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### Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance Committee Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2021-22

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

**Session No. : 3**

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB001**

**(Question Serial No. 0003)**

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

Question:

Please list the estimated expenditure on the salaries and allowances for the Director of Bureau, Deputy Director of Bureau and Political Assistant to Director of Bureau in 2021-22.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

For budgetary purpose, the provisions set aside for the salary in respect of the positions of Director of Bureau, Deputy Director of Bureau and Political Assistant to Director of Bureau in the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau in 2021-22 are \$4.07 million, \$3.13 million and \$1.25 million respectively.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB002**

**(Question Serial No. 0759)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please provide the number of complaints made under the Disability Discrimination Ordinance and received by the Equal Opportunities Commission in the past 3 years with a breakdown by category of these complaints.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 43)

Reply:

A breakdown by category of complaint cases in relation to the Disability Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 487) received by the Equal Opportunities Commission over the past 3 years is as follows:

Year	Disability discrimination	Disability harassment	Disability vilification	Victimisation	Total
2018	467	54	5	13	539
2019	396	23	9	12	440
2020	372	51	3	2	428

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****CMAB003****(Question Serial No. 0760)**

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

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

**Programme:** (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

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

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

**Question:**

Plases state the staff establishments of the Beijing Office and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan in the past 3 years.

Please give the number of requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents received by the 5 ETOs with a breakdown by the types of assistance requested, and the number of successful cases in the past 3 years.

**Asked by:** Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 44)

**Reply:**

The staff establishment of the 5 Mainland Offices of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (namely the Beijing Office (BJO) and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan) in 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21 is set out in the table below:

<b>Office</b>	<b>Staff establishment in 2018-19</b>	<b>Staff establishment in 2019-20</b>	<b>Staff establishment in 2020-21</b>
<b>BJO</b>	22	23	23
<b>Guangdong ETO</b>	18	18	18
<b>Shanghai ETO</b>	15	15	15
<b>Chengdu ETO</b>	13	13	13
<b>Wuhan ETO</b>	13	13	13

2. In the past 3 years, the numbers of requests for assistance received by the Mainland Offices, with a breakdown by nature, are set out in the table below:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Assistance cases which were related to immigration and personal safety matters</b>	<b>Other assistance cases*</b>
2018	375	218
2019	456	197
2020	3 219	177

\* excluding general enquiries

The Mainland Offices had followed up and handled the above cases having regard to the actual circumstances.

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB004**

**(Question Serial No. 2844)**

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

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The introduction of the “LeaveHomeSafe” mobile app to help fight the epidemic has once again raised public concern on movement tracking and leakage of personal data. What advice would the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data give in this respect?

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 86)

Reply:

The Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data has all along been advocating the need to protect and respect personal data privacy when technology is employed to combat the COVID-19 epidemic. When using mobile applications, members of the public should carefully review the privacy policies of the concerned mobile applications (for instance, what kinds of users’ personal data will be collected and for what purposes), and understand the mobile applications’ access rights to the information contained in the users’ mobile phones. In respect of the “LeaveHomeSafe” mobile application (“LeaveHomeSafe”), the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data had explained through media interviews and press statements that effective practices had already been adopted by “LeaveHomeSafe” in complying with the relevant requirements of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance, including:

- “LeaveHomeSafe” does not have a location tracking function. Neither does it collect users’ Global Positioning System (GPS) data. Therefore, it does not have the function of tracking users’ movements;
- Users do not need to register any personal data when downloading “LeaveHomeSafe”. Hence, the issue of collection of personal data does not arise;
- Visit records are kept on users’ mobile phones only, and not in any Government systems or other systems. “LeaveHomeSafe” adopts the

“decentralised” storage model (i.e. storage in users’ mobile phones only) adopted by contact tracing mobile applications across the world, and there is no “centralised” storage system;

- Visit records will be automatically erased after 31 days; and
- It is only in the unfortunate event of a confirmed infection as ascertained by the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) that the infected person will be required under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Disclosure of Information) Regulation (Cap. 599D) to upload the relevant visit records and provide his/her name and contact telephone number to assist the CHP in contact tracing.

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB005**

**(Question Serial No. 2859)**

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

Question:

Please provide a list of the destinations, dates and number of duty visits outside Hong Kong made by the Secretary last year and the actual expenditures incurred.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 248)

Reply:

Information on duty visits outside Hong Kong made by the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs in 2020-21 is summarised as follows:

<b>Financial year (number of visits)</b>	<b>Place of visits</b>	<b>Total expenditure (\$)</b>
2020-21 (4 visits)	Mainland (Beijing, Guangzhou and Shenzhen)	33,950

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB006**

**(Question Serial No. 2227)**

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

Question:

1. What subsidy or incentive schemes are put in place by the HKSAR Government to encourage Hong Kong youths to pursue developments in the Greater Bay Area?
2. What are the numbers of Hong Kong youths who worked, studied or lived in the Greater Bay Area under the above schemes in the past 3 years?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan (LegCo internal reference no.: 34)

Reply:

To encourage more young people to work and develop their career in the Mainland cities of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area), the Labour Department launched the Greater Bay Area Youth Employment Scheme on 8 January 2021 to encourage enterprises with businesses in both Hong Kong and the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area to employ university graduates from Hong Kong and station them to work in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area. The scheme provides 2 000 places, around 700 of which are designated for innovation and technology posts. The Government will pay the enterprises a monthly allowance of HK\$10,000 for each qualified graduate employed for up to 18 months.

2. Moreover, the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) has been facilitating Hong Kong young people to develop their career in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area through various schemes. On internship, HAB subsidises non-governmental organisations (NGOs) through the Funding Scheme for Youth Internship in the Mainland to organise Mainland internship activities for Hong Kong young people, with a view to enabling them to obtain real experience in the actual workplace environment in the Mainland. Being one of the major co-operation initiatives between Hong Kong and Guangdong, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Hong Kong Youth Internship Scheme launched under the Funding Scheme for Youth Internship in the Mainland has been expanded to cover all Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area since 2019. HAB also collaborates with top-notch scientific research and cultural institutions in the Mainland as well as major corporations in

Hong Kong to implement the Thematic Youth Internship Programmes to the Mainland and the Scheme on Corporate Summer Internship on the Mainland and Overseas respectively, providing unique internship opportunities for local young people with different backgrounds, expertise and interests. Depending on the development of the epidemic, HAB will continue to enhance and expand relevant schemes in the future to provide Hong Kong young people with more diverse opportunities to enter the Greater Bay Area.

3. On entrepreneurship, HAB has introduced, under the Youth Development Fund, the Funding Scheme for Youth Entrepreneurship in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (the Entrepreneurship Scheme) and the Funding Scheme for Experiential Programmes at Innovation and Entrepreneurial Bases in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (the Experiential Scheme), with a view to encouraging Hong Kong young people to make optimal use of the innovative and entrepreneurial (I&E) bases in the Greater Bay Area and helping them develop their businesses in both Hong Kong and the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area. The application results were announced in February 2021. About \$130 million has been granted under the Entrepreneurship Scheme to support 16 NGOs to organise youth entrepreneurship projects. As for the Experiential Scheme, about \$5 million will be granted to 15 NGOs to organise short-term experiential projects at I&E bases in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area.

4. As some of the programmes above are new or have only commenced recently, we are not able to provide the number of Hong Kong young people who have visited the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area in the past 3 years through these programmes.

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB007**

**(Question Serial No. 1624)**

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

Question:

The Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (the National Security Law) was gazetted and took immediate effect on 30 June 2020. Did the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) conduct any publicity or promotion programmes on the National Security Law in 2020-21? If yes, what are the details, the staff establishment and expenditure involved; if no, what are the reasons? Will the CMAB introduce publicity and promotion programmes on the National Security Law in 2021-22? If yes, what are the details, the staff establishment and expenditure involved; if no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

Since the Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (the National Security Law) was adopted and promulgated for implementation in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) on 30 June 2020, the HKSAR Government has been introducing the National Security Law to various sectors and responding to their concerns through different channels and means (including publication of pamphlets, press releases, newspaper advertisements, and officials taking part in interviews on television, radio, webinars and other media, etc.), as well as through the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices outside Hong Kong. In addition, the HKSAR Government has been, through education in schools and other means, stepping up efforts to enhance Hong Kong people's awareness and understanding of the importance of safeguarding national security. In this connection, a webinar under the theme of "The Constitution and National Security" was held on 4 December 2020 and attracted an audience of about 100 000 through television and online broadcast. Moreover, a series of promotional and educational activities will be rolled out on this year's National Security Education Day on 15 April. In future, the HKSAR Government will continue to strengthen publicity and education, so as to enhance Hong Kong people's national security and law-abiding awareness and deepen the understanding and reinforce the positive perception of the international community on the National Security Law.

2. The National Security Law is a national law listed in Annex III to the Basic Law, and is closely associated with the Constitution and the Basic Law. The Government will, through the platform of the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (BLPSC) chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration, co-ordinate and formulate with the Members promotional strategies and plans on the Constitution, the Basic Law and the National Security Law. The Secretary for Security has joined the BLPSC to give advice and the necessary support for the effective promotion of the National Security Law.

3. The promotion expenditure for the National Security Law under the BLPSC is absorbed by the overall provision for the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau, and therefore no breakdown figures are available.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB008**

**(Question Serial No. 1695)**

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

Question:

One of the duties of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau is to promote public awareness and understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law. In this regard, would the Government advise on the following:

1. What are the actual expenditures incurred on the promotion of the Constitution and the Basic Law in the past 3 years and the estimated expenditure in 2021-22?
2. Has the Government assessed the effectiveness of the promotional programmes for the Constitution and the Basic Law? If yes, what are the results of assessment; if no, what are the reasons?
3. Would the Government strengthen promotion of the relationship between the Constitution of our country and the Basic Law? If yes, what are the details; if no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

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

2. The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (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. In the past 3 years (i.e. 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21), the actual expenditures of the CMAB for the promotion of the Constitution and the Basic Law are

about \$17 million, \$15 million and \$12 million respectively. In the past 2 years, owing to the proposed legislative amendments incidents and the COVID-19 epidemic, some publicity and promotion activities were not held as scheduled, resulting in a lower actual expenditure than the estimations. In 2021-22, the estimated expenditure of the CMAB for the promotion of the Constitution and the Basic Law is about \$23 million.

3. The strategies adopted by the CMAB to promote the Constitution and the Basic Law include:

- (a) organising thematic seminars;
- (b) using electronic media, such as Internet and smart-phone applications, to promote widely to different strata of the society by various means, e.g. online games, Basic Law Court Case Database, video series, and launching video series and Announcement of Public Interests on television, etc.;
- (c) enhancing awareness and understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law by the general public and students through promotional activities at the district level, such as organising roving exhibitions and arranging mobile resource centre to pay visits to different districts and schools; and
- (d) providing sponsorship to non-governmental organisations or community organisations through the “Basic Law Promotion Activity Sponsorship Scheme” and “Basic Law Promotion Research Sponsorship Scheme” for staging various promotional and research activities on the Constitution and the Basic Law, such as seminars, quizzes and debate competitions, in order to reach a wider audience.

4. Under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (BLPSC) provides advice and steer on the overall strategy and key aspects for promoting the Constitution and the Basic Law, and monitors, evaluates and reviews promotional programmes undertaken by government departments and non-governmental organisations. The CMAB provides secretariat support to the BLPSC. 5 working groups (namely Working Groups on Local Community; Teachers and Students; Civil Servants; Industrial, Commercial and Professional Sectors; and Community Outside Hong Kong) had been set up under the BLPSC and are assisted by the Home Affairs Bureau, Education Bureau, Civil Service Bureau, Trade and Industry Department and Information Services Department respectively in planning and organising various types of activities to promote the Constitution and the Basic Law on various fronts. The BLPSC and its working groups will review the format, content and effectiveness of promotional activities in relation to the Constitution and the Basic Law from time to time through evaluating their popularity based on the number and feedback of participants, and give due regard to the development and trend of promotional media and information technology with a view to optimising our promotion strategy.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB009**

**(Question Serial No. 1696)**

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

Question:

One of the matters requiring special attention under the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau in 2021-22 is to continue to strengthen the promotion and co-ordination work of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government in taking forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area). In this regard, would the Government advise this Committee:

1. of the actual and estimated expenditures for the publicity and promotion programmes of the Greater Bay Area development in 2020-21 and 2021-22 respectively; and of the detailed items of expenditures; and
2. whether the Government knows the awareness level of Hong Kong people, especially young people on the Greater Bay Area? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

In 2020-21, the revised estimated expenditure on publicity and promotion of the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area) is about \$27.7 million. In 2021-22, the relevant estimated expenditure is about \$21 million, of which about \$12.9 million is for the production and broadcast of promotional videos; about \$3.5 million is for promotion on the social media; about \$2.4 million is for holding of exhibitions and production of publicity materials; about \$2 million is for overseas promotion and publicity programmes; and about \$200,000 is for the maintenance of the dedicated website on the Greater Bay Area.

2. The Census and Statistics Department published a survey report on Hong Kong population's willingness to live in the Greater Bay Area in June 2020. The findings showed that the vast majority (93.8%) of persons aged 15 and over had heard of the Greater Bay Area and estimated that some 266 200 persons were interested in staying in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area in the future, constituting 38.1% of all persons aged

15 and over who had ever considered staying in places outside Hong Kong in the future. Among them, some 63 500 persons were interested in working or operating business in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area in the future, and some 7 200 persons were interested in studying or taking further studies in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area in the future. The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region will carry on with the publicity and promotional efforts to enhance awareness of members of the public (especially young people) in Hong Kong on the development of the Greater Bay Area. We will also proactively take forward the Greater Bay Area development on the basis of “One Country, Two Systems”; strive for more policy initiatives to facilitate young people to study, work and start up their own businesses in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area; and encourage them to focus on the Greater Bay Area and to grasp the important development opportunities it provides.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB010**

**(Question Serial No. 1714)**

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

Question:

The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office was established in November 2020. Please inform this Committee of:

1. the operational expenses, staff establishment and expenditure on staff remuneration of the Office in 2021-22; and
2. the plans of the Office to promote the advantages of the financial services sector of Hong Kong in 2021-22 to help them grasp the opportunities brought about by the Greater Bay Area development.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

In 2021-22, the number of staff in the establishment of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Office) is 33; and the estimated expenditure of the Office is about \$64.5 million, of which about \$34 million is staff cost on civil service posts and about \$30.5 million is other expenses.

2. The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) attaches great importance to the enormous opportunities brought about by the Greater Bay Area development to the financial services sector of Hong Kong. In May 2020, the Central Government promulgated the “Opinions on Providing Financial Support for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area”, which supports further promoting financial liberalisation and innovation, deepening financial co-operation among the Mainland, Hong Kong and Macao, and elevating the role of the Greater Bay Area in supporting and driving the country’s development and opening up. The HKSAR Government will continue to strengthen financial co-operation with the Mainland and Hong Kong’s bridging role between the Mainland and the rest of the world. This will not just promote the sustainable development of the local financial industry and open up a broader market for the sector, but also contribute to the reform and opening up of the financial

market of the country. Specific initiatives which the HKSAR Government will continue to take forward with relevant Mainland authorities and the industry include:

- (i) Offshore RMB business: With a view to enhancing Hong Kong's status as the global offshore RMB business hub, the HKSAR Government will continue to explore with the industry and the Mainland authorities the expansion of the channels for two-way flow of cross-boundary RMB funds. The HKSAR Government will also leverage the opportunities and the "early and pilot implementation" advantages arising from the Greater Bay Area development, and continue to study and promote policy measures, including expanding the pilot scheme for Hong Kong residents to remotely open bank accounts in the Greater Bay Area and implementing the two-way wealth management connect scheme;
- (ii) Promoting mutual capital market access: The expansion of the scope of eligible securities under Southbound Trading of Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect and Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect has been implemented in end December 2020 to cover pre-revenue/pre-profit biotechnology companies listed in Hong Kong under the new listing regime. The HKSAR Government will continue to work with the relevant Mainland authorities step by step to take forward various proposals for expanding the mutual market access programmes and the arrangements for enhancing the programmes;
- (iii) Asset and wealth management: In August 2020, the HKSAR Government established the limited partnership fund regime which allows private equity funds to register and operate in the form of limited partnerships in Hong Kong. This measure is conducive to attracting more private equity funds to conduct financing and investment activities in Hong Kong and the Mainland, especially taking part in the financing of corporates in the innovation and technology field in the Greater Bay Area;
- (iv) Risk management and development of the insurance industry: The HKSAR Government is actively discussing the implementation details with the Mainland authorities to strive for the early establishment of after-sales service centres by Hong Kong insurance industry in Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area, with a view to providing Hong Kong, Macao and Mainland residents who are holders of Hong Kong policies with comprehensive support in different areas including enquiries, claims and renewal of policies;
- (v) Green and sustainable finance: The HKSAR Government will continue to consolidate Hong Kong's position as a premier green and sustainable finance hub in the region and promote more entities in the Greater Bay Area to make use of Hong Kong's capital markets and professional services for green investments, financing and accreditation, thereby supporting the green enterprises and projects, and accelerating the green and sustainable finance development in the Greater Bay Area; and
- (vi) Financial Technology (Fintech): Hong Kong's sophisticated professional financial services and our close ties with the Mainland and overseas markets



provide a conducive environment for Fintech companies and talents in the Greater Bay Area to develop. The HKSAR Government will continue to promote the cross-boundary use of Fintech, including various collaboration that our financial regulators have with partners outside Hong Kong, as well as encouraging the Fintech sector to explore and test various Fintech solutions and products with cross-boundary applications related to the Greater Bay Area.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB011**

**(Question Serial No. 1715)**

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

Question:

In 2020-21, many Hong Kong people were stranded in the Mainland due to the COVID-19 epidemic and faced with various problems in their daily lives. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. What are the respective numbers of requests for assistance from Hong Kong people received by the offices of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government in the Mainland during the COVID-19 epidemic?
2. How did staff members of the offices of the HKSAR Government in the Mainland render support to Hong Kong people there?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)

Reply:

Immigration Divisions have been set up under 5 Mainland Offices of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) (namely the Beijing Office (BJO) and the ETOs in Guangdong, Chengdu, Shanghai and Wuhan) to provide HKSAR passport replacement service for eligible applicants with a valid HKSAR permanent identity card and provide practical assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. In 2020, a total of 3 219 requests for assistance were received from Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. Among them, 2 980 were related to the COVID-19 epidemic, including cases in which assistance seekers were stranded due to transport conditions or needed medication provided in Hong Kong etc. The numbers of requests for assistance that were related to the COVID-19 epidemic and received by the Immigration Divisions of the Mainland Offices in 2020 are set out in the table below:

Mainland Office	Number of requests for assistance related to the COVID-19 epidemic
BJO	30
Guangdong ETO	239
Chengdu ETO	55
Shanghai ETO	45
Wuhan ETO	2 611

2. The Mainland Offices had rendered practical assistance to the assistance seekers having regard to the actual circumstances. Regarding cases related to the COVID-19 epidemic, the HKSAR Government sent 8 chartered flights to take Hong Kong residents stranded in Hubei Province back to Hong Kong in 2 batches in March 2020, and arranged to deliver medications provided in Hong Kong to Hong Kong residents who were stranded in the province. Between 24 February and 23 December 2020, the HKSAR Government introduced a special scheme to deliver prescription medications to Hong Kong residents who were located in Guangdong and Fujian Provinces with urgent need for medications.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB012**

**(Question Serial No. 1716)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. How many Hong Kong students studied in the Mainland in the past 3 years? (Please provide breakdown figures by location and level of study) If the figures are not available, will the Government collect the relevant statistics for effectively facilitating Hong Kong residents living and studying in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area cities in taking forward the Greater Bay Area development?
2. How many Hong Kong residents worked or started up businesses in the Mainland in the past 3 years? (Please provide breakdown figures by location and industry) If the figures are not available, will the Government collect the relevant statistics for effectively promoting economic co-operation and development in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area in taking forward the Greater Bay Area development?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

The Government does not compile statistics on Hong Kong students pursuing studies in the Mainland. Nevertheless, according to the latest information provided by the Ministry of Education, as at November 2017, December 2018 and January 2020, 15 180, 16 544 and 16 228 Hong Kong students were studying at higher education institutions and research institutes in the Mainland respectively. A breakdown of the figures by region and level of study in 2017 is set out at Annex while the breakdown figures for the other years are not yet available from the Ministry of Education. The Education Bureau will continue to communicate with education authorities in the cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area) to understand their policies and arrangements on education for children of Hong Kong residents working and living in the Greater Bay Area and collect relevant information to support their further studies.

2. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government does not have statistics on the number of Hong Kong people working or starting up business in the Mainland and their breakdown figures. Notwithstanding, the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) has been making use of the movement records of Hong Kong permanent residents to compile and release the estimation of “Hong Kong residents usually staying in the Guangdong Province” (i.e. Hong Kong permanent residents who have stayed in the Guangdong Province for 6 months and above cumulatively during the 6 months before and after the reference time-point) since 2016. As at the end of 2018 and 2019, the estimated numbers of such persons were 528 000 and 538 000 respectively. The corresponding figure for 2020 is not yet available. The estimation above is made by C&SD on the assumption that Hong Kong permanent residents departing Hong Kong via land control points and the China Ferry Terminal are travelling to the Guangdong Province, and therefore cannot confirm those who then travel to other areas in the Mainland or outside the Mainland. Their purposes of stay (e.g. for employment) in the Guangdong Province cannot be ascertained either.

**Number of Hong Kong students studying at  
higher education institutions and research institutes in the Mainland  
(as at November 2017)**

<b>2017</b>	<b>Post-secondary Programme</b>	<b>Bachelor's Programme</b>	<b>Master's Programme</b>	<b>Doctoral Programme</b>
Beijing	0	1 208	346	194
Tianjin	0	124	3	3
Hebei	1	1	0	0
Shanxi	0	2	0	0
Inner Mongolia	0	0	0	0
Liaoning	0	16	21	4
Jilin	0	27	1	0
Heilongjiang	0	18	1	0
Shanghai	3	520	85	133
Jiangsu	5	546	42	40
Zhejiang	4	220	5	4
Anhui	1	5	1	0
Fujian	14	1 870	56	33
Jiangxi	3	218	6	30
Shandong	0	121	4	3
Henan	0	1	0	0
Hubei	0	513	28	62
Hunan	18	197	4	7
Guangdong	111	6 961	387	340
Guangxi	2	113	10	0
Hainan	7	5	0	0
Chongqing	1	129	10	0
Sichuan	0	242	9	3
Guizhou	0	1	0	0
Yunnan	1	23	1	0
Shaanxi	0	39	0	10
Gansu	0	1	1	1
Xinjiang	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>13 121</b>	<b>1 021</b>	<b>867</b>

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

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB013**

**(Question Serial No. 1313)**

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

Question:

It is mentioned in the Budget Speech that the formally established Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Office) is tasked to strengthen the planning, co-ordination and promotion of the various policies and measures relating to the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area), and enhance the community's understanding of Greater Bay Area development.

1. Please list the actual staff establishment, expenditure on emoluments and operational expenses of the Office, as well as the activities organised or taken part by the Office and the relevant performance indicators in the past year;
2. Please list the estimated staff establishment, expenditure on emoluments and operational expenses of the Office for this year; and
3. Will the Government consider deploying additional resources to the Office, including manpower and provision for salary? If yes, what are the details; if no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHIANG Lai-wan (LegCo internal reference no.: 70)

Reply:

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government has been actively taking forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area), including working closely with the central ministries/departments and the Guangdong Provincial Government to take forward the implementation of the 24 policy measures that have been approved in principle by the Leading Group for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Leading Group) at its 2 meetings in 2019. Measures already rolled out include tax concessions, facilitation of property purchase, support for young entrepreneurs, cross-boundary remittance of science and technology funding, and liberalisation of the legal and construction professional

services. These measures have greatly facilitated Hong Kong residents and professionals to reside, work and develop in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area.

2. In 2021-22, the HKSAR Government will continue to actively take forward the implementation of the remaining policy measures approved in principle by the Leading Group, and pursue policy innovation and breakthroughs in areas for consolidating and enhancing Hong Kong's status as international financial, transportation and trade centres as well as an international aviation hub, developing an international innovation and technology hub, improving the infrastructure of land boundary control points between Hong Kong and Shenzhen, facilitating Hong Kong enterprises to tap the Mainland domestic market, as well as supporting Hong Kong young people to work and start up their own business in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area. We will also maintain close liaison with local stakeholders and, through strategic publicity and promotional efforts, enhance the awareness of various sectors of society on the Greater Bay Area development, and encourage them to actively participate in and open up opportunities from the development.

3. The HKSAR Government established the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Office) in November 2020. In 2020-21, the revised estimated expenditure for taking forward the development of the Greater Bay Area (including the work undertaken before the Office was established) is about \$66.22 million, of which about \$31 million is staff cost on civil service posts and about \$35.22 million is other expenses. In 2021-22, the number of staff in the establishment of the Office is 33; and the estimated expenditure of the Office is about \$64.5 million, of which about \$34 million is staff cost on civil service posts and about \$30.5 million is other expenses.

4. In accordance with the directions set out in the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, the HKSAR Government has been exploring and identifying the economic, social and livelihood opportunities brought to Hong Kong by the development of the Greater Bay Area, thereby expanding the choices of living and career developments for Hong Kong people. The Office will continue to strengthen the work in taking forward the Greater Bay Area development. While the development of the Greater Bay Area involves many policy areas, the Office needs to conduct in-depth co-ordination and liaison within and outside the Government on different policies. As the complexity, areas of work involved, timing of promulgation, and impacts, etc. of different policies vary substantially, it is difficult to quantify the work involved and the setting of specific key performance indicators may not be practicable.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB014**

**(Question Serial No. 1112)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

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

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

Question:

Under this programme, matters requiring special attention in 2021-22 of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau include: monitor and disseminate information to Hong Kong business sector on policies and regional development in the Mainland and Taiwan that have significant bearing on the business environment and opportunities to Hong Kong enterprises; and at the same time, promote the strengths of Hong Kong in the Mainland and Taiwan, strengthen economic and trade liaison with and enhance the investment promotion function in the Mainland; foster economic and cultural exchanges with Taiwan; and enhance promotion in the Mainland to pave way for the gradual resumption of economic activities and people flow between the two places after the pandemic. Would the Government advise this Committee of the substantive results of the work done in the past financial year and the expenditure involved? What are the specific work plans, especially those for the resumption of economic activities and people flow after the pandemic, and the estimated expenditure for the new financial year?

Asked by: Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

Reply:

The Mainland and Taiwan Offices (namely the Beijing Office (BJO) and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan, and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan) together with Invest Hong Kong proactively serve as important bridges between Hong Kong and the Mainland/Taiwan, including enhancing liaison and communication with counterparts in the areas under their coverage; representing and promoting Hong Kong's trade and commercial interests; encouraging and attracting investments to Hong Kong; promoting Hong Kong as a desirable platform to develop markets along the Belt and Road; promoting the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area) development; and gathering relevant information on new laws and regulations, policies and significant regional development, and disseminating such information to the Hong Kong business sector through various channels. In promoting inward investment, the Investment

Promotion Units of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices, working together with Invest Hong Kong, will continue to liaise with potential Mainland and Taiwan enterprises in the areas that they cover; provide one-stop information and consultation services; assist the enterprises in making incoming visits; and facilitate Mainland and Taiwan enterprises to set up or expand their business operations in Hong Kong.

2. In 2020-21, various activities were organised by the Mainland and Taiwan Offices to widely promote the strengths of Hong Kong. For example, the “Megachange: China’s Economic Development and the Future of Hong Kong” trade seminar held by the BJO in Beijing in September 2020 was attended by over 200 participants. The online plus offline 23rd “Beijing-Hong Kong Economic Cooperation Symposium” held by the BJO in November 2020 was attended by over 600 participants. The Guangdong ETO participated in the “2020 Guangdong 21st Century Maritime Silk Road International Expo” in September 2020 and the attendance of the event was over 80 000 participants. The online seminar entitled “New Opportunity of Business, Entrepreneurship and Development in the GBA” held by the Guangdong ETO in October 2020 was attended by over 100 participants. The “Leveraging Hong Kong’s Platform for Zhenjiang Enterprises to ‘go global’” investment promotion seminar held by the Shanghai ETO in Zhenjiang in June 2020 was attended by about 130 participants. The Chengdu ETO participated in the “21st Qinghai China Investment and Trade Fair for Green Development” in July 2020 and the attendance of the event was about 3 000 participants. The “Seminar of Assisting the Hong Kong Enterprises in Hubei Province to Resume Work & Production and Explore Investment Opportunities” held by the Wuhan ETO in Wuhan in September 2020 was attended by over 130 participants. The “2020 Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic Co-operation Forum” organised in Taipei in December 2020 by the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan was attended by over 200 participants.

3. In 2021-22, in collaboration with relevant departments and organisations, the Mainland and Taiwan Offices will launch publicity programmes through diversified platforms in various places in the Mainland/Taiwan, organise and participate in business, commercial, arts and cultural activities, etc. in the Mainland/Taiwan, foster closer ties with different Mainland/Taiwan stakeholders, and arrange visits and exchanges in due course. The promotion initiatives will enable various sectors in the Mainland/Taiwan to have a more comprehensive understanding of the latest situation in Hong Kong, promote Hong Kong’s unique advantages and opportunities under the Greater Bay Area development, and rebuild Hong Kong’s positive image as a safe, law-abiding, civilised, pluralistic and inclusive society. As for investment promotion, Invest Hong Kong has leveraged digital platforms and solutions to attract and facilitate Mainland and Taiwan enterprises to set up business operation in Hong Kong since the pandemic. In 2021-22, Invest Hong Kong will continue to strengthen online and targeted marketing campaigns to accelerate the digital process in investment promotion. A team dedicated to the business development in the Greater Bay Area will also be set up to step up efforts in priority areas and sectors. The Mainland and Taiwan Offices will also closely observe the public opinions in the Mainland/Taiwan and, having regard to the development of the pandemic and the progress of people flow and business exchanges between the Mainland/Taiwan and Hong Kong, flexibly and suitably adjust the relevant promotion work.

4. In addition, the Mainland and Taiwan Offices will also continue to work closely with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) and the Hong Kong Tourism Board, etc. The HKTDC conducts thematic studies on the investment environment in the

Mainland and Taiwan. The related reports are available online at HKTDC's website, which are hyperlinked to the websites of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices for easy access by the business sector and the public.

5. The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau has set aside provision for the Mainland and Taiwan Offices to enhance trade opportunities and promote the strengths of Hong Kong. The provision earmarked in the Bureau's revised estimated expenditure for 2020-21 and estimated expenditure for 2021-22 in this respect is around \$280 million and \$310 million respectively. Moreover, Invest Hong Kong has also earmarked around \$9.2 million in 2021-22 to promote investment in the Mainland and Taiwan through the Investment Promotion Units.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB015**

**(Question Serial No. 1115)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

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

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

Question:

Under this Programme, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau is responsible for, amongst others, encouraging and attracting investments to Hong Kong, and promoting Hong Kong's many advantages as an investment and business hub in Asia. In this regard, would the Government advise this Committee of the work carried out to promote Hong Kong's advantages in investment and business and the expenditure involved in 2020-21; as well as the effectiveness of the work done? What are the specific work plan and the expenditure involved in the coming year and after the pandemic? In view of the changing Sino-US trade relation, would the Government focus on the development of the situation to step up promotion of Hong Kong's advantages in investment and business in 2021-22? If yes, what are the details and expenditure involved; if not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan (LegCo internal reference no.: 41)

Reply:

The Mainland and Taiwan Offices (namely the Beijing Office (BJO) and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan, and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan) together with Invest Hong Kong proactively serve as important bridges between Hong Kong and the Mainland/Taiwan, including enhancing liaison and communication with counterparts in the areas under their coverage; representing and promoting Hong Kong's trade and commercial interests; encouraging and attracting investments to Hong Kong; promoting Hong Kong as a desirable platform to develop markets along the Belt and Road; promoting the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area) development; and promoting Hong Kong's many advantages as an investment and business hub in Asia. The above areas of work complement each other in showcasing the strengths and positive image of Hong Kong in the Mainland and Taiwan. In promoting inward investment, the Investment Promotion Units of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices, working together with Invest Hong Kong, will continue to liaise with potential Mainland and Taiwan enterprises in the areas that they cover; provide one-stop information and consultation services; assist the

enterprises in making incoming visits; and facilitate Mainland and Taiwan enterprises to set up or expand their business operations in Hong Kong.

2. In 2020-21, various activities were organised by the Mainland and Taiwan Offices to widely promote the strengths of Hong Kong. For example, the “Megachange: China’s Economic Development and the Future of Hong Kong” trade seminar held by the BJO in Beijing in September 2020 was attended by over 200 participants. The online plus offline 23rd “Beijing-Hong Kong Economic Cooperation Symposium” held by the BJO in November 2020 was attended by over 600 participants. The Guangdong ETO participated in the “2020 Guangdong 21st Century Maritime Silk Road International Expo” in September 2020 and the attendance of the event was over 80 000 participants. The online seminar entitled “New Opportunity of Business, Entrepreneurship and Development in the GBA” held by the Guangdong ETO in October 2020 was attended by over 100 participants. The “Leveraging Hong Kong’s Platform for Zhenjiang Enterprises to ‘go global’” investment promotion seminar held by the Shanghai ETO in Zhenjiang in June 2020 was attended by about 130 participants. The Chengdu ETO participated in the “21st Qinghai China Investment and Trade Fair for Green Development” in July 2020 and the attendance of the event was about 3 000 participants. The “Seminar of Assisting the Hong Kong Enterprises in Hubei Province to Resume Work & Production and Explore Investment Opportunities” held by the Wuhan ETO in Wuhan in September 2020 was attended by over 130 participants. The “2020 Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic Co-operation Forum” organised in Taipei in December 2020 by the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan was attended by over 200 participants.

3. In 2021-22, in collaboration with relevant departments and organisations, the Mainland and Taiwan Offices will launch publicity programmes through diversified platforms in various places in the Mainland/Taiwan, organise and participate in business and commercial activities, etc. in the Mainland/Taiwan, foster closer ties with different Mainland/Taiwan stakeholders, and arrange visits and exchanges in due course. The promotion initiatives will enable various sectors in the Mainland/Taiwan to have a more comprehensive understanding of the latest situation in Hong Kong, promote Hong Kong’s unique advantages and opportunities under the Greater Bay Area development, and rebuild Hong Kong’s positive image as a safe, law-abiding, civilised, pluralistic and inclusive society. As for investment promotion, Invest Hong Kong has leveraged digital platforms and solutions to attract and facilitate Mainland and Taiwan enterprises to set up business operation in Hong Kong since the pandemic. In 2021-22, Invest Hong Kong will continue to strengthen online and targeted marketing campaigns to accelerate the digital process in investment promotion. A team dedicated to the business development in the Greater Bay Area will also be set up to step up efforts in priority areas and sectors. The Mainland and Taiwan Offices will also closely observe the public opinions in the Mainland/Taiwan and, having regard to the development of the pandemic and the progress of people flow and business exchanges between the Mainland/Taiwan and Hong Kong, flexibly and suitably adjust the relevant promotion work.

4. The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau has set aside provision for the Mainland and Taiwan Offices to enhance trade opportunities and promote the strengths of Hong Kong. The provision earmarked in the Bureau’s revised estimated expenditure for 2020-21 and estimated expenditure for 2021-22 in this respect is around \$280 million and \$310 million respectively. Moreover, Invest Hong Kong has also earmarked around

\$9.2 million in 2021-22 to promote investment in the Mainland and Taiwan through the Investment Promotion Units.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB016**

**(Question Serial No. 1120)**

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

Question:

Under this Programme, one of the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021-22 is to continue to strengthen the promotion and co-ordination work of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government in taking forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area). Please advise this Committee of the expenditure and manpower allocated to the relevant work and the progress made in the past year. What are the expenditure, specific work plan and timetable for strengthening the above work in 2021-22?

Asked by: Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan (LegCo internal reference no.: 49)

Reply:

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government has been actively taking forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area), including working closely with the central ministries/departments and the Guangdong Provincial Government to take forward the implementation of the 24 policy measures that have been approved in principle by the Leading Group for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Leading Group) at its 2 meetings in 2019. Measures already rolled out include tax concessions, facilitation of property purchase, support for young entrepreneurs, cross-boundary remittance of science and technology funding, and liberalisation of the legal and construction professional services. These measures have greatly facilitated Hong Kong residents and professionals to reside, work and develop in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area.

2. In 2021-22, the HKSAR Government will continue to actively take forward the implementation of the remaining policy measures approved in principle by the Leading Group, and pursue policy innovation and breakthroughs in areas for consolidating and enhancing Hong Kong's status as international financial, transportation and trade centres as well as an international aviation hub, developing an international innovation and technology hub, improving the infrastructure of land boundary control points between Hong Kong and Shenzhen, facilitating Hong Kong enterprises to tap the Mainland domestic market, as well

as supporting Hong Kong young people to work and start up their own business in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area. We will also maintain close liaison with local stakeholders and, through strategic publicity and promotional efforts, enhance the awareness of various sectors of society on the Greater Bay Area development, and encourage them to actively participate in and open up opportunities from the development.

3. The HKSAR Government established the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Office) in November 2020. In 2020-21, the revised estimated expenditure for taking forward the development of the Greater Bay Area (including the work undertaken before the Office was established) is about \$66.22 million, and the number of staff in the establishment after the Office was established is 33. In 2021-22, the estimated expenditure of the Office is about \$64.5 million.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB017**

**(Question Serial No. 1513)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Estimates mentions that the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Office) was established in November 2020 to strengthen the promotion and co-ordination work of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government on the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. In this regard, would the Government advise this Committee:

1. of the details of staff establishment of the Office;
2. of the work priorities of the Office after its establishment; and
3. of the amount of annual provision for the operation of the Office, and whether the Government will set targets and indicators to assess the performance of the Office?

Asked by: Hon HO Kwan-yiu, Junius (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

Reply:

In 2021-22, the number of staff in the establishment of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Office) is 33, involving 23 time-limited posts and 10 permanent posts. The 23 time-limited posts include 1 officer at point six of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 officer at point two of the Directorate Pay Scale, 2 Senior Administrative Officers, 2 Administrative Officers, 1 Chief Executive Officer, 1 Senior Executive Officer, 4 Executive Officers I, 1 Chief Information Officer, 1 Senior Information Officer, 1 Information Officer and 8 supporting staff (from the Personal Secretary, Clerical Officer and Motor Driver grades). Among them, 20 posts have already been created and the remaining 3 posts are expected to be created in 2021-22. The 10 permanent posts are originally posts in the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau, the holders of which have also taken up work relating to the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area) on top of their own duties. These posts include 1 officer at point three of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 officer at point two of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Administrative

Officer, 1 Chief Executive Officer, 1 Senior Executive Officer and 4 supporting staff (from the Personal Secretary and Clerical Officer grades).

2. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government has been actively taking forward the development of the Greater Bay Area, including working closely with the central ministries/departments and the Guangdong Provincial Government to take forward the implementation of the 24 policy measures that have been approved in principle by the Leading Group for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Leading Group) at its 2 meetings in 2019. Measures already rolled out include tax concessions, facilitation of property purchase, support for young entrepreneurs, cross-boundary remittance of science and technology funding, and liberalisation of the legal and construction professional services. These measures have greatly facilitated Hong Kong residents and professionals to reside, work and develop in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area.

3. In 2021-22, the HKSAR Government will continue to actively take forward the implementation of the remaining policy measures approved in principle by the Leading Group, and pursue policy innovation and breakthroughs in areas for consolidating and enhancing Hong Kong's status as international financial, transportation and trade centres as well as an international aviation hub, developing an international innovation and technology hub, improving the infrastructure of land boundary control points between Hong Kong and Shenzhen, facilitating Hong Kong enterprises to tap the Mainland domestic market, as well as supporting Hong Kong young people to work and start up their own business in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area. We will also maintain close liaison with local stakeholders and, through strategic publicity and promotional efforts, enhance the awareness of various sectors of society on the Greater Bay Area development and encourage them to actively participate in and open up the opportunities from the development.

4. In 2021-22, the estimated expenditure of the Office is about \$64.5 million. In accordance with the directions set out in the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, the HKSAR Government has been exploring and identifying the economic, social and livelihood opportunities brought to Hong Kong by the development of the Greater Bay Area, thereby expanding the choices of living and career developments for Hong Kong people. The Office will continue to strengthen the work in taking forward the Greater Bay Area development. While the development of the Greater Bay Area involves many policy areas, the Office needs to conduct in-depth co-ordination and liaison within and outside the Government on different policies. As the complexity, areas of work involved, timing of promulgation, and impacts, etc. of different policies vary substantially, it is difficult to quantify the work involved and the setting of specific key performance indicators may not be practicable.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB018**

**(Question Serial No. 1514)**

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

Question:

One of the main functions of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau is to promote public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law. Promoting a correct understanding of the Basic Law among the public and the full implementation of the Basic Law by the Government could help maintain the stability of our political regime and facilitate the effective governance of the Hong Kong Government, and are therefore very crucial to sustaining the social stability and development of Hong Kong. Besides, the Government must solve Hong Kong's political issues, and enable Hong Kong residents, especially the youths, to acquire a full and correct understanding of the democratic system, election and development of Hong Kong under "one country, two systems" and the fact that the Basic Law does safeguard the fundamental rights and freedoms of the public, in order that they can once again learn the legislative intent and contents of the Basic Law. However, some quarters in Hong Kong community fail to grasp the true meaning of the Basic Law. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. In the 2020-21 financial year, will there be any expenditure and estimated expenditure for promoting the Basic Law or the National Constitution at the community level? If so, what are the content of and expenditure for the promotional programmes? If not, what are the reasons?
2. Is there any plan for the Government to strengthen promotion of the Basic Law among the public, in particular young people? If so, what are the content of and expenditure for such work? If not, will the Government step up efforts on this front in the future?

Asked by: Hon HO Kwan-yiu, Junius (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (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 "one country, two systems" principle, the Constitution and the Basic Law. In 2020-21, an estimated

expenditure of about \$23 million was set aside for the relevant promotional activities, with a view to promoting and strengthening the atmosphere of studying and learning the Constitution and the Basic Law on all fronts. Owing to the COVID-19 epidemic, some publicity and promotion programmes were not held as scheduled, resulting in a lower actual expenditure (i.e. about \$12 million) than the estimations.

2. In 2021-22, the estimated expenditure of the CMAB for the promotion of the Constitution and the Basic Law is about \$23 million. The strategies include:

- (a) organising thematic seminars;
- (b) using electronic media, such as Internet and smart-phone applications, to promote widely to different strata of the society by various means, e.g. online games, Basic Law Court Case Database, video series, and launching Announcement of Public Interests on television, etc.;
- (c) enhancing awareness and understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law by the general public and students through promotional activities at the district level, such as organising roving exhibitions and arranging mobile resource centre to pay visits to different districts and schools; and
- (d) providing sponsorship to non-governmental organisations or community organisations through the “Basic Law Promotion Activity Sponsorship Scheme” and “Basic Law Promotion Research Sponsorship Scheme” for staging various promotional and research activities on the Constitution and the Basic Law, such as seminars, quizzes and debate competitions, in order to reach a wider audience.

3. Under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (BLPSC) provides advice and steer on the overall strategy and key aspects for promoting the Constitution and the Basic Law, and monitors, evaluates and reviews promotional programmes undertaken by government departments and non-governmental organisations. The CMAB provides secretariat support to the BLPSC. 5 working groups (namely Working Groups on Local Community; Teachers and Students; Civil Servants; Industrial, Commercial and Professional Sectors; and Community Outside Hong Kong) had been set up under the BLPSC and are assisted by the Home Affairs Bureau, Education Bureau (EDB), Civil Service Bureau, Trade and Industry Department and Information Services Department respectively in planning and organising various types of activities to promote the Constitution and the Basic Law on various fronts.

4. As for primary and secondary education, the EDB has been implementing Basic Law education (BLE) through adopting a wide array of measures, which include updating curriculum, developing learning and teaching resources, providing training for teachers and organising student activities, etc. to support schools in the planning and implementation of BLE. The EDB will continue to strengthen BLE through diversified strategies to enhance understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law among teachers and students. The promotion of BLE is an ongoing task of the EDB and schools. The estimated expenditure on the above items is subsumed under the EDB’s recurrent expenditure, and no breakdown of figures is available.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB019**

**(Question Serial No. 1527)**

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

Question:

Many graduates of secondary schools will prepare for their future pursues around mid-year. Some will apply for further studies in overseas countries while others will pursue studies in the Mainland. Last year, it was reported that the number of DSE candidates who applied for further study in the Mainland has increased by 13.7% to 3 993, accounting for 7.58% of the total number of DSE candidates. The figure is the highest in the past 9 years. In this regard, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. Please list in table form the number of Hong Kong residents who studied in the Mainland in the past 3 years by location and level of study;
2. Please list in table form the number of Hong Kong residents who worked or started up business in the Mainland in the past 3 years by location;
3. Has the Government introduced any policy to promote and facilitate Hong Kong residents to live in the Greater Bay Area cities?

Asked by: Hon HO Kwan-yiu, Junius (LegCo internal reference no.: 30)

Reply:

The Government does not compile statistics on Hong Kong students pursuing studies in the Mainland. Nevertheless, according to the latest information provided by the Ministry of Education, as at November 2017, December 2018 and January 2020, 15 180, 16 544 and 16 228 Hong Kong students were studying at higher education institutions and research institutes in the Mainland respectively. A breakdown of the figures by region and level of study in 2017 is set out at Annex while the breakdown figures for the other years are not yet available from the Ministry of Education.

2. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government does not have statistics on the number of Hong Kong people working or starting up business in the Mainland and their breakdown figures. Notwithstanding, the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) has been making use of the movement records of Hong Kong

permanent residents to compile and release the estimation of “Hong Kong residents usually staying in the Guangdong Province” (i.e. Hong Kong permanent residents who have stayed in the Guangdong Province for 6 months and above cumulatively during the 6 months before and after the reference time-point) since 2016. As at the end of 2018 and 2019, the estimated numbers of such persons were 528 000 and 538 000 respectively. The corresponding figure for 2020 is not yet available. The estimation above is made by C&SD on the assumption that Hong Kong permanent residents departing Hong Kong via land control points and the China Ferry Terminal are travelling to the Guangdong Province, and therefore cannot confirm those who then travel to other areas in the Mainland or outside the Mainland. Their purposes of stay (e.g. for employment) in the Guangdong Province cannot be ascertained either.

3. The HKSAR Government has been working closely with the central ministries/departments and the Guangdong Provincial Government to take forward the implementation of the 24 policy measures that have been approved in principle by the Leading Group for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Leading Group) at its 2 meetings in 2019. Measures already rolled out, including tax concessions, facilitation of property purchase and support for the use of mobile electronic payment by Hong Kong residents in the Mainland etc., have greatly facilitated Hong Kong residents to live and develop in the Mainland cities of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office will continue to follow up with the central ministries/departments, the Guangdong Provincial Government and the Macao Special Administrative Region Government and co-ordinate with the policy bureaux of the HKSAR Government to ensure the policy measures promulgated by the Leading Group would be fully implemented as early as possible. It will also pursue more policy innovation and breakthroughs under “one country, two systems”.

**Number of Hong Kong students studying at  
higher education institutions and research institutes in the Mainland  
(as at November 2017)**

<b>2017</b>	<b>Post-secondary Programme</b>	<b>Bachelor's Programme</b>	<b>Master's Programme</b>	<b>Doctoral Programme</b>
Beijing	0	1 208	346	194
Tianjin	0	124	3	3
Hebei	1	1	0	0
Shanxi	0	2	0	0
Inner Mongolia	0	0	0	0
Liaoning	0	16	21	4
Jilin	0	27	1	0
Heilongjiang	0	18	1	0
Shanghai	3	520	85	133
Jiangsu	5	546	42	40
Zhejiang	4	220	5	4
Anhui	1	5	1	0
Fujian	14	1 870	56	33
Jiangxi	3	218	6	30
Shandong	0	121	4	3
Henan	0	1	0	0
Hubei	0	513	28	62
Hunan	18	197	4	7
Guangdong	111	6 961	387	340
Guangxi	2	113	10	0
Hainan	7	5	0	0
Chongqing	1	129	10	0
Sichuan	0	242	9	3
Guizhou	0	1	0	0
Yunnan	1	23	1	0
Shaanxi	0	39	0	10
Gansu	0	1	1	1
Xinjiang	0	0	0	0
Total	171	13 121	1 021	867

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

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB020**

**(Question Serial No. 1528)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Director of the State Council's Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office, Xia Baolong, delivered a speech entitled *Improving the institutional framework of "one country, two systems" and implementing the fundamental principle of "patriots governing Hong Kong"* at the Chinese Association of Hong Kong & Macao Studies. To fully implement the principle of "patriots administering Hong Kong", the most crucial and imminent step is to improve the electoral system in order to avoid the issues concerning the nomination of candidates in the 2019 District Council election and 2020 Legislative Council election. In this regard, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. While the central government has the constitutional power and duty to improve Hong Kong's electoral system, the Government should complement the relevant work. Has any study been conducted to explore the possible areas of improvements in the ordinances governing elections? If yes, what are the details; if no, will it be conducted as soon as possible?
2. Has any study on how to enhance the electronisation of electoral process to make improvements to election in terms of effectiveness and accuracy of election results been conducted? If yes, what are the details; if no, will it be conducted as soon as possible?

Asked by: Hon HO Kwan-yiu, Junius (LegCo internal reference no.: 31)

Reply:

The National People's Congress (NPC) adopted the Decision on Improving the Electoral System of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) on 11 March 2021, authorising the Standing Committee of the NPC (NPCSC) to amend Annex I to the Basic Law on Method for the Selection of the Chief Executive of the HKSAR and Annex II to the Basic Law on Method for the Formation of the Legislative Council of the HKSAR and Its Voting Procedures with a view to improving the electoral system of the HKSAR. Having considered the actual situation in Hong Kong, the Central Authorities take the



initiative from the national level to improve the electoral system of Hong Kong, aiming to ensure that Hong Kong can stay true to the original aspiration in implementing the principle of “One Country, Two Systems” and get Hong Kong back on the right track. It is only by putting in place institutional safeguards to ensure “patriots administering Hong Kong” that the principle of “One Country, Two Systems” can be fully and faithfully applied in the HKSAR and the long term prosperity and stability of the city can be achieved.

2. Subsequently, the NPCSC adopted the amended Annex I and Annex II to the Basic Law on 30 March to amend the methods for the selection of the Chief Executive and for the formation of the Legislative Council. Pursuant to the revised Annex I and Annex II to the Basic Law, the HKSAR Government is sparing no effort to taking forward the relevant amendments to the local legislation. After the passage of the relevant Bill by the Legislative Council, the Government will conduct and regulate election-related activities in accordance with the amended electoral laws, so as to implement the new electoral system compatible with the actual situation in Hong Kong and to properly arrange and conduct a number of important elections in the coming 12 months.

3 The Government has been proactively studying arrangements to electronise the electoral processes throughout the years. Nevertheless, a proper balance must be struck among the need of using technologies, enhancing efficiency, security risks, privacy protection and public trust, etc. before introducing any specific arrangements and proposals. We consulted the Legislative Council on a number of proposals in the past and some of them are already in the development stage, including the use of electronic poll registers in elections, which will facilitate the verification of electors’ identity and enhance the efficiency and accuracy of ballot papers distribution. Our aim is to implement the relevant measure starting from the public elections to be held in 2021. We will continue to proactively study with the Registration and Electoral Office on the introduction of different technologies to public elections in order to improve election flow and work efficiency.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB021**

**(Question Serial No. 1529)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Since the violence incidents associated with “black-clad rioters” in 2019, the personal information of many police officers, government officials, Legislative Councillors and judges has been unlawfully disclosed and widely published on the Internet. Such information includes schools and classes that their children attended. Those who had been “doxxed” were affected by different levels of nuisance and intimidation, including harassment by telephone calls, identities being misused to apply for loans and to make online purchases, harassing their family members by visiting their workplaces. Some of them or their family members even received letters threatening to hurt them brutally. In this regard, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. Regarding the practice of many private organisations in engaging outsourced service contractors to collect and process personal data, what measures has the Government taken to ensure that outsourced service contractors are properly monitored by government departments and public and private organisations to protect personal data against unauthorised or accidental access, processing or use?
2. Has the Government put in place measures to regulate government departments and public and private organisations to ensure that they have taken effective actions to protect the personal data of their clients?

Asked by: Hon HO Kwan-yiu, Junius (LegCo internal reference no.: 32)

Reply:

Pursuant to the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (PDPO), government departments, public and private organisations acting as data users are responsible for the acts of the data processors engaged by them (including outsourced service contractors), and the data users must adopt contractual or other means to impose restrictions on the processing and use of the personal data transferred to the data processors. Specific restriction requirements include:

- (1) The personal data should not be kept longer than is necessary for processing of the data;
- (2) The personal data should be protected from unauthorised or accidental access, processing, erasure, loss or use; and
- (3) The personal data should not be used or disclosed for any purpose other than the purpose for which the personal data is entrusted to the data processors.

2. The Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD) has proactively engaged data users that include government departments, public and private organisations in promoting the spirit of protection and respect for personal data privacy, as well as making efforts to strengthen the public's understanding of the PDPO including emphasising the importance of the outsourced service contractors as data processors and their legal obligations involved. The PCPD has assisted government departments, public and private organisations in understanding and complying with the legal obligations and relevant requirements under the PDPO through seminars, workshops, talks, speeches, PCPD website and social media platforms, guidance notes/information leaflets, and activities of the Data Protection Officers' Club. Besides, the PCPD has printed information leaflets entitled "*Outsourcing the Processing of Personal Data to Data Processors*" to elaborate on the supervision of data processors by data users to ensure compliance with the relevant requirements of the Data Protection Principles and the relevant obligations of data processors. The PCPD has also encouraged organisations to embrace personal data protection as part of their corporate governance responsibilities and has issued the "*Best Practice Guide on Privacy Management Programme*", which aims at assisting organisations in establishing a comprehensive Privacy Management Programme, which includes programme control measures to safeguard the personal data transferred to data processors. Besides, the PCPD strives to monitor and supervise the compliance situation with the provisions of the PDPO, which includes the timely initiation of compliance checks against public and private organisations where data breach incidents have occurred, prompting the organisations concerned to take appropriate remedial actions to rectify the breaches and take preventive measures.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB022**

**(Question Serial No. 0398)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Through the new Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Office), the Government takes forward the planning, co-ordination and promotion of the various policies and measures relating to the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (the Greater Bay Area), and helps Hong Kong's businesses and youths to grasp the opportunities arising from Greater Bay Area development through various schemes.

The pandemic has impeded the flow of labour, technical staff and professionals within the Greater Bay Area. Does the Office have any concrete plan to promote interchange of the above factors of production within the Greater Bay Area after the epidemic? If yes, what are the details; if no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

Despite setback from the outbreak of the COVID-19 epidemic in Hong Kong since last year, the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) has not slackened its efforts in taking forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area). We have continued to work closely with central ministries/departments and the Guangdong Provincial Government to take forward the implementation of the 24 policy measures that have been approved in principle by the Leading Group for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Leading Group) at its 2 meetings in 2019. Measures already implemented include tax concessions, facilitation of property purchase, support for young entrepreneurs, cross-boundary remittance of science and technology funding, and liberalisation of legal and construction professional services. These measures have greatly facilitated Hong Kong residents and professionals to reside, work and develop in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area.

2. The HKSAR Government has been liaising closely with the Guangdong Provincial and Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) Governments to explore, when the epidemic situation in Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao is under control and without increasing public health risks, to resume the normal cross-boundary activities amongst residents of the three places in a gradual and orderly manner. Moreover, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Greater Bay Area Development Office) will continue to follow up with the relevant central ministries/departments, the Guangdong Provincial Government and the Macao SAR Government, and to co-ordinate with the policy bureaux of the HKSAR Government concerned for the early and full implementation of the policy measures announced by the Leading Group. It will also strive for more policy innovation and breakthrough under “One Country, Two Systems”, strengthen the interconnectivity between Hong Kong and other Greater Bay Area cities, and facilitate the efficient and convenient flow of the factors of production within the Greater Bay Area.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB023**

**(Question Serial No. 0537)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

On strengthening the protection of personal data privacy, please advise this Committee of the following:

- (a) What are the numbers of notifications received by the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD) since the *Data Breach Handling and the Giving of Breach Notifications* was first issued in 2010 and later updated in 2019 respectively? What are the breakdown figures by government departments and private organisations?
- (b) What are the numbers of complaints on suspected personal data leakage received by the PCPD and of cases substantiated after investigation during the same period? What are the breakdown figures by government departments and private organisations?
- (c) One of the matters requiring special attention in 2021-22 is to “actively review and consider possible amendments to the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance”. In this regard, what are the work progress and plan of the PCPD, and the details and timetable of the legislative amendment?
- (d) What programme will the PCPD introduce to help the business sector to deal with the privacy issues arising from Big Data and the development of information technology in order to strike a balance between development and concerns on the protection of personal data privacy? How much manpower and expenditure will be involved in 2021-22?

Asked by: Hon IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina (LegCo internal reference no.: 83)

Reply:

- (a) 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, the

Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD) had received 653 and 259 personal data breach notifications respectively. The number and breakdown of the notifications involving government departments (including public organisations) and private organisations are as follows:

Number of personal data breach notifications			
	Government departments	Private organisations	Total
June 2010 to December 2018	336	317	<b>653</b>
January 2019 to February 2021	155	104	<b>259</b>
Total:	491	421	<b>912</b>

- (b) During the respective periods mentioned above, the PCPD had received 1 879 and 708 complaints of suspected leakages of personal data by organisations, among which 138 and 39 complaints were found substantiated after investigation. The number and breakdown of complaints involving government departments (including public organisations) and private organisations are as follows:

Number of complaints relating to suspected leakages of personal data by organisations			
	Government departments	Private organisations	Total
June 2010 to December 2018	334	1 545	<b>1 879</b>
January 2019 to February 2021	220 <sup>#</sup>	488 <sup>*</sup>	<b>708<sup>#*</sup></b>
Total:	554 <sup>#</sup>	2 033 <sup>*</sup>	<b>2 587<sup>#*</sup></b>

<sup>#</sup> including 89 complaints concerning 2 incidents and these complaints were found unsubstantiated after investigation.

<sup>\*</sup> including 162 complaints concerning a single incident and these complaints were found unsubstantiated after investigation.

Number of complaints substantiated after investigation			
	Government departments	Private organisations	Total
June 2010 to December 2018	16	122	<b>138</b>
January 2019 to February 2021	10	29	<b>39</b>
Total:	26	151	<b>177</b>

- (c) Doxxing acts, which are intrusive to personal data privacy and in effect “weaponise” personal data, have caused great harm to the victims in recent years. The Government and the PCPD are studying amendments to the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (PDPO), the directions of which mainly encompass: (1) criminalising doxxing acts, (2) conferring on the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (the Privacy Commissioner) statutory powers to demand the removal of doxxing contents from social media platforms or websites, and (3) empowering the Privacy Commissioner to carry out criminal investigation and institute prosecution. We aim to complete the drafting of the legislative amendment proposals relating to doxxing for the scrutiny of the Legislative Council within the current legislative session.
- (d) While Big Data and the development of information technology have brought convenience to daily life, they have also posed great challenges to the protection of personal data privacy. In this regard, the PCPD will continue to provide professional advice on the protection of personal data privacy to the business sector in the development and application of technology, and strengthen training for the business sector, such as, instituting a Privacy Management Programme, appointment of Data Protection Officer and conducting a Privacy Impact Assessment. The PCPD will also consider issuing guidance to provide practical guidelines, including that on accountability and governance framework in relation to the development and use of artificial intelligence. As the relevant work is part of its regular work in promoting compliance of the PDPO, the PCPD does not have the related breakdown of manpower and expenditure involved.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB024**

**(Question Serial No. 1760)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In respect of the complaints about (a) discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation; (b) discrimination on the grounds of gender identity; (c) discrimination against visitors from the Mainland; and (d) discrimination against new arrivals, please list in table form the number of cases received, handled and conciliated by and of cases where investigation was initiated by the Equal Opportunities Commission in the past 5 years.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Complaint investigation					
Complaints received					
Complaints handled					
Active cases at year end					
Complaints taken to court					
Self-initiated investigation					
Cases processed					
Cases resolved					
Cases taken to court					
Conciliation and settlement					
Complaints conciliated					
Complaints successfully conciliated after proceeding to conciliation stage (%)					

Asked by: Hon IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina (LegCo internal reference no.: 34)

Reply:

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) implements the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 480), Disability Discrimination Ordinance (DDO) (Cap. 487), Family Status Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 527) and Race Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 602); and as provided under these ordinances, carries out publicity and public education programmes and enforcement work. The handling of discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation, the status of being a visitor from the Mainland and the status of being a new arrival falls outside the scope of the EOC's statutory responsibilities.

2. The EOC currently handles enquiries and complaints related to discrimination on the ground of gender identity of a person under the DDO. In the past 5 years, the number of cases received, handled and conciliated by the EOC are set out below:

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>Complaint investigation</b>					
Complaints received	3	2	10	8	2
Complaints handled	6	2	10	10	2
Active cases at year end	0	0	2	0	0
Complaints taken to court	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Self-initiated investigation</b>					
Cases received	0	0	0	0	0
Cases processed	0	0	0	0	0
Cases resolved	0	0	0	0	0
Cases taken to court	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Conciliation and settlement</b>					
Complaints conciliated	4	0	1	0	0
Complaints successfully conciliated after proceeding to conciliation stage (%)	3 (75%)	0	1 (100%)	0	0

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB025**

**(Question Serial No. 0018)**

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

Question:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau is responsible for, amongst others, promoting public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law. In 2021-22, what plan does the Bureau have to promote the Basic Law? Will additional resources be set aside for enhancing public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law?

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (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 “one country, two systems” principle, the Constitution and the Basic Law. An estimated expenditure of about \$23 million has been set aside for the relevant promotional activities in 2021-22, with a view to promoting and strengthening the atmosphere of studying and learning the Constitution and the Basic Law on all fronts. We will cope with the needs for additional resources in accordance with established procedures in future if required.

2. The strategies adopted by the CMAB to promote the Constitution and the Basic Law include:

- (a) organising thematic seminars;
- (b) using electronic media, such as Internet and smart-phone applications, to promote widely to different strata of the society by various means, e.g. online games, Basic Law Court Case Database, video series, and launching Announcement of Public Interests on television, etc.;
- (c) enhancing awareness and understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law by the general public and students through promotional activities at the district level, such as organising roving exhibitions and arranging mobile resource centre to pay visits to different districts and schools; and

- (d) providing sponsorship to non-governmental organisations or community organisations through the “Basic Law Promotion Activity Sponsorship Scheme” and “Basic Law Promotion Research Sponsorship Scheme” for staging various promotional and research activities on the Constitution and the Basic Law, such as seminars, quizzes and debate competitions, in order to reach a wider audience.

3. Under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (BLPSC) provides advice and steer on the overall strategy and key aspects for promoting the Constitution and the Basic Law, and monitors, evaluates and reviews promotional programmes undertaken by government departments and non-governmental organisations. The CMAB provides secretariat support to the BLPSC. 5 working groups (namely Working Groups on Local Community; Teachers and Students; Civil Servants; Industrial, Commercial and Professional Sectors; and Community Outside Hong Kong) had been set up under the BLPSC and are assisted by the Home Affairs Bureau, Education Bureau, Civil Service Bureau, Trade and Industry Department and Information Services Department respectively in planning and organising various types of activities to promote the Constitution and the Basic Law on various fronts.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB026**

**(Question Serial No. 1327)**

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

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

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

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

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

Question:

According to Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021-22, the Bureau will monitor and disseminate information to Hong Kong business sector on policies and regional development in the Mainland and Taiwan that have significant bearing on the business environment and opportunities to Hong Kong enterprises. What are the details of and estimated expenditure for the relevant programmes?

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

The Mainland and Taiwan Offices (namely the Beijing Office (BJO) and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan, and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan) proactively serve as important bridges between Hong Kong and the Mainland/Taiwan, including enhancing liaison and communication with counterparts in the areas under their coverage; representing and promoting Hong Kong's trade and commercial interests; encouraging and attracting investments to Hong Kong; promoting Hong Kong as a desirable platform to develop markets along the Belt and Road; promoting the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area development; and gathering relevant information on new laws and regulations, policies and significant regional development; and disseminating such information to the Hong Kong business sector through various channels by, amongst others, giving public speeches, media interviews and briefings and issuing information circulars, newsletters and press releases.

2. The Mainland and Taiwan Offices will also continue to work closely with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC), which conducts thematic studies on the investment environment in the Mainland and Taiwan. The related reports are available online at HKTDC's website, which are hyperlinked to the websites of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices for easy access by the business sector and the public. As dissemination of the relevant information to Hong Kong business sector is an integral part of the work of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices, the expenditure involved cannot be singled out and itemised.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB027**

**(Question Serial No. 1363)**

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

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

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

A) On the promotion of the Basic Law in the past 5 years, please provide the following information:

Year	Size of establishment				Total salary expenditure	No. of printed copies of the Basic Law and the expenditure incurred	No. of promotion activities and the expenditure incurred	Expenditure on school publicity and education	Annual total expenditure on promoting the Basic Law
	Directorate	Upper band	Middle band	Lower band					
2020-21									
2019-20									
2018-19									
2017-18									
2016-17									

B) In view of the increasing amount of manpower and resources for promoting the Basic Law since the return of Hong Kong to China, what standards have been adopted by the Government to measure the effectiveness of the promotion work? How does it assess if civil servants, public officers, the general public and students of all grades have a correct understanding of the Basic Law? Despite the tremendous amount of money spent on organising activities and promotion to enhance people's knowledge and understanding of the Basic Law, it is shown in the social movements in recent years that there is so much misunderstanding of and bias against the Basic Law and the country among the media and the general public. How will the Government evaluate whether its ongoing efforts in this regard are successful in achieving the policy objectives?

C) In light of the untruthful remarks and deliberate misinterpretations of the Basic Law made by the media, public figures or other organisations, has the Government put in

place any mechanism for monitoring and record of such negative remarks? If yes, how many remarks were put on record? Has the Government clarified and refuted any untruthful remark? If yes, how many times has the Government done so over the past 3 years?

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 60)

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (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 “one country, two systems” principle, the Constitution and the Basic Law. In the past 5 years, the relevant work has been undertaken by a team led by a Principal Assistant Secretary and supported by 4 officers in the CMAB. The actual expenditures of the CMAB on the relevant promotional activities are as follows:

Financial year	Actual expenditure (\$)
2020-21	\$12 million*
2019-20	\$15 million*
2018-19	\$17 million
2017-18	\$17 million
2016-17	\$16 million

(\*Note: In the past 2 years, owing to the proposed legislative amendments incidents and the COVID-19 epidemic, some promotional activities were not held as scheduled, resulting in a lower actual expenditure than the estimations.)

2. In 2021-22, the estimated expenditure of the CMAB for the promotion of the Constitution and the Basic Law is about \$23 million. The strategies include:

- (a) organising thematic seminars;
- (b) using electronic media, such as Internet and smart-phone applications, to promote widely to different strata of the society by various means, e.g. online games, Basic Law Court Case Database, video series, and launching Announcement of Public Interests on television, etc.;
- (c) enhancing awareness and understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law by the general public and students through promotional activities at the district level, such as organising roving exhibitions and arranging mobile resource centre to pay visits to different districts and schools; and
- (d) providing sponsorship to non-governmental organisations or community organisations through the “Basic Law Promotion Activity Sponsorship Scheme” and “Basic Law Promotion Research Sponsorship Scheme” for staging various promotional and research activities on the Constitution and the Basic Law, such as seminars, quizzes and debate competitions, in order to reach a wider audience.

3. To deepen public understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law, the CMAB has published, and updated on a need basis, booklets on the Constitution and the Basic Law (electronic version also available) for the public. In January 2021, about 40 000 copies of Chinese booklets on the Constitution and the Basic Law (January 2021 version) were published and made available for the public. Besides, the numbers of projects sponsored by the “Basic Law Promotion Activity Sponsorship Scheme” and “Basic Law Promotion Research Sponsorship Scheme” in the past 5 years are as follows:

Financial year	Number of projects sponsored by the “Basic Law Promotion Activity Sponsorship Scheme” and “Basic Law Promotion Research Sponsorship Scheme”
2020-21	38
2019-20	19
2018-19	17
2017-18	13
2016-17	14

4. Under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (BLPSC) provides advice and steer on the overall strategy and key aspects for promoting the Constitution and the Basic Law, and monitors, evaluates and reviews promotional programmes undertaken by government departments and non-governmental organisations. The CMAB provides secretariat support to the BLPSC. 5 working groups (namely Working Groups on Local Community; Teachers and Students; Civil Servants; Industrial, Commercial and Professional Sectors; and Community Outside Hong Kong) had been set up under the BLPSC and are assisted by the Home Affairs Bureau, Education Bureau (EDB), Civil Service Bureau, Trade and Industry Department and Information Services Department respectively in planning and organising various types of activities to promote the Constitution and the Basic Law on various fronts. The BLPSC and its working groups will review the format, content and effectiveness of promotional activities in relation to the Constitution and the Basic Law from time to time through evaluating their popularity based on the number and feedback of participants, and give due regard to the development and trend of promotional media and information technology with a view to optimising our promotion strategy.

5. As for primary and secondary education, the EDB has been implementing Basic Law education (BLE) through adopting a wide array of measures, which include updating curriculum, developing learning and teaching resources, providing training for teachers and organising student activities, etc. to support schools in the planning and implementation of BLE. The promotion of BLE is an ongoing task of the EDB and schools. The estimated expenditure on the above items is subsumed under the EDB’s recurrent expenditure, and no breakdown of figures is available.

6. The EDB will continue to strengthen BLE through diversified strategies to enhance the understanding of Chinese history and our country, the Constitution and the Basic Law, the concept of law-abidingness and information literacy among teachers and students. The EDB will make greater effort in developing learning and teaching resources, providing training for teachers, organising student activities such as the Territory-wide Inter-school



Basic Law Competition and the Basic Law Student Ambassadors Training Scheme, and engaging students in life-wide learning activities like Mainland exchange programmes so as to enable students at all levels to acquire a correct understanding of the Basic Law.

7. The Government has been paying attention to the opinions relating to the Basic Law from members of the public or organisations. If any inaccurate information is found, the Government will suitably clarify or respond.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB028**

**(Question Serial No. 1779)**

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

Question:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau is responsible for, amongst others, advise bureaux and departments on matters relating to the implementation of the Basic Law, and promote public awareness and understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law. In this regard, would the Government advise this Committee of:

1. the specific work, manpower and expenditure involved for the implementation of the Basic Law;
2. the specific work, manpower and expenditure involved for the promotion of public awareness and understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law; and
3. the estimated expenditures on the above work in the coming year?

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (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. The strategies adopted by the CMAB to promote the Constitution and the Basic Law include:

- (a) organising thematic seminars;
- (b) using electronic media, such as Internet and smart-phone applications, to promote widely to different strata of the society by various means, e.g. online games, Basic Law Court Case Database, video series, and launching Announcement of Public Interests on television, etc.;
- (c) enhancing awareness and understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law by the general public and students through promotional activities at the

district level, such as organising roving exhibitions and arranging mobile resource centre to pay visits to different districts and schools; and

- (d) providing sponsorship to non-governmental organisations or community organisations through the “Basic Law Promotion Activity Sponsorship Scheme” and “Basic Law Promotion Research Sponsorship Scheme” for staging various promotional and research activities on the Constitution and the Basic Law, such as seminars, quizzes and debate competitions, in order to reach a wider audience.

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

2. Under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (BLPSC) provides advice and steer on the overall strategy and key aspects for promoting the Constitution and the Basic Law, and monitors, evaluates and reviews promotional programmes undertaken by government departments and non-governmental organisations. The CMAB provides secretariat support to the BLPSC. The Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, Secretary for Civil Service and Secretary for Education are among the official members of the BLPSC. 5 working groups (namely Working Groups on Local Community; Teachers and Students; Civil Servants; Industrial, Commercial and Professional Sectors; and Community Outside Hong Kong) had been set up under the BLPSC and are assisted by the Home Affairs Bureau, Education Bureau, Civil Service Bureau, Trade and Industry Department and Information Services Department respectively in planning and organising various types of activities to promote the Constitution and the Basic Law on various fronts. The BLPSC and its working groups will review the format, content and effectiveness of promotional activities in relation to the Constitution and the Basic Law from time to time, and give due regard to the development and trend of promotional media and information technology with a view to optimising our promotion strategy.

3. In 2020-21, the actual expenditure of the CMAB for the promotion of the Constitution and the Basic Law is about \$12 million. Owing to the COVID-19 epidemic, some publicity and promotional activities were not held as scheduled, resulting in a lower actual expenditure than the estimations. The relevant estimated expenditure for 2021-22 is about \$23 million.

4. The CMAB has been working closely with other bureaux and departments in promoting the Constitution and the Basic Law, as well as providing advice and support as appropriate. We do not have relevant statistics on the items mentioned in the question.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB029**

**(Question Serial No. 1822)**

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

Question:

1. In respect of the non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff members employed by the Director of Bureau's Office, what are their number, the relevant expenditures and their area of work in the past 3 years and the 2021-22 Estimates?
2. Are there any establishment and expenditure ceilings on the NCSC staff members employed by the Director of Bureau? If yes, what are the relevant establishment, expenditure ceilings and area of work? If no, why such ceilings are not set?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 77)

Reply:

1. The Director of Bureau's Office of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau did not employ any non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff in the past 3 financial years. In 2021-22 financial year, the Director of Bureau's Office has also not reserved fund for employing NCSC staff.
2. The Civil Service Bureau (CSB) has set a ceiling for the number of NSCS staff for each bureau/department. The CSB also requires the relevant bureau/department to seek approval from the CSB for employment of NCSC staff over the prescribed ceiling.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB030**

**(Question Serial No. 1823)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Mainland and Hong Kong have signed the *Agreement Concerning Amendment to the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) Agreement on Trade in Services* earlier on to lower the market access thresholds in the Mainland for Hong Kong enterprises and professionals engaging in service sectors such as financial services, legal services, construction and related engineering services, and allow more Hong Kong professionals to obtain qualifications to practise in the Mainland. Nevertheless, people from various professions still feel that “big doors are open, but small doors are not yet open” on the whole, and lament about the high thresholds for practising across the border, unsatisfactory pay levels in the Mainland and huge cultural differences between the two places. Will the Government inform this Committee of what the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government has done to facilitate Hong Kong professionals of various sectors in starting and conducting business in the Greater Bay Area in recent years? What is the work progress?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government is committed to assisting Hong Kong businesses in accessing the Mainland market through the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA). The amendment agreement to the CEPA Agreement on Trade in Services has been smoothly implemented since 1 June 2020. The amendment agreement has introduced new liberalisation measures in a number of important services sectors, including measures for pilot implementation in the Guangdong Province. These measures make it easier for Hong Kong service suppliers and professionals to set up enterprises and develop business in the Mainland.

2. The HKSAR Government attaches great importance to the effective implementation of CEPA and has been working closely with the Mainland authorities at central, provincial and municipal levels, and has made use of the established mechanisms with the Ministry of

Commerce to actively address and follow up problems encountered by Hong Kong enterprises in using CEPA liberalisation measures in the Mainland. Moreover, the HKSAR Government proactively liaises with chambers of commerce, professional bodies and industry organisations, etc. to introduce details of the new liberalisation measures under CEPA. In order to facilitate the trade, the Trade and Industry Department (TID) has set up a dedicated website on CEPA for Hong Kong enterprises and professionals, so that they can utilise CEPA to develop their Mainland business. The trade can also enquire about CEPA issues or specific cases through TID, which will collaborate with the policy bureaux concerned and follow up with the Mainland authorities. As regards liberalisation measures in specific professional service sectors, details are provided below.

3. According to the amendment agreement, the requirements for Hong Kong certified public accountants (CPA) who have obtained the Chinese CPA qualifications to become partners of partnership accounting firms in the Mainland have been granted national treatment. On this basis, the HKSAR Government will pursue with the Mainland authorities on measures for further facilitating Hong Kong CPAs to practise in the Greater Bay Area. The amendment agreement has also further relaxed the threshold for Hong Kong insurance companies, insurance agency companies and insurance brokerage companies to access the Mainland market.

4. Under the CEPA framework, the Hong Kong Institute of Bankers (HKIB) and the China Banking Association (CBA) signed a collaboration agreement in 2015 for banking practitioners in the Mainland and Hong Kong to obtain mutually recognised professional qualifications through relevant examinations. The HKIB and CBA have also agreed to allow the Qualification Certificate of Banking Professional (QCBP) examination for Hong Kong talents to take place in Hong Kong. The Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau will continue to maintain close liaison with the relevant Mainland authorities with a view to expanding the room for participation of Hong Kong securities professionals in the Mainland.

