

**Written Response to
the Bills Committee on Education (Amendment) Bill 2000
on issues raised at the Meeting on 5 March 2001**

Introduction

At the meeting of the Bills Committee on 5 March, the Administration undertook to provide the following information to Members -

- (a) a list of inspectors of schools (including the total number and their ranks); and
- (b) the documentation mechanism in the Education Department (ED) to record the date of discovery of offences on over-enrollment and over-charging/improper collection of school fees.

Inspectors of Schools

2. Section 79(a) of the Education Ordinance provides that the Chief Executive may by notice in the Gazette appoint by name or office any officer of ED to be an inspector of schools (hereafter “inspector”). Currently, 787 officers of various ranks in ED are appointed inspectors under section 79(a). Details are at **Annex**.

Documentation Mechanism

3. Over-enrollment and over-charging/improper collection of school fees are normally brought to the attention of inspectors during the course of school inspections or through public complaints.

4. It is the established practice for ED to keep detailed and systematic record on school inspections. Officers are required to maintain written documentation of the dates and findings of inspections, and any follow up investigations where non-compliance is suspected. Separately, the Department opens files on all public complaints. Where the complaints are made verbally, they will be recorded in written form by the ED officers receiving the complaints. All information relevant to a complaint, such as the date the complaint is lodged, and when and what follow up/investigation actions are taken, will be properly documented.

Education and Manpower Bureau

March 2001

Inspectors of Schools

Rank (number of officers appointed at the rank)

Senior Assistant Director (1)
 Assistant Director (4)
 Principal Education Officer (8)
 Senior Education Officer (Administration) (40)
 Senior Education Officer (2)
 Principal I (1)
 Education Officer (Administration) (134)
 Education Officer (3)
 Assistant Education Officer(Administration) (122)
 Assistant Mistress (1)
 Principal Lecturer (4)
 Senior Lecturer (1)
 Assistant Operation Commander (Central Compliance Team) ^(Note 1) (1)
 Senior Education Assistant (5)
 Education Assistant (23)
 Principal Inspector (28)
 Senior Inspector (62)
 Inspector (Graduate) (90)
 Assistant Inspector (Graduate) (82)
 Inspector (Non-Graduate) (40)
 Assistant Inspector (Non-Graduate) (90)
 Senior Specialist (Education Services) (1)
 Specialist (Education Services)I (9)
 Specialist (Education Services)II (2)
 Senior Curriculum Officer (3)
 Curriculum Officer (3)
 Assistant Curriculum Officer (2)
 Senior Supplies Officer (1) ^(Note 2)
 Supplies Officer (1) ^(Note 2)
 Assistant Supplies Officer (2) ^(Note 2)
 Supplies Supervisor (1) ^(Note 2)

^(Note 1) At present, a member of the Central Compliance Team is a retired police officer, the title of whom is the Assistant Operation Commander (Central Compliance Team). The officer is employed on contract terms and the Assistant Operation Commander is not a civil service rank.

^(Note 2) Supplies officers and supplies supervisor have been appointed inspectors of schools to conduct inspections to ensure schools' compliance with tendering and purchasing procedures.

Senior Treasury Accountant (2)
Treasury Accountant (1)
Accounting Officer I (2)
Accounting Officer II (5)
Clerical Officer (8) ^(Note 3)
Assistant Clerical Officer (1) ^(Note 4)
Clerical Assistant (1) ^(Note 4)

^(Note 3) 8 clerical officers of the Audit Section have been appointed inspectors of schools to assist in checking schools' accounts.

^(Note 4) 1 assistant clerical officer and 1 clerical assistant of the Central Compliance Team have been appointed inspectors of schools to assist in investigation.