statistics to enable polling staff to conveniently and effectively input, calculate, validate and submit various electoral data. The REO will, having regard to the actual circumstances and need, continue to promote the application of IT to enhance efficiency and make elections more user-friendly.

5. As at 31 March 2025, the REO's establishment consists of 320 posts and it is anticipated that 2 additional civil service posts (including 1 Senior Systems Manager and 1 Systems Manager posts) will be created in 2025-26. After discounting 6 posts to be deleted in 2025-26 (including 1 Executive Officer I, 3 Assistant Clerical Officers, 1 Clerical Assistant and 1 Office Assistant posts), the REO's establishment will gradually reduce to 316 posts in 2025-26, resulting in a net decrease of 4 posts.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB057

(Question Serial No. 1315)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (Ms Natalie CHAN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

- (1) The estimated expenditure of the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) for 2025-26 is \$1.82 billion, representing an increase of 174.1% over the revised estimate for 2024-25. Such an increase is mainly due to the conduct of the 2025 Election Committee Subsector By-elections and the 2025 Legislative Council General Election. The expenses for the 2 elections have amounted to over \$1.53 billion. Please advise of the allocation of such expenses.
- (2) The revised estimate of election expenses for 2024-25 is \$400 million, yet no election has been conducted during the year. What are the purposes of the election expenses concerned?
- (3) The estimated expenditure of salaries under personal emoluments for 2025-26 exceeds \$190 million, representing an increase of more than 9% over the revised estimate for 2024-25. In light of the civil service pay freeze, what are the reasons for such an increase? According to paragraph 3 under the analysis of recurrent expenditure, the establishment of the REO as at the end of March 2025 will be 320 posts. It is expected that there will be a net decrease of 4 posts in 2025-26. In this regard, why is there an increase, rather than a decrease, in the estimated expenditure for salaries?

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)

Reply:

The provision for 2025-26 under the Registration and Electoral Office for the preparation and conduct of the 2025 Election Committee Subsector (ECSS) By-elections is about \$233 million and the provision for the preparation and conduct of the 2025 Legislative Council General Election (LCGE) is about \$1.28 billion (including the provision for the preparation and conduct of the 2025 voter registration cycle and relevant work).

2. Although 2024-25 is not an election year, the REO still has to carry out various election-related work, including the follow-up work of the 2023 District Council Ordinary

Election, preparation and conduct of the annual voter registration cycle and relevant work, and advanced preparation of part of the work for the two elections in 2025, etc.

3. The provision for personal emoluments of the REO for 2025-26 is higher than the revised estimate for 2024-25. This is mainly due to the filling of some vacancies not until the later part of 2024-25, and thus the revised estimate for 2024-25 cannot reflect the full-year salary expenditure for those posts, in addition to the anticipated increase in expenditure for 2025-26 arising from salary increments of civil servants.

4. As at 31 March 2025, the REO's establishment consists of 320 posts, and it is anticipated that 2 additional civil service posts (including 1 Senior Systems Manager and 1 Systems Manager posts) will be created in 2025-26. After discounting 6 posts to be deleted in 2025-26 (including 1 Executive Officer I, 3 Assistant Clerical Officer, 1 Clerical Assistant and 1 Office Assistant posts), the REO's establishment will gradually reduce to 316 posts in 2025-26, resulting in a net decrease of 4 posts. After the change in the number of posts, there will be a net increase of \$548,040 in the notional annual mid-point salary value because the mid-point salaries of the newly created posts are higher than those of the deleted posts.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB058

(Question Serial No. 2651)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (Ms Natalie CHAN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The number of electors recorded in the (Provisional) Register of Electors has declined continuously over the past 3 years. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. The changes in the number of electors in the recent 5 years, with a breakdown by administrative district;
2. The changes in the number of electors in the recent 5 years, with a breakdown by age group (each covering 5 years; starting from 18 years old);
3. The number of electors (a) de-registered voluntarily; (b) being de-registered; (c) removed from the Register due to death; and (d) de-registered due to other reasons, over the past 5 years, with a breakdown by administrative district; and
4. The number of electors (a) de-registered voluntarily; (b) being de-registered; (c) removed from the Register due to death; and (d) de-registered due to other reasons, with a breakdown by age group (each covering 5 years; starting from 18 years old).

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 31)

Reply:

- 1 and 2) The statistical information about the Final Register of Electors for Geographical Constituencies in the recent 5 years (including the number of registered electors and the age profile in each district) is available on the voter registration dedicated website (vr.gov.hk) of the Registration and Electoral Office (REO).
- 3 and 4) The numbers of geographical constituency electors removed from the register for no longer meeting the eligibility for registration in the past 5 years (from 2020 to 2024) and the reasons are tabulated as follows:

Registration cycle Reason for removal and number of electors					
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Through statutory inquiry process	47 084	34 165	55 510	71 354	103 914
Death	25 853	41 479	38 031	37 634	35 796
Other Reasons (Such as voluntary de-registration, loss of Hong Kong permanent resident status, objection cases allowed by the Revising Officer, etc.)	546	1 461	2 761	1 747	1 982
Total	73 483	77 105	96 302	110 735	141 692

The REO does not have the relevant statistics broken down by district or age group of electors.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB059

(Question Serial No. 4012)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the Government's planning for the development of Qianhai, please advise:

How the Government supports Qianhai's exploration in policy innovation and in trying out new policies on a pilot basis, and of the specific plans for policy innovation in future.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Han-pan (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

Reply:

Qianhai is one of the major co-operation platforms of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area). The development of the Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Co-operation Zone (Qianhai Co-operation Zone) is an important initiative for supporting Hong Kong's social and economic development; fostering a higher level of co-operation among Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao; and establishing a new development paradigm in pursuing opening up. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government has all along attached great importance to the co-operation with Qianhai, and maintained close liaison with the Guangdong Provincial Government, the Shenzhen Municipal Government, and the Authority of Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Co-operation Zone of Shenzhen Municipality (Qianhai Authority). Meanwhile, the HKSAR Government has continuously stepped up its efforts to support Hong Kong talents and enterprises in actively participating in the development of Qianhai and taking forward the high-quality development of the Greater Bay Area.