5. In respect of legal services, the Hong Kong legal sector has all along benefited from the liberalisation measures under CEPA. The Department of Justice has been actively striving for more Mainland liberalisation measures for the Hong Kong legal sector, and facilitating the expansion of their business to the Greater Bay Area (and other places in the Mainland). There have been a few breakthroughs recently enabling the Hong Kong legal sector to further capitalise on its advantages and enhance its competitiveness. They include the GBA Legal Professional Examination, the choice of applicable laws for civil and commercial contracts by wholly owned Hong Kong enterprises and foreign-invested enterprises set up in Qianhai, further liberalisation measures on partnership associations, and further liberalisation measure on legal consultant.

6. For the construction and engineering related sectors, after proactive deliberation by the Development Bureau with the Department of Housing and Urban-Rural Development (DHURD) of Guangdong Province, the DHURD promulgated the “Interim Guidelines for the Management of Hong Kong Engineering Construction Consultant Enterprises and Professionals Starting Business and Practising in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Cities” through its official website in late November 2020 for implementation from 1 January 2021. Consultant firms on the 2 HKSAR Government lists (i.e. the Architectural and Associated Consultants Selection Board and the Engineering and Associated Consultants Selection Board), as well as professionals registered with relevant

registration boards in Hong Kong, can acquire corresponding qualifications in the Mainland by way of registration so that they can provide services in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area directly.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB031**

**(Question Serial No. 1827)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

What are the quarterly numbers of cross-boundary passengers between Hong Kong and the Mainland in the past 3 years? In view of the fact that cross-boundary travel between the two places has been impeded for a long period of time, will the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government negotiate with the Guangdong Provincial Government for allowing Hong Kong residents who are vaccinated and certified as carrying antibodies of COVID-19 by medical service units to be exempted from quarantine when travelling to the Mainland and be issued with the Mainland health code by undergoing COVID-19 testing only, so that normal cross-boundary travel can be resumed at an earlier time? If yes, what are the details; if no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

The quarterly number of inbound and outbound passenger trips at various immigration control points in the past 3 years are set out at Annex. The Immigration Department does not have the breakdown on the number of cross-boundary passengers between Hong Kong and the Mainland at the immigration control points.

2. With the rolling out of vaccination programmes in different places and the gradual publishing of the clinical user statistics as well as immunisation responses, we can obtain more information on the efficacy and quality of the various COVID-19 vaccines. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government will closely monitor the vaccination progress and the epidemic developments in Hong Kong and around the world, and make reference to relevant guidelines promulgated by the World Health Organisation when exploring various prevention and control strategies.

3. The HKSAR Government has been communicating and liaising closely with relevant Mainland and Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) authorities on disease prevention and control measures, as well as arrangement for cross-boundary travel for residents of the three places. We are actively exploring to resume normal cross-boundary



activities amongst residents of the three places in a gradual and orderly manner when the epidemic situation in the three places is under control, and without increasing public health risks. At present, vaccination programmes have already been rolled out in the Mainland as well as in Hong Kong and Macao SARs, while the epidemic situation has also shown signs of subsiding. We will take into account the latest epidemic situation and continue to maintain close communication with the Mainland and Macao SAR authorities with a view to resuming normal cross-boundary activities amongst residents of the three places as early as possible. Moreover, to facilitate Hong Kong residents who are currently in Guangdong Province or Macao to return to Hong Kong, the HKSAR Government has introduced the Return2hk Scheme since 23 November 2020. As at 25 March 2021, there have been over 108 000 passenger trips of Hong Kong residents successfully returning to Hong Kong under the Scheme and without being subject to the 14-day compulsory quarantine. The HKSAR Government will, with regard to the epidemic situation and practical considerations, explore extending the scope of the Scheme to other parts of the Mainland.

The quarterly numbers of inbound and outbound passenger trips at various boundary control points

Control Point	2018				2019				2020 <sup>Note 1</sup>			
	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter
Airport <sup>Note 2</sup>	12 885 539	13 348 637	13 516 503	13 626 912	13 052 886	13 686 670	11 711 435	10 546 838	5 210 584	114 448	218 096	165 937
Lo Wu	20 839 894	21 065 976	21 600 071	21 609 422	21 083 371	21 586 226	19 095 204	16 469 422	5 455 893	0	0	0
Hung Hom	1 014 800	1 040 824	1 050 731	720 467	670 351	631 664	437 006	250 281	108 537	0	0	0
Lok Ma Chau Spur Line <sup>Note 3</sup>	13 945 991	14 260 669	14 244 403	13 872 434	13 492 535	14 026 857	11 626 543	11 010 500	3 473 370	27 822	15 550	0
West Kowloon Station of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link <sup>Note 4</sup>	-	-	376 137	4 893 952	4 977 211	4 888 630	3 652 924	3 213 663	975 897	0	0	0
Lok Ma Chau	7 049 547	7 227 755	7 197 293	7 151 256	6 610 310	6 663 050	5 692 452	5 836 137	1 621 157	0	0	0
Man Kam To	1 155 338	1 116 543	945 537	1 078 584	1 023 822	989 435	730 371	881 679	243 202	0	0	0
Sha Tau Kok	802 264	779 035	740 132	769 924	746 072	709 564	603 867	622 003	191 046	0	0	0
Shenzhen Bay <sup>Note 3</sup>	10 910 900	10 877 855	11 074 075	11 425 265	11 012 378	10 434 331	8 529 717	8 549 606	3 185 450	138 098	190 940	199 257
Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Port <sup>Note 2 &amp; 5</sup>	-	-	-	4 817 708	5 676 409	5 690 658	4 326 121	3 730 108	1 579 411	11 068	25 548	25 526
Heung Yuen Wai <sup>Note 6</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0
Harbour Control <sup>Note 2</sup>	13 598	12 843	13 228	15 043	12 711	13 566	12 396	12 742	10 825	9 014	21 673	6 459
Macau Ferry Terminal <sup>Note 2</sup>	4 172 093	4 215 317	4 314 158	3 591 419	2 916 416	2 806 299	2 378 909	2 076 030	620 904	0	0	0
China Ferry Terminal <sup>Note 2</sup>	1 811 626	1 746 525	1 805 765	1 474 560	1 225 694	1 050 507	803 492	680 673	196 733	0	0	0

Control Point	2018				2019				2020 <sup>Note 1</sup>			
	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter
Tuen Mun Ferry Terminal <sup>Note 2</sup>	180 158	194 200	199 374	161 178	139 743	133 601	132 686	114 271	28 724	0	0	0
River Trade Terminal <sup>Note 2</sup>	36	37	28	11	44	28	24	38	17	5	19	1
Kai Tak Cruise Terminal <sup>Note 2 &amp; 7</sup>	379 053	480 928	423 602	449 217	399 412	422 968	425 010	338 539	135 864	0	0	0
Total	75 160 837	76 367 144	77 501 037	85 657 352	83 039 365	83 734 054	70 158 157	64 332 530	23 037 614	300 455	471 826	397 180

Note 1: In response to the development of the COVID-19 epidemic, the HKSAR Government has suspended passenger clearance services at most of the control points by phases since end-January 2020:

- West Kowloon Station of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link, Hung Hom, Man Kam To, Sha Tau Kok, China Ferry Terminal and Tuen Mun Ferry Terminal (with effect from 30 January 2020);
- Lo Wu, Lok Ma Chau Spur Line, Lok Ma Chau and Hong Kong Macau Ferry Terminal (with effect from 4 February 2020); and
- Kai Tak Cruise Terminal (with effect from the afternoon of 5 February 2020).

Note 2: The control point is not confined to travelling to and from the Mainland.

Note 3: According to the special arrangements made by the HKSAR Government and Shenzhen Municipal Government, Secondary 3 to Secondary 5 cross boundary students entered and exited Hong Kong via Shenzhen Bay Control Point or Lok Ma Chau Spur Line Control Point during designated periods from Monday to Friday between 15 June and 17 July 2020 (except public holidays).

Note 4: Officially commissioned on 23 September 2018.

Note 5: Officially commissioned on 24 October 2018.

Note 6: The Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point was officially commissioned on 26 August 2020, with only cargo clearance service available at this stage (i.e. no passenger clearance service for the time being).

Note 7: The numbers of inbound and outbound passenger trips also included trips made by passengers of cruise liners berthing at other anchorages, as well as trips made by passengers on board Hong Kong-based passenger liners running regular daily high seas trips.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB032**

**(Question Serial No. 1828)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In respect of the complaint cases related to doxxing of law enforcement officers and their family members/friends received by the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD) in 2019 and 2020, please give the respective numbers of cases received and substantiated, the respective numbers of law enforcement officers or their family members/friends involved, the nature of doxxing information, the social media/websites involved, the ways the relevant information was handled, the respective numbers of cases referred to the Police for further criminal investigation and of cases found to have allegedly violated the relevant injunction order of the court and referred to the Department of Justice for follow-up, and the respective numbers and details of cases successfully prosecuted and convicted.

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

The Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (PDPO) regulates the protection of personal data privacy. Section 64(2) of the PDPO provides that a person commits an offence if the person discloses any personal data of a data subject which was obtained from a data user without the data user's consent, and the disclosure causes psychological harm to the data subject. Such person is liable on conviction to a maximum penalty of a fine of HK\$1 million and to imprisonment for up to 5 years.

2. Subsequent to the various social incidents that occurred in Hong Kong since June 2019, the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD) has received complaints related to doxxing. In 2019 and 2020, the PCPD processed a total of 4 370 and 1 036 doxxing cases arising from complaints or discovered through proactive online patrols, and the handling of 4 208 and 339 cases were completed respectively. The victims of doxxing are from all kinds of backgrounds and all walks of life having various views, including police officers and their family members, government officials and public servants, as well as members of the public who had expressed support to or voiced

opposition against the Government or the Police. The number and percentage of cases involving law enforcement officers and their family members/friends are as follows:

	Doxxing-related cases	Doxxing cases involving law enforcement officers and their family members/friends	
	No. of cases	No. of cases	Percentage
2019	4 370	1 580	36%
2020	1 036	451	44%

3. The concerned doxxing cases involved various social platforms and websites, including Telegram, LIHKG, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Tumblr, HKGolden, Doxbin, Discuss.com.hk, HKleaks, Github, Yidianzixun, HongKongMOB, Hong Kong Chronicles, Youtube, Guard HK, memehk.com and Google, etc. Besides, various kinds of personal data were involved in the doxxing cases, such as name, address, telephone number, photo, academic qualification, date of birth, identity card number, etc., and most offenders intended to cause psychological harm to the data subjects or their immediate family members through threatening or intimidation.

4. As at December 2020, the PCPD referred a total of 1 461 doxxing cases which involved suspected contravention of section 64 of the PDPO to the Police for criminal investigation and consideration of prosecution. The PCPD learnt that a total of 17 suspects had been arrested by the Police in relation to doxxing cases, 2 of which had been prosecuted and successfully convicted as of latest developments. In November 2020, one of the defendants was sentenced to imprisonment for 18 months under the above offence, with a total term of imprisonment of 2 years on combined convictions for other charges. This is the first conviction for contravention of section 64(2) of the PDPO. As at December 2020, the PCPD referred 57 doxxing cases on suspicion of breaching the relevant High Court's injunction orders to the Department of Justice for follow up action. Among these cases, 4 defendants were convicted, and one of them was convicted in December 2020 of civil contempt of court for posting the personal data of a police officer and his family members on a social media platform. The defendant was sentenced to 21 days' immediate imprisonment. This is the first case in which a defendant is sentenced to immediate imprisonment for breaching an injunction order on doxxing.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB033**

**(Question Serial No. 1829)**

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

Question:

*The Regulations for Application of Residence Permit for Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Residents* (the Regulations), as announced by the Central Government, have been implemented since 1 September 2018. Hong Kong residents living in the Mainland who meet the relevant criteria can apply for residence permits. According to the Regulations, Hong Kong and Macao residents who have lived in the Mainland for more than 6 months and are able to show proof of either a legitimate and stable job, a legitimate and stable residence, or ongoing school attendance can apply for residence permits voluntarily. A residence permit holder is entitled to enjoy, in accordance with the law, a series of rights, basic public services and facilitation measures in the place where he or she is residing, covering areas relating to daily living including employment, education, medical care, travel, financial services and so on. In respect of the Hong Kong residents who have applied for the residence permit, does the Government know the annual and total numbers in the past 5 years?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.:7)

Reply:

We understand that more than 300 000 Hong Kong residents had applied for residence permits as at February 2021. Breakdown figures by year are not available.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB034**

**(Question Serial No. 1830)**

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

Question:

The *Interim Measures on the Participation in Social Insurance by Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Residents* announced by the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security and the National Healthcare Security Administration have been implemented since 1 January 2020. Residents of Hong Kong and Macao working, living and studying in the Mainland can participate in the social security schemes of the Mainland, including the basic pension fund, the basic medical insurance, etc. in accordance with the law, and enjoy the same treatment as Mainland residents. Through what channels does the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government disseminate information in relation to the facilitation measures? How many Hong Kong people have participated in the above schemes?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.:8)

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau has published on its dedicated website a series of policy measures introduced by the relevant departments of the Central Government since August 2017 to enable Hong Kong people to have detailed understanding on these facilitation measures. The measures cover areas including education, employment, daily life matters and social security which also include the *Interim Measures on the Participation in Social Insurance by Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Residents* implemented since early 2020. Besides, the 5 Mainland Offices of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (namely the Beijing Office and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Guangdong, Chengdu, Shanghai and Wuhan) have disseminated information in relation to the facilitation measures through various channels such as websites, WeChat public accounts, emails and gatherings of Hong Kong people.

2. We understand that relevant Mainland departments have not published the number of Hong Kong people who have joined the social insurance schemes in the Mainland.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB035**

**(Question Serial No. 1831)**

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

Question:

The Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee provides the necessary steer on the overall programme and strategy for promoting the Basic Law, and provides an organisational focus for co-ordinating the efforts of various parties concerned, both in the Government and in the community. In this regard, would the Government advise this Committee on the following: 1. What are the expenditures incurred on the promotion of the Basic Law in the past 3 years; 2. How is the effectiveness of promotional programmes evaluated; 3. What are the evaluation results in each of the past 3 years; 4. Has the Government assessed the effectiveness of the current evaluation method? If yes, what are the results of assessment; if no, what are the reasons; 5. How does the Government strengthen promotion of the relationship between the Constitution of our country and the Basic Law; and 6. How does the Government resist the spread of the advocacy at all levels?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)

Reply:

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

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



3. The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (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. In the past 3 years (i.e. 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21), the actual expenditures of the CMAB for the promotion of the Constitution and the Basic Law are about \$17 million, \$15 million and \$12 million respectively. In the past 2 years, owing to the proposed legislative amendments incidents and the COVID-19 epidemic, some publicity and promotion activities were not held as scheduled, resulting in a lower actual expenditure than the estimations. In 2021-22, the estimated expenditure of the CMAB for the promotion of the Constitution and the Basic Law is about \$23 million.

4. The strategies adopted by the CMAB to promote the Constitution and the Basic Law include:

- (a) organising thematic seminars;
- (b) using electronic media, such as Internet and smart-phone applications, to promote widely to different strata of the society in a variety of ways, e.g. online games, Basic Law Court Case Database, video series, and launching Announcement of Public Interests on television, etc.;
- (c) enhancing awareness and understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law by the general public and students through promotional activities at the district level, such as organising roving exhibitions and arranging mobile resource centre to pay visits to different districts and schools; and
- (d) providing sponsorship to non-governmental organisations or community organisations through the “Basic Law Promotion Activity Sponsorship Scheme” and “Basic Law Promotion Research Sponsorship Scheme” for staging various promotional and research activities on the Constitution and the Basic Law, such as seminars, quizzes and debate competitions, in order to reach a wider audience.

5. Under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (BLPSC) provides advice and steer on the overall strategy and key aspects for promoting the Constitution and the Basic Law, and monitors, evaluates and reviews promotional programmes undertaken by government departments and non-governmental organisations. The CMAB provides secretariat support to the BLPSC. 5 working groups (namely Working Groups on Local Community; Teachers and Students; Civil Servants; Industrial, Commercial and Professional Sectors; and Community Outside Hong Kong) had been set up under the BLPSC and are assisted by the Home Affairs Bureau, Education Bureau, Civil Service Bureau, Trade and Industry Department and Information Services Department respectively in planning and organising various types of activities to promote the Constitution and the Basic Law on various fronts. The BLPSC and its working groups will review the format, content and effectiveness of promotional activities in relation to the Constitution and the Basic Law from time to time through evaluating their popularity based on the number and feedback of participants, and give due regard to the development and trend of promotional media and information technology with a view to optimising our promotion strategy.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB036**

**(Question Serial No. 1835)**

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

Question:

The Policy Innovation and Co-ordination Office is responsible for co-ordinating major cross-bureau policies selected by the senior leadership of the Government. The Chief Executive stated earlier that the relevant government departments were re-examining the legal requirements and administrative arrangements concerning public registers maintained by them. Adjustments will be made as necessary, and legislative amendments will be made later to ensure that the purposes of conducting searches can be met while better protecting the personal privacy of members of the public. Which departments and public registers are involved in the above work? What are the progress of the review and the timetable of the relevant legislative amendments?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

Reply:

Public registers maintained by various government departments have been in place for many years. While such registers are available for searches for different reasons and purposes, they mainly seek to provide convenience to members of the public and service users for specific uses, such as property transaction, vehicle registration or commercial activities related to companies.

2. In view of the great public concern on personal data privacy protection in recent years, and the obtaining and abusive use of the personal data of members of the public through register searches, the relevant government departments are reviewing the search arrangements on the public registers under their purview. The Immigration Department has implemented administrative arrangements for register searches on the Births and Deaths Register and the Marriage Register, whereby searchers are required to declare the purpose and intended use of the records they obtained and their relationship with the data subjects for processing of their search applications. The Transport Department has also introduced email notification service in respect of the issue of the Certificate of Particulars of Vehicle. When a searcher conducts a search on the particulars of vehicle owned by a subscribed vehicle owner, the Transport Department will send a notification email containing the name

of the searcher, date of search and the alleged purpose of the search application to the subscribed vehicle owner to enhance vigilance of abusive use of personal data.

3. Moreover, other government departments (e.g. the Companies Registry, the Land Registry etc.) are currently reviewing the arrangements for conducting register searches, including the relevant legal requirements and administrative arrangements to offer better protection to the personal data privacy of members of the public while fulfilling the purposes of the registers.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB037**

**(Question Serial No. 1851)**

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

Question:

On the 2020 Constitution Day, the Chief Executive Mrs Carrie Lam said that “safeguarding national sovereignty, security and development interests is the fundamental purpose of the Constitution and the untouchable bottom line of the ‘One Country, Two Systems’ principle”. She also stressed that while promoting the understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law, publicity and education on the national security law in Hong Kong must also be strengthened and relevant knowledge should be promoted among the public in a serious and earnest manner. In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee whether it has any plans to publicise to the local and overseas communities the positive effect of the national security law on Hong Kong? What are the details and the manpower and expenditure involved? Are there any promotional programmes included targeting secondary and primary schools? What are the manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 41)

Reply:

Since the Law of the People’s Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (the National Security Law) was adopted and promulgated for implementation in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) on 30 June 2020, the HKSAR Government has been introducing the National Security Law to various sectors and responding to their concerns through different channels and means (including publication of pamphlets, press releases, newspaper advertisements, and officials taking part in interviews on television, radio, webinars and other media, etc.), as well as through the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices outside Hong Kong.

2. National education is a part of the school curriculum, and national security education is inseparable from national education. It is the obligation of schools to perform national security education. National education enables students to learn more about, amongst others, our country’s history, culture and developments in various areas, the Constitution and the Basic Law, as well as the concepts and areas covered in national security education.

In the 2021-22 school year, the Education Bureau will continue to adopt a “multi-pronged and co-ordinated” approach and support schools in promoting national education within and beyond classes through updating the curriculum, developing learning and teaching resources, providing training for teachers, as well as organising student activities/Mainland exchange programmes for teachers and students, in order to enhance understanding of our country, foster a sense of national identity, raise awareness of national security and the obligation to abide by the law, and cultivate a sense of responsibility among teachers and students.

3. A webinar under the theme of “The Constitution and National Security” was held on 4 December 2020 and attracted an audience of about 100 000 through television and online broadcast. Moreover, a series of promotional and educational activities will be rolled out on this year’s National Security Education Day on 15 April. In future, the HKSAR Government will continue to strengthen publicity and education, so as to enhance Hong Kong people’s national security and law-abiding awareness and deepen the understanding and reinforce the positive perception of the international community on the National Security Law.

4. The National Security Law is a national law listed in Annex III to the Basic Law, and is closely associated with the Constitution and the Basic Law. The Government will, through the platform of the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (BLPSC) chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration, co-ordinate and formulate with the Members promotional strategies and plans on the Constitution, the Basic Law and the National Security Law. The Secretary for Security has joined the BLPSC to give advice and the necessary support for the effective promotion of the National Security Law.

5. The promotion expenditure for the National Security Law under the BLPSC is absorbed by the overall provision for the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau, and therefore no breakdown figures are available.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB038**

**(Question Serial No. 1852)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. In respect of providing practical assistance and support to Hong Kong residents in the Mainland, what is the specific work involved? Please provide information on the activities or projects undertaken by the Mainland Offices and the number of people served etc. in the past 3 years.
2. What are the number and nature of requests for assistance by Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland handled by the Mainland Offices?
3. The Guangdong Economic and Trade Office has commissioned an organisation to provide free legal advisory service to Hong Kong residents in need. How many requests for free legal advisory service were received in the past 3 years?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 42)

Reply:

Currently, the Mainland Offices liaise closely with organisations of Hong Kong residents, business associations, enterprises and student groups etc. to better understand the situations of Hong Kong residents working, studying and living in the Mainland, and to provide appropriate assistance when necessary. Examples of such assistance include organising events for Hong Kong residents there for exchanges and sharing of experiences of living in the Mainland, providing information on further studies and job opportunities for Hong Kong students, and holding career talks jointly with organisations of Hong Kong residents to address the needs of Hong Kong students. The Mainland Offices also relay the views or requests of Hong Kong residents in the Mainland to the relevant Mainland authorities for follow-up. Moreover, to support Hong Kong residents in the Mainland, the Mainland Offices collect practical information on medical care, business, employment, education and legal services etc. and disseminate such information through production of information booklets and updates on the Offices' websites from time to time to assist Hong Kong residents to better adapt to living in the area. The Mainland Offices have published booklets on living in Beijing, Tianjin, Shenyang, Guangdong, Shanghai, Nanjing, Hefei,

Hangzhou, Ningbo, Qingdao, Jinan, Chengdu, Chongqing, Xi'an, Guiyang, Wuhan, Changsha and Zhengzhou etc. In 2021-22, the Mainland Offices will continue with the above work.

2. Immigration Divisions have been set up under 5 Mainland Offices of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) (namely the Beijing Office and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Guangdong, Chengdu, Shanghai and Wuhan) to provide HKSAR passport replacement service for eligible applicants with a valid HKSAR permanent identity card and provide practical assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. In 2018, 2019 and 2020, a total of 375, 456 and 3 219 requests for assistance were received from Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland respectively. The requests were related to loss of travel documents or money; or persons involved in accidents, injuries or other incidents (including requests related to the COVID-19 epidemic, e.g. assistance seekers were stranded due to transport conditions or needed medication provided in Hong Kong etc.). The Immigration Divisions had rendered practical assistance to the assistance seekers having regard to the actual circumstances.

3. The Guangdong ETO has commissioned an organisation to provide free legal advisory service to Hong Kong residents in need through a telephone hotline or by arranging Mainland duty lawyers to meet the assistance seekers to provide preliminary advice on Mainland-related legal matters. In 2018, 2019 and 2020, 2 203, 1 960 and 1 304 requests for free legal advisory service were received respectively.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB039**

**(Question Serial No. 1853)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

At an earlier Legislative Council question-and-answer session, the Chief Executive Mrs Carrie Lam stated that in view of the prevalence of false information in society during the COVID-19 outbreak and social movements, the Government would combat misinformation and tackle the problem of “doxxing” through legislation and law enforcement. “Doxxing” behaviour would become a criminal offence, and the relevant legislative amendment would be submitted to the Legislative Council for scrutiny in this legislative year. Will the Government inform this Committee of how many complaints about “doxxing” it received in each of the past 3 years, the categories of victims involved, the numbers of complaints substantiated upon investigation, the follow-up actions the Government took and the outcome, as well as the progress and timetable of the legislative work?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 43)

Reply:

The Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (PDPO) regulates the protection of personal data privacy. Section 64(2) of the PDPO provides that a person commits an offence if the person discloses any personal data of a data subject which was obtained from a data user without the data user’s consent, and the disclosure causes psychological harm to the data subject. Such person is liable on conviction to a maximum penalty of a fine of HK\$1 million and to imprisonment for up to 5 years.

2. Subsequent to the various social incidents that occurred in Hong Kong since June 2019, the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD) has received complaints related to doxxing. In 2019 and 2020, the PCPD processed a total of 4 370 and 1 036 doxxing cases arising from complaints or discovered through proactive online patrols, and the handling of 4 208 and 339 cases were completed respectively. The victims of doxxing are from all kinds of backgrounds and all walks of life having various views, including police officers and their family members, government officials and public



servants, as well as members of the public who had expressed support to or voiced opposition against the Government or the Police.

3. As at December 2020, the PCPD referred a total of 1 461 doxxing cases which involved suspected contravention of section 64 of the PDPO to the Police for criminal investigation and consideration of prosecution. The PCPD learnt that a total of 17 suspects had been arrested by the Police in relation to doxxing cases, 2 of which had been prosecuted and successfully convicted as of latest developments. In November 2020, one of the defendants was sentenced to imprisonment for 18 months under the above offence, with a total term of imprisonment of 2 years on combined convictions for other charges. This is the first conviction for contravention of section 64(2) of the PDPO. As at December 2020, the PCPD referred 57 doxxing cases on suspicion of breaching the relevant High Court's injunction orders to the Department of Justice for follow up action. Among these cases, 4 defendants were convicted, and one of them was convicted in December 2020 of civil contempt of court for posting the personal data of a police officer and his family members on a social media platform. The defendant was sentenced to 21 days' immediate imprisonment. This is the first case in which a defendant is sentenced to immediate imprisonment for breaching an injunction order on doxxing.

4. The Government attaches great importance to combating doxxing acts, which are intrusive to personal data privacy. To combat doxxing, the Government and the PCPD are working on amendments to the PDPO, the directions of which mainly encompass: (1) criminalising doxxing acts as an offence under the PDPO, (2) conferring on the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (the Privacy Commissioner) statutory powers to demand the removal of doxxing contents from social media platforms or websites, and (3) empowering the Privacy Commissioner to carry out criminal investigation and initiate prosecution. We aim to complete the drafting of the legislative amendment proposals related to doxxing for the scrutiny of the Legislative Council within this legislative year.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****CMAB040****(Question Serial No. 1855)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In respect of children's rights education, what work programmes were undertaken to prevent child abuse and sex abuse on children in the past 3 years? (Please provide information on details of work, number of participants and expenditure involved)

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 45)

Reply:

The Government is committed to promoting public awareness of and respect for the rights of children as enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (the Convention), which includes continuing to promote the children's rights through the Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme (the Funding Scheme). The objective of the Funding Scheme is to encourage and enable community organisations to take up educational projects for raising public awareness and understanding of children's rights enshrined in the Convention.

2. The Convention covers the rights of children in many aspects. In particular, Article 19 states that "to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child". However, this Bureau does not keep breakdown statistics on the sponsored projects by the children's right or article of the Convention.

3. The expenditures on promoting the children's rights (excluding manpower cost) and the total number of participants of the sponsored projects in the past 3 years are set out in the table below:

Financial year	Expenditure on promoting the children's rights (\$ million)	Total number of participants of the sponsored projects
2018-19	1.090	About 47 000
2019-20	0.984	About 33 000
2020-21	1.089 (revised estimate)	About 29 000 (estimate)

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB041**

**(Question Serial No. 1856)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In respect of the complaints received, investigation initiated and complaints conciliated by the Equal Opportunities Commission in the past 3 years, please provide information on the right concerned, number of staff handling the cases and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 46)

Reply:

The Complaint Services Division (CSD) of the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) handles enquiries and complaints made under the anti-discrimination ordinances. A dedicated team has been set up to handle enquiries since March 2021 and an officer-rank post has also been created in the CSD. Currently, there are 28 staff in CSD's establishment, including 1 Director, 23 staff at the officer rank and 4 clerical and supporting staff. In the past 3 years, the expenditures on emoluments of the staff responsible for handling cases in the CSD are \$19.78 million (2018-19), \$26.71 million (2019-20) and \$27.46 million (2020-21 estimate) respectively. The main reason for lower expenditure in 2018-19 is vacancy of posts in the CSD.

2. The numbers of complaints received, investigation initiated and conciliation attempted by the EOC in the past 3 years (2018 to 2020) are set out below:

Year	2018	2019	2020
<b>Complaint investigation</b>			
Number of cases	971	909	1 100
- Sex Discrimination Ordinance	314	319	304
- Disability Discrimination Ordinance	539	440	428
- Family Status Discrimination Ordinance	49	54	41
- Race Discrimination Ordinance	69	96	327

<b>Self-initiated investigation</b>			
Number of cases	48	44	31
- Sex Discrimination Ordinance	6	17	10
- Disability Discrimination Ordinance	31	25	13
- Family Status Discrimination Ordinance	2	0	0
- Race Discrimination Ordinance	9	2	8
<b>Conciliation</b>			
Number of complaint cases with attempted conciliation	200	196	138
- Sex Discrimination Ordinance	90	82	63
- Disability Discrimination Ordinance	100	104	62
- Family Status Discrimination Ordinance	5	7	6
- Race Discrimination Ordinance	5	3	7

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB042**

**(Question Serial No. 1863)**

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

Question:

1. In respect of the planning, co-ordination and implementation of all arrangements for the Secretary's public, media and community functions in the past 3 years and for the 2021-22 Estimates, please give the respective numbers involving the Basic Law, constitutional development and election, human rights issues and Mainland affairs.
2. The respective numbers of speeches written for the Secretary, the seminars participated and the overseas or Mainland meetings attended in the past 3 years and for the 2021-22 Estimates.

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 54)

Reply:

1. The Director of Bureau's Office of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) under Programme (1) is responsible for providing support to the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (SCMA) in carrying out his duties and undertaking political work. The responsibilities of the Director of Bureau's Office are to plan, co-ordinate and implement all arrangements for SCMA's public, media and community functions. Specific work includes planning SCMA's work schedule, arranging and preparing for SCMA's work meetings and visits, liaising and co-ordinating with working contacts both inside and outside the HKSAR Government, and handling documents read and approved by SCMA, etc. The expenditures on the work mentioned in the question are mainly covered in Programmes (2) to (5) of CMAB's estimates. The expenditures and estimates for the programmes of CMAB in the past 3 financial years and for the 2021-22 estimates are set out in the table below:

Programme	Content	2018-19 (actual expenditure) (\$million)	2019-20 (actual expenditure) (\$million)	2020-21 (revised estimate) (\$million)	2021-22 (estimate) (\$million)
Programme (1)	Director of Bureau's Office	12.2	13.5	12.9	13.8
Programme (2)	Constitutional and Mainland Affairs	138.2	176.0	183.9	199.2
Programme (3)	Mainland and Taiwan Offices	314.9	307.0	334.2	366.3
Programme (4)	Rights of the Individual	24.4	25.8	28.6	30.6
Programme (5)	Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data	189.4	214.6	224.0	221.0

2. The number of speeches delivered by SCMA in activities held in Hong Kong and the Mainland and at the Legislative Council (LegCo) and media sessions, as well as the number of seminars, co-operation conferences and large-scale conferences attended by SCMA in Hong Kong, the Mainland and Macao in the past 3 years are set out in the table below:

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Speeches delivered in activities held in Hong Kong and the Mainland and at the LegCo and media sessions <sup>^</sup>	52	54	35#
Seminars, co-operation conferences and large-scale conferences attended in Hong Kong, the Mainland and Macao <sup>^*</sup>	15	13	9#

In 2021-22, SCMA will continue to give speeches on appropriate occasions and attend seminars, co-operation conferences and large-scale conferences as per operational needs.

^ Note: During the past 3 financial years, SCMA has not delivered any speech in activities held in Macao and overseas countries, and has not attended any seminar, co-operation conference and large-scale conference in overseas countries.

\* Note: Excluding internal meetings, LegCo meetings, media sessions, as well as opening, celebration and award presentation ceremonies, etc.

# Note: Due to the COVID-19 epidemic, the number of speeches delivered and the number of seminars and relevant conferences attended in 2020-21 by SCMA were smaller when compared with the past.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB043**

**(Question Serial No. 1864)**

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

Question:

1. Please provide information on advising bureaux and departments on matters relating to the implementation of the Basic Law in the past 3 years and the 2021-22 Estimates:

Bureau/department receiving advice	Number of advice given	Average number of days from receiving enquiry to giving advice

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 55)

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau has been working closely with other bureaux and departments in promoting the Constitution and the Basic Law, as well as providing advice and support as appropriate. We do not have relevant statistics on the items mentioned in the question.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB044**

**(Question Serial No. 1865)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please provide information on the resources allocated to the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office in the 2021-22 Estimate, including the number of staff, expenditure on emoluments, the respective numbers of staff who are and are not Hong Kong permanent residents, and the programmes to be planned and co-ordinated by the Office.

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.:56)

Reply:

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government has been actively taking forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area), including working closely with the central ministries/departments and the Guangdong Provincial Government to take forward the implementation of the 24 policy measures that have been approved in principle by the Leading Group for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Leading Group) at its 2 meetings in 2019. Measures already rolled out include tax concessions, facilitation of property purchase, support for young entrepreneurs, cross-boundary remittance of science and technology funding, and liberalisation of the legal and construction professional services. These measures have greatly facilitated Hong Kong residents and professionals to reside, work and develop in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area.

2. In 2021-22, the HKSAR Government will continue to actively take forward the implementation of the remaining policy measures approved in principle by the Leading Group, and pursue policy innovation and breakthroughs in areas for consolidating and enhancing Hong Kong's status as international financial, transportation and trade centres as well as an international aviation hub, developing an international innovation and technology hub, improving the infrastructure of land boundary control points between Hong Kong and Shenzhen, facilitating Hong Kong enterprises to tap the Mainland domestic market, as well as supporting Hong Kong young people to work and start up their own business in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area. We will also maintain close liaison with local stakeholders and, through strategic publicity and promotional efforts, enhance the awareness

of various sectors of society on the Greater Bay Area development and encourage them to actively participate in and open up the opportunities from the development.

3. In 2021-22, the number of staff in the establishment of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Office) is 33, and all of the staff are Hong Kong permanent residents. The estimated expenditure of the Office is about \$64.5 million, of which about \$34 million is staff cost on civil service posts.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB045**

**(Question Serial No. 1866)**

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

Question:

1. Among the 3 219 cases of providing practical assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland by the Immigration Divisions in 2020, please state the provinces/municipalities where the Hong Kong resident in distress were located, the types of assistance requested and the average number of days from receiving requests to providing assistance by the Immigration Divisions.
2. Please provide the total expenditures involved in the above 3 219 assistance cases.

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 57)

Reply:

Immigration Divisions have been set up under 5 Mainland Offices of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) (namely the Beijing Office and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Guangdong, Chengdu, Shanghai and Wuhan) to provide HKSAR passport replacement service for eligible applicants with a valid HKSAR permanent identity card and provide practical assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. In 2020, a total of 3 219 requests for assistance were received from Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. Among them, 2 980 were related to the COVID-19 epidemic, including cases in which assistance seekers were stranded due to transport conditions or needed medication provided in Hong Kong etc. The remaining 239 requests were related to loss of travel documents or money; or persons involved in accidents, injuries or other incidents. The Immigration Divisions had rendered practical assistance to the assistance seekers having regard to the actual circumstances. The breakdown of requests for assistance received by the Immigration Divisions of the Mainland Offices by provinces/municipalities where the Hong Kong resident in distress were located is set out at Annex.

2. As the above work is an integral part of the duties and functions of the Mainland Offices, the provision and manpower required cannot be singled out and itemised.

<b>Provinces/municipalities where the Hong Kong resident in distress were located</b>	<b>Assistance cases which were related to immigration and personal safety matters</b>
Beijing	23
Tianjin	4
Hebei Province	1
Liaoning Province	4
Jilin Province	3
Heilongjiang Province	0
Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region	1
Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region	7
Gansu Province	0
Ningxia Autonomous Region	0
Guangdong Province	388
Guangxi Province	4
Hainan Province	6
Yunnan Province	7
Fujian Province	16
Sichuan Province	27
Chongqing	7
Shaanxi Province	13
Guizhou Province	21
Qinghai Province	2
Tibet Autonomous Region	0
Shanghai	40
Zhejiang Province	12
Jiangsu Province	7
Anhui Province	1
Shandong Province	3
Hubei Province	2 617
Hunan Province	2
Henan Province	2
Jiangxi Province	1
Shanxi Province	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 219</b>

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB046**

**(Question Serial No. 1867)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In view of the proliferation of social media, the Equal Opportunities Commission plans to organise more social media campaigns and online programmes in 2021. Please set out the content and number of the relevant programmes, the online platforms for delivering the programmes and the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 58)

Reply:

In 2021-22, the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) will step up its publicity on online and social media in order to promote the message of equal opportunities. The programmes include:

- (a) releasing at least 250, 70 and 80 posts on Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram respectively;
- (b) organising an online photography competition on Instagram;
- (c) organising an online and physical photo exhibitions in collaboration with non-governmental organisations, featuring over 130 original photographic works contributed by different disadvantaged groups, in order to reduce the public misunderstanding they encounter;
- (d) producing and uploading over 50 videos, including an animation series promoting the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Ordinance, onto YouTube and Facebook;
- (e) organising an online quiz on Facebook;
- (f) placing online advertisements on social media and popular websites; and

(g) uploading the television and radio advertisements produced by the EOC onto social media platforms.

