

D R A F T

立法會 *Legislative Council*

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Paper for the House Committee Meeting on 15 December 2000

Uploading the Register of Members' Interests onto the LegCo Web-site

Purpose

Members are invited to note the Committee on Members' Interests' recommendation to upload the Register of Members' Interests onto the LegCo Web-site.

Background

2. Rule 83 of the Rules of Procedure stipulates that every Member shall furnish to the Clerk particulars of his registrable interests, and the Clerk shall cause those particulars to be entered in a Register of Members' Interests and the Register shall be made available for public inspection during office hours.

3. To enable members of the public to inspect the Register during office hours, the LegCo Library keeps one copy of it, and provides, at a fee, copies to members of the public upon request.

Deliberations of the Committee on Members' Interests

4. At its meetings on 7 November and 12 December 2000, the Committee on Members' Interests considered the suggestion by a member of the public that the Register be made available for public viewing on the LegCo Web-site. In this connection, the Committee has made reference to the practice in two countries, namely the United Kingdom and the United States. The House of Commons of the United Kingdom prints the register and puts it on sale, places it in the Committee Office for public inspection, and also makes it available for inspection on the Internet. The House of Representatives of the United States only places the register in the Legislative Resource Center for public inspection upon written application. The Committee has also noted the Legal Adviser's advice that Rule 83(4) of the Rules of Procedure (i.e. the "register shall be available for inspection by any person during office hours") sets out the minimum hours during which the Register should be made available and does not prohibit the provision of access during other hours.

Recommendation

5. The Committee concludes that as the Register is already made available to the public, accessibility will be improved if it is also made available on the LegCo Web-site. Subject to any views the House Committee may have, the Clerk will arrange for the Register to be uploaded onto the LegCo Web-site with effect from 2 January 2001.

Council Business Division 3

12 December 2000