As the only Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Co-operation Zone in the country, Qianhai shoulders the responsibility of exploring and enriching synergistic and co-ordinated development with Hong Kong and supporting Hong Kong and Macao to better integrate into the overall national development under the principle of "One Country, Two Systems". With the support of the Central Government, the governments of Hong Kong and Shenzhen have done a lot of work over the years for Hong Kong professional services sectors to tap into the Qianhai market. At present, there are over 9 000 Hong Kong-invested

enterprises in Qianhai, covering sectors such as financial services, modern service industries, information services, and technology services. Since the promulgation of the “Overall Development Plan for the Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Co-operation Zone”, Hong Kong-Shenzhen co-operation has achieved significant progress in various policy areas, providing strong support for further deepening co-operation and pursuing more policy innovations and breakthroughs in the future.

On legal services, with the unique advantages of “one country, two systems and three jurisdictions”, the Greater Bay Area is a demonstration zone of the country’s high-quality development. In particular, the Qianhai Co-operation Zone is a prime pilot area for related liberalisation measures, and a frontier zone for the construction of foreign-related rule of law of the country. Qianhai has a significant number of partnership associations set up between Hong Kong and Mainland law firms as well as legal practitioners in the Greater Bay Area. Hong Kong legal experts have been instrumental in assisting the Qianhai Court in verifying Hong Kong law or foreign laws in quite a number of cases. Besides, Qianhai is the first pilot area to implement the measure of “allowing Hong Kong-invested enterprises to adopt Hong Kong law”, which has been well-received by various sectors. The successful implementation of the measure of “allowing Hong Kong-invested enterprises to adopt Hong Kong law” in Qianhai has provided a good foundation for its further extension. In February this year, the Supreme People’s Court and the Ministry of Justice extended the measure of “allowing Hong Kong-invested enterprises to adopt Hong Kong law” to Shenzhen and Zhuhai, and the measure of “allowing Hong Kong-invested enterprises to choose Hong Kong as the seat of arbitration” to the nine Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area. In the future, the Department of Justice will continue to maintain close collaboration with Qianhai to optimise and promote its successful experiences, foster the interface of cross-boundary regulatory frameworks between Hong Kong and Shenzhen, and contribute to the development of a market-oriented and internationalised business environment underpinned by the rule of law in the Greater Bay Area.

Regarding mutual recognition of qualifications for professional services sectors, 25 categories of professionals can now provide professional services in Qianhai directly or upon registration without having to take the Mainland’s professional qualification examinations. These include registered architects and registered engineers from Hong Kong, and tax advisors and tour guides from Hong Kong and Macao. The mutual recognition of qualifications for professional services sectors and the market integration of professional services between the two places have been gradually taking shape. In terms of architectural and engineering related professional services, the Qianhai Authority has launched a number of architectural and engineering pilot projects since 2023, including design and construction projects of two primary and secondary schools and two bridges, to try out Hong Kong’s project management model and enable Hong Kong relevant enterprises to submit tenders with Mainland qualifications obtained through the registration system, thereby injecting the elements of Hong Kong’s design and project management, etc. As of March 2025, a Hong Kong architectural firm and a Hong Kong engineering consultant have been commissioned to provide professional services in feasibility study, design and site investigation for the projects of two schools and one bridge respectively, while the tender result of consultancy service for the remaining bridge project has yet to be announced. The site supervision and construction contracts for the schools have also been awarded to a Hong Kong architectural firm and a Hong Kong contractor respectively. Looking ahead, the Development Bureau will continue to discuss with relevant Mainland authorities to strive for more architectural and engineering

pilot projects in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area, thereby enabling more Hong Kong enterprises and professionals to participate in the country's development; and to further pursue innovation in the project management system, including exploring the possibility of adopting Hong Kong's engineering contract form and Smart Site Safety System, thereby jointly developing the Greater Bay Area into a renowned international bay area.

Regarding the financial sector, the HKSAR Government has been actively promoting collaborative development with Qianhai in the realm of finance, jointly contributing to our country's development into a financial powerhouse. The Shenzhen-Hong Kong Financial Co-operation Committee, established in June 2024, has held two high-level meetings thus far, which gathered official members from the Central Authorities, Shenzhen and Hong Kong, as well as leaders of the financial industry in both places, to discuss the latest developments of various financial co-operation initiatives of Shenzhen and Hong Kong, including Qianhai. Moreover, the Qianhai Mercantile Exchange, a subsidiary of the Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited (HKEX), has seen rapid development over the past few years, with the turnover exceeding RMB100 billion in 2024. It operates our country's only offshore spot trading platform for soybeans. In the future, HKEX will actively foster synergistic development between the two places and explore new modes of cross-boundary co-operation through the Qianhai Mercantile Exchange.

To strengthen the collaboration between Hong Kong and Qianhai, Cyberport and the Qianhai Authority signed the first Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in January 2021. Subsequently, the two parties announced a deeper collaboration and signed another MoU in August 2024 to enhance the cooperation between the two parks and to recommend start-up enterprises to land in each other's park. Cyberport and the Qianhai Authority have put in place a regular meeting mechanism to discuss ways to take forward the latest work on nurturing start-ups and talents. Both sides also provide one-on-one consultation services for start-ups which are interested in setting up operations in Qianhai/Cyberport. In 2024, two enterprises on artificial intelligence and digital entertainment from Qianhai joined the Cyberport community as a tenant and an incubatee respectively. In addition, some ten Cyberport enterprises, covering different digital fields such as artificial intelligence, e-commerce and health technology, are exploring setting up their operations in Qianhai. Cyberport will continue to use its resources to take forward the above work.