2. The EOC estimates that the expenditure involved in the above-mentioned programmes is around \$1 million.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB047**

**(Question Serial No. 1868)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. Please provide information on the promotional work/training activities carried out in the past 3 financial years and under the 2021-22 Estimates:

Type of promotional work/training activities	Name of organisers or co-organisers/enterprises/drama societies	Number of participants and expenditures of the promotional work or training activities
Visit		
Seminar		
Drama performance		
Training activities		

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 59)

Reply:

The promotional work/training activities carried out by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) in the past 3 years and under the 2021-22 Estimates include:

Type of promotional work/training activities	Name of organisers/co-organisers/enterprises/drama societies	Number of participants	Expenditure
Visit	EOC	<u>In the past 3 years</u> About 200  <u>2021-22</u> An expected number of about 30 (subject to the COVID-19 epidemic)	See Note 1
Seminar	Major co-organisers include: Cyberport; Gender Research Centre of the Chinese University of Hong Kong; Divinity School of Chung Chi College, the Chinese University of Hong Kong; Bible Seminary of Hong Kong; Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary; The Association of Heads of Secondary Schools of Tsuen Wan, Kwai Chung & Tsing Yi District; Christian Times; Lee Hysan Foundation; Lewis Silkin; Bird & Bird; FELIZ Consulting; Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China; Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions; Hong Kong Christian Council; The Hong Kong Council of the Church of Christ in China; Hong Kong Church Renewal Movement Ltd.; The Vine Church; Association of Women with Disabilities Hong Kong; Caritas Youth and Community Service and CareER, etc.	<u>In the past 3 years</u> Over 3 000  <u>2021-22</u> An expected number of about 600	<u>In the past 3 years</u> Over \$600,000  <u>2021-22</u> About \$500,000
Drama performance (roving drama performances in schools)	EOC, Jumbo Kids Theatre, Forest Union and The Kids on the Block	<u>In the past 3 years</u> Over 110 000  <u>2021-22</u> An expected number of about 40 000	<u>In the past 3 years</u> About \$2.38 million  <u>2021-22</u> About \$1 million



Type of promotional work/training activities	Name of organisers/co-organisers/enterprises/drama societies	Number of participants	Expenditure
Training activities (for public and private sector organisations on equal opportunities issues)	EOC	<u>In the past 3 years</u> Over 60 000  <u>2021-22</u> An expected number of about 10 000	See Note 1

Note 1: As the promotional work/training activities listed in the table above are an integral part of the EOC's daily work, the expenditures involved in some of the activities cannot be singled out and itemised.

2. In 2021-22, other promotional projects to be organised by the EOC include the Equal Opportunity Employer Recognition Scheme, the Community Participation Funding Programme on Equal Opportunities, production of advertisements on TV, radio and MTR light boxes, online and physical roving photo exhibitions, multimedia promotion programmes, online photo competition on Instagram and production of YouTube videos, etc.

3. As the promotional work and training activities mentioned above are an integral part of the EOC's daily work, the related manpower and expenditure incurred cannot be singled out and itemised, except for individual projects that come with an estimate of expenditure. In the past 3 financial years, the EOC's total expenditure on publicity, promotion and public education (including staff costs) were \$25.18 million, \$26.59 million and \$29.67 million respectively, and the estimated expenditure for 2021-22 is \$34.11 million. Of the aforementioned expenditure, the publicity and education efforts on elimination of discrimination on the grounds of sex, disability, family status and race take up about 25% each.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB048**

**(Question Serial No. 1869)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please provide information on cases in which warning notices and enforcement notices were issued and referral to prosecution was made in the past 3 years and the 2021-22 Estimates, including the number of organisations or individuals involved, the category of organisations and types of cases involved.

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 60)

Reply:

Between 2018 and 2021, the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD) has issued warning notices, enforcement notices and referred cases for further prosecution the relevant information of which is set out below:

**(I) Cases with warning notices issued**

(i) Organisations and individuals involved\*:

Year	Cases involving government departments or public organisations	Cases involving private organisations	Cases involving individuals	Total
2018	1	12	3	<b>16</b>
2019	1	4	2	<b>7</b>
2020	8	24	5	<b>37</b>

\* The PCPD estimates that the number of cases of issuance warning notices in 2021 will be 12.

(ii) Type of cases (one case may involve more than one allegation):

Year	Use of personal data without the data subject's consent	Purpose and manner of collection of personal data	Access to/ correction of personal data	Data security	Other types of cases	Total
2018	10	6	6	0	1	<b>23</b>
2019	5	3	0	1	1	<b>10</b>
2020	13	7	13	4	4	<b>41</b>

**(II) Cases with enforcement notices issued**

(i) Organisations and individuals involved#:

Year	Cases involving government departments or public organisations	Cases involving private organisations	Cases involving individuals	Total
2018	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
2019	1	6	1	<b>8</b>
2020	2	1	0	<b>3</b>

# The PCPD estimates that the number of cases of issuance of enforcement notices issued in 2021 will be 5.

(ii) Type of cases (one case may involve more than one allegation):

Year	Data security	Use of personal data without the data subject's consent	Accuracy and retention of personal data	Access to/ correction of personal data	Total
2018	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
2019	5	2	3	1	<b>11</b>
2020	2	1	0	0	<b>3</b>

**(III) Cases referred to the Police and Department of Justice (DoJ) for investigation**

(i) Organisations and individuals involved@:

Year	Number of cases involving government departments or public organisations	Number of cases involving private organisations	Number of cases involving individuals	Total
2018	0	6	0	<b>6</b>
2019	0	8	1 557	<b>1 565</b>
2020	0	7	79	<b>86</b>

@ The PCPD estimates that the number of cases to be referred to the Police and DoJ for investigation in 2021 will be 75. Among those, it is estimated that 50 cases are related to doxxing, and 25 cases are of other types.

(ii) Type of cases involved (one case may involve more than one allegation):

Year	Cases involving suspected contravention of direct marketing provisions	Doxxing cases involving suspected contravention of section 64 of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance	Doxxing cases involving suspected violation of relevant court injunction orders	Other types of cases	Total
2018	6	0	0	1	<b>7</b>
2019	6	1 402	40	117	<b>1 565</b>
2020	8	59	17	3	<b>87</b>

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB049**

**(Question Serial No. 0496)**

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

Question:

- (1) What is the progress of the study on electronisation to improve election flow? Please state which stages in the election process are under study and explain the study progress.
- (2) Will the findings of the study on electronisation be adopted into practice in the election for the seventh-term Legislative Council? If yes, what is the plan; if no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Che-cheung (LegCo internal reference no.: 44 )

Reply:

The Government has been proactively studying arrangements to electronise the electoral processes throughout the years. Nevertheless, a proper balance must be struck among the need of using technologies, efficiency, security risks, privacy protection and public trust, etc. before introducing any specific arrangements and proposals. We consulted the Legislative Council on a number of proposals in the past and some of them are already in the development stage, including exploring the use of electronic poll registers in elections which will facilitate the verification of electors' identity and enhance the efficiency and accuracy of ballot papers distribution. Our aim is to implement the relevant measure starting from the public elections to be held in 2021. We will continue to proactively study with the Registration and Electoral Office on the introduction of different technologies to public elections in order to improve election flow and work efficiency.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB050**

**(Question Serial No. 0497)**

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

Question:

- (1) What is the progress of the on-going work to strengthen the promotion and co-ordination work of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government on the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area?
- (2) What are the work targets of this financial year?
- (3) What are the estimate and manpower requirement for this financial year?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Che-cheung (LegCo internal reference no.: 45)

Reply:

- (1) & (2) The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government has been actively taking forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area), including working closely with the central ministries/departments and the Guangdong Provincial Government to take forward the implementation of the 24 policy measures that have been approved in principle by the Leading Group for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Leading Group) at its 2 meetings in 2019. Measures already rolled out include tax concessions, facilitation of property purchase, support for young entrepreneurs, cross-boundary remittance of science and technology funding, and liberalisation of the legal and construction professional services. These measures have greatly facilitated Hong Kong residents and professionals to reside, work and develop in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area.

In 2021-22, the HKSAR Government will continue to actively take forward the implementation of the remaining policy measures approved in principle by the Leading Group, and pursue policy innovation and breakthroughs in areas for consolidating and enhancing Hong Kong's status as international financial, transportation and trade centres as well as an international aviation

hub, developing an international innovation and technology hub, improving the infrastructure of land boundary control points between Hong Kong and Shenzhen, facilitating Hong Kong enterprises to tap the Mainland domestic market, as well as supporting Hong Kong young people to work and start up their own business in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area. We will also maintain close liaison with local stakeholders and, through strategic publicity and promotional efforts, enhance the awareness of various sectors of society on the Greater Bay Area development, and encourage them to actively participate in and open up opportunities from the development.

(3) The HKSAR Government established the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Office) in November 2020. In 2021-22, the number of staff in the establishment of the Office is 33; and the estimated expenditure of the Office is about \$64.5 million, of which about \$34 million is staff cost on civil service posts and about \$30.5 million is other expenses.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB051**

**(Question Serial No. 2476)**

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

Question:

Which Government bureau/department is responsible for co-ordinating the promotional work on national security among the public? What are the staffing establishment, salary expenditure and total expenditure of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau for such work in each of the past 3 years and in the coming year? How many promotion activities on national security were sponsored in each of the 3 years, and what are the sponsored organisations, names of the promotion activities and amounts of sponsorship involved? How much has been reserved for providing sponsorship in the coming year?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 100)

Reply:

Since the Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (the National Security Law) was adopted and promulgated for implementation in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) on 30 June 2020, the HKSAR Government has been introducing the National Security Law to various sectors and responding to their concerns through different channels and means (including publication of pamphlets, press releases, newspaper advertisements, and officials taking part in interviews on television, radio, webinars and other media, etc.), as well as through the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices outside Hong Kong. In addition, the HKSAR Government has been, through education in schools and other means, stepping up efforts to enhance Hong Kong people's awareness and understanding of the importance of safeguarding national security. In this connection, a webinar under the theme of "The Constitution and National Security" was held on 4 December 2020 and attracted an audience of about 100 000 through television and online broadcast. Moreover, a series of promotional and educational activities will be rolled out on this year's National Security Education Day on 15 April. In future, the HKSAR Government will continue to strengthen publicity and education, so as to enhance Hong Kong people's national security and law-abiding awareness and deepen the understanding and reinforce the positive perception of the international community on the National Security Law.



2. The National Security Law is a national law listed in Annex III to the Basic Law, and is closely associated with the Constitution and the Basic Law. The Government will, through the platform of the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (BLPSC) chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration, co-ordinate and formulate with the Members promotional strategies and plans on the Constitution, the Basic Law and the National Security Law. The Secretary for Security has joined the BLPSC to give advice and the necessary support for the effective promotion of the National Security Law.

3. The promotion expenditure for the National Security Law under the BLPSC is absorbed by the overall provision for the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau, and therefore no breakdown figures are available.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB052**

**(Question Serial No. 2480)**

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

Question:

How much resources were allocated by the Government to the study on voting outside Hong Kong and electronic distribution of ballot papers in the past financial year? What is the latest progress of the study?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 110)

Reply:

The Government and the Electoral Affairs Committee (EAC) all along strive to ensure that all public elections are conducted in an open, fair and honest manner. In respect of voting outside Hong Kong, the EAC suggested in its Report on the 2020 Legislative Council General Election (EAC's Report) released on 12 October 2020 that the Government should study the policy perspectives and the legal aspects, and to consider objectively such factors as the overall impact of the epidemic on the election and the feasibility in setting up polling stations outside Hong Kong. When considering whether and how to implement voting outside Hong Kong, ensuring that elections are held in an open, fair and honest manner is always the top priority consideration. The Government would need to consider various factors in a holistic approach, including whether and how to make arrangements for advance registration, how to ensure that ballot papers and ballot boxes can be delivered to and from polling stations outside Hong Kong effectively and safely, arrangements during the poll and the count, how to apply Hong Kong's electoral laws and regulations to the poll and the count, risks involved during the process, how to deal with emergencies at stations outside Hong Kong, how to maintain order at the stations and enforcement actions in relation to breaches of electoral law. The Government will continue to proactively study the recommendations in the EAC's Report as well as suggestions and recommendations from various sectors of the community on how to facilitate voting by voters abroad.

2. The Government has been proactively studying arrangements to electronise the electoral process throughout the years. Nevertheless, a proper balance must be struck among the need of using technologies, enhancing efficiency, security risks, privacy

protection and public trust, etc. before introducing any specific arrangements and proposals. We consulted the Legislative Council on a number of proposals in the past and some of them are already in the development stage, including the use of electronic poll registers in elections, which will facilitate the verification of electors' identity and enhance the efficiency and accuracy of ballot papers distribution. Our aim is to implement the relevant measure starting from the public elections to be held in 2021. We will continue to proactively study with the Registration and Electoral Office on the introduction of different technologies to public elections in order to improve election flow and work efficiency.

3. The resources required for the relevant work are absorbed in the recurrent expenditure of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau; a separate breakdown of the expenditure is not available.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB053**

**(Question Serial No. 2484)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 epidemic, how many enquiries and complaints has the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) received in respect of disability discrimination and racial discrimination related to COVID-19 patients, their close contacts and persons under home quarantine? What are the numbers of cases having undergone mediation, cases granted legal assistance and cases taken to court?
2. What actions has the EOC taken to prevent and eliminate disability discrimination in the community against COVID-19 patients, their close contacts and persons under home quarantine?
3. For a period of time the infected cases were mostly non-Chinese people living in Hong Kong or people arriving/returning from outside Hong Kong. What actions has the EOC taken to prevent and eliminate racial discrimination in the community arising from this situation?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 126)

Reply:

As at end February 2021, the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) received 2 enquiries and 11 complaints lodged by COVID-19 patients, their close contacts and persons under home quarantine. The cases involved disability discrimination/harassment or family status discrimination, and none of them was related to racial discrimination. The status of the aforementioned 11 complaints is as follows:

Number of complaints	Outcome of the investigation	
Complaint investigation		
10	Conciliation successful	4
	Conciliation unsuccessful	2
	Investigation discontinued	4
	Under investigation	0
Self-initiated investigation		
1	Resolved after conciliation	1

2. In the early stage of the emergence of COVID-19 in Hong Kong, the EOC has appealed to the public to take preventive and anti-epidemic measures regardless of race, physical condition, family status and sex through the EOC Chairperson’s column in newspaper. From February 2020 to 28 February 2021, the EOC issued 9 press releases, published a total of 24 articles in different Chinese and English newspapers, gave various media interviews and made use of social media platforms to explain the relevant laws and remind the general public, restaurant operators as well as other service providers to avoid acts of discrimination against COVID-19 patients, their close contacts and persons under home quarantine premised on unjustifiable anti-epidemic grounds.

3. In addition, since early February 2020, the EOC has published in its bi-weekly E-News statements and explanations on legislation regarding latest topics about the epidemic, and set up a dedicated page on its website entitled “COVID-19 and Discrimination”, featuring press releases issued by the EOC about the epidemic, column articles by the EOC Chairperson, related radio interviews, Government information on relief measures and links to services provided by non-governmental organisations (NGOs). The EOC is also mindful of the needs of groups such as persons with disabilities and ethnic minorities by introducing the sign language video(s) on Facebook in its E-News, and shared video(s) about precautionary measures with subtitles in ethnic minority languages. Moreover, between December 2020 and March 2021, the EOC displayed 2 versions of posters on MTR train compartments with the theme of “Fight the virus together as one human race” to highlight the concerted spirit of people of diverse race in fighting against the epidemic.

4. In the light of the problems faced by some foreign domestic workers in Hong Kong under the epidemic, such as increased workload, reduced rest periods and fear of dismissal by their employers after going out on rest days, the EOC also produced a set of “FAQs about COVID-19 and the Disability Discrimination Ordinance for Foreign Domestic Workers and Their Employers” to explain to the public and foreign domestic workers the protection they enjoy under the anti-discrimination legislation and the application of the legislation to situations related to the epidemic.

5. Meanwhile, the EOC has conducted 10 physical and online meetings to reach out to organisations serving the ethnic minority communities to understand the specific difficulties faced by ethnic minorities in the epidemic. In addition to reflecting the situation to the

relevant government bureaux/departments, the EOC has also helped representatives of foreign domestic workers connect with NGOs that are experienced in assisting with employment and immigration matters.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB054**

**(Question Serial No. 2485)**

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

Question:

1. So far how many public and private organisations have adopted the Code of Practice against Discrimination in Employment on the Ground of Sexual Orientation; and how many new public and private organisations have adopted the Code of Practice in 2018, 2019 and 2020?
2. What is the updated progress of drawing up a charter on non-discrimination of sexual minorities and conducting a study on the experience of other jurisdictions in tackling discrimination through legislative and administrative measures?
3. In respect of the Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme, what are the names of successful applicants and projects sponsored as well as the amounts of approved sponsorship in the past 3 years, and the amount of expenditure to be allocated in the coming financial year?
4. What are the amounts of provision allocated in the past 3 years and to be allocated in the coming financial year for the PRIDE Line, a 24-hour hotline for supporting sexual minorities operated by the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals (TWGHs)? How many calls were received in 2018, 2019 and 2020, and of which how many required further support (e.g. referral)?
5. How many sessions of activity were organised by the TWGHs for sexual minorities and personnel in specific fields and how many industries/organisations for which training resources were provided in 2018, 2019 and 2020?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 131)

Reply:

With a view to encouraging employers to provide equal opportunities for people of different sexual orientations, we actively appeal for employers' adoption of the Code of Practice against Discrimination in Employment on the Ground of Sexual Orientation (the Code). At present, more than 370 public and private organisations employing nearly

560 000 employees locally have pledged to adopt the Code. The list of organisations which have pledged to adopt the Code and agreed to be listed in the public domain in the past 3 years has been uploaded on the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau’s webpage (at [http://www.cmab.gov.hk/doc/issues/Bilingual\\_List\\_of\\_Organisations.pdf](http://www.cmab.gov.hk/doc/issues/Bilingual_List_of_Organisations.pdf)). The number of organisations which have pledged to adopt the Code in the past 3 years is set out below:

Financial year	Number of organisations (compared with the previous year)		
	Public organisation	Non-governmental organisation	Private enterprise
2018-19	21 (+0)	51 (+10)	281 (+5)
2019-20	21 (+0)	51 (+0)	291 (+10)
2020-21	21 (+0)	52 (+1)	299 (+8)

2. We are drawing up a charter on non-discrimination of sexual minorities covering various domains (including provision of goods, facilities and services; disposal and management of premises; employment and education) for voluntary adoption by service providers with a view to enhancing acceptance towards sexual minorities. We are also conducting a further study on the experience of other jurisdictions in tackling discrimination through legislative and administrative measures. The study covers the following topics:

- (a) administrative measures adopted in other jurisdictions to tackle discrimination against the sexual minorities, and their implementation experience; and
- (b) legislative measures adopted in other jurisdictions to tackle discrimination against the sexual minorities, including their implementation experience; definitions of “sexual orientation” in the relevant legislation, and the threshold of evidence required to support claims; the relevant case law, including the scope and application of exemptions in legislation against discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation; comparative analysis of the different approaches of formulating anti-discrimination laws; stakeholders’ views on the adequacy of protection and channels for lodging claims; the concerns of parties such as the legislature, enforcement authorities and stakeholder groups and the relevant discourse, etc.

We have completed the work of gathering information and conducted analysis. We briefed the Panel on Constitutional Affairs on the findings of study on the experience of other countries/regions in implementing measures to tackle discrimination against sexual minorities last year. Our next step is to explore with the stakeholders feasible anti-discrimination measures in the study.

3. On the Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme (Funding Scheme), the total amounts of approved sponsorship in 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21 are \$1.2 million, \$1.24 million and \$1.34 million respectively. Details of the sponsored projects in the past 3 years are as follows (the amount of approved sponsorship is rounded down to the nearest integer):



2018-19

Name of Applicant	Name of Project	Approved Sponsorship (\$)
Neighbourhood & Worker's Education Centre Limited	Here are the LGBT - Education Scheme in Community	27,048
Blessed Minority Christian Fellowship	Let's Talk about Sex (uality)	18,637
AIDS Concern	Dr. Rainbow Scheme	74,900
Association of World Citizens Hong Kong China	First Experience As A Woman	7,539
Association of World Citizens Hong Kong China	A Woman Is A Woman	13,135
Gay Harmony	LGBT Support & Education Project	60,753
Bravo Theatre	"Usual Mind to see the world" Equal Opportunities School touring 2018-2019	149,990
Down to Earth	I Care for My Life (IV)	128,177
Gender Empowerment	Empowering Gender (II)	25,819
Post Gay Alliance	Love and acceptance @ families with sexual minority members IV (2018-19)	75,160
H.K.S.K.H. Shatin Children & Youth Integrated Service Centre-Jockey Club Youth Express	Infinite Love - 社區推廣及教育計劃*	80,070
The Boys' & Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong Jockey Club South Kwai Chung Children and Youth Integrated Services Centre	Freedom @ Love Project 2018-19	123,282
Les Corner Empowerment Association	Knowledge on Sexual Minorities Scheme III	31,421
Project Touch, The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong	Healthy Together	54,360
Merit Minds Workshop	The Same, Not the Same? 2 - Forum Theatre touring performance	111,646
Nu Tong Xue She	"LGBT + Matters" - gender and sexual orientation equality interactive learning network	39,375
GIA Theatre	Rainbow Reflection Musical 2019	124,630
Transgender Resource Center	TranStory - I am Who I am	44,467
The Society for Truth and Light	Same World: Less Discrimination, Harmonize Campus Navigation	17,325

\* Only Chinese name of the project has been submitted by the organization

Name of Applicant	Name of Project	Approved Sponsorship (\$)
Gender Empowerment	Empowering Gender (III)	21,892
Down to Earth	I Care for My Life (V)	133,897
Post Gay Alliance	Love and acceptance @ families with sexual minority members V (2019-20)	100,720
Association of World Citizens Hong Kong China	Female body movements workshop	6,930
Neighbourhood & Worker's Education Centre Limited	Colored Community with LGBT — Education Scheme in Community	26,176
Project Touch, The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong	體・現 平等*	33,920
Merit Minds Workshop	<i>The Same, Not the Same? 3</i> — Forum Theatre touring performance	138,780
Community Health Organisation for Intervention, Care and Empowerment Limited	「他」們的故事*	26,565
Sexuality Education and Counselling Association	“T-power”: Empowerment Project for Transgender People	60,312
Justice Centre Hong Kong	Rainbow Allies; Building Allies to Improve Resilience	37,348
Hong Kong Pride Parade	平等機會(性傾向)外展教育宣傳*	21,546
Midnight Blue	LGBT Media Reference Guide	25,410
AIDS Concern	Dr. Rainbow Scheme	60,400
Les Corner Empowerment Association	Raising Awareness on Health issues among Woman Sexual Minority	88,147
Gay Harmony	LGBT Support & Community Education Project	57,723
Gay Harmony	Sexuality Equality Opportunities of Workplace Public Education Project	66,255
The Boys' & Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong Jockey Club South Kwai Chung Children and Youth Integrated Services Centre	Freedom @ Love Project 2019-20	123,359
Bravo Theatre	Realistic short film 《Basic Life》	125,840

\* Only Chinese name of the project has been submitted by the organization

Name of Applicant	Name of Project	Approved Sponsorship (\$)
Down to Earth	I Care For My Life (VI)	123,557
Gender Empowerment	Empowering Gender (IV)	23,257
The Boys' & Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong Jockey Club South Kwai Chung Children and Youth Integrated Services Centre	Freedom @ Love Project 2020-21	111,168
Hong Kong Women Christian Council	He She	74,445
The Society of Truth and Light	"Walk with love, Choices other than Rupture" Parental Support Program	29,442
Sexuality Education and Counselling Association	"Touchy Moment": Trans-Teens Journey	49,822
Merit Minds Workshop	The Same, Not the Same? 4 - Forum Theatre touring performance	148,240
Hong Kong Blessed Minority Christian Fellowship	Sleep Like a Log	17,955
AIDS Concern	Dr. Rainbow Scheme	61,173
Project Touch, The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong	性別・看*	29,400
Association of World Citizens Hong Kong China	Self-improvement Programme For Transwomen	15,571
Association of World Citizens Hong Kong China	Transcendence Art Show	43,102
Hong Kong Psychosexual Education Association	"Project·Love" Community Education and Support Scheme – Synchronization (I)	58,650
Post Gay Alliance	Love and acceptance @ families with sexual minority members VI (2020-21)	77,200
Hong Kong Pride Parade	平等機會(性傾向)外展教育宣傳 2020*	18,900
Gay Harmony	LGBT Support & Education Project	67,798
Gay Harmony	Sexuality Equality Opportunities of Workplace Public Education	57,960
Les Corner Empowerment Association	Les Talk - An Emotional support for Youth and Equality Education Promotion Project	43,480
GIA Theatre	Rainbow Behind the Stonewall	106,732
yat1sai3m4bat1yip6: Chow Yiu Fai Lyrics Writing Course Alumni	Transgender Song Project	73,767
Bravo Theatre	《With You》 Equal Opportunities Nano Film	116,800

\* Only Chinese name of the project has been submitted by the organization

A financial provision of \$1.35 million is earmarked for the Funding Scheme in 2021-22.

4. & 5. The PRIDE Line, a 24-hour hotline for supporting sexual minorities which commenced operation in 2018 and operated by the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals (TWGHs), provides prompt support, counselling and referral services for sexual minorities and their family members. If the social workers on duty consider that the callers need further support, the PRIDE Line will arrange for counselling service and, when necessary, refer them to Social Welfare Department or the service units of other non-governmental organisations for support services. In the financial years of 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21, a total of \$1.8 million, \$1.88 million and \$2.07 million were allocated to the above support services respectively. The numbers of calls received and referrals made by the PRIDE Line from 2018 to 2020 are as follows:

Year	Number of calls	Number of referrals
2018	2 420	12
2019	3 854	17
2020	3 202	21

The PRIDE Line also organises support groups and activities for the sexual minorities, and the number of sessions organised in 2018, 2019 and 2020 are 31, 35 and 20 respectively. As for the provision of sensitivity training materials for personnel in specific fields, training materials to enhance the sensitivity of medical and healthcare professionals towards sexual minorities were introduced by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) earlier. A briefing session was held in early 2019 for representatives of different medical and healthcare professional bodies (including Hospital Authority, Department of Health, councils of relevant medical and healthcare professions and relevant faculties in tertiary institutions). Train-the-trainer sessions were also held in March and July 2019 for personnel responsible for training in relevant medical and healthcare professional bodies, including Department of Health, Hospital Authority and Hong Kong Academy of Medicine etc. In 2020, the Government produced relevant training materials for Government disciplined services (including the Hong Kong Police Force, Fire Services Department, Immigration Department, Correctional Services Department, Customs & Excise Department, Government Flying Service, Auxiliary Medical Services and Civil Aid Services). The resources required for the relevant work are absorbed in the recurrent expenditure of the CMAB. We do not separate the resources required into individual expenditure item.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB055**

**(Question Serial No. 2494)**

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

Question:

What is the latest progress of formulating the Charter on Non-discrimination against Sexual Minorities? Have organisations/individuals of the religious sector and organisations/individuals supporting the mainstream marriage value of monogamy been consulted, so as to ensure that the Charter would not infringe on Hong Kong people's freedoms of speech and religious belief as enshrined in the Basic Law and that no reverse discrimination would be resulted?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 151)

Reply:

We are drawing up a charter on non-discrimination of sexual minorities covering various domains (including provision of goods, facilities and services; disposal and management of premises; employment and education) for voluntary adoption by service providers with a view to enhancing acceptance towards sexual minorities. By pledging to adopt the charter, the organisations concerned should commit to adopting non-discrimination policies, i.e. no discrimination, harassment or vilification of customers and service users, and buyers/tenants of premises etc. on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity would be allowed. We are currently drafting the charter, and will maintain communication with various stakeholders to gauge their views on the subject. We will work out an appropriate timing for launching the charter having regard to the impact of the epidemic on various industries and their businesses after the epidemic.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB056**

**(Question Serial No. 2497)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Amid the COVID-19 epidemic, the Government has arranged several chartered flights to bring home Hong Kong residents stranded on the Mainland. Please provide the details of each operation including the location, the number of participating staff from different bureaux or departments, the number of flights, the number of Hong Kong residents brought home, the number of non-Hong Kong residents (e.g. Macau residents) who boarded the chartered flights and the expenditure incurred.

Please set out the respective number of requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents in relation to the COVID-19 epidemic received by the 5 Mainland Offices and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan, with a breakdown by category of requests such as being stranded, lack of medicines, lack of food, etc. What kind of support have the 6 Offices provided to those seeking assistance and what is the additional expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 156)

Reply:

On 4, 5, 25 and 26 March 2020, the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) sent 8 chartered flights in 2 operations respectively to take Hong Kong residents stranded in Hubei Province back to Hong Kong. A total of 1 027 Hong Kong residents were brought back to Hong Kong, including 859 Hong Kong residents in Wuhan, Xianning, Xiaogan and Huangshi, as well as 168 Hong Kong residents in other parts of Hubei Province who had an urgent need to return to Hong Kong. Those with an urgent need to return to Hong Kong included pregnant women, persons who suffered from serious illnesses or were urgently in need of medical treatments in Hong Kong, and secondary school graduates who needed to sit for the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination, etc. Some of them were stranded in relatively remote areas like Enshi, Shiyan and Yichang.

2. In the above operations, a total of 66 staff members from the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB), the Immigration Department, the Department of Health, the Information Services Department and the Hospital Authority joined by taking the chartered flights. Staff members from various bureaux and departments also provided local and logistic support to the operations, including officers of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (ETO) in Wuhan who liaised with the Hubei Provincial Government, and planned and handled all local arrangements in Wuhan. As numerous staff members were involved in providing local and logistic support, we do not have the relevant detailed figures.

3. The cost for the 2 batches of chartered flights between Hong Kong and Wuhan and the related expenses were around \$14.54 million, which were absorbed by the existing resources of the CMAB.

4. Immigration Divisions have been set up under 5 Mainland Offices of the HKSAR Government (namely the Beijing Office (BJO) and the ETOs in Guangdong, Chengdu, Shanghai and Wuhan) to provide HKSAR passport replacement service for eligible applicants with a valid HKSAR permanent identity card and provide practical assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. In 2020, a total of 3 219 requests for assistance were received from Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. Among them, 2 980 were related to the COVID-19 epidemic, including cases in which assistance seekers were stranded due to transport conditions or needed medication provided in Hong Kong etc. The numbers of requests for assistance that were related to the COVID-19 epidemic and received by the Immigration Divisions of the Mainland Offices in 2020 are set out in the table below:

Mainland Office	Number of requests for assistance related to the COVID-19 epidemic
BJO	30
Guangdong ETO	239
Chengdu ETO	55
Shanghai ETO	45
Wuhan ETO	2 611

The Mainland Offices had rendered practical assistance to the assistance seekers having regard to the actual circumstances. As the above work is an integral part of the duties and functions of the Mainland Offices, the provision and manpower required cannot be singled out and itemised.

5. The Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan (HKETCO) received 912 requests for assistance and related enquiries from Hong Kong residents in distress. The requests were mainly related to provision of assistance to Hong Kong residents whose entry to Taiwan were affected or who were imposed with home quarantine measures due to the epidemic. Some other requests were related to persons involved in accidents or immigration-related matters, etc. The HKETCO does not have breakdown figures on assistance requests related to the COVID-19 epidemic. Like the Mainland Offices, the HKETCO had rendered practical assistance to the assistance seekers having

regard to the actual circumstances. As the above work is an integral part of the duties and functions of the HKETCO, the provision and manpower required cannot be singled out and itemised.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 2498)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

What are the staff establishment and expenditure on emoluments of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office in the past 2 financial years and for the coming financial year? What work has been or will be undertaken by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau to take forward the Greater Bay Area development, and what are the outcomes of the work done? What programmes will be implemented in future, and what are the details and timetable of these programmes?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 157)

Reply:

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government has been actively taking forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area), including working closely with the central ministries/departments and the Guangdong Provincial Government to take forward the implementation of the 24 policy measures that have been approved in principle by the Leading Group for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Leading Group) at its 2 meetings in 2019. Measures already rolled out include tax concessions, facilitation of property purchase, support for young entrepreneurs, cross-boundary remittance of science and technology funding, and liberalisation of the legal and construction professional services. These measures have greatly facilitated Hong Kong residents and professionals to reside, work and develop in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area.

2. In 2021-22, the HKSAR Government will continue to actively take forward the implementation of the remaining policy measures approved in principle by the Leading Group, and pursue policy innovation and breakthroughs in areas for consolidating and enhancing Hong Kong's status as international financial, transportation and trade centres as well as an international aviation hub, developing an international innovation and technology hub, improving the infrastructure of land boundary control points between Hong Kong and Shenzhen, facilitating Hong Kong enterprises to tap the Mainland domestic market, as well as supporting Hong Kong young people to work and start up their own business in the

Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area. We will also maintain close liaison with local stakeholders and, through strategic publicity and promotional efforts, enhance the awareness of various sectors of society on the Greater Bay Area development and encourage them to actively participate in and open up the opportunities from the development.

3. The HKSAR Government established the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Office) in November 2020. In 2019-20 and 2020-21, the revised estimated expenditures for taking forward the development of the Greater Bay Area (including the work undertaken before the Office was established) are about \$36 million (of which about \$22 million is staff cost on civil service posts) and about \$66.22 million (of which about \$31 million is staff cost on civil service posts) respectively. In 2021-22, the number of staff in the establishment of the Office is 33; and the estimated expenditure of the Office is about \$64.5 million, of which about \$34 million is staff cost on civil service posts.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB058**

**(Question Serial No. 2499)**

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

Question:

1. Regarding the promotion of the Constitution and the Basic Law, what are the actual expenditures incurred in the past 3 years and the estimated expenditure in the coming year?
2. What are the sponsored organisations, names of promotion activities, amount of sponsorship and number of participants of the “Basic Law Promotion Activity Sponsorship Scheme” in the past 3 years? What is the estimated amount of sponsorship for the coming year?
3. What are the research projects receiving sponsorship, research organisations and research subjects under the “Basic Law Promotion Research Sponsorship Scheme” in the past 3 years? What is the estimated amount of sponsorship for the coming year?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 159)

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (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. In the past 3 years (i.e. 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21), the actual expenditures of the CMAB for the promotion of the Constitution and the Basic Law are about \$17 million, \$15 million and \$12 million respectively. In the past 2 years, owing to the proposed legislative amendments incidents and the COVID-19 epidemic, some publicity and promotion activities were not held as scheduled, resulting in a lower actual expenditure than the estimations. In 2021-22, the estimated expenditure of the CMAB for the promotion of the Constitution and the Basic Law is about \$23 million.

2. The “Basic Law Promotion Activity Sponsorship Scheme” and “Basic Law Promotion Research Sponsorship Scheme” provide sponsorship to non-governmental organisations or community organisations for staging various promotional and research

activities on the Constitution and the Basic Law, such as seminars, quizzes and debate competitions, in order to reach a wider audience. In general, the sponsored projects should be completed within 12 months upon approval of sponsorship. The guide to application, application form and results of applications in respect of the Schemes can be found at <https://www.basiclaw.gov.hk/en/sponsorship/index.html>.

3. The total amount of sponsorship and total number of participants of the “Basic Law Promotion Activity Sponsorship Scheme” and “Basic Law Promotion Research Sponsorship Scheme” in the past 3 years are set out below:

Year	Total amount of sponsorship (\$)	Total number of participants of sponsored projects
2018-19	Basic Law Promotion Activity Sponsorship Scheme: \$2,718,000 Basic Law Promotion Research Sponsorship Scheme: \$1,358,500	About 34 500
2019-20	Basic Law Promotion Activity Sponsorship Scheme: \$5,016,820 Basic Law Promotion Research Sponsorship Scheme: \$2,155,600	About 73 500
2020-21	Basic Law Promotion Activity Sponsorship Scheme: \$8,183,700 Basic Law Promotion Research Sponsorship Scheme: \$2,319,950	About 151 900

4. Details of the applications which accepted our sponsorship are set out in Annex.

Details of applications which accepted sponsorship under the “Basic Law Promotion Activity Sponsorship Scheme” in the past 3 years are set out below:

**2018-19**

Name of organisation	Title of project
New Home Association Kowloon West Service Center	Get to know the Basic Law
Heung Yee Kuk New Territories	承先啟後：中國傳統文化的傳承與開 啟香港未來的發展*
Hong Kong Community Network Limited	3D Augmented Reality (AR) “Basic Law” Prize Winning Game
Wofoo Leaders’ Network	Basic Law Promotion By Mobile App
Basic Law Foundation	The Journey to Hong Kong Basic “Law” and “History”
Hong Kong New Arrivals Service Foundation Limited	社區共融是一家 — 《基本法》推廣計劃*
Joint Committee for the Promotion of the Basic Law of Hong Kong	The 18 <sup>th</sup> Basic Law Debating Competition
Joint Committee for the Promotion of the Basic Law of Hong Kong	《基本法》社區及學界推廣計劃 2018-2019*
Hong Kong Youth Nurture Association	「一國兩制」與《基本法》標語創作比賽*
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2019*
Joint Committee for the Promotion of the Basic Law of Hong Kong	紀念《基本法》頒布二十九周年活動*
Chinese Law Programme, Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies, the Chinese University of Hong Kong	Basic Law Public Lecture Series

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

**2019-20**

Name of organisation	Title of project
Ma On Shan Youth Association	基本法推廣巡迴嘉年華 — 時空解迷*
Hong Kong Industrial & Commercial Association Limited Kwai Tsing Branch	Treasure – Navigating Basic Law in Kwai Tsing
Joint Committee for The Promotion of The Basic Law of Hong Kong	The 19 <sup>th</sup> Basic Law Debating Competition (Basic Law Cup)
Joint Committee for The Promotion of The Basic Law of Hong Kong	Basic Law Promotion in Community and Schools 2019-2020
Hong Kong Life Extension Association	「一國兩制」及《基本法》推廣嘉年華 2019*
Kowloon West Community Harmony and Solidarity Service Centre Limited	基本法推廣小先鋒*
Wofoo Leaders' Network Limited	Exploring around the Basic Law
Wan Chai District Arts, Cultural, Recreational & Sports Association Ltd	遊學基本法暨基本法填色比賽頒獎禮*
Infinite Joy Limited	笑玩基本法・基本法知多點 巡迴嘉年華*
Joint Committee for The Promotion of The Basic Law of Hong Kong	The 17 <sup>th</sup> Basic Law Ambassador Training Scheme
Joint Committee for The Promotion of The Basic Law of Hong Kong	紀念《基本法》頒布 30 周年活動系列： 《基本法》多面體 — 全港學生辯論賽系列2020*
Hong Kong KOL Project LTD	基本法短片創作比賽2019*
Hong Kong Youth Nurture Association	「一國兩制」與《基本法》標語創作比賽 *
Hongkong Shine Tak Foundation Association Limited	善德基金會認識憲法、《基本法》— 與法治同行系列比賽2020*

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

**2020-21**

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*

Name of organisation	Title of project
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 <sup>th</sup> 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

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



Details of approved applications under the “Basic Law Promotion Research Sponsorship Scheme” in the past 3 years are set out below:

**2018-19**

Research organisation	Subject of research
Basic Law Foundation	香港社會法律文化研究 — 為下一階段推廣憲法和基本法提供方法依據*
Hong Kong Policy Research Institute	《基本法》的認知水平及推廣方法評估*
Tsinghua Law Association (Hong Kong) Limited	香港《基本法》推廣和教育現狀及對策*
One Country Two Systems Youth Forum Limited	Strengthening Teaching Qualifications, Venue and Curriculum Design of Constitution and Basic Law Education – Experiences and Insights from the Mainland

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

**2019-20**

Research organisation	Subject of research
One Country Two Systems Youth Forum Limited	Strengthening Teaching Qualifications, Venue and Curriculum Design of Constitution and Basic Law Education – Experiences and Insights from the Mainland (Part 2)
Tsinghua Law Association (Hong Kong) Limited	憲法和基本法參考書目書籍*
One Country Two Systems Youth Forum Limited	Short Video as a means to Promote One Country Two Systems and Basic Law: Analyses and Recommendations
Basic Law Foundation	Research on the Compilation of Historical Materials for the Sino-British Joint Declaration and the Hong Kong Basic Law

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

**2020-21**

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.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB059**

**(Question Serial No. 2502)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

With increasing exchanges between the Mainland and Hong Kong, more and more Hong Kong residents are now living in the Mainland. In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. Has the Government kept statistics on the number of Hong Kong residents living in the Mainland (please give a breakdown by province or city)? If the statistics are not available, will the Government explore the survey methods and compile the statistics as early as possible?
2. Has the Government kept statistics on the number of Hong Kong residents working in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area? Please give a breakdown by city and the type of jobs/industries in which they are engaged? If the relevant statistics are not available, will the Government explore the survey methods and compile the statistics as early as possible?
3. Are measures available to cater for the essential needs of Hong Kong residents living in the Mainland, including policy support as well as legal, medical, housing and elderly service needs; and will new measures be introduced in the coming year to deploy more resources to assist Hong Kong residents living in the Mainland (including Hong Kong students in the Mainland)?
4. In the 2011-22 Policy Address, the then Chief Executive said that "We need to conduct a comprehensive study on the portability of various welfare benefits, including services provided by residential care homes for the elderly, hospitals and clinics. We will consider whether such services should be extended for our elderly people residing in the Mainland from the perspectives of law, policy and public finance." Has the Government conducted and completed the said study? If yes, what policies have been introduced based on the findings of the study to enable Hong Kong people in the Mainland to have access to the welfare benefits?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.:169)

Reply:

Currently, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government does not have statistics on the number of Hong Kong people living or working in the Mainland and their breakdown figures. Notwithstanding, the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) has been making use of the movement records of Hong Kong permanent residents to compile and release the estimation of “Hong Kong residents usually staying in the Guangdong Province” (i.e. Hong Kong permanent residents who have stayed in the Guangdong Province for 6 months and above cumulatively during the 6 months before and after the reference time-point) since 2016. As at the end of 2018 and 2019, the estimated numbers of such persons were 528 000 and 538 000 respectively. The corresponding figure for 2020 is not yet available. The estimation above is made by C&SD on the assumption that Hong Kong permanent residents departing Hong Kong via land control points and the China Ferry Terminal are travelling to the Guangdong Province, and therefore cannot differentiate those who then travel to other areas in the Mainland or outside the Mainland. Their purposes of stay (e.g. for working or living) in the Guangdong Province cannot be ascertained either.

