



Committee system

Apart from attending Legislative Council meetings to conduct Council business, Legislative Council Members perform the functions of scrutinizing bills and subsidiary legislation, examining and approving public expenditure, and monitoring the work of the Government through a committee system.



Supplementary information

There are three standing committees of the Legislative Council, namely the Finance Committee, the Public Accounts Committee and the Committee on Members' Interests. In performing their functions, the standing committees, and other committees if so authorized by the Council, may summon any person to give evidence and produce documents.

| Standing committees | Duties |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Finance Committee | Scrutinizes and approves public expenditure proposals. The Committee may appoint subcommittees for the purpose of assisting the Committee in the performance of such functions of the Committee as the Committee may determine. Two subcommittees are established under the Committee, namely the Establishment Subcommittee and the Public Works Subcommittee. |
| Public Accounts Committee | Considers reports of the Director of Audit on the Government's accounts, and the results of value for money audits of the Government and other organizations which are within the purview of public audit. |
| Committee on Members' Interests | Considers complaints made in relation to Members' registration and declaration of interests, and their conduct concerning claims for reimbursement of operating expenses, and considers matters of ethics in relation to Members' conduct in their capacity as such. |

Standing committees aside, the Legislative Council has other committees, as follows:

| Committees | Duties |
|--|--|
| Committee on Rules of Procedure | Reviews the Rules of Procedure and the committee system of the Legislative Council, and proposes to the Council such amendments or changes as are considered necessary. |
| Committee on Access to the Legislature's Documents and Records | Determines whether a document or record of the Legislature (or its committee) should be made available for access earlier than the expiry of the closure period specified in the Policy on Access to the Legislature's Documents and Records. |
| House Committee | Prepares for Council meetings, considers matters relating to the business of the Council, and monitors progress made in studying bills and subsidiary legislation. The Committee may appoint subcommittees to consider matters such as subsidiary legislation, instrument made under any Ordinance, issue of public concern which falls outside the purview of Panels or straddles the purview of a number of Panels, or any other item relating to the business of the Council. |
| Bills Committees | Consider the general merits and principles as well as detailed provisions of bills. A Bills Committee may also consider any amendments relevant to the bill concerned, and may appoint subcommittees for the purpose of assisting the Committee in the performance of its functions. |
| Panels | Monitor and examine government policies. They provide a forum for Members to deliberate on policy matters and study issues relating to the policy areas of their corresponding bureaux which are of public concern. There are currently 18 Panels under the Legislative Council. A Panel may appoint a subcommittee to study a specific issue and report to the Panel. |
| Select committees | Consider matters or bills referred by the Legislative Council. The Council may appoint one or more select committees. |

Questions and answers

Q1: *Apart from attending Council meetings, what functions do Members perform through a committee system?*

Members perform the functions of scrutinizing bills and subsidiary legislation, examining and approving public expenditure, and monitoring the work of the Government through a committee system.

Q2: *Please list the standing committees of the Legislative Council.*

The standing committees of the Legislative Council are (a) the Finance Committee; (b) the Public Accounts Committee; and (c) the Committee on Members' Interests.

Q3: *Standing committees aside, the Legislative Council has other committees. Please list any three.*

The Legislative Council has (a) the Committee on Rules of Procedure; (b) the Committee on Access to the Legislature's Documents and Records; (c) the House Committee; (d) Bills Committees; (e) Panels; and (f) select committees.

Online resources

(a) *Legislative Council in Brief*

Legislative Council Website (www.legco.gov.hk) → Education → Understand → [Legislative Council in Brief](#)

(b) *Exhibition panels*

Legislative Council Website (www.legco.gov.hk) → Education → Understand → [Exhibition panels](#)

(c) *PowerPoint slides*

Legislative Council Website (www.legco.gov.hk) → Education → Teach → [PowerPoint slides](#)

(d) *Committees*

Legislative Council Website (www.legco.gov.hk) → LegCo Business → [Committees](#)