The Qianhai Co-operation Zone serves as an important platform for the industries where Hong Kong enjoys clear advantages to tap into the Mainland market, and a key gateway for Mainland enterprises to expand their overseas market by leveraging Hong Kong's roles in "going global and attracting foreign investment". This is conducive to consolidating and enhancing Hong Kong's status as international financial, maritime and trade centres, as well as an international aviation hub, and thus supporting Hong Kong's social and economic development. Hong Kong will continue to support Qianhai in trying out new policies on a pilot basis and pursuing more policy innovation and breakthroughs, with a view to promoting the successful policies to the rest of the Greater Bay Area and even the entire country, thereby making greater contributions to the further reform and opening up of the country.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB060

(Question Serial No. 3824)

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
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the work of the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD), please advise this Committee of the following:

1. Please tabulate, by case type, the brief description, results, enterprises/individuals involved, expenditure and manpower allocation of compliance checks and investigations initiated by the PCPD in the past 5 years (2020-21 to 2024-25).
2. Please tabulate, by type, the number of promotional and educational activities, number of PCPD personnel involved, number of beneficiaries, and expenditure and manpower allocation involved in each of the past 5 years (2020-21 to 2024-25).
3. Please tabulate the details, estimated expenditure and manpower allocation of planned compliance checks and proactive investigations, and of promotional and educational activities to be organised in 2025-26.

Asked by: Hon KAN Wai-mun, Carmen (LegCo internal reference no.: 43)

Reply:

From 2020-21 to 2024-25, the numbers of investigations and compliance checks conducted by the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD) under the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (PDPO) and the expenditure incurred (including manpower expenditure) are as below:

(i) Criminal investigation concerning doxxing acts

The PCPD's Criminal Investigation Division was set up in July 2021, and its relevant investigation, arrest and manpower expenditure data is as below:

Year	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end- February 2025)
No. of criminal investigation cases	65	83	152	82
No. of arrested persons	1	19	27	19
Expenditure (million)	\$5.6	\$11.8	\$13.7	\$13.3
Manpower allocation	10	13	13	14

(ii) Non-criminal investigation cases and compliance checks concerning other contraventions of the PDPO and its Data Protection Principles (DPPs)

Year	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end- February 2025)
No. of non-criminal investigation cases	50	96	116	113	125
No. of compliance checks	355	373	379	394	391
Expenditure (million)	\$27.7	\$24.6	\$24.7	\$26.9	\$29.5
Manpower allocation	35	24	30	35	34

The cases above involved possible contravention of the DPPs under the PDPO relating to improper use and disclosure of personal data, improper collection of personal data, insufficient personal data security measures, and non-compliance with personal data access and correction requests etc. The data users in more than half of the cases were private organisations, while the rest were government departments, public organisations or individuals.

2. Relevant information on PCPD's promotional work and educational activities from 2020-21 to 2024-25 is as below:

Year	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-February 2025)
Major promotional activities					
No. of activities	9	19	20	23	23
No. of participants	223 987	2 044 254#	2 204 702#	2 223 205#	1 947 390#
Industry-specific privacy protection campaigns					
No. of activities	1	3	5	5	3
No. of participants	1 950	4 634	4 041	3 367	2 976
Talks, seminars and workshops					
No. of activities	304	357	360	444	401
No. of participants	25 999	35 020	31 478	40 735	52 706
Expenditure on promotional work and educational activities (million)	\$2.47	\$3.18	\$5.57	\$5.04	\$4.22
Manpower allocation for promotional work and educational activities	10	11	10	12	10

Starting from 2021-22, the numbers of participants of the PCPD's major promotional activities have substantially increased. This is mainly because the PCPD has prioritised promotion on online social platforms, resulting in extensive coverage of the PCPD's promotional work. PCPD's promotion included broadcasting of anti-doxxing offence publicity clips on online social platforms, animated publicity clips for children, and anti-fraud clips etc.

3. Relevant information on PCPD's manpower allocation and estimated expenditure for criminal investigations, non-criminal investigations and compliance checks, as well as promotional work and educational activities in 2025-26 is as below:

Planned work for 2025-26	Manpower allocation	Estimated expenditure (million)
Criminal investigations	14	Expenditure on manpower allocation: \$15.9
Non-criminal investigations and compliance checks	34	Expenditure on manpower allocation: \$35.4
Promotional work and educational activities	12	Expenditure on manpower allocation: \$13.7 Expenditure on activities: \$6.49

PCPD's promotional work and educational activities tentatively planned for and to be conducted in 2025-26 are as below:

Major promotional activities
Privacy-Friendly Awards 2025
Privacy Awareness Week
Data Security Training Series for Small and Medium Enterprises
Privacy Campaign for Primary Schools 2025
School Touring of Anti-doxxing Education Talks
Anti-fraud Promotional Campaign (including Talks at Universities and Elderly Campaign)
Industry-specific privacy protection campaigns
Organising events and speaking engagements for the social services, legal, engineering, education, property management, and information technology sectors.
Talks, seminars and workshops
In-house seminars for organisations
Professional workshops
Seminars on the PDPO
Thematic seminars

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB061

(Question Serial No. 3825)

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
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the work of the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), please advise this Committee of the following:

1. The expenditure and manpower allocation, with a breakdown by area of work, in each of the past 5 years (2020-21 to 2024-25).
2. The EOC anticipates that the number of active cases of complaint investigation will increase from 266 at end-2024 to 340 at end-2025. However, the EOC's estimated expenditure for 2025-26 is 6.1% lower than the revised estimate for 2024-25. What are the reasons for the anticipated increase in the number of cases yet the decrease in the estimate? What measures are in place to expedite the handling of these cases?

Asked by: Hon KAN Wai-mun, Carmen (LegCo internal reference no.: 44)

Reply:

The expenditure and manpower allocation of the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) by area of work from 2020-21 to 2024-25 are at **Annex**.