2. The Regulations for Application of Residence Permit for Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Residents (the Regulations), as announced by the Central Government, have been implemented since 1 September 2018. Hong Kong residents living in the Mainland who meet the relevant criteria can apply for residence permits. According to the Regulations, Hong Kong and Macao residents who have lived in the Mainland for more than 6 months and are able to show proof of either a legitimate and stable job, a legitimate and stable residence, or ongoing school attendance can apply for residence permits voluntarily. Although the application is made on a voluntary basis, the number of applicants can serve as a rough indicator of the number of Hong Kong residents living in the Mainland. According to the information provided by the relevant Mainland authorities, more than 300 000 Hong Kong residents applied for residence permits as at February 2021.

3. Currently, the Mainland Offices liaise closely with organisations of Hong Kong residents, business associations, enterprises and student groups etc. to better understand the situations of Hong Kong residents working, studying and living in the Mainland, and to provide appropriate assistance when necessary. Examples of such assistance include organising events for Hong Kong residents there for exchanges and sharing of experiences of living in the Mainland, providing information on further studies and job opportunities for Hong Kong students, and holding career talks jointly with organisations of Hong Kong residents to address the needs of Hong Kong students. Moreover, to support Hong Kong residents in the Mainland, the Mainland Offices also collect practical information on medical care, business, employment, education and legal services etc. and disseminate such information through production of information booklets and updates on the Offices’ websites from time to time to assist Hong Kong residents to better adapt to living in the area. The Mainland Offices have published booklets on living in Beijing, Tianjin, Shenyang, Guangdong, Shanghai, Nanjing, Hefei, Hangzhou, Ningbo, Qingdao, Jinan, Chengdu, Chongqing, Xi’an, Guiyang, Wuhan, Changsha and Zhengzhou etc. In 2021-22, the Mainland Offices will continue with the above work.

4. Immigration Divisions have been set up under 5 Mainland Offices of the HKSAR Government (namely the Beijing Office and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Guangdong, Chengdu, Shanghai and Wuhan) to provide practical assistance to

Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. The Mainland Offices also relay the views or requests of Hong Kong residents in the Mainland to the relevant Mainland authorities for follow-up. The Guangdong ETO has commissioned an organisation to provide free legal advisory service to Hong Kong residents in need through a telephone hotline or by arranging Mainland duty lawyers to meet the assistance seekers to provide preliminary advice on Mainland-related legal matters.

5. On social security, following the extension of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme and Old Age Allowance to Guangdong and Fujian, the Government has extended the Old Age Living Allowance (including Normal and Higher allowances) to the 2 provinces with effect from 1 January 2020 to provide appropriate assistance for elders who choose to reside in the 2 provinces. On service provision, the Social Welfare Department purchases services from 2 residential care homes for the elderly operated by Hong Kong non-governmental organisations in Shenzhen and Zhaoqing through the Residential Care Services Scheme in Guangdong, with a view to providing an additional option for elderly persons who are on the waiting list for subsidised care and attention places and choose to live in the Mainland. The residential places of elderly persons participating in the Scheme are fully subsidised by the Government.

6. As for medical service, designated healthcare institutions operating in the 9 Mainland cities of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area are allowed to use Hong Kong-registered drugs with urgent clinical use, and medical devices used in Hong Kong public hospitals with urgent clinical use and advanced clinical applications, subject to the approval of Guangdong Province under the Work Plan for Regulatory Innovation and Development of Pharmaceutical and Medical Device in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area promulgated by the Central Government earlier. The HKSAR Government will implement the measure at the University of Hong Kong-Shenzhen Hospital (HKU-SZH) on a trial basis, and has already kick-started preparatory work and discussed the implementation details with the relevant Mainland authorities. Moreover, the Government launched a pilot scheme in October 2015 to enable voucher users to use vouchers to pay for the fees of outpatient medical care services provided by designated clinics/departments of the HKU-SZH. The pilot scheme has been regularised with effect from 26 June 2019. Same as the arrangement in Hong Kong, elders can use vouchers at the HKU-SZH to receive preventive, curative and rehabilitative services. At present, each eligible Hong Kong elder aged 65 or above is provided with an annual voucher amount of \$2,000, which can be used for eligible services in Hong Kong and at the HKU-SZH.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB060**

**(Question Serial No. 2503)**

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

Question:

The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong (GDETO) provides free legal advisory service to Hong Kong residents in need. What were the amounts of subsidy allocated to the service provider in the past 3 years? What is the amount of subsidy for the coming financial year?

In the past 3 years, what were the numbers of hotline enquiries received and of request cases in which arrangements were made for Mainland duty lawyers to meet the assistance seekers to provide preliminary advice?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 170)

Reply:

The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong (GDETO) has commissioned an organisation to provide free legal advisory service to Hong Kong residents in need through a telephone hotline or by arranging Mainland duty lawyers to meet the assistance seekers to provide preliminary advice on Mainland-related legal matters.

2. The GDETO selects provider of the free legal advisory service through invitation of quotation. In 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21, the quotations of successful tenderer were RMB 1,051,591, RMB 1,077,880 and RMB 1,116,683 respectively. In 2021-22, an amount of about RMB 1.17 million has been earmarked for commissioning the provider of the free legal advisory service.

3. In 2018, 2019 and 2020, the numbers of calls and visits made to and of people who met with lawyers of the free legal advisory service were set out in the table below:

	Number of calls and visits*	Number of people who met with lawyers
2018	3 427	1 192
2019	3 403	1 132
2020	2 081	638

\* refers to the total number of usage of free legal advisory service through phone calls, fax, email and visits by assistance seekers

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB061**

**(Question Serial No. 2588)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. How many complaint cases of racial discrimination did the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) receive in the past 3 years?
2. Please set out the measures of the EOC for eliminating racial discrimination and for promoting racial equality in the past 3 years and for the coming year, and the expenditure involved.
3. Apart from the abovementioned work by the EOC, what other measures has the Government implemented to eliminate racial discrimination and promote racial equality? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 133)

Reply:

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) implements the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 480), Disability Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 487), Family Status Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 527) and Race Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 602) (RDO); and carries out respective publicity and education programmes and enforcement work under these ordinances. The EOC received a total of 492 complaints made under the RDO in the past 3 years, with an annual breakdown of 69, 96 and 327 in 2018, 2019 and 2020 respectively.

2. In the past 3 financial years, the overall expenditures of the EOC on publicity and public education were \$25.18 million, \$26.59 million and \$29.67 million (revised estimate) respectively, and the estimated expenditure for 2021-22 is \$34.11 million. About 25% of the aforementioned expenditures are used for publicity and education efforts on race discrimination.



3. Starting from 2014-15, the Government has been providing a recurrent funding of \$4.69 million each year to the EOC for enhancing publicity and public education of the RDO. The Ethnic Minorities Unit set up for this purpose promotes equal opportunities in education, employment and access to services for ethnic minorities through advocacy, training and promotional efforts. Besides, the Government provided one-off funding of \$3 million to the EOC in 2017-18 for promoting equal opportunities of ethnic minorities. The funded programmes included media campaigns, production of educational publications, implementation of partnership projects to explore the feasibility of introducing qualification accreditation for ethnic minority language interpreters, and conducting integrated research on ethnic minority education, academic and employment pathway. Since 2019-20, the Government has also provided a time-limited funding of \$2 million to the EOC each year for 3 years for organising publicity activities to promote racial integration and equal opportunities of ethnic minorities, including programmes about workplaces, service provision and inclusive schools.

4. For the past 3 years, the EOC carried out regular publicity and public education programmes to eliminate racial discrimination, including sponsoring 25 projects through the Community Participation Funding Programme on Equal Opportunities. A sum of about \$870,000 were allocated to support eligible organisations in organising activities to promote cultural diversity and equal opportunities among people of diverse race. To foster awareness and understanding of equal opportunities among children, the EOC also acquaints students with the problems faced by ethnic minorities through lively and interesting dramas. For the past 3 years, the EOC arranged a total of 54 related drama performances to stage in schools which attracted an audience of 13 000 students and received good rating from nearly 98% of them. Other publicity programmes include creation contest, photo competition and poster design competition, etc.

5. On training, the EOC conducted a total of 342 training sessions from January 2018 to December 2020, with about 60% for members of the mainstream community, such as civil servants, staff of the public sector, teachers, banking staff, estate agents, and managerial staff and employees of local businesses, and the remaining 40% for the ethnic minority community.

6. On public education, the EOC has published the “Closing the Gap: Report of the Working Group on Education for Ethnic Minorities” in 2019, for issue to all schools in the territory. Furthermore, in view of the difficulties encountered by non-ethnic Chinese students in school admission, education and employment, the EOC published the report on the “Survey on Kindergarten Admission Policies and Attitudes towards Non-Chinese Applicants” in March 2018, “A Study on the Challenges Faced by Mainstream Schools in Educating Ethnic Minorities in Hong Kong” in January 2020 and “A Study on Education and Career Pathways of Ethnic Minority Youth in Hong Kong” in June 2020. Through media interviews and other coverage, stakeholders are urged to pay heed to the problems encountered by non-ethnic Chinese students in kindergarten and primary schools, further studies and employment, and make improvements accordingly.

7. Moreover, the EOC initiated a scheme entitled the Racial Diversity and Inclusion Charter for Employers (the Charter) in August 2018. A total of 9 good practices are recommended in the Charter to encourage employers to introduce measures on racial diversity and inclusion in the areas of employment policies, staff culture and working environment. The number of signatories has been increasing since the Charter was

launched. As at 1 March 2021, a total of 150 employers have signed the Charter. To help the signatories meet the commitment to promote racial diversity and inclusion in the workplace, the EOC organised 11 seminars and over 30 sharing sessions in the past 3 years to promote best practices on equal opportunities in employment for people of all races and human resources of local ethnic minorities, thereby motivating them to provide equal employment opportunities for ethnic minorities.

8. At the same time, the EOC also carried out public education on elimination of racial discrimination through various media and publicity channels. For example, over 60 posts were published on the social networking website “Embrace Campaign” and attracted more than 10 000 views in 2020, interviews were broadcast in the weekly radio campaign “Equal Opportunities Diversity Project” in 2018 and 2019, public celebration events were held for “International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination”, and advertisements were displayed and interviews were published in newspapers to promote racial diversity and inclusion. On the issue of racial equality, a total of 18 press releases were issued and 14 articles were published on media in the past 3 years. Between December 2020 and March 2021, the EOC displayed 2 versions of posters themed “Fight the virus together as one human race” in MTR train compartments to highlight the concerted spirit of people of diverse race in fighting against the epidemic.

9. Regarding community outreach, the EOC participated in 477 community network meetings and 207 related community events on equal opportunities for ethnic minorities in the past 3 years. Riding on the efforts, the Ethnic Minorities Unit has held more than 20 meetings for community leadership groups with the objectives of enabling the racial group leaders to convey the message on equal opportunities in their communities as well as the EOC to gain a better understanding of their concerns. Participants of the meetings include groups of African, Filipino, Indonesian, Nepalese, Pakistani, Sikh, Sri Lankan, foreign domestic helpers and non-ethnic Chinese youth. Their major concerns include impacts of the epidemic, language barrier, difficulties in learning Chinese, sexual harassment, domestic violence, support for ethnic minority children with special educational needs, workplace discrimination and housing issues, etc.

10. In addition, the Ethnic Minorities Unit also set up a Youth Consultative Group on Racial Equality and Integration in 2017, comprising 20 Youth Members (including 6 Chinese and 14 non-Chinese) selected through nomination by secondary schools and universities. Apart from incorporating the perspective of young people into policy recommendations and public education of the EOC, the Youth Members also seek to represent their peers to express their concerns and participate in discussions on race-related issues in the public domain.

11. In 2021-22, the EOC will further eliminate discrimination against ethnic minorities and strengthen support for ethnic minorities through the following efforts:

- (a) on education, based on “Closing the Gap: Report of the Working Group on Education for Ethnic Minorities” published in 2019, the EOC will encourage schools to formulate inclusive school policy and launch a multi-media resource package for schools to promote the messages of racial diversity and inclusion and elimination of racial discrimination among students;

- (b) on employment, to complement with its work on the Charter, the EOC will continue to organise sharing sessions for business executives with a view to promoting human resources of ethnic minorities born and bred, and/or educated in Hong Kong. The EOC will also make active efforts in creating opportunities for Charter signatories to reach out to the local ethnic minority youth in the hope that employment and internship will be offered. Moreover, the EOC has developed a corporate award scheme to give recognition to employers that have made outstanding and exemplary contribution in creating a diverse and inclusive workplace; and
- (c) on provision of services, the EOC is promoting a “racially friendly service” campaign to the services sector. As the target under the first phase of the campaign, estate agents are encouraged, through publicity and education, to provide professional services to customers of diverse race in a bias-free and culturally sensitive manner. On the other hand, the EOC has been compiling a report on the “Study on Potential Models for Accreditation and Recognition of Interpreters and Translators in Ethnic Minority Languages in Hong Kong” conducted by the University of Hong Kong, so as to enhance the quality and acceptance of interpretation service in ethnic minority languages, and further assist ethnic minorities in bridging the language barrier.

12. The Government established the Steering Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs (the Steering Committee), chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration, in 2018 to co-ordinate cross-bureau/inter-departmental efforts on the support for ethnic minorities. With the \$500 million earmarked in the 2018-19 Budget, the Steering Committee co-ordinated and formulated a series of new measures covering education, employment, health, social welfare and social integration to enhance support for ethnic minorities (at **Annex**). These measures were announced in “The Chief Executive’s 2018 Policy Address” and “The Chief Executive’s 2019 Policy Address”, details of which can be found in the relevant leaflet ([https://www.policyaddress.gov.hk/2018/eng/pdf/Leaflet\\_support.pdf](https://www.policyaddress.gov.hk/2018/eng/pdf/Leaflet_support.pdf)) and Chapter 6 of the 2019 Policy Address Supplement ([https://www.policyaddress.gov.hk/2019/eng/pdf/supplement\\_6.pdf](https://www.policyaddress.gov.hk/2019/eng/pdf/supplement_6.pdf)). The total estimated expenditure for these measures, which have been fully implemented, amounts to over \$800 million in the 4 financial years starting from the 2019-20 financial year.

**Measures to Strengthen Support for Ethnic Minorities**

<b><i>Recurrent Measures</i></b>
<b><u>Education</u></b>
1. Enhance the subsidy for kindergartens admitting non-Chinese speaking students
2. Provide additional funding support to public sector mainstream schools admitting non-Chinese speaking students with special educational needs
3. Provide all schools admitting a relatively small number of non-Chinese speaking students with a new two-tiered subsidy with additional funding
<b><u>Employment</u></b>
4. Launch a pilot programme in conjunction with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to provide employment services for ethnic minority job seekers through a case management approach
<b><u>Social Welfare</u></b>
5. Commission NGOs to set up designated outreaching teams to connect ethnic minorities in need to mainstream welfare services
6. Enhance manpower support for the Social Welfare Department (SWD) to facilitate better service planning and co-ordination on welfare service support for ethnic minorities
7. Strengthen prevention and support service for ethnic minorities against domestic and sexual violence
8. Provide additional subsidy for special child care centres and early education and training centres with pre-school ethnic minority children with special needs admitted
9. Set up specialised ethnic minority units in 5 parents/relatives resources centres for persons with disabilities
<b><u>Social Integration</u></b>
10. Improve the “Administrative Guidelines on Promotion of Racial Equality” for application to all Government bureaux and departments and related organisations providing services to ethnic minorities
11. Enhance interpretation and translation services in the CHEER Centre and introduce new services in Vietnamese

<b><i>Time-Limited Recurrent and Non-Recurrent Measures</i></b>
<p><b><u>Education</u></b></p> <p>12. Support non-Chinese speaking students in their learning of Chinese History using the Chinese language, and continue to commission tertiary institutions to provide professional support services for schools on Chinese language learning and teaching of non-Chinese speaking students</p> <p>13. Strengthen parent education of parents of non-Chinese speaking students to help them support their children’s learning</p>
<p><b><u>Employment</u></b></p> <p>14. Enhance recruitment promotion and outreaching efforts to encourage ethnic minorities to consider a career in the disciplined forces, and provide a short-term internship programme in the Government for non-ethnic Chinese university students</p> <p>15. Enhance manpower support for the Labour Department to implement the pilot programme</p>
<p><b><u>Health</u></b></p> <p>16. Arrange translation and production of more publicity and education materials to enable ethnic minorities to make better use of services offered by the Department of Health and enhance the effectiveness of health education on communicable diseases, non-communicable diseases and mental health, etc.</p>
<p><b><u>Social Welfare</u></b></p> <p>17. Launch an “Ethnic Minority District Ambassador” pilot scheme to employ more ethnic minorities in SWD and subvented NGOs to enhance services for ethnic minorities provided by district centres/service units</p>
<p><b><u>Social Integration</u></b></p> <p>18. Strengthen services of support service centres for ethnic minorities and organise more district-based activities to encourage interaction and exchange between ethnic minorities and local communities</p> <p>19. Strengthen engagement of ethnic minority children and youth through outreaching to schools by the disciplined forces and Junior Police Call programmes</p> <p>20. Provide more cultural sensitivity/equal opportunities training for civil service new recruits and front-line staff</p>

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB062**

**(Question Serial No. 2596)**

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

Question:

What are the staff establishment, expenditure on staff remuneration and total expenditure of the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan in the past 3 financial years and for the coming financial year?

In view of the recent negative attitude of some people in Taiwan towards the implementation in Hong Kong of the principles of “One Country, Two Systems”, “a high degree of autonomy” and “Hong Kong people administering Hong Kong”, together with the prevailing slogan of “Hong Kong today, Taiwan tomorrow” and even the discussion on amending the refugee law to provide “political asylum” for Hong Kong residents, what explanatory and lobbying work has the HKETCO undertaken (please provide specific supporting figures, such as the number of meetings with the Taiwan authorities, and the number of meetings and seminars attended)?

How will the office enhance its efforts to present the actual circumstances of Hong Kong to the Taiwan society in the coming year?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 145)

Reply:

The staff establishment of the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan (HKETCO) in the past three (i.e. 2018-19 to 2020-21) and coming (i.e. 2021-22) financial years comprises 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade B) and 7 non-directorate officers (namely 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Principal Trade Officer, 2 Trade Officers, 1 Senior Information Officer, 1 Executive Officer I and 1 Personal Secretary I). The actual, revised estimated and estimated expenditures for the years concerned on the salaries and allowances for the above posts are HK\$10.02 million, HK\$9.15 million, HK\$7.93 million and HK\$15.29 million respectively, and other operating expenses are HK\$15.95 million, HK\$20.13 million, HK\$20.14 million and HK\$14.31 million respectively.

2. The HKETCO has been proactively serving as an important bridge between Hong Kong and Taiwan, including enhancing liaison and communication with its counterparts; representing and promoting Hong Kong's trade and commercial interests; encouraging and attracting investments to Hong Kong; promoting Hong Kong's tourism, culture and arts; and collecting information on new legislation, regulations and policies relating to trade and commerce as well as major developments in Taiwan, and disseminating such information to the business sector in Hong Kong and Hong Kong businessmen in Taiwan through various channels.

3. In 2020, there were a total of 52 meetings between the HKETCO and Taiwan authorities and trade organisations. The subjects covered were mainly about promotion of trade and commerce, investment, financial services and business contacts; exchanges in culture, education, tourism and other areas between the two places; and issues relating to provision of assistance to Hong Kong people in Taiwan.

4. In addition, the HKETCO participates in more than 140 activities organised by various sectors in Taiwan every year. These include fora, exhibitions and workshops. HKETCO also makes continuous efforts to call on local trade and business associations, enterprises and arts and cultural organisations, and to visit Hong Kong people and businessmen in Taiwan. Through the above channels, the HKETCO communicates with the business sector, professionals from various sectors and the public in Taiwan, and shares with them updated and correct information on the situation and developments of Hong Kong. In 2021, the HKETCO will continue to further enhance its efforts to promote Hong Kong's positive image and various advantages through organising and participating in the different activities mentioned above as well as exchanging with various sectors in Taiwan.

5. The HKETCO has been closely monitoring news reports, commentaries and other information relating to Hong Kong in Taiwan and assisting relevant policy bureaux and departments in obtaining relevant information for making proper response or clarification when necessary.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB063**

**(Question Serial No. 2601)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. Please set out the staff establishment, expenditures on salaries (by rank) and the total expenditures of the Legal Service Division of the Equal Opportunities Commission in the past 3 financial years and for the coming financial year;
2. What are the respective numbers of applications for legal assistance processed in 2018, 2019 and 2020? Among them, what are the number of cases where legal assistance was granted, cases where limited legal assistance was granted, cases not granted with legal assistance, cases where applications were withdrawn, and cases where granting of legal assistance would be determined in the coming financial year?
3. Among the cases where legal assistance were provided in 2018, 2019 and 2020, how many were (i) cases where no proceedings were filed and the provision of legal assistance was discontinued by the Legal Service Division, (ii) cases where no proceedings were filed and the complainant had withdrawn the application, (iii) cases where no proceedings were filed and out-of-court settlement had been reached, (iv) cases where out-of-court settlement was reached after proceedings had been filed, (v) cases where provision of legal assistance was discontinued after proceedings had been filed, (vi) cases where legal proceedings were underway, (vii) cases undergoing court trials, (viii) cases where litigation was not successful after court trials, (ix) cases where litigation was successful after court trials, and (x) cases still processing?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 162)

Reply:

In the past 3 financial years and for the coming financial year, the staff establishment and expenditures on salaries of the Legal Service Division (LSD) of the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) are set out in the table below:



Rank	Establishment	Financial year			
		2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (estimate)	2021-22 (estimate)
		\$ million	\$ million	\$ million	\$ million
Chief Legal Counsel (Chief Legal Officer with effect from May 2020)	1	2.58	2.76	2.06	1.98
Senior Legal Officer	5 (4 with effect from May 2021)	7.97	8.41	7.39	6.03
Legal Officer	2 (3 with effect from May 2021)	1.60	1.90	1.66	2.64
Secretary	2 (1 with effect from May 2020)	1.09	1.16	0.59	0.49
Total expenditures on salaries		13.24	14.23	11.70	11.14

2. In the past 3 years, applications for legal assistance handled by the EOC are set out below:

	2018	2019	2020
Total number of applications for legal assistance processed in the year #	63	41	15
Cases where legal assistance was granted	27	22	7
Cases where limited legal assistance was granted (Note 1)	5	1	3
Legal assistance not granted	21	17	2
Applications withdrawn	1	0	0
Granting of legal assistance to be determined in the coming financial year	9	1	3

# Including cases that (i) applied for legal assistance in the year, and (ii) transferred from the previous year. Legal assistance for the same case may be applied for and granted in different years.

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

3. In the past 3 years, the status of cases where legal assistance was granted (excluding limited assistance) are set out in the table below:

	2018	2019	2020
No proceedings were filed and the provision of legal assistance was discontinued by the LSD #	0	1	0
No proceedings were filed and the complainant had withdrawn the application	5	5	0
No proceedings were filed and out-of-court settlement had been reached	14	6	3
Out-of-court settlement was reached after proceedings had been filed	5	2	0
Provision of legal assistance was discontinued after proceedings had been filed #	0	0	0
Legal proceedings were underway	2	8	3
Undergoing court trials	0	0	0
Litigation not successful after court trials	0	0	0
Litigation successful after court trials	0	0	0
Still processing	1	0	1
<b>Total number of cases</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>7</b>

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

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****CMAB064****(Question Serial No. 2602)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

What are the numbers of complaint cases received by the Equal Opportunities Commission in the past 3 years? Please set out the breakdown figures for “cases where no investigation was conducted”, “cases where investigation discontinued”, “cases successfully conciliated before investigation”, “cases successfully conciliated after investigation” and “cases not successfully conciliated”. For “cases where investigation discontinued”, please provide a breakdown by reason for discontinuing investigation.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 163)

Reply:

The status of complaint cases received by the Equal Opportunities Commission in the past 3 years (2018 to 2020) are as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>Status:</b>			
Investigation not conducted	575	567	650
Investigation discontinued	191	181	189
Complaints conciliated before investigation	121	106	100
Complaints conciliated after investigation	24	14	2
Unsuccessful conciliation	53	31	13
Under investigation	7	10	146
<b>Total:</b>	<b>971</b>	<b>909</b>	<b>1 100</b>

2. For cases where investigation discontinued, the grounds for discontinuing with investigation are as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>Grounds:</b>			
No unlawful act	6	11	24
Complainants had no desire for investigation or to pursue further	44	26	52
Lacking in substance	132	131	99
Case resolved	9	13	9
Late submission of complaints	0	0	5
<b>Total:</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>189</b>

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB065**

**(Question Serial No. 0328)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the handling of complaints by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), would the Government advise this Committee:

1. of the number of cases in which the applicants were granted legal assistance by the EOC in the past 3 years and among them, the number of cases where external lawyers were engaged to provide legal services;
2. of the EOC's expenditure on engaging external lawyers to provide legal assistance services in the past 3 years;
3. of the criteria adopted by the EOC to decide whether external lawyers should be engaged, and of how the EOC ensured public expenditures were used properly; and
4. as facilitating settlement of complaints is one of the work priorities of the EOC, whether additional resources and manpower will be allocated to this end?

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

Reply:

In the past 3 years, the numbers of cases in which applicants were granted legal assistance by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) and cases where external lawyers were engaged to provide legal services are as follows:

		2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (up to February 2021)
Total number of cases that were granted legal assistance		29	22	7
Number of cases where external lawyers provided legal services	External lawyers appeared in courts	4	1	1
	External lawyers provided legal advice	1	3	0

2. In the past 3 years, EOC’s expenditures for engaging external lawyers to provide legal assistance services are as follows:

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (up to February 2021)
Expenditure	About \$500,000	About \$470,000	About \$60,000

3. The EOC will consider engaging external lawyers’ legal services under the following circumstances:

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

To ensure the proper use of public funds, the EOC selects and engages external lawyers based on the following criteria:

- (a) expertise in the relevant legal issues or litigation skills required in the case;
- (b) years of practice and track record of the external lawyers;
- (c) familiarity with anti-discrimination ordinances and the EOC’s procedures, practices and strategic concerns;
- (d) availability of time to give advice or conduct the case;
- (e) level of court where the case is heard if the case requires a hearing; and
- (f) fees.

4. The EOC is committed to assisting the complainants and those being complained to explore solutions with a view to reaching mutually agreed settlement terms. Among the legal assistance cases handled by the Legal Service Division during the 3 years between 2018 and 2020, 30 had been successfully settled by parties concerned before their cases went to trial. In 2018 and 2019, 66% and 73% of complaint cases were successfully conciliated respectively, and the rate increased to 82% in 2020. This speaks a lot on the effectiveness of the EOC's approach to help parties concerned to resolve complaints through conciliation. Moreover, the Complaint Services Division will consolidate and rationalise resources and manpower by internal re-structuring to further enhance the efficiency of complaint investigation and seeking settlement by parties of complaints through conciliation.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB066**

**(Question Serial No. 0579)**

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

Question:

According to Programme (2): Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Office) was established in November 2020 to strengthen the promotion and co-ordination work of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government on the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (the Greater Bay Area). In this regard, please advise this Committee of:

1. the estimated and actual expenditures of the Office in 2020-21, and a detailed breakdown of the above expenditures by manpower, publicity and promotion, and work programme to strengthen and co-ordinate the work on Greater Bay Area development etc.;
2. the estimated expenditure of the Office in 2021-22 and a detailed breakdown of the expenditure by manpower, publicity and promotion, and work programme to strengthen and co-ordinate the work on Greater Bay Area development etc.

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)

Reply:

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government established the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Office) in November 2020. In 2020-21, the estimated expenditure for taking forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (including the work undertaken before the Office was established) is about \$61.7 million; and the revised estimated expenditure is about \$66.22 million, of which about \$31 million is staff cost on civil service posts, about \$27.7 million is publicity and promotion cost and about \$7.52 million is other expenses.

2. In 2021-22, the estimated expenditure of the Office is about \$64.5 million, of which about \$34 million is staff cost on civil service posts, about \$21 million is publicity and promotion cost and about \$9.5 million is other expenses.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB067**

**(Question Serial No. 0802)**

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

Question:

Under Programme (2): Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, matters requiring special attention in 2021-22 include continuing to strengthen the promotion and co-ordination work of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government in taking forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area) and to deepen regional co-operation with the Mainland, targeting in particular Guangdong, Beijing, Shanghai, Fujian, Sichuan and other provinces and regions in the Pan-Pearl River Delta Region. In this regard, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. The provision for 2021-22 under Programme (2) is \$15.3 million (8.3%) higher than the revised estimate for 2020-21. This is mainly due to the increased provision for publicity and other operating expenses. Where will the increased provision for publicity be used?
2. How much of the estimated expenditure will be used for strengthening the promotion and co-ordination work of the Greater Bay Area development in 2021-22, and what is the breakdown of expenditure involved?
3. How much of the estimated expenditure will be used for deepening regional co-operation with the Mainland in 2021-22, and what is the breakdown of expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (LegCo internal reference no.: 28)

Reply:

The provision for 2021-22 under Programme (2): Constitutional and Mainland Affairs is \$15.3 million (8.3%) higher than the revised estimate for 2020-21. The increased provision for publicity is mainly used for the promotion and publicity of the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area) and the promotion of the Constitution and the Basic Law.

2. The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region established the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Office) in November 2020. In 2021-22, the estimated expenditure of the Office on the publicity and promotion of the Greater Bay Area development is about \$21 million, of which about \$12.9 million is for the production and broadcast of promotional videos; about \$3.5 million for promotion on social media; about \$2.4 million for holding of exhibitions and production of publicity materials; about \$2 million for overseas promotion and publicity programmes; and about \$200,000 for the maintenance of a dedicated website on the Greater Bay Area.

3. As the work on deepening regional co-operation is part of the regular duties of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) and the Mainland Offices, the provision required cannot be singled out and itemised. Generally speaking, an estimated financial provision of about \$233 million (excluding staff cost) is set aside for the CMAB and the Mainland Offices to take forward the relevant work in 2021-22.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB068**

**(Question Serial No. 1266)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

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

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

Question:

Under this Programme, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau is responsible for, amongst others, encouraging and attracting investments to Hong Kong, and promoting Hong Kong's many advantages as an investment and business hub in Asia. Matters requiring special attention in 2021-22 include monitoring and disseminating information to Hong Kong business sector on policies and regional development in the Mainland and Taiwan that have significant bearing on the business environment and opportunities to Hong Kong enterprises.

Please advise this Committee of the following:

- (1) In respect of the work in encouraging and attracting investments to Hong Kong in 2021-22, what are the specific plans, expected outcomes, as well as the expenditure and manpower involved?
- (2) In 2021-22, how will information on policies and regional development in the Mainland and Taiwan that have significant bearing on the business environment and opportunities to Hong Kong enterprises be disseminated to Hong Kong business sector? Will there be any measures to liaise with relevant organisations in the Mainland and Taiwan to help enhance their understanding on relevant policies?

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (LegCo internal reference no.: 63)

Reply:

The Mainland and Taiwan Offices (namely the Beijing Office (BJO) and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan, and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan) together with Invest Hong Kong proactively serve as important bridges between Hong Kong and the Mainland/Taiwan, including enhancing liaison and communication with counterparts in the areas under their coverage; representing and promoting Hong Kong's trade and commercial

interests; encouraging and attracting investments to Hong Kong; promoting Hong Kong as a desirable platform to develop markets along the Belt and Road; promoting the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area) development; and promoting Hong Kong's many advantages as an investment and business hub in Asia. The above areas of work complement each other in showcasing the strengths and positive image of Hong Kong in the Mainland and Taiwan. In promoting inward investment, the Investment Promotion Units of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices, working together with Invest Hong Kong, will continue to liaise with potential Mainland and Taiwan enterprises in the areas that they cover; provide one-stop information and consultation services; assist the enterprises in making incoming visits; and facilitate Mainland and Taiwan enterprises to set up or expand their business operations in Hong Kong.

2. In 2021-22, in collaboration with relevant departments and organisations, the Mainland and Taiwan Offices will launch publicity programmes through diversified platforms in various places in the Mainland/Taiwan, organise and participate in business and commercial activities, etc. in the Mainland/Taiwan, foster closer ties with different Mainland/Taiwan stakeholders, and arrange visits and exchanges in due course. The promotion initiatives will enable various sectors in the Mainland/Taiwan to have a more comprehensive understanding of the latest situation in Hong Kong, promote Hong Kong's unique advantages and opportunities under the Greater Bay Area development, and rebuild Hong Kong's positive image as a safe, law-abiding, civilised, pluralistic and inclusive society. As for investment promotion, Invest Hong Kong has leveraged digital platforms and solutions to attract and facilitate Mainland and Taiwan enterprises to set up business operation in Hong Kong since the pandemic. In 2021-22, Invest Hong Kong will continue to strengthen online and targeted marketing campaigns to accelerate the digital process in investment promotion. A team dedicated to the business development in the Greater Bay Area will also be set up to step up efforts in priority areas and sectors. The Mainland and Taiwan Offices will also closely observe the public opinions in the Mainland/Taiwan and, having regard to the development of the pandemic and the progress of people flow and business exchanges between the Mainland/Taiwan and Hong Kong, flexibly and suitably adjust the relevant promotion work.

3. The Mainland and Taiwan Offices gather relevant information on new laws, regulations and policies relating to trade and commerce as well as significant developments in the Mainland/Taiwan, and disseminate such information to the Hong Kong business sector through various channels by, amongst others, giving public speeches, media interviews and briefings and issuing information circulars, newsletters and press releases. The Mainland Offices will continue to closely observe the policies, implementation measures and latest situation in the Mainland at the central, provincial, regional and municipal levels; reinforce government-to-government links and communication; timely report the latest situation to the relevant bureaux and departments; and disseminate the relevant information to the Hong Kong business sector to promote economic and trade relation.

4. In addition, the Mainland and Taiwan Offices will also continue to work closely with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC), which conducts thematic studies on the investment environment in the Mainland and Taiwan. The related reports are available online at HKTDC's website, which are hyperlinked to the websites of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices for easy access by the business sector and the public.

5. The above work will continue to be taken forward by existing manpower. The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau has set aside provision for the Mainland and Taiwan Offices to enhance trade opportunities and promote the strengths of Hong Kong. The provision earmarked in the Bureau's revised estimated expenditure for 2020-21 and estimated expenditure for 2021-22 in this respect is around \$280 million and \$310 million respectively. Moreover, Invest Hong Kong has also earmarked around \$9.2 million in 2021-22 to promote investment in the Mainland and Taiwan through the Investment Promotion Units.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB069**

**(Question Serial No. 0549)**

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

Question:

The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office was established in November 2020 to strengthen the promotion and co-ordination work of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government on the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. In this regard, please advise of:

1. the resources and manpower to be allocated and major initiatives to be taken in 2021-22;
2. in light of the strong demands from the business and professional sectors, whether the Government has stepped up negotiations with the Mainland authorities to strive for the implementation of more measures to 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?

Asked by: Hon LO Wai-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 41)

Reply:

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government has been actively taking forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area), including working closely with the central ministries/departments and the Guangdong Provincial Government to take forward the implementation of the 24 policy measures that have been approved in principle by the Leading Group for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Leading Group) at its 2 meetings in 2019. Measures already rolled out include tax concessions, facilitation of property purchase, support for young entrepreneurs, cross-boundary remittance of science and technology funding, and liberalisation of the legal and construction professional services. These measures have greatly facilitated Hong Kong residents and professionals to reside, work and develop in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area.

2. In 2021-22, the HKSAR Government will continue to actively take forward the implementation of the remaining policy measures approved in principle by the Leading Group, and pursue policy innovation and breakthroughs in areas for consolidating and enhancing Hong Kong's status as international financial, transportation and trade centres as well as an international aviation hub, developing an international innovation and technology hub, improving the infrastructure of land boundary control points between Hong Kong and Shenzhen, facilitating Hong Kong enterprises to tap the Mainland domestic market, as well as supporting Hong Kong young people to work and start up their own business in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area. We will also maintain close liaison with local stakeholders and, through strategic publicity and promotional efforts, enhance the awareness of various sectors of society on the Greater Bay Area development, and encourage them to actively participate in and open up opportunities from the development.

3. In 2021-22, the number of staff in the establishment of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Office) is 33. The estimated expenditure of the Office is about \$64.5 million, of which about \$34 million is staff cost on civil service posts and about \$30.5 million is other expenses.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB070**

**(Question Serial No. 2015)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

As shown in the section of Indicators, the number of enquiries increased drastically from 9 512 in 2019 to 26 710 in 2020.

- Did these enquiries include those involving discrimination against people from the Mainland? If yes, how many?
- How many enquiries about discrimination against people from the Mainland did the Equal Opportunities Commission receive in the past 3 years, i.e. 2018-2020? How many of these enquiries were classified as complaint cases and were processed? Please provide a breakdown of the numbers by year.
- Will the Government take any follow-up action and legislate to curb discrimination against people from the Mainland? If yes, what are the details and the estimated expenditure involved? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LUK Chung-hung (LegCo internal reference no.: 52)

Reply:

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) implements the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 480), Disability Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 487), Family Status Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 527) and Race Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 602); and as provided under these ordinances, carries out publicity and public education programmes and enforcement work. The issue of discrimination against new arrivals from the Mainland falls outside the scope of the EOC's statutory responsibilities.

2. According to the information provided by the EOC, 11 out of 26 710 enquiries received in 2020 involve discrimination against new arrivals from the Mainland. In each of the past 3 years from 2018 to 2020, the EOC received 2, 8 and 11 enquiries about discrimination against new arrivals from the Mainland respectively. All of them were not classified as complaint cases.



3. Hong Kong is a multi-cultural international city, and a pluralistic and inclusive society. The Government attaches great importance to promoting social and racial harmony among different groups of people in the community, and is committed to promoting the core values of mutual respect and equality among people from different backgrounds through public education. In helping new arrivals from the Mainland to integrate into the community, various policy bureaux and departments have been providing a range of services in line with their respective policies to meet the needs of the new arrivals. These include education support, employment counselling, social welfare, housing etc., so as to help the new arrivals adapt to life in Hong Kong and facilitate their early integration into the community. We will continue to tackle the EOC's remaining 19 priority recommendations from its Discrimination Law Review. We will also study in detail the other suggestions raised by Members of the Legislative Council on elimination of discrimination, including how to tackle discrimination or vilification that may be encountered by persons arriving in Hong Kong from the Mainland. Our current goal is to strive for determination of the way forward for these recommendations within this term of the Government.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB071**

**(Question Serial No. 2033)**

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

Question:

Regarding the work to “enhance liaison and communication in the Mainland and Taiwan”, what are the respective figures on government departments’ exchanges and co-operation with central ministries/commissions, Mainland institutions, provincial and municipal governments; and with Taiwan region, Macao Special Administrative Region and overseas countries in the past 3 years (i.e. 2018-2020)?

Asked by: Hon LUK Chung-hung (LegCo internal reference no.: 63)

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau has been proactively taking forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area; maintaining close contacts with relevant central ministries/commissions and governments of provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions; integrating Hong Kong into national development; and promoting regional exchanges and co-operation. We also foster exchanges and co-operation between Hong Kong and Taiwan in economic, trade and cultural areas through the platform of the Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic and Cultural Cooperation and Promotion Council and the Taiwan-Hong Kong Economic and Cultural Co-operation Council in a pragmatic manner.

2. We do not have the relevant figures on the exchanges and co-operation as mentioned in the question.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 2069)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The estimated provisions for the Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data are reduced by 2.4% and 1.3% respectively in 2021-22. What are the reasons for the decrease? In view of the increase in enquiries and complaints received by both organisations in the past year, will their work in handling enquiries and complaints be affected as a result of the reduction in the estimated provisions? Also, will their work in following up on complaints about discrimination against people from the Mainland or doxxing be affected because of the reduction in the estimated provisions?

Asked by: Hon LUK Chung-hung (LegCo internal reference no.: 53)

Reply:

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) is a statutory body set up under the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (SDO) (Cap. 480) to discharge functions and duties conferred on it under the SDO as well as 3 other pieces of anti-discrimination legislation, viz. the Disability Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 487), the Family Status Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 527) and the Race Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 602).

2. Each year, the Government provides a subvention in the form of a lump sum allocation to the EOC for it to draw up its estimates of operating expenditures under the principles of prudent fiscal management and efficient and economical use of resources. The subvention covers expenditures on manpower and salaries, office accommodation expenses, and expenditures for implementing the anti-discrimination ordinances, etc. The decrease in the financial provision of the EOC in 2021-22 is mainly due to one-off additional provisions in 2020-21 for enhancing the work of the EOC, including publicity and public education on the Discrimination Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Ordinance 2020 enacted in June 2020. The one-off provisions are not recurrent from 2021-22. Excluding the above one-off provisions, the financial provision for the EOC in 2021-22 has actually increased when compared with that in 2020-21.

3. The estimated provision for the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD) in 2021-22 is about \$88.9 million, which is 0.2% higher than the revised provision of \$88.7 million in 2020-21. The PCPD will continue to handle enquiries and complaints and combat doxxing acts which intrude into personal data privacy through proper use and deployment of resources.

4. We will continue to work with the EOC and PCPD to ensure that they have adequate resources to discharge their functions and duties.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB073**

**(Question Serial No. 2328)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

- (a) Please list out the expenditure and manpower arrangement of the Beijing Office, other Mainland Offices and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan for promoting cultural exchange in the past year, as well as the percentage of such expenditure against the total expenditure.
- (b) Please list out in the following table the details of cultural and arts or sports activities (e.g. film festivals, cultural performances and roving exhibitions, etc.) organised by the Beijing Office, other Mainland Offices and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan in the past year.

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

- (c) What specific plans do the Beijing Office, other Mainland Offices and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan have to promote cultural exchange this year? What are the related expenditure and manpower arrangement?
- (d) The Government created the post of Head (Cultural Exchange) under the Beijing Office in July 2016. What efforts have been made by him/her in the past year to promote cultural exchange between Hong Kong and the Mainland? In what ways has he/she provided support to Hong Kong artists engaged in cultural and arts activities in the Mainland? What is the expenditure involved in the deployment of the dedicated staff concerned?
- (e) Will the Government consider deploying dedicated staff to other Mainland Offices to handle cultural matters in future? If it will, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

- (f) Had local cultural organisations ever approached the Beijing Office, other Mainland Offices and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan, seeking and appealing for cultural exchanges with the Mainland and Taiwan as well as promotion of local culture? If yes, what were the relevant figures? How were such requests handled by the Offices concerned?

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)

Reply:

The Mainland and Taiwan Offices (namely the Beijing Office (BJO) and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan, and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan) have taken continuous efforts to assist in enhancing cultural and arts exchange between Hong Kong and the Mainland/Taiwan.

2. In 2020-21, the initiatives taken by the Mainland and Taiwan Offices for promoting arts and cultural exchange included organising, co-organising, participating in or supporting concerts, art exhibitions, photography exhibitions, film festivals, exchange activities and radio programmes, etc. to showcase Hong Kong's unique arts and culture. The arts and cultural activities organised by the Mainland Offices included online concerts entitled "*Dragon Boat*", "*Three Variations on the Plum Blossoms*", "*Lion Dance*" and "*A Century of Cantonese Music in Hong Kong*"; an art exhibition entitled "*Panda Ride to Hong Kong*"; photography exhibitions entitled "*City Impressions • Hong Kong*" and "看·見香港"\* ; and Hong Kong thematic file festivals, etc. The Hong Kong organisations involved in the above activities included Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra, Windpipe Chinese Music Ensemble and SENZA A Cappella, etc. The Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan promoted cultural exchanges between Hong Kong and Taiwan through organising and participating in various activities. Such activities included publishing posts on Facebook pages and articles in mainstream magazines in Taiwan to showcase Hong Kong's unique arts and culture; supporting the "Pop Up Asia" to stage a Hong Kong themed handcraft pavilion; arranging cultural personalities from Hong Kong to give media interviews and publishing the annual magazine *Art & Culture @ Hong Kong*; and meeting with members and organisations of the cultural sector in Taiwan. As the promotion of arts and cultural exchange is an integral part of the duties and functions of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices, the expenditure involved cannot be singled out and itemised.

3. In 2020-21, many Hong Kong arts and cultural organisations approached the Mainland and Taiwan Offices to engage in cultural exchanges in the Mainland and Taiwan. The Mainland and Taiwan Offices handled their requests as appropriate, such as assisting in the promotion of the related performances, liaising and communicating with local authorities in the Mainland and Taiwan, etc. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however, most of the Hong Kong arts and cultural organisations could not perform and exchange in the Mainland or Taiwan. The programmes already planned were either cancelled, postponed or staged online. In 2021-22, the Mainland and Taiwan Offices will continue to assist relevant Hong Kong arts and cultural organisations in liaising with local authorities and organisations and help publicise the related events as appropriate, to support the performances of these arts and cultural organisations and further promote Hong Kong's unique arts and culture.

4. In July 2016, the post of Head (Cultural Exchange) was created under BJO to assume the responsibilities of planning, co-ordinating and implementing cultural programmes, enhancing the efforts in forging liaison with the Mainland in promoting arts and culture and fostering cultural exchange. The Head (Cultural Exchange) of BJO maintains close liaison and regular communication with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and strengthens ties with museums and cultural authorities under the governments of relevant provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions; visits performing arts and exhibition venues in the service area of BJO to establish networks, explores opportunities for performances and exhibitions for Hong Kong artists and arts groups, and provides reports to the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) and the Leisure and Cultural Services Department on relevant information in good time; offers advice and assistance from time to time to Hong Kong artists, arts organisations or groups participating in cultural exchange activities with the Mainland; co-organises cultural exchange activities, including performances, campus film activities, youth exchange camps, post-performance talks, seminars and master classes, etc. with Hong Kong arts organisations or groups in its service area; provides suitable support to meet the needs of arts groups locally, including arranging interviews with local radio channels, newspapers or electronic media; invites the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and relevant government authorities to attend activities or watch performances; promotes and disseminates information of events via BJO's networks to invite Hong Kong people or students living there to join the events; and organises fora for the industry or pre-performance cocktail receptions, etc. In 2020-21, the Head (Cultural Exchange) took forward and completed various initiatives, including working with Hong Kong artist HUNG Keung and Windpipe Chinese Music Ensemble, etc. for the production of online programmes; and setting up BJO's online platforms "Arts and Culture 71" and uploading onto them the performance videos of Hong Kong arts and cultural organisations and feature articles, etc. The revised estimated expenditure for the above post in 2020-21 is around \$2.17 million. From 2018-19, the Mainland Offices have recruited local staff to assist in organising cultural exchange activities between Hong Kong and the Mainland. Together with HAB, we will continue to review the effectiveness of deploying dedicated staff for handling cultural matters and the way forward.

\* Only Chinese name is available

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB074**

**(Question Serial No. 2350)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. Following the establishment of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office in November 2020, has the Government commissioned any studies by academic institutions to assess the impression of Hong Kong and the young people of Hong Kong among residents in the Greater Bay Area and the demand for Hong Kong talents in various industries in the Greater Bay Area?
2. What plans does the Government have to promote and introduce the development scale of the Greater Bay Area among the public in Hong Kong, in order to enhance their awareness of the development plan?
3. As mentioned in Section 4 of Chapter 11 of the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, efforts will be made “to support think tanks in the Mainland to step up co-operation with those in Hong Kong and Macao, and provide intellectual support for the development of the Greater Bay Area”, as well as “to establish an administrative advisory system, and invite professionals from Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao to offer advice on development of the Greater Bay Area”. In this connection, please advise what specific plans are in place to follow up on the following matters:
  - a. How to step up co-operation between think tanks in Hong Kong and those in the Mainland?
  - b. How to strengthen support for think tanks in Hong Kong to conduct researches on the Greater Bay Area?
  - c. How to follow up on the work of inviting professionals from Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao to offer advice on the development of the Greater Bay Area?

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 59)



Reply:

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government established the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Office) in November 2020. While the Office has not conducted relevant studies so far, the Census and Statistics Department has previously conducted a survey on Hong Kong population's willingness to live in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area) and published the findings in June 2020. We will consider conducting relevant studies when necessary in due course to understand better the latest situation of the Greater Bay Area development. Moreover, the HKSAR Government will step up promotion efforts in the Mainland, including the Greater Bay Area, after the epidemic to strengthen our ties with different Mainland stakeholders, and arrange mutual visits and exchanges between the two places, with a view to giving a more comprehensive understanding of Hong Kong's latest situation to various sectors in the Mainland.

2. The Office will continue to disseminate further and more comprehensive information relating to the development of the Greater Bay Area to different sectors in the community through strategic publicity and promotional efforts, including different online and offline platforms (e.g. television programmes, TV and Radio Announcement of Public Interest etc.) and social media platforms that are popular among young people, with a view to encouraging them to actively participate in and open up the opportunities from the development. After the epidemic, we will proactively organise larger-scale local publicity and promotional events, as well as briefings and meetings with different local institutions and bodies, with a view to enhancing the awareness of various sectors of society on the Greater Bay Area development. Moreover, the Office will continue to strengthen our liaison with local stakeholders to gauge and collect their views and advice on the Greater Bay Area development in 2021-22.

3. On forging closer co-operation between think tanks of Hong Kong and those in the Mainland, the Policy Innovation and Co-ordination Office (PICO) promotes liaison and collaboration between local think tanks and those in Guangdong and Macao through organising or participating in various exchange activities. These include the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Co-operation Forum co-organised with the China Development Institute of Shenzhen. The Forum provided a platform for academics, think tanks, enterprises and government representatives of Hong Kong and Shenzhen to discuss the ways to strengthen research and co-operation in various fields between the two places. PICO has also been promoting policy researches by local think tanks and research institutes on topics relating to the development of the Greater Bay Area through the Public Policy Research Funding Scheme and the Strategic Public Policy Research Funding Scheme. The development of the Greater Bay Area is one of the topics of researches under the 2 funding schemes mentioned above. In the past 5 years, PICO approved a total of 14 research projects related to the Greater Bay Area under the 2 funding schemes, covering areas including healthcare, financial services and environmental protection, etc. Moreover, PICO participated in a seminar organised by the Shenzhen Think Tank Alliance in late January 2021. Taking the opportunity, PICO has introduced measures put in place by the HKSAR Government which aim at supporting the development of think tanks and research institutes, in particular those schemes which involve funding from both the Mainland and Hong Kong. PICO will continue to maintain liaison with relevant institutes in the two places.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB075**

**(Question Serial No. 1990)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the work on “engaging the private sector in promoting racial inclusion and equality through an Employment Charter and a racially friendly service campaign”, please provide:

- in the table below the number of employers who have signed the Charter and the proportion of ethnic minority people employed by them in each of the past 3 years (from 2018 to 2020) since the launch of the Charter in 2018; and

Name of employers	Total number of employees	Number of ethnic minority employees	Type of posts held by ethnic minority employees

- a detailed list, by government department, on the number of ethnic minority people employed by the Government in the each of past 3 years (from 2018 to 2020).

Asked by: Hon MAK Mei-kuen, Alice (LegCo internal reference no.: 54)

Reply:

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) initiated a scheme entitled the Racial Diversity and Inclusion Charter for Employers (the Charter) in August 2018. A total of 9 good practices are recommended in the Charter to encourage employers to introduce measures on racial diversity and inclusion in the areas of employment policies, staff culture and working environment. The number of signatories has been increasing since the Charter was launched. As at 1 March 2021, a total of 150 employers have signed the Charter. To help the signatories meet the commitment to promote racial diversity and inclusion in the workplace, the EOC organised 11 seminars and over 30 sharing sessions in the past 3 years to promote best practices on equal opportunities in employment for people

of all races and human resources of local ethnic minorities, thereby motivating them to provide equal employment opportunities for ethnic minorities.

2. The list of signatories is available on EOC's website: [https://www.eoc.org.hk/eoc/otherproject/embrace\\_charter/embcontent.aspx?content=EM\\_Charter\\_Signatories](https://www.eoc.org.hk/eoc/otherproject/embrace_charter/embcontent.aspx?content=EM_Charter_Signatories). As some of the signatories have neither published the number and post of their employees in the public domain nor kept record of the race of their employees, the EOC does not have information on the total number of employees, the number of ethnic minority employees or the posts they held in the signatories.

3. The Civil Service Bureau (CSB) states that the Government is committed to promoting equal opportunities for non-ethnic Chinese applicants to apply for government jobs as other applicants. All candidates in an open recruitment exercise for civil servant posts are assessed by relevant bureaux/departments on the basis of their ability, performance and character, and having regard to the stipulated entry requirements set according to the job requirements. Race is not a relevant consideration in the selection process. Given that neither job applicants nor serving civil servants are required to declare their ethnic origins, CSB does not possess the relevant statistical information.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB076**

**(Question Serial No. 1991)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the work to “investigate suspected breaches of the requirements of the PDPO”,

- How many complaints on doxxing were received by the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD) in the past 3 years (i.e. 2018-2020)? Were specified groups (such as police officers and public officials) involved in these complaints? Please provide a breakdown of figures by year and specified group;
- How many doxxing cases were investigated by the PCPD in the past 3 years (i.e. 2018-2020)? Among them, how many cases in which the offenders were prosecuted and successfully convicted? Please provide a breakdown of figures by year;
- Would the Government enact legislation to regulate doxxing acts? If yes, what are the details and expenditure involved; if no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon MAK Mei-kuen, Alice (LegCo internal reference no.: 55)

Reply:

The Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (PDPO) regulates the protection of personal data privacy. Section 64(2) of the PDPO provides that a person commits an offence if the person discloses any personal data of a data subject which was obtained from a data user without the data user's consent, and the disclosure causes psychological harm to the data subject. Such person is liable on conviction to a maximum penalty of a fine of HK\$1 million and to imprisonment for up to 5 years.

2. Subsequent to the various social incidents that occurred in Hong Kong since June 2019, the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD) has received complaints related to doxxing. In 2019 and 2020, the PCPD processed a total of 4 370 and 1 036 doxxing cases arising from complaints or discovered through proactive online patrols, and the handling of 4 208 and 339 cases were completed respectively. The victims of

doxxing are from all kinds of backgrounds and all walks of life having various views, including police officers and their family members, government officials and public servants, as well as members of the public who had expressed support to or voiced opposition against the Government or the Police.

3. As at December 2020, the PCPD referred a total of 1 461 doxxing cases which involved suspected contravention of section 64 of the PDPO to the Police for criminal investigation and consideration of prosecution. The PCPD learnt that a total of 17 suspects had been arrested by the Police in relation to doxxing cases, 2 of which had been prosecuted and successfully convicted as of latest developments. In November 2020, one of the defendants was sentenced to imprisonment for 18 months under the above offence, with a total term of imprisonment of 2 years on combined convictions for other charges. This is the first conviction for contravention of section 64(2) of the PDPO. As at December 2020, the PCPD referred 57 doxxing cases on suspicion of breaching the relevant High Court's injunction orders to the Department of Justice for follow up action. Among these cases, 4 defendants were convicted, and one of them was convicted in December 2020 of civil contempt of court for posting the personal data of a police officer and his family members on a social media platform. The defendant was sentenced to 21 days' immediate imprisonment. This is the first case in which a defendant is sentenced to immediate imprisonment for breaching an injunction order on doxxing.

4. The Government attaches great importance to combating doxxing acts, which are intrusive to personal data privacy. To combat doxxing, the Government and the PCPD are working on amendments to the PDPO, the directions of which mainly encompass: (1) criminalising doxxing acts as an offence under the PDPO, (2) conferring on the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (the Privacy Commissioner) statutory powers to demand the removal of doxxing contents from social media platforms or websites, and (3) empowering the Privacy Commissioner to carry out criminal investigation and initiate prosecution. We aim to complete the drafting of the legislative amendment proposals related to doxxing for the scrutiny of the Legislative Council within this legislative year. The resources required for the relevant work are absorbed in the recurrent expenditure of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB077**

**(Question Serial No. 0201)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Under Programme 2, the Bureau will continue to ensure that public elections will be conducted in a fair, open and honest manner in accordance with the relevant legislation in the coming financial year. Earlier on, the Director of the State Council's Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office, Xia Baolong, explained the principle of "patriots administering Hong Kong", saying that the key to its implementation is to improve the local electoral system and plug the loopholes in the law. Under the steer of the Central Authorities, what plan does the Government have to amend the relevant legislation to ensure accurate implementation of the principle of "patriots administering Hong Kong"? What is the estimated timetable for the legislative amendment? How much manpower and expenditure will be involved in the drafting of legislation?

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy (LegCo internal reference no.: 57)

Reply:

The National People's Congress (NPC) adopted the Decision on Improving the Electoral System of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) on 11 March 2021, authorising the Standing Committee of the NPC (NPCSC) to amend Annex I to the Basic Law on Method for the Selection of the Chief Executive of the HKSAR and Annex II to the Basic Law on Method for the Formation of the Legislative Council of the HKSAR and Its Voting Procedures with a view to improving the electoral system of the HKSAR. Having considered the actual situation in Hong Kong, the Central Authorities take the initiative from the national level to improve the electoral system of Hong Kong, aiming to ensure that Hong Kong can stay true to the original aspiration in implementing the principle of "One Country, Two Systems" and get Hong Kong back on the right track. It is only by putting in place institutional safeguards to ensure "patriots administering Hong Kong" that the principle of "One Country, Two Systems" can be fully and faithfully applied in the HKSAR and the long term prosperity and stability of the city can be achieved.

2. Subsequently, the NPCSC adopted the amended Annex I and Annex II to the Basic Law on 30 March to amend the methods for the selection of the Chief Executive and for the

formation of the Legislative Council. Pursuant to the revised Annex I and Annex II to the Basic Law, the HKSAR Government is sparing no effort to taking forward the relevant amendments to the local legislation. After the passage of the relevant Bill by the Legislative Council, the Government will conduct and regulate election-related activities in accordance with the amended electoral laws, so as to implement the new electoral system compatible with the actual situation in Hong Kong and to properly arrange and conduct a number of important elections in the coming 12 months.

3. As the relevant work is covered by the existing establishment of staff and the resources required are absorbed in the recurrent expenditure of this Bureau, a separate breakdown of the expenditure is not available.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB078**

**(Question Serial No. 0212)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Under Programme 5, the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) will deliver better services through continuous improvements on management capabilities and implementing management and operational improvements in the coming financial year. What are the details in this regard, and how much manpower and expenditure will be involved? Regarding the percentage of the parties involved in complaints who are satisfied with the services provided to them by the EOC, both the figure of 2019 and the estimated figure for 2021 are 68%. Will the EOC introduce new measures to increase the level of satisfaction of the parties involved? If yes, what are the details; if no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy (LegCo internal reference no.: 59)

Reply:

The Report on Review of the Equal Opportunities Commission Governance, Management Structure and Complaint Handling Process (the Report) published by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) in December 2019 puts forward a number of recommendations to enhance the EOC's governance and complaint handling process, with a view to enabling the EOC to perform its statutory functions more efficiently. Having considered the recommendations of the Report, the EOC has introduced improvement measures on its complaint handling process and legal assistance service as well as a reform to its management structure.

2. Under the restructuring, the 2 enforcement divisions i.e. the Complaint Services Division (CSD) and the Legal Service Division (LSD), were placed under the overall command of an Executive Director. In assessing and investigating complaints, the CSD would approach the LSD for preliminary legal advice to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the complaint handling process and the chance of successful conciliation. Moreover, to further enhance the EOC's efficiency in performing its statutory functions and duties, the CSD and the LSD would meet regularly to exchange and discuss their legal



viewpoints on cases and related issues. The restructuring has fostered closer co-operation and exchange between the 2 Divisions.

3. To continuously enhance the EOC's management capabilities and efficiency, the Government has granted an additional funding of about \$5 million to the EOC since 2020-21 for adjusting its internal management structure and enhancing its organisational effectiveness. The exercise involves an addition of 2 staff members and re-grading of 2 posts. The other measures mentioned above have been implemented as part of the daily operation of the EOC, and therefore do not involve additional manpower and expenditure.

4. Since 2016, the EOC has commissioned external consultants to conduct users' satisfaction surveys on a bi-annual basis. In 2017 and 2019, 69% and 68% of the parties involved in complaints were satisfied with the services provided by the EOC respectively. For continuous service improvement, the EOC would introduce corresponding measures to enhance the satisfaction of service users based on the findings of each survey. Based on the findings of the 2019 survey, the EOC has adopted a victim-centered approach, provided relevant training to the CSD staff based on their needs including skills of effective communication with service users, with a view to continuously improving the level of satisfaction of the parties involved in complaints.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB079**

**(Question Serial No. 0213)**

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

Question:

Under Programme (3), the Mainland and Taiwan Offices will, in the coming financial year, enhance promotion in the Mainland to pave way for the gradual resumption of economic activities and people flow between the two places after the pandemic. What are the details of the promotion work, in particular the format, theme and target? How much manpower and expenditure will be involved?

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy (LegCo internal reference no.: 58)

Reply:

The Mainland Offices (namely the Beijing Office and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan) proactively serve as important bridges between Hong Kong and the Mainland, including enhancing liaison and communication with counterparts in the areas under their coverage; representing and promoting Hong Kong's trade and commercial interests; encouraging and attracting investments to Hong Kong; promoting Hong Kong as a desirable platform to develop markets along the Belt and Road; promoting the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area) development; promoting Hong Kong's many advantages as an investment and business hub in Asia; and assisting in enhancing arts and cultural exchange between Hong Kong and the Mainland. The above areas of work complement each other in showcasing the strengths and positive image of Hong Kong in the Mainland.

2. In 2021-22, in collaboration with relevant departments and organisations, the Mainland Offices will launch publicity programmes through diversified platforms in various places in the Mainland, organise and participate in business, commercial, arts and cultural activities, etc. in the Mainland, foster closer ties with different Mainland stakeholders, and arrange visits and exchanges between the two places in due course. The promotion initiatives will enable various sectors in the Mainland to have a more comprehensive understanding of the latest situation in Hong Kong, promote Hong Kong's unique advantages and opportunities under the Greater Bay Area development, and rebuild Hong Kong's positive image as a safe, law-abiding, civilised, pluralistic and inclusive society.

The Mainland Offices will closely observe the public opinions in the Mainland and, having regard to the development of the pandemic and the progress of people flow and business exchanges between the Mainland and Hong Kong, flexibly and suitably adjust the relevant promotion work. The Mainland Offices will also continue to work closely with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and the Hong Kong Tourism Board, etc. in this respect. As promoting Hong Kong is an integral part of the duties and functions of the Mainland Offices, the manpower and expenditure involved cannot be singled out and itemised.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****CMAB080****(Question Serial No. 2415)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In response to the COVID-19 epidemic, the Food and Health Bureau launched the Return2hk Scheme in November 2020, under which Hong Kong residents could obtain a “Green” QR code for returning to Hong Kong generated by converting their “Yuekang Code” or “Macao health code” for use on the electronic health declaration form of the Department of Health.

What is the respective total number of people returning to Hong Kong under the Return2hk Scheme in each of the first 4 months of implementation of the Scheme from November 2020 to February 2021? Of these, how many completed the code conversion from “Yuekang Code” and “Macao health code” respectively?

Moreover, how many people have returned to Hong Kong under the Return2hk Scheme more than once during the first 4 months of implementation?

Asked by: Hon OR Chong-shing, Wilson (LegCo internal reference no.: 47)

Reply:

Since the implementation of the Return2hk Scheme on 23 November 2020 until the end of February 2021, the monthly statistics on people returning to Hong Kong under the Scheme broken down by immigration control points are as follows:

Control point	2020		2021	
	November (since 23 November)	December	January	February
Shenzhen Bay	6 824	11 934	16 994	33 889
Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Port	1 057	2 306	2 593	4 273
Total	7 881	14 240	19 587	38 162

2. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government does not maintain statistics on people returning to Hong Kong with code conversion from “Yuekang Code” or “Macao health code”, and people returning to Hong Kong more than once under the Scheme.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB081**

**(Question Serial No. 2634)**

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

Question:

It is mentioned in the Estimates that the Government would “provide support and practical assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland”. How many requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents in the Mainland have been received since the outbreak of COVID-19? How many cases have been given support by the Government?

Asked by: Hon OR Chong-shing, Wilson (LegCo internal reference no.: 101)

Reply:

Immigration Divisions have been set up under 5 Mainland Offices of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) (namely the Beijing Office and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Guangdong, Chengdu, Shanghai and Wuhan) to provide HKSAR passport replacement service for eligible applicants with a valid HKSAR permanent identity card and provide practical assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. In 2020, a total of 3 219 requests for assistance were received from Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. Among them, 2 980 were related to the COVID-19 epidemic, including cases in which assistance seekers were stranded due to transport conditions or needed medication provided in Hong Kong etc. The Immigration Divisions had rendered practical assistance to the assistance seekers having regard to the actual circumstances.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****CMAB082****(Question Serial No. 0703)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In respect of sexual harassment, what are the number of cases received, handled, conciliated and settled by and of cases where investigation was initiated by the Equal Opportunities Commission in the past 2 years? Please list the numbers in table form. Moreover, it is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021-2022 that the Government will foster a friendly environment free from discrimination and harassment, particularly in prevention of sexual harassment. Would the Government advise this Committee of the specific measures and details of the relevant programmes, as well as the manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 45)

Reply:

In respect of sexual harassment, information about the investigation on complaints received and investigation initiated by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) in the past 2 years is set out below:

	Number of complaints	Outcome of investigation	
Complaint investigation on sexual harassment			
2019	152	Conciliation successful	28
		Conciliation not successful	11
		Investigation discontinued	108
		Under investigation	5
2020	144	Conciliation successful	30
		Conciliation not successful	4
		Investigation discontinued	79
		Under investigation	31

	Number of cases	Outcome of investigation	
Self-initiated investigation on sexual harassment			
2019	1	Resolved	0
		No follow-up action required	1
2020	0	Resolved	0
		No follow-up action required	0

2. The EOC will continue its efforts in fostering a friendly environment free from discrimination and harassment through a series of activities in 2021-22, including publications and electronic newsletters, advertisements on TV, radio and MTR light boxes, posting articles on newspapers and the EOC's website, implementing the Community Participation Funding Programme on Equal Opportunities as well as the Equal Opportunity Employer Recognition Scheme, roving drama performance in schools, exhibitions, photo competitions and multi-media publicity plans, etc.

3. The Government provided funding to the EOC in 2020-21 to set up the Anti-Sexual Harassment Unit (ASHU). Established in November 2020, ASHU is tasked with raising public awareness on anti-sexual harassment policies; conducting a holistic review of the current legal regime and recommend legislative amendments where appropriate; and acting as a first port of call for those affected by sexual harassment with a view to addressing the issue of underreporting of sexual harassment among victims.

4. In January 2021, ASHU set up a dedicated hotline to allow the public to receive information on anti-sexual harassment through real-time conversation, and to be referred to counselling and therapy services when needed.

5. Besides, the EOC is developing a dedicated website on anti-sexual harassment and is producing a bilingual booklet to enhance public awareness on sexual harassment. Other programmes include:

- (a) to organise an online "Seminar on Preventing Sexual Harassment in Sports Sector – How to Empower Coaches and Athletes to Prevent Sexual Harassment" in March 2021;
- (b) to conduct a research project "A Study on Comprehensive Sexuality Education in Secondary Schools of Hong Kong" with the aims of understanding the implementation of sex education in secondary schools as well as the views of principals and teachers with a view to making recommendations for improving sex education; and
- (c) to assist 8 universities in developing an online course on the prevention of sexual harassment in order to enhance the awareness of anti-sexual harassment among university students, and provide channels for seeking assistance and lodging complaints.



6. In 2021-22, the expenditure on the 4 staff members of ASHU and the operating expenses of related projects is about \$4 million. As for other anti-sexual harassment work which is part of the EOC's overall work, no breakdown of the manpower and resources involved is available.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB083**

**(Question Serial No. 1482)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Under Programme (3), one of the responsibilities of the Mainland Offices is to facilitate the application for and collection of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) replacement passport in the Mainland. As mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in the new financial year, the Mainland and Taiwan Offices will collate practical and useful information and disseminate it to Hong Kong people living in the Mainland and Taiwan. Please inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) What channels will the Mainland Offices use to disseminate information to Hong Kong people living in the Mainland?
- (2) How many Hong Kong people living in the Mainland requested the provision of services or assistance from the Mainland Offices in the past 2 financial years? What were the types of services or assistance requested?
- (3) A good number of Hong Kong people living in the Mainland have indicated to me that they were unable to return to Hong Kong to apply for replacement of their Home Return Permits and HKSAR passports due to the COVID-19 epidemic and requested my assistance. Can the Government provide assistance to these people? If yes, how can they contact the Government for assistance? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (LegCo internal reference no.: 44)

Reply:

Currently, the Mainland Offices and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan (HKETCO) liaise closely with organisations of Hong Kong residents, business associations, enterprises and student groups etc. to better understand the situations of Hong Kong residents working, studying and living in the Mainland and Taiwan, and to provide appropriate assistance when necessary. Examples of such assistance include organising events for Hong Kong residents there for exchanges and sharing of experiences of living in the Mainland and Taiwan, providing information on further studies and job opportunities for Hong Kong students, and holding career talks jointly with organisations of

Hong Kong residents to address the needs of Hong Kong students. The Mainland Offices also relay the views or requests of Hong Kong residents in the Mainland to the relevant Mainland authorities for follow-up. Moreover, to support Hong Kong residents in the Mainland and Taiwan, the Mainland Offices and the HKETCO collect practical information on medical care, business, employment, education and legal services etc. and disseminate such information through production of information booklets and updates on the Offices' websites from time to time to assist Hong Kong residents to better adapt to living in the area. The Mainland Offices have published booklets on living in Beijing, Tianjin, Shenyang, Guangdong, Shanghai, Nanjing, Hefei, Hangzhou, Ningbo, Qingdao, Jinan, Chengdu, Chongqing, Xi'an, Guiyang, Wuhan, Changsha and Zhengzhou etc. In 2021-22, the Mainland Offices and the HKETCO will continue with the above work.

2. Immigration Divisions have been set up under 5 Mainland Offices of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) (namely the Beijing Office and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Guangdong, Chengdu, Shanghai and Wuhan) to provide HKSAR passport replacement service for eligible applicants with a valid HKSAR permanent identity card and provide practical assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. In 2019 and 2020, the Immigration Division issued 2 607 and 3 093 HKSAR passports respectively. Besides, a total of 456 and 3 219 requests for assistance were received from Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland respectively. The requests were related to loss of travel documents or money; or persons involved in accidents, injuries or other incidents (including requests related to the COVID-19 epidemic, e.g. assistance seekers were stranded due to transport conditions or needed medication provided in Hong Kong etc.). The Immigration Divisions had rendered practical assistance to the assistance seekers having regard to the actual circumstances.

3. Besides, in response to Hong Kong people's requests, the National Immigration Administration announced that starting from 10 October 2020, Hong Kong and Macao residents could apply for renewal and re-issue of Home Return Permit from the public security authorities above county level in the Mainland, according to the same application procedures as those in Hong Kong and Macao. The Mainland Offices have disseminated the relevant information to Hong Kong people living in the Mainland through various channels such as websites, WeChat public accounts, emails and gatherings of Hong Kong people.

4. The Guangdong ETO has commissioned an organisation to provide free legal advisory service to Hong Kong residents in need through a telephone hotline or by arranging Mainland duty lawyers to meet the assistance seekers to provide preliminary advice on Mainland-related legal matters. In 2019 and 2020, 1 960 and 1 304 requests for free legal advisory service were received respectively.

5. The HKETCO received a total of 68 and 912 requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents in distress in Taiwan in 2019 and 2020 respectively. In 2019, the requests were mainly related to persons involved in accidents, injuries, sickness or other incidents and seeking legal assistance in Taiwan. In 2020, the requests were mainly related to provision of assistance to Hong Kong residents whose entry to Taiwan were affected or who were imposed with home quarantine measures due to the epidemic. Some other requests were related to persons involved in accidents or immigration-related matters etc. The HKETCO had maintained close liaison with the Hong Kong Immigration Department and

rendered practical assistance to the assistance seekers having regard to the actual circumstances.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB084**

**(Question Serial No. 1483)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the provision of assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland under Programme (3), please inform this Committee of:

- (1) in each of the past 2 financial years, the number of requests for assistance that the Government received from Hong Kong people in distress in the Mainland, the types of requests for assistance, the actions taken and the time taken to handle each case;
- (2) the manpower and expenditure earmarked for handling assistance requests from Hong Kong people in distress in the Mainland in the new financial year; and the rate of changes over the past 2 financial years: and
- (3) whether the Government referred the cases to relevant Mainland authorities, or helped follow up on the cases through the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong, the Office of the HKSAR Government in Beijing or other departments; if so, the details, and the number of referrals each year?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (LegCo internal reference no.: 45)

Reply:

Immigration Divisions have been set up under 5 Mainland Offices of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) (namely the Beijing Office and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Guangdong, Chengdu, Shanghai and Wuhan) to provide HKSAR passport replacement service for eligible applicants with a valid HKSAR permanent identity card and provide practical assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. In 2019 and 2020, a total of 456 and 3 219 requests for assistance were received from Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland respectively. The requests were related to loss of travel documents or money; or persons involved in accidents, injuries or other incidents (including cases related to the COVID-19 epidemic, e.g. assistance seekers were stranded due to transport conditions or needed medication provided in Hong Kong etc.). The Immigration Divisions had

rendered practical assistance to the assistance seekers having regard to the actual circumstances.