2. The EOC's revised estimate for 2024-25 included the Government's one-off additional provision in the year for the EOC to promote universal design in the next 2 financial years (the 2 years include 2025-26 and 2026-27) and upgrade its information technology system. As there is no relevant one-off additional provision in 2025-26, and the EOC also needs to enhance its efficiency and optimise its work to cope with relevant tasks, the 2025-26 overall estimate has also been reduced. On the other hand, as the EOC's public education efforts have yielded positive results, and the society's anti-discrimination awareness has heightened, the EOC has noticed a slight increase in the number of complaints received each year. Therefore, the number of complaint cases received in 2025 is also expected to increase slightly. As regards the active cases at year end, the relevant figure was at a low level in

2024, which reflects that the EOC's complaint handling progress is satisfactory. However, as mentioned above, the number of cases received in 2025 is anticipated to increase slightly, it follows that the active cases at end-2025 will also increase proportionally. The EOC will continue to enhance its use of resources and efficiency, to constantly enhance its service level and achieve its performance pledge of having 75% of the concluded cases each year completed within 6 months.

The expenditure and manpower allocation of the Equal Opportunities Commission by area of work

Area of work	2020-21		2021-22		2022-23		2023-24		2024-25 (Estimate)	
	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower allocation	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower allocation	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower allocation	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower allocation	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower allocation
Complaint Services Division	30.65	26	30.75	27	31.76	28	33.76	25	35.27	28
Legal Service Division	14.07	9	13.08	9	12.29	8	12.47	8	13.82	8
Corporate Communications Division	16.53	9	17.75	10	18.40	9	16.81	10	16.03	10
Policy, Research & Training Division	15.79	13	17.51	12	15.84	14	18.25	17	21.91	16
Corporate Planning and Services Division	25.03	32	25.86	32	26.88	33	29.64	31	28.81	31
Ethnic Minorities Unit	8.50	7	8.82	6	9.27	7	9.79	7	9.26	8
Anti-Sexual Harassment Unit	1.53	4	3.40	4	3.50	4	3.84	4	4.11	4

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB062

(Question Serial No. 3487)

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
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding intra-racial discrimination, would the Government advise this Committee:

1. of the number of enquiries, complaints and follow-ups in the past 3 years up till now;
2. whether the Government has conducted self-initiated investigations into intra-racial discrimination; if so, of the details on individual investigations; if not, of the reasons; and
3. the manpower and expenditure involved in the publicity and public education on anti-“intra-racial discrimination”; and whether the effectiveness of such work has been evaluated; if so, of the details; if not, of the reasons.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Hei, Edward (LegCo internal reference no.: 119)

Reply:

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) is responsible for implementing the 4 existing anti-discrimination ordinances, and discharges its statutory functions of promoting equal opportunities and eliminating discrimination as stipulated under these ordinances. Apart from discriminatory acts explicitly prohibited under various anti-discrimination ordinances, the EOC is against any forms of discrimination. Over the years, the EOC has continuously promoted the messages of equal opportunities and anti-discrimination to different sectors through publicity and public education. It will also, having regard to the circumstances and needs, take appropriate actions and make appeals. The reply to various parts of the question is as follows:

1. In the past 3 years, the EOC received a total of 32 enquiries and 2 complaints related to discrimination against persons from the Mainland on grounds of their identity as Mainland people (accounting for less than 0.1% and 0.06% of the total number of

enquiries and complaints received during the same period respectively). Both complaints have been closed in accordance with the complainants' wishes.

2. As mentioned above, apart from discriminatory acts explicitly prohibited under various anti-discrimination ordinances, the EOC also proactively keeps in view other discriminatory situations in the society, and when necessary, proactively gathers information, takes follow-up actions, makes appeals and offers advice.
3. The Government has all along been committed to building a harmonious, inclusive and caring society. In fact, with the full resumption of normal travel after the epidemic, Mainland and Hong Kong residents promptly resumed frequent exchanges, and the overall sentiment in society is peaceful and harmonious. The Government will continue to support the EOC in fostering its publicity, promotional and public educational efforts and proactively conveying the positive messages of mutual respect, diversity and inclusion, with a view to safeguarding harmony and stability together. As the EOC's publicity and public education activities are an integral part of its daily work, the manpower and expenditure incurred cannot be singled out and itemised.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB063****(Question Serial No. 3488)**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
(Ms Gracie FOO)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

On exercising enforcement powers under the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance to combat doxxing acts, would the Government advise this Committee:

1. of the numbers of reports received, investigations and prosecutions initiated in each of the past 3 years up till now;
2. regarding the Government's reply (Reply No. CMAB069) last year that as at end-February 2024, there was no prosecution of doxxing case by way of indictment, whether the situation has changed since last year, and what are the respective requirements for prosecution by way of summary proceedings and on indictment; and
3. of the differences between prosecution of doxxing cases initiated by the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data and those by the Police.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Hei, Edward (LegCo internal reference no.: 121)Reply:

In the past 3 years, information on the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data's (PCPD) work against doxxing acts is as below:

Year	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at end-February 2025)
Doxxing complaints received	676	433	319
Criminal investigation cases completed	77	152	108
Number of prosecuted persons	7	22	15

2. According to sections 64 and 64C of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance, if a person discloses personal data of a data subject without the relevant consent of the data subject, with an intent to cause specified harm to or being reckless as to whether specified harm would be caused to the data subject or family members of the data subject, prosecution may be initiated in the name of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data by way of summary proceedings in the Magistrates' Courts. For doxxing acts of a more serious nature (i.e. the disclosure actually caused specified harm to the data subject or family members of the data subject, such as doxxing acts that caused bodily harm or psychological harm), the Department of Justice will, taking account of the circumstances of individual cases, decide whether to initiate prosecution by way of summary proceedings or indictment. As at end-February 2025, there were no prosecution of doxxing cases by way of indictment.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB064

(Question Serial No. 3932)

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
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Constitution and the Basic Law are the constitutional bedrock of Hong Kong, providing a legal basis for safeguarding national sovereignty, security and development. The HKSAR Government has spared no effort in mobilising various departments to actively collaborate in promoting the popularisation and development of rule of law education. For example, the Steering Committee on Rule of Law Education has been established; the Education Bureau has promoted the implementation of national education curriculum; and the Youth Development Blueprint has put emphasis on strengthening young people's sense of national identity and awareness in the rule of law. In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. How does the Government evaluate and screen funding applications from non-governmental organisations for conducting promotional activities on the Constitution and the Basic Law?
2. What specific plans are there to advance young people's understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law? How can the Government ensure these plans are effective in attracting and influencing young people?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 26)

Reply:

Currently, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau provides sponsorship to non-governmental organisations and community organisations through the "Constitution and Basic Law Promotion Activity and Research Sponsorship Scheme" for staging various promotional activities and research work on the Constitution and the Basic Law, such as promotion ambassador training schemes on the Basic Law, speaking contests and slogan design competitions, in order to get across the messages widely in the community. A Vetting Committee (VC) of the "Constitution and Basic Law Promotion Activity and Research Sponsorship Scheme", comprising representatives from the Government and

non-official members with rich experience in relevant fields, assists in assessing relevant applications and gives advice on related matters. In assessing each application, the VC will consider various factors, including the proposed project's objectives, content and feasibility, and the applicant's experience, management capability and previous performance in the Sponsorship Scheme etc.

2. Young people are the future of our society, and the contributor and successor of “One Country, Two Systems”. The HKSAR Government has been striving to guide young people in developing a sense of national identity and patriotic spirit from an early age, gaining an accurate understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law, and firmly upholding the constitutional order of the HKSAR established under the Constitution and the Basic Law. To promote the Constitution and the Basic Law among young people, the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau and the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education (CPCE) have made a great deal of efforts, including organising Basic Law Quiz Competition, Basic Law Seminar and Civic Education Exhibition, producing Civic Education Calendar, sponsoring local organisations to organise activities to promote the Constitution and the Basic Law, organising permanent and thematic exhibitions, providing relevant reference materials in the Civic Education Resource Centre, and disseminating information through CPCE's parent-child magazine, its website and social media platforms, etc.

3. At the school level, the Education Bureau has also been continuously adopting a wide array of measures and organising life-wide learning activities for students, such as territory-wide quiz competitions, film appreciation sessions on themes about the country, workshops and visits, and the Constitution and Basic Law Student Ambassadors Training Scheme, to fully support schools in planning and implementing Constitution and Basic Law education within and beyond the classroom in a holistic and systematic manner. These endeavours enable teachers and students to understand that the fundamental premise of “One Country, Two Systems” is to safeguard the sovereignty, security and development interests of the nation, and that “One Country, Two Systems” is the basis for the long-term stability of Hong Kong. Notable progress and achievements have been made in relevant work.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB065

(Question Serial No. 3982)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Since its development in 2010, the Qianhai Co-operation Zone has become an important demonstration zone in strengthening co-operation between Hong Kong and Shenzhen, attracting the participation of a large number of Hong Kong-invested enterprises and Hong Kong residents. In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

What specific support measures has the Government put in place for the Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Co-operation Zone? What achievements have been made?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 30)

Reply:

Qianhai is one of the major co-operation platforms of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area). The development of the Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Co-operation Zone (Qianhai Co-operation Zone) is an important initiative for supporting Hong Kong's social and economic development; fostering a higher level of co-operation among Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao; and establishing a new development paradigm in pursuing opening up. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government has all along attached great importance to the co-operation with Qianhai, and maintained close liaison with the Guangdong Provincial Government, the Shenzhen Municipal Government, and the Authority of Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Co-operation Zone of Shenzhen Municipality (Qianhai Authority). Meanwhile, the HKSAR Government has continuously stepped up its efforts to support Hong Kong talents and enterprises in actively participating in the development of Qianhai and taking forward the high-quality development of the Greater Bay Area.

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integrate into the overall national development under the principle of “One Country, Two Systems”. With the support of the Central Government, the governments of Hong Kong and Shenzhen have done a lot of work over the years for Hong Kong professional services sectors to tap into the Qianhai market. At present, there are over 9 000 Hong Kong-invested enterprises in Qianhai, covering sectors such as financial services, modern service industries, information services, and technology services. Since the promulgation of the “Overall Development Plan for the Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Co-operation Zone”, Hong Kong-Shenzhen co-operation has achieved significant progress in various policy areas, providing strong support for further deepening co-operation and pursuing more policy innovations and breakthroughs in the future.

On legal services, with the unique advantages of “one country, two systems and three jurisdictions”, the Greater Bay Area is a demonstration zone of the country’s high-quality development. In particular, the Qianhai Co-operation Zone is a prime pilot area for related liberalisation measures, and a frontier zone for the construction of foreign-related rule of law of the country. Qianhai has a significant number of partnership associations set up between Hong Kong and Mainland law firms as well as legal practitioners in the Greater Bay Area. Hong Kong legal experts have been instrumental in assisting the Qianhai Court in verifying Hong Kong law or foreign laws in quite a number of cases. Besides, Qianhai is the first pilot area to implement the measure of “allowing Hong Kong-invested enterprises to adopt Hong Kong law”, which has been well-received by various sectors. The successful implementation of the measure of “allowing Hong Kong-invested enterprises to adopt Hong Kong law” in Qianhai has provided a good foundation for its further extension. In February this year, the Supreme People’s Court and the Ministry of Justice extended the measure of “allowing Hong Kong-invested enterprises to adopt Hong Kong law” to Shenzhen and Zhuhai, and the measure of “allowing Hong Kong-invested enterprises to choose Hong Kong as the seat of arbitration” to the nine Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area. In the future, the Department of Justice will continue to maintain close collaboration with Qianhai to optimise and promote its successful experiences, foster the interface of cross-boundary regulatory frameworks between Hong Kong and Shenzhen, and contribute to the development of a market-oriented and internationalised business environment underpinned by the rule of law in the Greater Bay Area.