2. As the above work is an integral part of the duties and functions of the Mainland Offices, the provision and manpower required cannot be singled out and itemised. The Mainland Offices will continue to make use of existing resources to take forward the above work.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB085**

**(Question Serial No. 1485)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the provision of assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland under Programme (3), please inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) Cases of Hong Kong people requesting assistance due to property investment scams in the Greater Bay Area has seen an alarming increase amid the Government's active efforts to promote the opportunities there in recent years. What new policies or measures will the Government put in place in the new financial year to help the victims recover losses?
- (2) Will the Government consider establishing a dedicated team for handling such cases involving property scams in the Mainland? If yes, what are the manpower and expenditure earmarked? If no, what are the reasons?
- (3) In response to my question on the Budget last year, the Government stated that "the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (ETO) in Guangdong has commissioned an organisation to provide free legal advisory service to Hong Kong residents in need through a telephone hotline or by arranging Mainland duty lawyers to meet the assistance seekers to provide preliminary advice on Mainland-related legal matters". How many requests for assistance did the Government receive in the past 2 financial years involving property transactions in the Mainland, and how many victims of property scams were provided with legal advice?
- (4) I have handled a number of cases involving property scams in the Mainland and some of them have been referred to the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (LOCPG), but purportedly there was not much they could do to help. Is it possible to refer the relevant cases to the Guangdong ETO for follow-up?
- (5) Further to the above question, how would the assistance provided differ between the Guangdong ETO and the LOCPG?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (LegCo internal reference no.: 46)

Reply:

One of the main functions of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong (GDETO) of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) is to provide assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in 5 provinces/region (Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan and Yunnan). In 2019 and 2020, the numbers of requests for assistance received by the GDETO relating to property transactions in Mainland cities of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area are 42 and 32 respectively. The GDETO had followed up and handled the above cases having regard to the actual circumstances. If the Hong Kong residents seeking assistance wish to make complaints or appeals to the Mainland authorities under its coverage, the GDETO will refer their cases to the relevant Mainland authorities on request. Besides, the GDETO has commissioned an organisation to provide free legal advisory service to Hong Kong residents in need through a telephone hotline or by arranging Mainland duty lawyers to meet the assistance seekers to provide preliminary advice on Mainland-related legal matters. In 2019 and 2020, 1 960 and 1 304 requests for free legal advisory service were received respectively, of which 911 and 527 were related to property transactions.

2. To enhance the public's understanding of matters related to property purchase in the Mainland, the 5 Mainland Offices of the HKSAR Government (namely the Beijing Office and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Guangdong, Chengdu, Shanghai and Wuhan) published the *Practical Guide for Hong Kong People Living in the Mainland*, a booklet on living in the Mainland covering practical information about property purchase such as points to note for entering contracts on sale and purchase. A link to the webpage of Hong Kong's Estate Agents Authority containing practical information on the purchase of property outside Hong Kong has been provided on the websites of the Mainland Offices to facilitate access by citizens. We have also published an article in the *Choice* magazine of the Consumer Council in February 2021 to remind citizens of the points to note when purchasing property in the Mainland. The web link of the article has been added to the websites of the Mainland Offices.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB086**

**(Question Serial No. 1488)**

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

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 69 of the Financial Secretary's speech that the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Office) has been set up. Please inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) What are the specific duties, staff establishment and expenditure of the Office?
- (2) Given the Government's continuous efforts to promote the investment and employment opportunities of the Greater Bay Area in the past 2 years, many Hong Kong people have decided to purchase properties there. However, there emerge more and more cases of Hong Kong people falling for property scams and purchasing uncompleted properties proven unviable later in the Greater Bay Area (in particular Zhongshan and Huizhou). Has the Office received any requests for assistance relating to such cases? If yes, what are the number and types of such requests, and how does the Government plan to help the victims recover losses?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (LegCo internal reference no.: 51)

Reply:

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (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 of the HKSAR Government on the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area). Specific duties of the Office include strengthening liaison with central government ministries, the Guangdong Provincial Government, the Macao Special Administrative Region Government, and municipal governments of the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area, etc. to take forward the overall policies for the Greater Bay Area development as well as the promulgation and implementation of specific measures. The Office also strengthens the overall planning and co-ordination among bureaux and departments of the HKSAR Government for the Greater Bay Area development to ensure the relevant policy measures are co-ordinated and consistent. In the meantime, the Office

will continue to maintain close liaison with local stakeholders and, through strategic publicity and promotional efforts, enhance the awareness of various sectors of society on the Greater Bay Area development and encourage them to actively participate in and open up the opportunities from the development. In 2021-22, the estimated expenditure of the Office is about \$64.5 million, and the number of staff in the establishment of the Office is 33.

2. On the other hand, one of the main functions of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong (GDETO) of the HKSAR Government is to provide assistance to Hong Kong residents in 5 provinces/region (Guangdong, Fujian, Guangxi, Hainan and Yunnan). In 2019 and 2020, the numbers of requests for assistance received by the GDETO relating to property transactions in Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area are 42 and 32 respectively. The GDETO has followed up and handled the cases having regard to the actual circumstances. If the Hong Kong residents seeking assistance wish to make complaints or appeals to the Mainland authorities under its coverage, the GDETO will refer their cases to the relevant Mainland authorities on request. Moreover, the GDETO has commissioned an organisation to provide free legal advisory service to Hong Kong residents in need through a telephone hotline or by arranging Mainland duty lawyers to meet the assistance seekers to provide preliminary advice on Mainland-related legal matters.

3. To enhance the public's understanding of matters related to property purchase in the Mainland, the 5 Mainland Offices of the HKSAR Government (namely the Beijing Office and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Guangdong, Chengdu, Shanghai and Wuhan) published the Practical Guide for Hong Kong People Living in the Mainland, a booklet on living in the Mainland covering practical information about property purchase such as points to note for entering contracts on sale and purchase. A link to the webpage of Hong Kong's Estate Agents Authority containing practical information on the purchase of property outside Hong Kong has been provided on the websites of the Mainland Offices to facilitate access by citizens. We have also published an article in the *Choice* magazine of the Consumer Council in February 2021 to remind citizens of the points to note when purchasing property in the Mainland. The web link of the article has been added to the websites of the Mainland Offices.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB087**

**(Question Serial No. 3263)**

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

Question:

The Financial Secretary stated in paragraph 43 of the Budget Speech that “In light of the epidemic..... to make it easier for enterprises and individuals to submit applications, make payments, obtain licences and use government services.” Please advise this Committee:

- (1) During the epidemic, I received a lot of requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents in the Mainland. They said that their Home Return Permits and Re-entry Permits would expire in a month but the anti-epidemic measures implemented by Hong Kong and the Mainland governments and organisations (e.g. it was stipulated that anyone who had visited Hong Kong would be banned from classes in Mainland primary schools) had made Hong Kong people in the Mainland (especially young students) unable to return to Hong Kong to renew the permits. Was the Government aware of their difficulties? If yes, how did the Government assist those Hong Kong residents in the Mainland?
- (2) Further to the above question, would online renewal service be arranged for them? If yes, what are the details and the additional manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (LegCo internal reference no.: 35)

Reply:

One of the major duties and functions of the 5 Mainland Offices of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (namely the Beijing Office and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Guangdong, Chengdu, Shanghai and Wuhan) is to provide practical assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. They are also responsible for reflecting the views of Hong Kong people through liaison with the relevant Mainland authorities to strive for the provision of more facilitation for Hong Kong people. In 2020, the Mainland Offices received many requests or enquiries from Hong Kong people who were unable to return to Hong Kong to apply for renewal or re-issue of Home Return Permits due to the anti-epidemic measures implemented in Hong Kong and the Mainland. In response to the requests of Hong Kong people relayed to the relevant

Mainland authorities by the Mainland Offices, the National Immigration Administration announced that starting from 10 October 2020, Hong Kong and Macao residents could apply for renewal and re-issue of Home Return Permit from the public security authorities above county level in the Mainland, according to the same application procedures as those in Hong Kong and Macao. The Mainland Offices have disseminated the above information to Hong Kong people living in the Mainland through various channels such as websites, WeChat public accounts, emails and gatherings of Hong Kong people.

2. Re-entry Permits are issued by the Immigration Department of Hong Kong. Applications must be made in person. If an applicant is under 16 years of age, he/she must be accompanied by his/her parent or legal guardian when making the application. If all supporting documents required are provided upon submission of application, the re-entry permit can normally be issued to the applicant on the same day. Since re-entry permit holders have the right to land in Hong Kong, for Hong Kong residents who are in the Mainland, their return to Hong Kong will not be affected even if their re-entry permits have expired. Where necessary, Hong Kong residents may seek assistance from the Immigration Divisions of the Mainland Offices. The Immigration Divisions concerned will render practical assistance having regard to the actual circumstances, such as issuing a single entry permit to facilitate their return to Hong Kong.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB088**

**(Question Serial No. 1169)**

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

Question:

Regarding the efforts to “continue to strengthen the promotion and co-ordination work of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government in taking forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area”, what are the total number of Hong Kong people working in the Greater Bay Area, the relevant figures in various cities and the types of jobs/industries in which they are engaged in these cities?

Asked by: Hon WONG Kwok-kin (LegCo internal reference no.: 56)

Reply:

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region does not maintain statistics or breakdowns on the number of Hong Kong people working in other cities of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

2. Notwithstanding the above, since 2016, the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) has been making use of the movement records of Hong Kong permanent residents to compile and release the estimation of “Hong Kong residents usually staying in the Guangdong Province” (i.e. Hong Kong permanent residents who have stayed in the Guangdong Province for 6 months and above cumulatively during the 6 months before and after the reference time-point). As at end-2019, the estimated number of such persons was 538 000. The corresponding figure for 2020 is not yet available. The above estimation is made by C&SD on the assumption that Hong Kong permanent residents departing Hong Kong via land control points and the China Ferry Terminal are travelling to the Guangdong Province, and cannot differentiate those who then travel to other areas in the Mainland or outside the Mainland. Besides, their purposes of stay (e.g. for employment) in the Guangdong Province cannot be ascertained in the estimation.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB089**

**(Question Serial No. 1175)**

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

Question:

The figure under the indicator “provision of practical assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland by the Immigration Divisions (no. of cases)” has significantly increased from 456 in 2019 to 3 219 in 2020.

- What are the reasons for the significant increase? Are there any cases involving Hong Kong people who were stranded in the Mainland and could not return to Hong Kong due to COVID-19? If yes, what are the number of requests for assistance and types of issues pertaining to the requests? Please give a breakdown by city and type of issues pertaining to the requests for assistance;
- What assistance are rendered to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland and what are the expenditures involved?

Asked by: Hon WONG Kwok-kin (LegCo internal reference no.: 57)

Reply:

Immigration Divisions have been set up under 5 Mainland Offices of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) (namely the Beijing Office (BJO) and the ETOs in Guangdong, Chengdu, Shanghai and Wuhan) to provide HKSAR passport replacement service for eligible applicants with a valid HKSAR permanent identity card and provide practical assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. In 2020, a total of 3 219 requests for assistance were received from Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. Among them, 2 980 were related to the COVID-19 epidemic, including cases in which assistance seekers were stranded due to transport conditions or needed medication provided in Hong Kong etc. The numbers of requests for assistance that were related to the COVID-19 epidemic and received by the Immigration Divisions of the Mainland Offices in 2020 are set out in the table below:

Mainland Office	Number of requests for assistance related to the COVID-19 epidemic
BJO	30
Guangdong ETO	239
Chengdu ETO	55
Shanghai ETO	45
Wuhan ETO	2 611

2. The Mainland Offices had rendered practical assistance to the assistance seekers having regard to the actual circumstances. Regarding cases related to the COVID-19 epidemic, the HKSAR Government sent 8 chartered flights to take Hong Kong residents stranded in Hubei Province back to Hong Kong in 2 batches in March 2020, and arranged to deliver medications provided in Hong Kong to Hong Kong residents who were stranded in the province. Between 24 February and 23 December 2020, the HKSAR Government introduced a special scheme to deliver prescription medications to Hong Kong residents who were located in Guangdong and Fujian Provinces with urgent need for medications.

3. As the above work is an integral part of the duties and functions of the Mainland Offices, the expenditure involved cannot be singled out and itemised.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB090**

**(Question Serial No. 2080)**

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

Question:

Regarding the efforts to “continue to strengthen the promotion and co-ordination work of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government in taking forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area”,

- How many requests for assistance in relation to property purchase in the Greater Bay Area were received by the Government in the past 3 years (i.e. 2018-2020)? Please provide a breakdown by year, city and types of requests;
- How did the Government provide assistance to Hong Kong people to help solve their problems and what were the expenditures involved?

Asked by: Hon WONG Kwok-kin (LegCo internal reference no.: 74)

Reply:

In 2018, 2019 and 2020, the numbers of requests for assistance received by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong (GDETO) of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) relating to property transactions in Mainland cities of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area are 33, 42 and 32 respectively.

2. The GDETO had followed up and handled the cases concerned having regard to the actual circumstances. At the same time, it has commissioned an organisation to provide free legal advisory service to Hong Kong residents in need through a telephone hotline or by arranging Mainland duty lawyers to meet the assistance seekers to provide preliminary advice on Mainland-related legal matters.

3. To enhance the public's understanding of matters related to property purchase in the Mainland, the 5 Mainland Offices of the HKSAR Government (namely the Beijing Office and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Guangdong, Chengdu, Shanghai and Wuhan) published the *Practical Guide for Hong Kong People Living in the Mainland*, a booklet on living in the Mainland covering practical information about property purchase



such as points to note for entering contracts on sale and purchase. A link to the webpage of Hong Kong's Estate Agents Authority containing practical information on the purchase of property outside Hong Kong has been provided on the websites of the Mainland Offices to facilitate access by citizens. We have also published an article in the *Choice* magazine of the Consumer Council in February 2021 to remind citizens of the points to note when purchasing property in the Mainland. The web link of the article has been added to the websites of the Mainland Offices.

4. As the above work is an integral part of the duties and functions of the Mainland Offices of the HKSAR Government, the provision and manpower required cannot be singled out and itemised.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB091**

**(Question Serial No. 1467)**

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

Question:

Under this Programme, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) is responsible for, amongst others, advising bureaux and departments on matters relating to the implementation of the Basic Law, and promoting public awareness and understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law. Would the Government advise this Committee whether:

1. CMAB has put in place policies, measures and programmes to promote public awareness and understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law? If yes, what are the details and expenditures involved; if no, what are the reasons?
2. CMAB will advise bureaux or government departments, such as the Department of Justice, Civil Service Bureau, Education Bureau and Commerce and Economic Development Bureau, for the purpose of promoting public awareness and understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law? If yes, what are the details; if no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon YUNG Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (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 “one country, two systems” principle, the Constitution and the Basic Law. An estimated expenditure of about \$23 million has been set aside for the relevant promotional activities in 2021-22, with a view to promoting and strengthening the atmosphere of studying and learning the Constitution and the Basic Law on all fronts.

2. The strategies adopted by the CMAB to promote the Constitution and the Basic Law include:
  - (a) organising thematic seminars;

- (b) using electronic media, such as Internet and smart-phone applications, to promote widely to different strata of the society by various means, e.g. online games, Basic Law Court Case Database, video series, and launching Announcement of Public Interests on television, etc.;
- (c) enhancing awareness and understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law by the general public and students through promotional activities at the district level, such as organising roving exhibitions and arranging mobile resource centre to pay visits to different districts and schools; and
- (d) providing sponsorship to non-governmental organisations or community organisations through the “Basic Law Promotion Activity Sponsorship Scheme” and “Basic Law Promotion Research Sponsorship Scheme” for staging various promotional and research activities on the Constitution and the Basic Law, such as seminars, quizzes and debate competitions, in order to reach a wider audience.

3. Under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (BLPSC) provides advice and steer on the overall strategy and key aspects for promoting the Constitution and the Basic Law, and monitors, evaluates and reviews promotional programmes undertaken by government departments and non-governmental organisations. The CMAB provides secretariat support to the BLPSC. The Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, Secretary for Civil Service, Secretary for Education, Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development and Solicitor General are among the official members of the BLPSC. 5 working groups (namely Working Groups on Local Community; Teachers and Students; Civil Servants; Industrial, Commercial and Professional Sectors; and Community Outside Hong Kong) had been set up under the BLPSC and are assisted by the Home Affairs Bureau, Education Bureau, Civil Service Bureau, Trade and Industry Department and Information Services Department respectively in planning and organising various types of activities to promote the Constitution and the Basic Law on various fronts. The BLPSC and its working groups will review the format, content and effectiveness of promotional activities in relation to the Constitution and the Basic Law from time to time, and give due regard to the development and trend of promotional media and information technology with a view to optimising our promotion strategy.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB092**

**(Question Serial No. 1468)**

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

Question:

Under this Programme, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) is responsible for, amongst others, promoting and co-ordinating co-operation with the Mainland, Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR) and Taiwan, and advise bureaux and departments on related matters as necessary. Would the Government advise this Committee whether:

1. CMAB will put in place new policies, initiatives and programmes to promote and co-ordinate co-operation with the Mainland, MSAR and Taiwan? If yes, what are the details and expenditures involved; if no, what are the reasons?
2. CMAB will advise bureaux or departments, such as the Department of Justice, Civil Service Bureau, Education Bureau and Commerce and Economic Development Bureau, for the purpose of promoting and co-ordinating co-operation with the Mainland, MSAR and Taiwan? If yes, what are the details; if no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon YUNG Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

One of the major functions of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) is to deepen regional co-operation with the Mainland. The goal is to facilitate relevant policy bureaux and departments in strengthening co-operation with the Mainland in various areas, including the development of the Belt and Road as well as the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area; commerce, trade and investment; financial services; innovation and technology; professional services; aviation, shipping and logistics; tourism; cultural and creative industries; youth development; education; environmental protection; food safety; sports; urban management; medical and health services etc. Specific measures include organising high-level regional co-operation conferences and co-operation fora on a regular and need basis; and organising or co-organising thematic seminars, exhibitions and workshops, etc. to promote Hong Kong's

strengths as well as trade and commercial interests through various effective means at the government-to-government, government-to-business and other levels. The offices of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government in the Mainland are also committed to facilitating the implementation of various co-operation programmes and enhancing exchanges at the central, provincial and municipal levels. As for co-operation between Hong Kong and Taiwan, since their establishment in 2010, the Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic and Cultural Cooperation and Promotion Council (ECCPC) and the Taiwan-Hong Kong Economic and Cultural Co-operation Council (THEC) have agreed to pursue co-operation on different public policy matters. We will continue to promote the relevant exchange and co-operation through the ECCPC and THEC in a pragmatic manner. As the above work is an integral part of the regular duties and functions of CMAB, the provision required cannot be separately singled out and itemised.

2. Another function of CMAB is to assist and advise relevant policy bureaux and departments on matters relating to co-operation with the Mainland, Macao and Taiwan. As the relevant work is also an integral part of the regular duties of CMAB, we do not maintain the statistics of the number of occasions where advice is offered to bureaux and departments.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB093**

**(Question Serial No. 1469)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

One of the main responsibilities of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau under this Programme is ensuring the development of the electoral systems in accordance with relevant provisions of the Basic Law. Please inform this Committee of the following:

With a view to achieving “patriots administering Hong Kong” and ensuring that the electoral systems develop in accordance with relevant provisions of the Basic Law, when will the Government submit a request to the Central Authorities for their initiating the enhancement work on the electoral systems, such as by specifying the qualification and requirement for candidates, elected candidates and appointees of various elections for the Chief Executive Election Committee, Legislative Council, District Council etc., modifying and updating the electoral systems, and enhancing the electoral methods and arrangements as a whole? If it is to do so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon YUNG Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

The National People's Congress (NPC) adopted the Decision on Improving the Electoral System of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) on 11 March 2021, authorising the Standing Committee of the NPC (NPCSC) to amend Annex I to the Basic Law on Method for the Selection of the Chief Executive of the HKSAR and Annex II to the Basic Law on Method for the Formation of the Legislative Council of the HKSAR and Its Voting Procedures with a view to improving the electoral system of the HKSAR. Having considered the actual situation in Hong Kong, the Central Authorities take the initiative from the national level to improve the electoral system of Hong Kong, aiming to ensure that Hong Kong can stay true to the original aspiration in implementing the principle of “One Country, Two Systems” and get Hong Kong back on the right track. It is only by putting in place institutional safeguards to ensure “patriots administering Hong Kong” that the principle of “One Country, Two Systems” can be fully and faithfully applied in the HKSAR and the long term prosperity and stability of the city can be achieved.

2. Subsequently, the NPCSC adopted the amended Annex I and Annex II to the Basic Law on 30 March to amend the methods for the selection of the Chief Executive and for the formation of the Legislative Council. Pursuant to the revised Annex I and Annex II to the Basic Law, the HKSAR Government is sparing no effort to taking forward the relevant amendments to the local legislation. After the passage of the relevant Bill by the Legislative Council, the Government will conduct and regulate election-related activities in accordance with the amended electoral laws, so as to implement the new electoral system compatible with the actual situation in Hong Kong and to properly arrange and conduct a number of important elections in the coming 12 months.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB094**

**(Question Serial No. 1470)**

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

Question:

It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021-22 that the Constitution and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) will continue to strengthen the promotion and co-ordination work of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government in taking forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area) in this financial year. Would the Government advise this Committee whether:

1. CMAB will put in place policies, measures and programmes in this financial year to strengthen the promotion and co-ordination work of the HKSAR Government in taking forward the Greater Bay Area development? If yes, what are the details; if no, what are the reasons?
2. CMAB has formulated new policies and initiatives to facilitate young people in Hong Kong to study, work and live in the Greater Bay Area so as to encourage them to pursue developments there? If yes, what are the details; if no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon YUNG Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government has been taking forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area), including working closely with the central ministries/departments and the Guangdong Provincial Government to take forward the implementation of the 24 policy measures that had been approved in principle by the Leading Group for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Leading Group) after its 2 meetings in 2019. Measures already rolled out include tax concessions, facilitation of property purchase, support for young entrepreneurs, cross-boundary remittance of science and technology funding, and liberalisation of the legal and construction professional services.



These measures have greatly facilitated Hong Kong residents and professionals to reside, work and develop in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area.

2. In 2021-22, the HKSAR Government will continue to actively take forward the implementation of the remaining policy measures approved in principle by the Leading Group, and pursue policy innovation and breakthroughs in areas for consolidating and enhancing Hong Kong's status as international financial, transportation and trade centres as well as an international aviation hub, developing an international innovation and technology hub, improving the infrastructure of land boundary control points between Hong Kong and Shenzhen, facilitating Hong Kong enterprises to tap the Mainland domestic market, as well as supporting Hong Kong young people to work and start up their own business in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area. We will also maintain close liaison with local stakeholders and, through strategic publicity and promotional efforts, enhance the awareness of various sectors of society on the Greater Bay Area development and encourage them to actively participate in and open up opportunities from the development.

3. To encourage more young people to work and develop their career in the Greater Bay Area, the Labour Department launched the Greater Bay Area Youth Employment Scheme on 8 January 2021 to encourage enterprises with businesses in both Hong Kong and the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area to employ university graduates from Hong Kong and station them to work in the Mainland Greater Bay Area cities. The scheme provides 2 000 places, around 700 of which are designated for innovation and technology posts. The Government will pay the enterprises a monthly allowance of HK\$10,000 for each qualified graduate employed for up to 18 months.

4. Moreover, the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) has been facilitating Hong Kong young people to develop their career in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area through various schemes. On internship, HAB subsidises non-governmental organisations (NGOs) through the Funding Scheme for Youth Internship in the Mainland to organise Mainland internship activities for Hong Kong young people, with a view to enabling them to obtain real experience in the actual workplace environment in the Mainland. Being one of the major co-operation initiatives between Hong Kong and Guangdong, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Hong Kong Youth Internship Scheme launched under the Funding Scheme for Youth Internship in the Mainland has been expanded to cover all Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area cities in the Mainland since 2019. HAB also collaborates with top-notch scientific research and cultural institutions in the Mainland as well as major corporations in Hong Kong to implement the Thematic Youth Internship Programmes to the Mainland and the Scheme on Corporate Summer Internship on the Mainland and Overseas respectively, providing unique internship opportunities for local young people with different backgrounds, expertise and interests. Depending on the development of the epidemic, HAB will continue to enhance and expand relevant schemes in the future to provide Hong Kong young people with more diverse opportunities to enter the Greater Bay Area.

5. On entrepreneurship, HAB has introduced, under the Youth Development Fund, the Funding Scheme for Youth Entrepreneurship in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (the Entrepreneurship Scheme) and the Funding Scheme for Experiential Programmes at Innovation and Entrepreneurial Bases in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (the Experiential Scheme), with a view to encouraging Hong Kong young people to make optimal use of the innovative and entrepreneurial (I&E) bases in the Greater

Bay Area and helping them develop their businesses in both Hong Kong and the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area. The application results were announced in February 2021. About \$130 million has been granted under the Entrepreneurship Scheme to support 16 NGOs to organise youth entrepreneurship projects. As for the Experiential Scheme, about \$5 million will be granted to 15 NGOs to organise short-term experiential projects at I&E bases in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB095**

**(Question Serial No. 1471)**

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

Question:

One of the matters requiring special attention in 2021-22 is to continue to follow up and implement measures to enhance the voter registration system. Please advise this Committee of the following:

1. Will the Government start amending and enhancing the eligibility criteria for electors under the current voter registration system such as the eligibility of a trade union or association for registration in a functional constituency, and the issue of voting outside Hong Kong? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
2. Will the Government review and make amendments to issues on the voting eligibility of people with dual nationality as soon as possible, so as to enhance the current voter registration system? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon YUNG Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) would implement various checking measures in every voter registration (VR) cycle, including the conduct of cross-matching exercise with other government departments on the registered particulars of electors, and inquiry process to improve the accuracy and completeness of VR records. Regarding the eligibility for VR in functional constituencies (FCs), the REO collects from all specified bodies in every VR cycle their latest list of members who meet the eligibility requirements under the Legislative Council Ordinance (LCO) (Cap. 542) for registration as electors in the relevant FCs so as to review the eligibility of individuals for VR. In the processing of new VR applications, the REO will check whether the applicants concerned are included in the lists provided by specified bodies. For registered electors, the REO will check the particulars in the Registers of Electors against the lists provided by specified bodies and, in accordance with the electoral laws, initiate the statutory inquiry process for electors who no

longer meet the eligibility requirements for registration, requesting them to provide the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) with proofs of their eligibility for registration before the statutory deadline. If the electors concerned are not able to present proofs that they are still eligible for registration in the relevant FC before the deadline, the ERO will put their names on the omissions list in accordance with the electoral laws.

2. As the issues of voting outside Hong Kong and eligibility criteria for electors involve far-reaching implications, before we are able to make full and thorough deliberations, we must carefully assess the relevant proposals to ensure that Hong Kong's public elections will continue to be conducted in an open, honest and fair manner.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB096**

**(Question Serial No. 1472)**

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

Question:

As mentioned in paragraph 69 of the Budget, the Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area) is the best entry point for Hong Kong to participate in the domestic circulation of our country's economy. Please inform this Committee of the following:

1. Will the Government put in place any institutional and policy arrangements to promote and develop mutual market access for financial services and products, foster co-operation and collaboration in respect of innovation and technology, and facilitate people's stay and living across the boundary? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
2. The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office has been set up to strengthen the planning, co-ordination and promotion of the various policies and measures relating to Greater Bay Area development, and enhance the community's understanding of Greater Bay Area development. Does the Office have any short, medium and long-term targets and plans to help Hong Kong's businesses and youths to grasp the opportunities arising from Greater Bay Area development? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon YUNG Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

Reply:

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government attaches great importance to the enormous opportunities brought about by the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area) to the financial services sector of Hong Kong. In May 2020, the Central Government promulgated the "Opinion on Providing Financial Support for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area", which supports further promoting financial liberalisation and innovation, deepening financial co-operation among the Mainland, Hong Kong and Macao, and elevating the role of the Greater Bay Area in supporting and driving the country's development and opening up. The HKSAR Government will continue to

strengthen financial co-operation with the Mainland and Hong Kong's bridging role between the Mainland and the rest of the world. This will not just promote the sustainable development of the local financial industry and open up a broader market for the sector, but also contribute to the reform and opening up of the financial market of the country. Areas of work which the HKSAR Government will continue to take forward with relevant Mainland authorities and the industry include: offshore RMB business; mutual capital market access; asset and wealth management; risk management and development of the insurance industry; green and sustainable finance; and financial technology.

2. As regards innovation and technology (I&T) development, the HKSAR Government will continue to actively participate in the development of the Greater Bay Area into an international I&T hub, including strengthening co-operation with Shenzhen in taking forward the joint development of the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Innovation and Technology Cooperation Zone. The HKSAR Government has made substantial progress in realising cross-boundary remittance of research and development (R&D) funding and exporting human genetic resources from the Mainland, launching the Mainland-Hong Kong Joint Funding Scheme and developing the *InnoHK* Research Clusters. The HKSAR Government will continue to take forward a series of initiatives, including establishing international research clusters, facilitating the flow of R&D elements and providing technological research infrastructure, etc.

3. The HKSAR Government has been actively taking forward the development of the Greater Bay Area, including working closely with the central ministries/departments and the Guangdong Provincial Government to take forward the implementation of the 24 policy measures that have been approved in principle by the Leading Group for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Leading Group) at its 2 meetings in 2019. Measures already rolled out include tax concessions, facilitation of property purchase, support for young entrepreneurs, cross-boundary remittance of science and technology funding, and liberalisation of the legal and construction professional services. These measures have greatly facilitated Hong Kong residents and professionals to reside, work and develop in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area. In 2021-22, the HKSAR Government will continue to actively take forward the implementation of the remaining policy measures approved in principle by the Leading Group, and pursue policy innovation and breakthroughs in areas for consolidating and enhancing Hong Kong's status as international financial, transportation and trade centres as well as an international aviation hub, developing an international innovation and technology hub, improving the infrastructure of land boundary control points between Hong Kong and Shenzhen, facilitating Hong Kong enterprises to tap the Mainland domestic market, as well as supporting Hong Kong young people to work and start up their own business in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area.

4. In particular, the HKSAR Government seeks to support Hong Kong enterprises to use the Greater Bay Area development as an entry point to tap the domestic market so as to leverage the enormous business opportunities presented by the expansion of domestic demand under the Mainland's "dual circulation" strategy. The Hong Kong Trade Development Council will launch a one-stop "GoGBA" platform in collaboration with the Guangdong Province and related chambers of commerce, and set up a service centre in Shenzhen to provide multifaceted support for Hong Kong enterprises.

5. Moreover, the HKSAR Government has been facilitating Hong Kong young people to work and develop their career in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area through various schemes, including the Greater Bay Area Youth Employment Scheme launched by the Labour Department on 8 January 2021, as well as the Funding Scheme for Youth Entrepreneurship in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and the Funding Scheme for Experiential Programmes at Innovation and Entrepreneurial Bases in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area introduced by the Home Affairs Bureau under the Youth Development Fund.

6. We will also maintain close liaison with local stakeholders and, through strategic publicity and promotional efforts, enhance the awareness of various sectors of society on the Greater Bay Area development and encourage them to actively participate in and open up the opportunities from the development.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB097**

**(Question Serial No. 0755)**

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (YUNG Ying Fai, Alan)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please advise of the numbers of registered electors in the past 3 years, together with the annual figures of increase in number and percentage.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 39)

Reply:

The numbers of newly registered geographical constituency (GC) electors and the total numbers of GC electors in the voter registration cycles from 2018 to 2020 are set out in the table below:

	<b>2018 final register</b>	<b>2019 final register</b>	<b>2020 final register</b>
Number of newly registered GC electors (Percentage out of the total number of electors)	81 363 (2.1%)	392 601 (9.5%)	407 450 (9.1%)
Total number of GC electors	3 814 318	4 132 977	4 466 944

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB098**

**(Question Serial No. 0756)**

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (YUNG Ying Fai, Alan)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please set out the numbers of electors on the final register currently with registered addresses at residential care homes for the elderly and residential care homes for persons with disabilities.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 40)

Reply:

According to the 2020 final register, the numbers of electors with registered addresses at residential care homes for the elderly and residential care homes for persons with disabilities are as follows:

<b>Final register</b>	<b>Number of electors with registered addresses at residential care homes for the elderly*</b>	<b>Number of electors with registered addresses at residential care homes for persons with disabilities*</b>
2020	1 228	342

- \* The figures are actual numbers of electors in the final register compiled each year based on the criteria adopted by the Registration and Electoral Office for checking registered addresses with multiple electors or multiple surnames of electors.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB099**

**(Question Serial No. 0757)**

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (YUNG Ying Fai, Alan)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please set out for the past 3 years the number of registered electors in each functional constituency, together with the number and percentage of increase.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 41)

Reply:

The numbers of registered electors in each functional constituency (FC) as well as the year-on-year changes in numbers and percentages in the past 3 years are set out at **Annex**.

**Numbers of Registered Electors in Functional Constituencies and  
Year-on-year Changes in the Final Registers from 2018 to 2020**

Functional constituency	Number of electors in the final register			Change of 2019 over 2018		Change of 2020 over 2019	
	2018	2019	2020	Number of electors	Percentage	Number of electors	Percentage
Heung Yee Kuk	148	151	155	3	2.0%	4	2.65%
Agriculture & Fisheries	154	150	152	-4	-2.6%	2	1.33%
Insurance	127	125	134	-2	-1.6%	9	7.20%
Transport	193	187	191	-6	-3.1%	4	2.14%
Education	85 705	84 876	85 698	-829	-1.0%	822	0.97%
Legal	6 726	6 843	7 455	117	1.7%	612	8.94%
Accountancy	25 723	25 939	27 778	216	0.8%	1 839	7.09%
Medical	11 406	11 718	12 302	312	2.7%	584	4.98%
Health Services	36 734	36 804	40 471	70	0.2%	3 667	9.96%
Engineering	9 454	9 441	10 647	-13	-0.1%	1 206	12.77%
Architectural, Surveying, Planning and Landscape	7 788	8 026	9 096	238	3.1%	1 070	13.33%
Labour	671	672	712	1	0.1%	40	5.95%
Social Welfare	13 787	13 711	13 935	-76	-0.6%	224	1.63%
Real Estate and Construction	672	673	671	1	0.1%	-2	-0.30%

Functional constituency	Number of electors in the final register			Change of 2019 over 2018		Change of 2020 over 2019	
	2018	2019	2020	Number of electors	Percentage	Number of electors	Percentage
Tourism	1 350	1 322	1 486	-28	-2.1%	164	12.41%
Commercial (First)	1 007	908	1 230	-99	-9.8%	322	35.46%
Commercial (Second)	1 386	1 313	1 270	-73	-5.3%	-43	-3.27%
Industrial (First)	486	459	442	-27	-5.6%	-17	-3.70%
Industrial (Second)	701	674	640	-27	-3.9%	-34	-5.04%
Finance	122	120	121	-2	-1.6%	1	0.83%
Financial Services	634	638	814	4	0.6%	176	27.59%
Sports, Performing Arts, Culture and Publication	2 923	3 164	4 268	241	8.2%	1 104	34.89%
Import and Export	1 342	1 299	1 603	-43	-3.2%	304	23.40%
Textiles and Garment	1 920	1 686	1 607	-234	-12.2%	-79	-4.69%
Wholesale and Retail	6 523	6 621	6 104	98	1.5%	-517	-7.81%
Information Technology	8 136	7 391	13 000	-745	-9.2%	5 609	75.89%
Catering	4 685	4 408	8 018	-277	-5.9%	3 610	81.90%
District Council (First)	431	431	452	0	0.0%	21	4.87%
<b>Total</b>	<b>230 934</b>	<b>229 750</b>	<b>250 452</b>	<b>-1 184</b>	<b>-0.5%</b>	<b>20 702</b>	<b>9.01%</b>

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB100**

**(Question Serial No. 0758)**

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (YUNG Ying Fai, Alan)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please set out the numbers of citizens who were disqualified as electors for failing to submit address proofs upon random sample checks in the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 42)

Reply:

During the random sample checks conducted in the 2018, 2019 and 2020 voter registration cycles, the numbers of electors eventually removed from the final register of electors due to failure to provide address proofs when updating their registered addresses were 45, 86 and 75 respectively.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB101**

**(Question Serial No. 1717)**

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (YUNG Ying Fai, Alan)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

One of the matters requiring special attention in 2021-22 as stated by the Registration and Electoral Office is the conduct and supervision of the 2021 Legislative Council General Election. Would the Government inform this Committee of the breakdown of expenditure and manpower required for carrying out such work, and the comparison of these figures with those for the 2016 Legislative Council General Election?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)

Reply:

As far as a Legislative Council (LegCo) General Election is concerned, it normally spans several financial years from the preparation to the completion of all winding-up work. The estimated expenditure incurred in 2020-21 by the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) for the preparation of the 2021 LegCo General Election is about \$282 million. For 2021-22, the provision for the preparation and conduct of the 2021 LegCo General Election is about \$1,728 million (including the provision for the preparation and conduct of the 2021 Voter Registration Campaign), with breakdown as follows:

<b>Expenditure on the preparation and conduct of the election</b>	<b>2021-22 \$ million</b>
(1) Staff cost	240
(2) Publicity	47
(3) Other expenses (including the costs for hiring venues, manning polling and counting stations, Financial Assistance Scheme, transportation, postage, free mailing, printing, and rental cost of temporary offices and stores, etc.)	1,441
Total	1,728

2. In addition to the staff in its establishment, the REO plans, on top of the net increase of 14 civil service posts, to employ about 1 600 non-civil service contract staff (the number of contract staff to be employed during the peak period) in 2021-22 to cope with the workload arising from the preparation and conduct of the 2021 LegCo General Election, the 2021 Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections and the 2022 Chief Executive Election.