Regarding mutual recognition of qualifications for professional services sectors, 25 categories of professionals can now provide professional services in Qianhai directly or upon registration without having to take the Mainland’s professional qualification examinations. These include registered architects and registered engineers from Hong Kong, and tax advisors and tour guides from Hong Kong and Macao. The mutual recognition of qualifications for professional services sectors and the market integration of professional services between the two places have been gradually taking shape. In terms of architectural and engineering related professional services, the Qianhai Authority has launched a number of architectural and engineering pilot projects since 2023, including design and construction projects of two primary and secondary schools and two bridges, to try out Hong Kong’s project management model and enable Hong Kong relevant enterprises to submit tenders with Mainland qualifications obtained through the registration system, thereby injecting the elements of Hong Kong’s design and project management, etc. As of March 2025, a Hong Kong architectural firm and a Hong Kong engineering consultant have been commissioned to provide professional services in feasibility study, design and site investigation for the projects of two schools and one bridge respectively, while the tender result of consultancy service for

the remaining bridge project has yet to be announced. The site supervision and construction contracts for the schools have also been awarded to a Hong Kong architectural firm and a Hong Kong contractor respectively. Looking ahead, the Development Bureau will continue to discuss with relevant Mainland authorities to strive for more architectural and engineering pilot projects in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area, thereby enabling more Hong Kong enterprises and professionals to participate in the country's development; and to further pursue innovation in the project management system, including exploring the possibility of adopting Hong Kong's engineering contract form and Smart Site Safety System, thereby jointly developing the Greater Bay Area into a renowned international bay area.

Regarding the financial sector, the HKSAR Government has been actively promoting collaborative development with Qianhai in the realm of finance, jointly contributing to our country's development into a financial powerhouse. The Shenzhen-Hong Kong Financial Co-operation Committee, established in June 2024, has held two high-level meetings thus far, which gathered official members from the Central Authorities, Shenzhen and Hong Kong, as well as leaders of the financial industry in both places, to discuss the latest developments of various financial co-operation initiatives of Shenzhen and Hong Kong, including Qianhai. Moreover, the Qianhai Mercantile Exchange, a subsidiary of the Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited (HKEX), has seen rapid development over the past few years, with the turnover exceeding RMB100 billion in 2024. It operates our country's only offshore spot trading platform for soybeans. In the future, HKEX will actively foster synergistic development between the two places and explore new modes of cross-boundary co-operation through the Qianhai Mercantile Exchange.

To strengthen the collaboration between Hong Kong and Qianhai, Cyberport and the Qianhai Authority signed the first Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in January 2021. Subsequently, the two parties announced a deeper collaboration and signed another MoU in August 2024 to enhance the cooperation between the two parks and to recommend start-up enterprises to land in each other's park. Cyberport and the Qianhai Authority have put in place a regular meeting mechanism to discuss ways to take forward the latest work on nurturing start-ups and talents. Both sides also provide one-on-one consultation services for start-ups which are interested in setting up operations in Qianhai/Cyberport. In 2024, two enterprises on artificial intelligence and digital entertainment from Qianhai joined the Cyberport community as a tenant and an incubatee respectively. In addition, some ten Cyberport enterprises, covering different digital fields such as artificial intelligence, e-commerce and health technology, are exploring setting up their operations in Qianhai. Cyberport will continue to use its resources to take forward the above work.

The Qianhai Co-operation Zone serves as an important platform for the industries where Hong Kong enjoys clear advantages to tap into the Mainland market, and a key gateway for Mainland enterprises to expand their overseas market by leveraging Hong Kong's roles in "going global and attracting foreign investment". This is conducive to consolidating and enhancing Hong Kong's status as international financial, maritime and trade centres, as well as an international aviation hub, and thus supporting Hong Kong's social and economic development. Hong Kong will continue to support Qianhai in trying out new policies on a pilot basis and pursuing more policy innovation and breakthroughs, with a view to promoting the successful policies to the rest of the Greater Bay Area and even the entire country, thereby making greater contributions to the further reform and opening up of the country.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB066

(Question Serial No. 3802)

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
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

It is mentioned under the Programme that the Mainland Offices will foster youth and cultural exchange between Hong Kong and the Mainland, and attract talents and investments into Hong Kong. In this connection, would the Government provide the following information:

1. The effectiveness of the Mainland Offices' work on fostering youth exchange between Hong Kong and the Mainland in the past 2 years, including the numbers of exchange activities and Hong Kong young people received.
2. Apart from exchange activities, did the Mainland Offices approach young people studying or working in their respective provinces to engage them in exchanges and activities as well as provide them with advisory service and assistance etc. in the past 2 years? If so, what are the specific accomplishments and the number of young people approached? Will such work be strengthened in future?
3. Regarding talent attraction, have the Mainland Offices kept statistics on their promotion of Hong Kong's talent schemes and the number of enquiries received? Will additional manpower be deployed to strengthen promotion work of the Mainland Offices on talent attraction, so as to enhance prospective applicants' understanding of Hong Kong and the pertinent schemes and measures?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yuk-wai, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 63)

Reply:

The Mainland Offices of the HKSAR Government have been supporting exchange and co-operation between young people from the Mainland and Hong Kong, and actively encouraging Hong Kong students to join internship and exchange programmes in the Mainland. Not only have the Mainland Offices provided summer internship openings for Hong Kong students, but also participated in and supported numerous internship and exchange events for Hong Kong students in various provinces and municipalities. Examples

include “Youth Internship Programme at Chinese Academy of Sciences”, “Networking Dinner for Youths in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area”, “Youth Internship Programme at the Wolong National Nature Reserve in Sichuan”, etc. The Mainland Offices also provide practical information, support and assistance to the students participating in internship and exchange programmes. We have not kept separately any statistics on the numbers of exchange activities or Hong Kong young people received by the Mainland Offices.

2. To help Hong Kong young people who study, work and live in the Mainland to better adapt to local life, the Mainland Offices of the HKSAR Government maintain close liaison with associations, chambers of commerce, enterprises and student groups of Hong Kong people in their service areas to understand their working, studying and living situation, and provide appropriate assistance to them where needed. Examples include organising sharing sessions about local life, orientation and life planning gatherings; providing information on further studies, employment and internship openings in the Mainland or Hong Kong after graduation having regard to the needs of Hong Kong students; conducting study tours to deepen young people’s understanding of Mainland’s culture and economic development; co-organising career talks and visits to enterprises with relevant parties and associations of Hong Kong people in the Mainland, etc. Furthermore, the Mainland Offices facilitate the Civil Service Bureau as well as other government departments to conduct recruitment talks and recruitment exercises in the Mainland. In 2024, the Mainland Offices organised over 120 online and offline youth activities in total, reaching out to more than 12 000 young people. In 2025, the Mainland Offices will continue with the work on actively fostering youth exchange between Hong Kong and the Mainland.

3. Set up under each Mainland Office at end-2022, the Dedicated Team for Attracting Businesses and Talents works with the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises and the Hong Kong Talent Engage to reach out actively the target enterprises and talents and provide them with information and services in order to proactively assist them to pursue development in Hong Kong. The Mainland Offices also organise different activities, such as symposiums, forums and exchange sessions, and adopt a more proactive strategy to identify and approach potential talents, introducing to them Hong Kong’s business advantages and talent policies. For example, in April 2024, the Beijing Office and the Beijing Alumni Club of University of Southern California of the United States co-organised a seminar on HKSAR’s business environment and talent admission schemes, promoting various talent admission schemes (including the Top Talent Pass Scheme) and their latest developments. Besides, through online media and social media platforms, the Mainland Offices actively promote Hong Kong’s advantages and provide updates on Hong Kong in the Mainland, such as policy measures, details of mega events, the Central Government’s preferential policies and measures for Hong Kong, etc., with a view to encouraging talents to pursue development and explore opportunities in Hong Kong. In 2024, the Mainland Offices organised over 360 activities on Hong Kong’s talent schemes and received about 6 000 related enquiries. In 2025, the Mainland Offices will continue with the work on actively promoting the talent schemes.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB067

(Question Serial No. 3528)

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
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please provide or advise the number of public and private organisations to which the Government successfully promoted the Code of Practice against Discrimination in Employment on the Ground of Sexual Orientation (Code) in the past 5 years; a list of organisations which have pledged to adopt the Code, and the number of organisations which have newly adopted the Code; the estimated manpower and resources as well as expenditure for promoting the Code to public and private organisations in the coming year and the target number of organisations; the follow-up actions taken by the Government in case where a participating organisation is found to be in breach of the Code, or an employee of a participating organisation has lodged a complaint, and whether a mechanism will be put in place to punish the organisation in breach of the Code; and the number of government agencies and departments which have adopted and followed the Code and the work to promote the Code among government agencies and departments.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 55)

Reply:

The Government has been encouraging public and private organisations to adopt the Code of Practice against Discrimination in Employment on the Ground of Sexual Orientation (Code) through various channels including talks, seminars and online publicity. At present, over 390 public and private organisations employing 600 000 employees locally have pledged to adopt the Code. The list of organisations which agreed to be listed in the public domain has been uploaded to the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB)'s webpage (at https://www.cmab.gov.hk/doc/issues/Bilingual_List_of_Organisations.pdf). The adoption of the Code is of a voluntary nature; and the objective is to facilitate self-regulation of employers and employees in eliminating discriminatory arrangements and practices in employment. As the largest employer in Hong Kong, the Government is committed to following the practices set out in the Code. The manpower and resources for promoting the Code are subsumed under the existing staff establishment and recurrent expenditure of CMAB and a separate breakdown is not available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB068

(Question Serial No. 3529)

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
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please advise the progress of work on implementing a charter on non-discrimination of sexual minorities in the past 5 years; the details of the charter, including the domains (including workplace; education; provision of services and goods; premises; public services; and religions sites) brought under its regulation; whether a mechanism will be put in place to punish those who contravene the charter, and if so, of the time the mechanism will be introduced; the estimated manpower and resources as well as expenditure for promoting the charter to public and private sector organisations in the coming year and the target number of organisations; and whether the organisations which have adopted the code of practice will automatically become the participating organisations of the charter.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 56)

Reply:

Currently, we are continuing to draw up the charter on non-discrimination of sexual minorities, with the aim of voluntary adoption by service providers in various domains (including provision of goods, facilities and services, disposal and management of premises, employment, and education), in order to enhance their acceptance level towards sexual minorities and encourage them to pursue arrangements on non-discrimination of sexual minorities, including educating employees about the basic principle of providing equal access to services to people of different sexual orientations and gender identities, establishing the values of inclusion and mutual respect, reminding employees of the adverse consequences of discriminatory acts, and the need to protect service users' confidentiality in terms of sexual orientation and gender identity, etc. We plan to invite organisations which have adopted the Code of Practice against Discrimination in Employment on the Ground of Sexual Orientation to adopt the charter. The manpower and resources for drawing up the charter are subsumed under the existing staff establishment and recurrent expenditure of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau and a separate breakdown is not available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB069****(Question Serial No. 3530)**Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs BureauSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (4) Rights of the IndividualControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(Ms Gracie FOO)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