3. The overall expenditure for the preparation and conduct of the 2016 LegCo General Election is about \$695 million.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB102**

**(Question Serial No. 1718)**

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (YUNG Ying Fai, Alan)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

It is stated in the Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision that a total of 14 posts will be created in the Registration and Electoral Office in 2021-22 for undertaking election-related duties. Please provide information on the salaries and scope of work of these new posts.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher (LegCo internal reference no.: 52)

Reply:

In 2021-22, the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) plans to create 19 additional civil service posts (including 1 Chief Executive Officer, 4 Senior Executive Officer, 10 Executive Officer I, 1 Executive Officer II, 1 Systems Manager, 1 Analyst/Programmer I and 1 Assistant Clerical Officer posts) to cope with the work arising from the preparation and conduct of the 2021 Legislative Council General Election, the 2021 Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections and the 2022 Chief Executive Election. After discounting 5 posts to be deleted in 2021-22 (including 1 Executive Officer I, 2 Executive Officer II, 1 Assistant Clerical Officer and 1 Clerical Assistant posts), the net increase of posts in the REO in 2021-22 is 14, and the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts is \$14,452,440.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB103**

**(Question Serial No. 1833)**

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (YUNG Ying Fai, Alan)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

What are the breakdown of expenditure and manpower required for carrying out the preparatory work for the 2021 Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections? How do they compare with those for the Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections in 2016?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

The Election Committee Subsector (ECSS) Ordinary Elections from the preparation to the completion of all winding-up work usually take a span of a few financial years. Regarding the 2021 ECSS Ordinary Elections, the preparatory work commenced in 2019-20. The actual expenditure incurred in 2019-20 and the provision included in the 2020-21 revised estimate for the preparation work are about \$3.4 million and \$16 million respectively. For 2021-22, the provision of the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) for the preparation and conduct of the 2021 ECSS Ordinary Elections is about \$351 million, with breakdown as follows:

<b>Expenditure on the preparation and conduct of the election</b>	<b>2021-22 \$ million</b>
(1) Staff cost	91
(2) Publicity	2
(3) Other expenses (including the costs for hiring venues, manning polling and counting stations, transportation, postage, free mailing, printing, and rental cost of temporary offices and stores, etc.)	258
Total	351

2. In addition to the existing staff in its establishment, the REO plans, on top of the net increase of 14 civil service posts, to employ about 1 600 non-civil service contract staff (the number of contract staff to be employed during the peak period) in 2021-22 to cope with the

workload arising from the preparation and conduct of the 2021 Legislative Council General Election, the 2021 ECSS Ordinary Elections and the 2022 Chief Executive Election.

3. The actual expenditure for the preparation and conduct of the 2016 ECSS Ordinary Elections was about \$151 million. The increase in the overall estimated provision for the preparation and conduct of the 2021 ECSS Ordinary Elections is mainly due to higher costs for hire of venues, payment for additional security staff and public liability insurance policy, engagement of extra cleansing service and implementation of anti-epidemic safety measures.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB104**

**(Question Serial No. 1834)**

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (YUNG Ying Fai, Alan)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

What are the breakdown of expenditure and manpower required for the 2021 Legislative Council (LegCo) General Election, and how do they compare with those for the LegCo General Election in 2020? As indicated by the Government, new polling and counting arrangements will be introduced in the 2021 LegCo General Election to ensure that the whole election is conducted in a more fair and efficient manner. Have these arrangements been taken into account in the relevant breakdown of expenditure and manpower? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

As far as a Legislative Council (LegCo) General Election is concerned, it normally spans several financial years from the preparation to the completion of all winding-up work. The estimated expenditure incurred in 2020-21 by the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) for the preparation of the 2021 LegCo General Election is about \$282 million. For 2021-22, the provision for the preparation and conduct of the 2021 LegCo General Election is about \$1,728 million (including the provision for the preparation and conduct of the 2021 Voter Registration Campaign), with breakdown as follows:

<b>Expenditure on the preparation and conduct of the election</b>	<b>2021-22 \$ million</b>
(1) Staff cost	240
(2) Publicity	47
(3) Other expenses (including the costs for hiring venues, manning polling and counting stations, Financial Assistance Scheme, transportation, postage, free mailing, printing, and rental cost of temporary offices and stores, etc.)	1,441
Total	1,728

2. The estimates have taken into account the expenditure on the new arrangements to be introduced by the REO in the 2021 LegCo General Election, including the installation of video-recording facilities at the counting zone in each counting station and the Central Counting Station for recording the situation on-site, exploring the use of electronic poll register to facilitate verification of electors' identities and enhance the efficiency and accuracy of issuing of ballot papers, and exploring the setting up of special queues for electors with special needs. Besides, the estimates have taken into consideration the expenditure on anti-epidemic safety measures to be adopted at polling stations and counting stations to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

3. To cope with the work arising from the preparation and conduct of the 2021 LegCo General Election, the 2021 Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections and the 2022 Chief Executive Election, the REO plans, in addition to the net increase of 14 civil service posts, which will increase the size of its non-directorate establishment to 310, to employ about 1 600 non-civil service contract staff (the number of contract staff to be employed during the peak period) in 2021-22.

4. The overall expenditure for the preparation and conduct of the 2020 LegCo General Election (discontinued) was originally estimated to be about \$1,294 million. In light of the Special Administrative Region Government's decision to postpone the election, the revised overall expenditure for the election is estimated to be about \$435 million.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB105**

**(Question Serial No. 1857)**

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (YUNG Ying Fai, Alan)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please provide, by District Council, a breakdown of the numbers of electors for Geographical Constituency (GC) who were removed from the register because they were no longer eligible for registration as GC electors and the reasons for the ineligibility in each of the past 3 voter registration cycles.

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 47)

Reply:

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

2. The REO does not have a breakdown of the number of electors who have been removed from the register by District Council constituency. The numbers of geographical

constituency electors removed from the register because of loss of eligibility for registration in the last 3 VR cycles from 2018 to 2020 are as follows:

<b>Reason for removal and number of electors</b>	<b>Cycle</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Failure to respond to statutory inquiry process		41 794	39 055	47 084
Death		29 792	34 244	25 853
Other reasons (such as voluntary de-registration, loss of Hong Kong permanent resident status, objection cases allowed by the Revising Officer, etc.)		528	643	546
<b>Total</b>		<b>72 114</b>	<b>73 942</b>	<b>73 483</b>

3. In the 2021-22 VR cycle, the REO will continue to strengthen the publicity measures to encourage eligible persons to register as electors, remind existing electors to submit address proofs when applying for change of registered residential addresses, remind the electors under checking to update or confirm their registered residential addresses with the REO before the deadline and encourage electors to use the Online Voter Information Enquiry System to verify their registration status and particulars.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB106**

**(Question Serial No. 2600)**

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (YUNG Ying Fai, Alan)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

How much funding is reserved for the payment of election expenses of eligible candidates for the 2020 Legislative Council General Election? When will the work be completed?

Has the Registration and Electoral Office found any irregularity in the declared election expenses of candidates and referred the case(s) to law enforcement agencies (such as the Independent Commission Against Corruption) for follow-up? If so, what are the number of cases and the number of candidates/lists of candidates involved?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 158)

Reply:

For the discontinued 2020 Legislative Council General Election, a total of 174 candidates or lists of candidates (hereinafter referred to as "candidates") satisfy the requirement for claiming Government payment under section 9 of the Emergency (Date of General Election) (Seventh Term of the Legislative Council) Regulation (Cap. 241L). Among these candidates, 124 have submitted claim forms to apply for payment in respect of their declared election expenses in the election, involving a total amount of about \$49 million. The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) has earmarked provision in 2021-22 for making relevant payment to eligible candidates.

2. The REO will verify each of the claims against the election returns submitted by the 124 candidates and all documentary evidence available to ascertain whether the claim has fully complied with the requirements as set out in the "Guidelines on Claim for Government Payment in respect of Declared Election Expenses" and the Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Conduct) Ordinance (ECICO). It will also require candidates to provide supplementary information and documentary evidence for certain election expenses in the claims where applicable so as to verify whether they fall within the definition of "election expenses" under section 2 of the ECICO and determine the amount payable by the Government. After verifying a claim, the REO will inform the candidate concerned in writing of the results, and notify the Director of Accounting Services of the amount of payment and the person to whom it is to be paid. As soon as practicable after receiving the notification, the

Director of Accounting Services will make the payment in accordance with the notification. It takes time for the REO to verify the election returns submitted by the candidates and the respective supplementary information and documentary evidence. The verification work for the claims is still in progress, hence no payment has yet been arranged for any candidates.

3. The REO will be vigilant in vetting election returns and claims submitted by the candidates. Cases or complaints in relation to breach of the ECICO will be referred to the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) for investigation. As at 5 March 2021, 3 complaints concerning alleged breach of section 20 of the ECICO have been referred by the REO to the ICAC for follow-up actions in accordance with established procedures.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB107**

**(Question Serial No. 0326)**

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (YUNG Ying Fai, Alan)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

This Programme specifies that matters requiring special attention of the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) in 2021-22 include the conduct and supervision of the Legislative Council General Election. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. The details and pay arrangements in relation to the 14 posts to be created in 2021-22 for undertaking election-related duties;
2. The amount earmarked for handling the Legislative Council General Election among the REO's estimated provision of \$2,492.5 million for 2021-22; and
3. The REO mentioned last year the need for a more detailed study on the pilot scheme of advance polling. What is the progress of the study to date? Will the scheme be launched in the 2021 Legislative Council General Election?

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (LegCo internal reference no.: 14)

Reply:

In 2021-22, the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) plans to create 19 additional civil service posts (including 1 Chief Executive Officer, 4 Senior Executive Officer, 10 Executive Officer I, 1 Executive Officer II, 1 Systems Manager, 1 Analyst/Programmer I and 1 Assistant Clerical Officer posts) to cope with the work arising from the preparation and conduct of the 2021 Legislative Council (LegCo) General Election, the 2021 Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections and the 2022 Chief Executive Election. After discounting 5 posts to be deleted in 2021-22 (including 1 Executive Officer I, 2 Executive Officer II, 1 Assistant Clerical Officer and 1 Clerical Assistant posts), the net increase of posts in the REO in 2021-22 is 14.

2. As far as a LegCo General Election is concerned, it normally spans several financial years from the preparation to the completion of all winding-up work. The estimated expenditure incurred in 2020-21 by the REO for the preparation of the 2021 LegCo General Election is about \$282 million. For 2021-22, the provision for the preparation and conduct

of the 2021 LegCo General Election is about \$1,728 million (including the provision for the preparation and conduct of the 2021 Voter Registration Campaign), with breakdown as follows:

<b>Expenditure on the preparation and conduct of the election</b>	<b>2021-22 \$ million</b>
(1) Staff cost	240
(2) Publicity	47
(3) Other expenses (including the costs for hiring venues, manning polling and counting stations, Financial Assistance Scheme, transportation, postage, free mailing, printing, and rental cost of temporary offices and stores, etc.)	1,441
Total	1,728

3. The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau consulted the LegCo Panel on Constitutional Affairs in February 2019 on the proposal of launching a pilot scheme of advance polling. During the meeting, a number of Panel Members raised concerns on whether the REO could have adequate security measures to ensure the safe custody of the electoral materials used on the advance polling day during the 7-day period between the advance polling day and the main polling day. Advance polling involves many complex arrangements and considerations with regard to venues, manpower, storage of materials, security and specific arrangements on the main polling day so as to safeguard a fair and just election. All the details require close scrutiny and careful deliberation. For the sake of prudence, we do not recommend to launch the pilot scheme of advance polling at this stage. We will continue to optimise the election procedures by reviewing the workflow of public elections and exploring initiatives such as the application of technologies. Meanwhile, we will actively consider according polling staff with priority when they cast their votes at their designated polling stations, with a view to enabling them to resume duties at the polling stations they serve as soon as possible. As for civil servants who are required to assume duties on the polling day, the bureaux/departments concerned will ensure they are given sufficient time to cast their votes.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB108**

**(Question Serial No. 2361)**

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (YUNG Ying Fai, Alan)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

With respect to the voter registration exercise in 2021, please provide a breakdown of the publicity measures and related expenditure by:

- a) publicity on television and radio;
- b) newspapers and magazines;
- c) websites and mobile applications for smartphones;
- d) public transport system;
- e) employing Voter Registration Assistants and conducting various publicity activities in the community; and
- f) production and distribution of leaflets, posters, banners, appeal letters, souvenirs and miscellaneous items.

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 87)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office makes use of various channels in every voter registration (VR) cycle to appeal to eligible persons to register as electors. These channels include various media and platforms, such as television, radio, websites, mobile applications for smartphone, public transport system, as well as VR publicity materials displayed in the community. The breakdown of the estimated expenditure for the 2021 VR Campaign is as follows:

<b>Measure</b>	<b>Cycle</b>	<b>Estimated Expenditure for the 2021 VR Campaign (\$'000)</b>
Publicity on television and radio		4,020
Printed materials and publications		370
Websites and mobile applications for smartphone		1,300
Public transport system		3,410
Employing VR Assistants and conducting various publicity activities in the community (Note)		1,730
Production and distribution of leaflets, posters, banners, appeal letters, souvenirs and miscellaneous items		4,270
<b>Total</b>		<b>15,100</b>

Note: In order to reduce social contacts and to minimise the risk of COVID-19 spreading in the community, the 2021 VR Campaign did not include setting up roving registration counters at popular locations, including major MTR stations and shopping malls, in the 18 districts.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB109**

**(Question Serial No. 0519)**

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (YUNG Ying Fai, Alan)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In view of the postponement of the 2020 Legislative Council General Election for 1 year, the Government announced that those who were eligible to stand for election could declare their election expenses in accordance with relevant election procedure and receive full reimbursement by the Government. In this connection, please inform this Committee, in the following table, of the amounts of the declared items of each candidate and the amounts of Government reimbursement involved:

Candidate	Declared item of the candidate	Amount of the declared item	Amount of Government reimbursement

Asked by: Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael (LegCo internal reference no.: 40)

Reply:

In accordance with section 9 of the Emergency (Date of General Election) (Seventh Term of the Legislative Council) Regulation (Cap. 241L) (the Regulation), the Government will make a payment in an amount equal to the declared election expenses of a candidate or a list of candidate(s) (hereinafter referred to as “candidate(s)”) whose nomination form was accepted by the Returning Officer, unless before the discontinuation date, the Returning Officer had decided that the nomination form or the nomination was invalid, or the Returning Officer had rejected the nomination list, or the nomination had been withdrawn. Section 9(5) of the Regulation also provides that “declared election expenses” means the amount set out as the eligible candidate’s election expenses in the election return submitted by him/her. Pursuant to section 10 of the Regulation, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau issued the Guidelines on Claim for Government Payment in respect of Declared Election Expenses on 7 August 2020 indicating the manner and form in which a claim for a payment must be made, supported and verified; and the particulars that such a claim must contain.

2. For the discontinued 2020 Legislative Council (LegCo) General Election, a total of 174 candidates satisfy the requirement for claiming Government payment under section 9 of the Regulation. Among these candidates, 124 have submitted claim forms to apply for payment in respect of their declared election expenses in the election, involving a total amount of about \$49 million.

3. The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) has kept the election returns submitted by candidates at its office in Kwun Tong, and has made available copies of the election returns for public inspection during business hours of the office in the public inspection period (until 31 July 2021) in accordance with section 41 of the Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Conduct) Ordinance. As with the arrangements in previous elections, claim forms for financial assistance in an election will not be made available for public inspection. The REO will only disclose the total amount of financial assistance involved in the election without revealing the amount of financial assistance payable to individual candidates. Claim forms of the discontinued 2020 LegCo General Election will also not be made available for public inspection.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB110**

**(Question Serial No. 1165)**

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (YUNG Ying Fai, Alan)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

- Please set out in the table below the data of all post-1997 District Council and Legislative Council elections (excluding by-elections) regarding the age-specific number of registered electors, registration rate, voter turnout, voter turnout rate, number of persons eligible for voter registration, total number of registered electors, overall registration rate, total voter turnout and overall registration rate.

Type of election: District Council election/ Legislative Council election	Year:				
Age	No. of registered electors	Registration rate	No. of persons eligible for voter registration	Voter turnout	Voter turnout rate
18-20					
21-25					
26-30					
31-35					
36-40					
41-45					
46-50					
51-55					
56-60					
61-65					
66-70					
71 or above					
	Total no. of registered electors:	Overall registration rate:	Total no. of persons eligible for voter registration:	Total voter turnout:	Overall turnout rate:

2. What is the specific formula for the Government to calculate the voter registration rate? Since when has it been in use?
3. Is there any plan to change the formula for voter registration rate?

Asked by: Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael (LegCo internal reference no.: 14)

Reply:

The figures of all Legislative Council elections and District Council elections since 1998 (excluding the by-elections held during the period and the postponed 2020 Legislative Council General Election) regarding the age-specific number of persons eligible for voter registration (estimated figures), number of registered electors (actual figures), registration rate, voter turnout, voter turnout rate, and their respective totals are set out in Tables 1 to 12.

2. According to sections 27 to 29 of the Legislative Council Ordinance (Cap. 542), a person is not eligible to be registered as an elector unless the person is a permanent resident of Hong Kong who has reached 18 years of age, ordinarily resides in Hong Kong, and provides a residential address which is his only or principal residence in Hong Kong. The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) estimates the number of persons in Hong Kong eligible for voter registration in a voter registration cycle based on the estimated population aged 18 or above published by the Census and Statistics Department, and with reference to the number of Hong Kong Permanent Identity Card holders. The voter registration rate is then calculated with the above estimated number of persons eligible for registration. The REO does not have plan to change the present method of calculation.



**Table 1**

Age group	Voter registration figures in 1998			Voter turnout figures in the 1998 Legislative Council General Election	
	No. of persons eligible for voter registration (estimated figures)	No. of registered electors (actual figures)	Registration rate (%)	Voter turnout (Note 1)	Voter turnout rate (%) (Note 2)
18-20	No breakdown by age group is available			52 996	No breakdown by age group is available
21-25				103 562	
26-30				107 122	
31-35				156 873	
36-40				218 573	
41-45				206 406	
46-50				171 883	
51-55				107 259	
56-60				91 208	
61-65				95 858	
66-70				81 901	
71 or above				96 064	
Total/Overall				4 075 785	

Note 1: The voter turnout statistics were collected from all polling stations on the polling day and should be used for reference only.

Note 2: The calculation of voter turnout rate is as follows:

$$\text{Voter turnout rate} = \frac{\text{Voter turnout}}{\text{No. of registered electors (actual figure)}}$$

**Table 2**

Age group	Voter registration figures in 1999			Voter turnout figures in the 1999 District Councils Ordinary Election	
	No. of persons eligible for voter registration (estimated figures)	No. of registered electors (actual figures)	Registration rate (%)	Voter turnout (Note 1)	Voter turnout rate (%)
18-20	256 000	89 495	35.0	25 130	No breakdown by age group is available (Note 2)
21-25	403 000	216 163	53.6	43 159	
26-30	388 000	228 285	58.8	44 782	
31-35	468 000	296 891	63.4	67 982	
36-40	553 000	410 822	74.3	110 950	
41-45	489 000	377 774	77.3	113 515	
46-50	415 000	308 143	74.3	95 864	
51-55	273 000	196 575	72.0	66 553	
56-60	222 000	149 607	67.4	52 224	
61-65	252 000	160 347	63.6	61 617	
66-70	231 000	149 694	64.8	57 835	
71 or above	395 000	248 728	63.0	76 892	
Total/Overall	4 345 000	2 832 524	65.2	816 503	35.82 (Note 3)

Note 1: The voter turnout statistics were collected from all polling stations on the polling day and should be used for reference only.

Note 2: As the REO does not have the breakdown by age group on the number of electors excluding those from uncontested constituencies, no relevant voter turnout rate is available.

Note 3: The calculation of overall voter turnout rate is as follows:

$$\text{Overall voter turnout rate} = \frac{\text{Total voter turnout (816 503)}}{\text{Total no. of electors excluding those from uncontested constituencies (2 279 504)}}$$

**Table 3**

Age group	Voter registration figures in 2000			Voter turnout figures in the 2000 Legislative Council General Election	
	No. of persons eligible for voter registration (estimated figures)	No. of registered electors (actual figures)	Registration rate (%)	Voter turnout (Note 1)	Voter turnout rate (%) (Note 2)
18-20	246 540	112 448	45.6	50 584	44.98
21-25	423 961	227 094	53.6	79 813	35.15
26-30	398 595	247 682	62.1	88 893	35.89
31-35	444 096	294 709	66.4	118 198	40.11
36-40	551 798	420 076	76.1	181 110	43.11
41-45	523 985	418 961	80.0	190 973	45.58
46-50	444 349	337 808	76.0	155 252	45.96
51-55	326 659	232 666	71.2	113 055	48.59
56-60	231 434	159 569	69.0	77 982	48.87
61-65	254 031	168 415	66.3	87 375	51.88
66-70	239 669	161 546	67.4	81 280	50.31
71 or above	439 898	274 404	62.4	106 565	38.84
Total/Overall	4 525 015	3 055 378	67.5	1 331 080	43.57

Note 1: The voter turnout statistics were collected from all polling stations on the polling day and should be used for reference only.

Note 2: The calculation of voter turnout rate is as follows:

$$\text{Voter turnout rate} = \frac{\text{Voter turnout}}{\text{No. of registered electors (actual figure)}}$$

**Table 4**

Age group	Voter registration figures in 2003			Voter turnout figures in the 2003 District Council Ordinary Election	
	No. of persons eligible for voter registration (estimated figures)	No. of registered electors (actual figures)	Registration rate (%)	Voter turnout (Note 1)	Voter turnout rate (%)
18-20	246 300	60 809	24.7	27 002	No breakdown by age group is available (Note 2)
21-25	370 100	205 683	55.6	57 614	
26-30	383 600	246 155	64.2	62 338	
31-35	402 600	246 763	61.3	75 056	
36-40	511 000	325 367	63.7	112 317	
41-45	562 400	412 426	73.3	152 475	
46-50	474 800	365 792	77.0	138 984	
51-55	398 900	297 490	74.6	114 956	
56-60	238 100	187 467	78.7	77 032	
61-65	224 500	152 199	67.8	65 723	
66-70	235 800	159 958	67.8	70 623	
71 or above	479 800	313 503	65.3	112 253	
Total/Overall	4 527 900	2 973 612	65.7	1 066 373	44.10 (Note 3)

Note 1: The voter turnout statistics were collected from all polling stations on the polling day and should be used for reference only.

Note 2: As the REO does not have the breakdown by age group on the number of electors excluding those from uncontested constituencies, no relevant voter turnout rate is available.

Note 3: The calculation of overall voter turnout rate is as follows:

$$\text{Overall voter turnout rate} = \frac{\text{Total voter turnout (1 066 373)}}{\text{Total no.of electors excluding those from uncontested constituencies (2 418 078)}}$$

**Table 5**

Age group	Voter registration figures in 2004			Voter turnout figures in the 2004 Legislative Council General Election	
	No. of persons eligible for voter registration (estimated figures)	No. of registered electors (actual figures)	Registration rate (%)	Voter turnout (Note 1)	Voter turnout rate (%) (Note 2)
18-20	245 400	94 627	38.6	57 547	60.81
21-25	370 200	226 964	61.3	112 701	49.66
26-30	371 600	257 884	69.4	123 840	48.02
31-35	396 600	269 321	67.9	143 826	53.40
36-40	476 900	331 030	69.4	192 542	58.16
41-45	561 300	433 071	77.2	254 090	58.67
46-50	494 700	399 191	80.7	233 269	58.44
51-55	414 600	320 603	77.3	190 526	59.43
56-60	266 000	212 168	79.8	129 102	60.85
61-65	212 600	156 092	73.4	93 431	59.86
66-70	235 200	164 694	70.0	97 691	59.32
71 or above	494 700	341 582	69.1	155 841	45.62
Total/Overall	4 539 800	3 207 227	70.7	1 784 406	55.64

Note 1: The voter turnout statistics were collected from all polling stations on the polling day and should be used for reference only.

Note 2: The calculation of voter turnout rate is as follows:

$$\text{Voter turnout rate} = \frac{\text{Voter turnout}}{\text{No. of registered electors (actual figure)}}$$

**Table 6**

Age group	Voter registration figures in 2007			Voter turnout figures in the 2007 District Council Ordinary Election	
	No. of persons eligible for voter registration (estimated figures)	No. of registered electors (actual figures)	Registration rate (%)	Voter turnout (Note 1)	Voter turnout rate (%)
18-20	241 900	70 480	29.1	34 787	No breakdown by age group is available (Note 2)
21-25	396 400	193 927	48.9	56 289	
26-30	369 700	246 542	66.7	56 919	
31-35	372 600	276 937	74.3	68 459	
36-40	387 500	283 827	73.3	90 960	
41-45	502 300	384 115	76.5	138 785	
46-50	540 800	439 726	81.3	161 233	
51-55	444 600	367 123	82.6	136 541	
56-60	365 300	296 873	81.3	112 630	
61-65	212 800	174 197	81.9	71 835	
66-70	227 000	162 442	71.6	78 029	
71 or above	561 500	399 637	71.2	142 348	
Total/Overall	4 622 400	3 295 826	71.3	1 148 815	38.83 (Note 3)

Note 1: The voter turnout statistics were collected from all polling stations on the polling day and should be used for reference only.

Note 2: As the REO does not have the breakdown by age group on the number of electors excluding those from uncontested constituencies, no relevant voter turnout rate is available.

Note 3: The calculation of overall voter turnout rate is as follows:

$$\text{Overall voter turnout rate} = \frac{\text{Total voter turnout (1 148 815)}}{\text{Total no.of electors excluding those from uncontested constituencies (2 958 953)}}$$

**Table 7**

Age group	Voter registration figures in 2008			Voter turnout figures in the 2008 Legislative Council General Election	
	No. of persons eligible for voter registration (estimated figures)	No. of registered electors (actual figures)	Registration rate (%)	Voter turnout (Note 1)	Voter turnout rate (%) (Note 2)
18-20	244 000	102 058	41.8	54 209	53.12
21-25	396 200	194 833	49.2	79 661	40.89
26-30	374 300	251 530	67.2	89 295	35.50
31-35	372 200	275 459	74.0	104 506	37.94
36-40	376 300	283 265	75.3	128 415	45.33
41-45	484 400	368 056	76.0	180 781	49.12
46-50	531 100	440 696	83.0	212 021	48.11
51-55	465 900	382 945	82.2	179 815	46.96
56-60	383 500	309 078	80.6	151 137	48.90
61-65	232 100	190 933	82.3	90 354	47.32
66-70	218 200	158 843	72.8	89 302	56.22
71 or above	583 500	414 311	71.0	164 753	39.77
Total/Overall	4 661 700	3 372 007	72.3	1 524 249	45.20

Note 1: The voter turnout statistics were collected from all polling stations on the polling day and should be used for reference only.

Note 2: The calculation of voter turnout rate is as follows:

$$\text{Voter turnout rate} = \frac{\text{Voter turnout}}{\text{No. of registered electors (actual figure)}}$$

**Table 8**

Age group	Voter registration figures in 2011			Voter turnout figures in the 2011 District Council Ordinary Election		
	No. of persons eligible for voter registration (estimated figures)	No. of registered electors (actual figures)	Registration rate (%)	No. of electors excluding those from uncontested constituencies	Voter turnout (Note 1)	Voter turnout rate (%) (Note 2)
18-20	234 600	144 724	61.7	117 480	35 141	29.91
21-25	384 200	213 243	55.5	174 804	53 018	30.33
26-30	378 200	239 905	63.4	196 323	59 702	30.41
31-35	343 300	262 173	76.4	213 552	61 714	28.90
36-40	373 800	291 422	78.0	237 340	80 115	33.76
41-45	398 600	308 541	77.4	251 728	99 089	39.36
46-50	515 300	413 166	80.2	337 635	147 249	43.61
51-55	512 900	437 073	85.2	358 748	163 405	45.55
56-60	418 000	351 952	84.2	287 098	139 225	48.49
61-65	316 700	273 678	86.4	221 425	114 575	51.74
66-70	202 100	162 142	80.2	130 796	73 113	55.90
71 or above	631 800	462 516	73.2	371 233	176 198	47.46
Total/Overall	4 709 500	3 560 535	75.6	2 898 162	1 202 544	41.49

Note 1: Starting from the 2010 Legislative Council By-election, dedicated polling stations are set up by the REO in the penal institutions of the Correctional Services Department (CSD) for registered electors imprisoned or remanded under the custody of the CSD to cast their votes in elections. The statistics above include the voter turnout statistics collected from ordinary polling stations and dedicated polling stations, and should be used for reference only.

Note 2: The calculation of voter turnout rate is as follows:

$$\text{Voter turnout rate} = \frac{\text{Voter turnout}}{\text{No. of electors excluding those from uncontested constituencies}}$$



**Table 9**

Age group	Voter registration figures in 2012			Voter turnout figures in the 2012 Legislative Council General Election	
	No. of persons eligible for voter registration (estimated figures)	No. of registered electors (actual figures)	Registration rate (%)	Voter turnout (Note 1)	Voter turnout rate (%) (Note 2)
18-20	223 400	143 748	64.4	60 767	42.27
21-25	377 900	224 371	59.4	103 203	46.00
26-30	373 500	228 823	61.3	116 021	50.70
31-35	341 900	245 078	71.7	120 465	49.15
36-40	362 600	271 542	74.9	139 861	51.51
41-45	382 600	288 035	75.3	155 158	53.87
46-50	486 400	383 839	78.9	218 583	56.95
51-55	523 200	429 666	82.1	238 867	55.59
56-60	427 700	355 588	83.1	205 459	57.78
61-65	353 600	286 180	80.9	166 934	58.33
66-70	204 700	165 172	80.7	102 242	61.90
71 or above	654 400	444 159	67.9	211 162	47.54
Total/Overall	4 711 900	3 466 201	73.6	1 838 722	53.05

Note 1: The statistics above include the voter turnout statistics collected from ordinary polling stations and dedicated polling stations, and should be used for reference only.

Note 2: The calculation of voter turnout rate is as follows:

$$\text{Voter turnout rate} = \frac{\text{Voter turnout}}{\text{No. of registered electors (actual figure)}}$$

**Table 10**

Age group	Voter registration figures in 2015			Voter turnout figures in the 2015 District Council Ordinary Election		
	No. of persons eligible for voter registration (estimated figures)	No. of registered electors (actual figures)	Registration rate (%)	No. of electors excluding those from uncontested constituencies	Voter turnout (Note 1)	Voter turnout rate (%) (Note 2)
18-20	224 500	112 006	49.9	94 038	35 407	37.65
21-25	371 900	268 139	72.1	226 135	75 385	33.34
26-30	364 300	238 232	65.4	203 186	76 351	37.58
31-35	347 800	253 820	73.0	216 645	82 278	37.98
36-40	341 900	268 283	78.5	226 523	93 978	41.49
41-45	371 900	298 713	80.3	250 427	113 481	45.32
46-50	408 600	333 876	81.7	280 069	137 794	49.20
51-55	510 700	432 732	84.7	367 723	181 322	49.31
56-60	487 100	422 647	86.8	361 176	185 454	51.35
61-65	393 800	337 330	85.7	286 971	155 141	54.06
66-70	279 200	243 176	87.1	204 561	121 622	59.46
71 or above	674 100	484 988	72.0	403 784	209 016	51.76
Total/Overall	4 775 800	3 693 942	77.4	3 121 238	1 467 229	47.01

Note 1: The statistics above include the voter turnout statistics collected from ordinary polling stations and dedicated polling stations, and should be used for reference only.

Note 2: The calculation of voter turnout rate is as follows:

$$\text{Voter turnout rate} = \frac{\text{Voter turnout}}{\text{No. of electors excluding those from uncontested constituencies}}$$

**Table 11**

Age group	Voter registration figures in 2016			Voter turnout figures in the 2016 Legislative Council General Election	
	No. of persons eligible for voter registration (estimated figures)	No. of registered electors (actual figures)	Registration rate (%)	Voter turnout (Note 1)	Voter turnout rate (%) (Note 2)
18-20	215 300	123 567	57.4	71 879	58.17
21-25	362 600	267 299	73.7	148 167	55.43
26-30	365 500	253 000	69.2	150 323	59.42
31-35	350 100	261 183	74.6	153 963	58.95
36-40	337 300	272 321	80.7	155 837	57.23
41-45	373 100	306 147	82.1	174 793	57.09
46-50	386 800	327 287	84.6	199 857	61.06
51-55	504 800	428 114	84.8	253 482	59.21
56-60	494 700	434 656	87.9	262 818	60.47
61-65	402 000	349 110	86.8	212 606	60.90
66-70	308 400	265 493	86.1	172 698	65.05
71 or above	689 100	490 908	71.2	245 860	50.08
Total/Overall	4 789 700	3 779 085	78.9	2 202 283	58.28

Note 1: The statistics above include the voter turnout statistics collected from ordinary polling stations and dedicated polling stations, and should be used for reference only.

Note 2: The calculation of voter turnout rate is as follows:

$$\text{Voter turnout rate} = \frac{\text{Voter turnout}}{\text{No. of registered electors (actual figure)}}$$

**Table 12**

Age group	Voter registration figures in 2019			Voter turnout figures in the 2019 District Council Ordinary Election	
	No. of persons eligible for voter registration (estimated figures)	No. of registered electors (actual figures)	Registration rate (%)	Voter turnout (Note 1)	Voter turnout rate (%) (Note 2)
18-20	167 600	110 611	66.0	82 433	74.53
21-25	345 900	273 754	79.1	200 003	73.06
26-30	353 600	318 344	90.0	229 917	72.22
31-35	345 100	292 705	84.8	215 466	73.61
36-40	347 300	311 522	89.7	225 503	72.39
41-45	353 500	318 958	90.2	228 956	71.78
46-50	375 300	341 531	91.0	251 932	73.77
51-55	433 200	383 880	88.6	278 341	72.51
56-60	505 800	460 269	91.0	339 427	73.75
61-65	450 800	418 910	92.9	302 606	72.24
66-70	369 100	329 540	89.3	242 878	73.70
71 or above	750 900	572 953	76.3	346 380	60.46
Total/Overall	4 798 100	4 132 977	86.1	2 943 842	71.23

Note 1: The statistics above include the voter turnout statistics collected from ordinary polling stations and dedicated polling stations, and should be used for reference only.

Note 2: In the absence of candidates returned uncontested, the calculation of voter turnout rate for the 2019 District Council Election is as follows:

$$\text{Overall voter turnout rate} = \frac{\text{Voter turnout}}{\text{No. of registered electors (actual figure)}}$$

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB111**

**(Question Serial No. 1423)**

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (YUNG Ying Fai, Alan)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The expenditure of the Registration and Electoral Office is expected to increase by \$1.767 billion (243.6%) in the new financial year for the conduct of the 2021 Legislative Council General Election, the 2021 Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections and the 2022 Chief Executive Election.

What are the estimated manpower and expenditure to be involved in each of the above elections?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)

Reply:

In the 2021-22 estimate for the Registration and Electoral Office (REO), the breakdown of the provision for the preparation and conduct of the 2021 Legislative Council (LegCo) General Election, the 2021 Election Committee Subsector (ECSS) Ordinary Elections and the 2022 Chief Executive (CE) Election is as follows:

<b>2021-22 estimate for the preparation and conduct of the elections</b>	<b>2021 LegCo General Election# (\$ million)</b>	<b>2021 ECSS Ordinary Elections (\$ million)</b>	<b>2022 CE Election (\$ million)</b>
(1) Staff cost	240	91	49
(2) Publicity	47	2	2
(3) Other expenses	1,441	258	101
(including the costs for hiring venues, manning polling and counting stations, Financial Assistance Scheme (if applicable), transportation, postage, free mailing (if applicable), printing, and rental cost of temporary offices, etc.)			
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,728</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>152</b>

# Including the provision for the preparation and conduct of the 2021 Voter Registration Campaign.

2. To cope with the work arising from the preparation and conduct of the 2021 LegCo General Election, the 2021 ECSS Ordinary Elections and the 2022 CE Election, the REO plans, in addition to the net increase of 14 civil service posts, which will increase the size of its non-directorate establishment to 310, to employ about 1 600 non-civil service contract staff (the number of contract staff to be employed during the peak period) in 2021-22.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB112**

**(Question Serial No. 1424)**

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (YUNG Ying Fai, Alan)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Will postal voting be accepted in the 2021 Legislative Council General Election? If yes, what are the specific arrangements and the expected increase in expenditure and manpower arising from the change in policy?

If no, what are the reasons? Since the proposal has been put up for discussion for years, will the Registration and Electoral Office examine and work out the procedures and timetable for implementation of the proposed postal voting in the new financial year?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (LegCo internal reference no.: 30)

Reply:

Public elections in Hong Kong require electors to vote in person. The arrangement for electors to personally attend the polling stations to cast their votes helps ensure the election is held in a fair, open and honest manner, and enables the candidates and their agents to monitor the polling and counting process. In fact, as stated in the Electoral Affairs Commission's Report on the 2020 Legislative Council General Election, while postal voting may allow electors abroad who cannot return to Hong Kong on the polling day to exercise their right to vote, the issues of safeguarding the autonomy and secrecy of the vote must be addressed. Since electors are no longer required to attend the polling stations to cast their votes, it will be impossible for the polling staff to verify their identities and to guard against impersonation. Furthermore, without requiring electors to mark their ballot papers inside the voting compartments, polling staff and candidates/agents thereat will no longer be able to monitor the process to ascertain that the electors are voting according to their own choices and free from outside influence or interference. Besides, in view of the nature of the postal process, there must be effective security measures to prevent the ballot papers from being intercepted or inspected, or the votes concerned being uncounted due to postal delay, thereby affecting the results of the poll. Hence, we have no plan to implement postal voting in public elections at the moment.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB113**

**(Question Serial No. 2199)**

Head: (180) Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration

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

Programme: Film Classification, Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles and Newspaper Registration

Controlling Officer: Director of Film, Newspaper and Article Administration (Mr Chaucer LEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The number of newspaper distributor licences issued rose substantially to 271 last year as compared with 21 in the year before last. The Administration explained that the number of newspaper distributor licences issued had increased significantly due to the surge in the number of applications received, and estimated that the number of licences to be issued in 2021-22 would be 196. Meanwhile, the Administration expected that there would be a net decrease of 2 posts this year. In this connection, will the Administration inform this Committee of the estimated expenditure and manpower for processing applications for newspaper distributor licences, how to ensure that the performance pledge of “new registration for local newspapers within 7 working days” can be met and whether the estimated expenditure and manpower will be increased as a result in the future?

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy (LegCo internal reference no.: 322)

Reply:

The Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration (OFNAA) handles applications for newspaper distributor licences in accordance with the Newspapers Registration and Distribution Regulations (Cap. 268B). Under normal circumstances, the processing of an application can be completed within 7 working days upon the applicant's submission of all necessary information and documents. In case of an upsurge in the number of applications, OFNAA will cope with the workload through flexible deployment of manpower to expedite the processing of the applications as far as practicable, with a view to meeting the performance pledge.

2. The posts to be deleted by OFNAA in 2021-22 are not related to the work concerning newspaper registration and newspaper distributor licence.

- End -