What specific fields of personnel were provided with training and resources in the past 5 years? Please set out in table form the dates of and manpower involved in the training, the participating departments or organisations, the number of participants and the effectiveness. In respect of providing training resources for medical and healthcare professionals to enhance their knowledge of and sensitivity towards sexual minorities as mentioned in the Policy Address, what are the details of such training and what are the target groups of promotion in the future?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 58)Reply:

To enable personnel in specific fields to enhance the knowledge of and sensitivity towards sexual minorities when interacting with them in daily work, we have worked with clinical psychologists of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) to develop training materials, and arranged for a clinical psychologist to provide training for the personnel concerned. Details of the relevant work are as follows:

Field	Details
Medical and healthcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have prepared specific training materials for medical and healthcare professionals to enhance their sensitivity towards sexual minorities. We also conducted briefing session for representatives of different medical and healthcare professional bodies (including the Department of Health, Hospital Authority, boards and councils of relevant medical and healthcare professions, and relevant faculties of tertiary institutions). Additionally, train-the-trainer sessions were held for personnel responsible for training in the relevant medical and healthcare professional bodies to enable them to educate other healthcare

Field	Details
	professionals to provide appropriate services to sexual minorities through their regular training programmes.
Disciplined services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2020, training materials for the disciplined services were launched to enhance their sensitivity towards sexual minorities, and a briefing session was held for representatives of the Hong Kong Police Force, Fire Services Department, Immigration Department, Correctional Services Department, Customs and Excise Department, Government Flying Service, Auxiliary Medical Service and Civil Aid Service, and the number of participants was about 30. • In 2021, a train-the-trainer session was held for personnel responsible for training in the disciplined services, and the number of participants was about 30.

2. After relevant briefing sessions and train-the-trainer sessions, the above-mentioned bodies have incorporated the relevant training materials into their regular training programmes with a view to enhancing their personnel's knowledge of and sensitivity towards sexual minorities. Besides, we are now working with SWD's clinical psychologists to develop training materials tailor-made for the social services sector and the preparatory work on training materials is largely completed. We will distribute the training materials to and arrange training for them in due course.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB070

(Question Serial No. 3531)

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
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

With regard to the specific needs of sexual minorities, the Government has pledged to enhance its support services and conduct a service review. What was the progress of the review in the past 5 years? What are the service areas where support to sexual minorities is found to require reinforcement (such as services for victims of domestic violence, services of refuge centres, psychological support, and support from front-line social workers)? What are the government departments with which communication relating to the provision of support services to sexual minorities has been conducted with a view to enhancing and improving the quality of the services?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 59)

Reply:

On strengthening the support services for sexual minorities, a 24-hour hotline for sexual minorities, PRIDE Line, operated by the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals (TWGHs) and subsidised by the Government has been launched in early 2018 to provide prompt support, counselling and referral services for sexual minorities and their families. The hotline has received over 26 000 calls as at end-February 2025. Support groups cum interest classes are also being regularly organised for sexual minorities, and over 350 sessions have been organised as at end-February 2025. In addition, starting from January 2021, we have allocated additional resources for the TWGHs to strengthen its support services for sexual minorities. A counselling service centre, PRIDE Land, has been established in Yau Ma Tei to provide face-to-face counselling services for sexual minorities and their families in need.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB071

(Question Serial No. 3653)

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
(Ms Gracie FOO)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please provide a breakdown of expenditure for studying the enactment of legislation on sexual orientation discrimination in the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 181)

Reply:

The Government is committed to fostering the culture and values of inclusiveness, mutual respect and non-discrimination, and promoting equal opportunities for people of different sexual orientations and transgenders. As for the study on measures to tackle discrimination against sexual minorities (including study on administrative and legislative arrangements in other jurisdictions), the resources required are subsumed under the existing recurrent expenditure of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau and a separate breakdown is not available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB072

(Question Serial No. 3976)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (Ms Natalie CHAN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the continuous enhancement of electoral arrangements, are there any corresponding training programmes and technology application initiatives in place to improve the compilation and safety management of the Electronic Poll Register while enhancing the efficiency and accuracy of ballot paper issuing procedures through leveraging technology?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yung (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) has adopted the Electronic Poll Register (EPR) system since the 2021 Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections. After the electors have produced their identity documents, the polling staff can verify the identities of the electors, issue ballot papers and record through the EPR system. The ballot paper issuing process will no longer require polling staff to search for electors' entries in the printed-form final register manually and to cross out entries on the printed copies when issuing ballot papers. This greatly enhances the efficiency and accuracy of the ballot paper issuing process. Moreover, electors can check their personal data on the tablet screens, which enhances the transparency of the whole ballot paper issuing process. In addition, unlike the traditional arrangement of assigning electors to specific ballot paper issuing desks, electors can collect their ballot papers at any issuing desks in their respective polling stations as directed. This arrangement can fully utilise the issuing desks in polling stations and make the ballot paper issuing process smoother.

2. Regarding the application and operation of the EPR system, the REO will arrange a series of training and rehearsal sessions for electoral staff at all levels for each election. Taking the 2023 District Council Ordinary Election as an example, the REO organised training sessions on the operation of the system for over 30 000 electoral staff, enabling them to practise in groups the issuing of ballot papers with the EPR system, and organised drills and scenario simulations for staff at the supervisory level, including step-by-step demonstrations and practices on activating the contingency plans in response to unexpected situations. Through simulated training, the REO ensured that staff at the supervisory level were acquainted with the relevant procedures and operation and would be able to lead the polling staff to deal with unexpected circumstances. Meanwhile, the REO also arranged

technical training on the actual operation of the system for technical support staff to familiarise them with the procedures and skills of setting up the EPR system at the polling stations. Furthermore, the operation manual and training videos produced by the REO included dedicated chapters to explain the application and operation of the EPR system, including relevant contingency arrangements for activating the fallback mode when necessary.

- End -