

立法會 *Legislative Council*

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Information Note for the Committee on Members' Interests

Gifts received by Members of the legislatures of Hong Kong, the United Kingdom and the United States that must be registered if they exceed a certain value

Purpose

The table below compares the gifts received by Members of the legislatures of Hong Kong, the United Kingdom and the United States that must be registered if they exceed a certain value.

Comparison

Hong Kong	United Kingdom	United States
A Member is required to register any payment, " <i>material benefit</i> " or advantage that he/she or his/her spouse receive from any person or organization which in any way relates to membership of the Legislative Council under "financial sponsorships" or "benefits and advantages received from outside Hong Kong", as appropriate.	Any regular or continuing support from companies or organisations from which the Member receives any financial or <i>material benefit</i> in support of his/her role as a Member of Parliament must be registered. This includes any regular donation in excess of £500 per year made by any organisation or company to the Member's constituency party if the donation is linked directly to the Member's candidacy in the constituency or to membership of the House. (<i>extract</i> from page iv, Register of Members' interests as at 31 January 1999, see Appendix 2)	The value of all <i>gifts</i> totalling more than US\$260 received by the Member, the spouse, or a dependent child from any source during the year must be reported. <u>Notes:</u> (1) House Rule 26, clause 5, prohibits acceptance of gifts, except as specifically

Hong Kong	United Kingdom	United States
<p>The term "<i>material benefit</i>" refers to:</p> <p>(i) interests received from a single source in the course of one year where the total value of such interests exceeds 5% of the annual salary of a Member of the Council (excluding the general expenses allowance which covers expenses incurred by a Member in his/her work); or</p> <p>(ii) one-off material benefits exceeding \$10,000 in value. (<i>extract</i> from page 1, Registration Form on Members' Interests, see Appendix 1)</p>	<p>"Gifts, benefits and hospitality (U.K.)" refer to any gift or material advantage received by the Member or the Member's spouse from a United Kingdom source, which in any way relates to membership of the House. Gifts are exempt from registration if less than £125 in value. Other benefits are exempt if less than £225 in value. (see Appendix 3)</p> <p>"Overseas benefits and gifts" are subject to the same rules as those of "Gifts, benefits and hospitality (U.K.)". (see Appendix 4)</p>	<p>provided in the rule. (<i>extract</i> from front page, Form A, Financial Disclosure Statement for 1999, see Appendix 5; the relevant House Rule is at Appendix 6).</p> <p>(2) Gifts from relatives, gifts of personal hospitality of any individual, local meals, and gifts to a spouse or dependent child that are totally independent of his/her relationship to the Member are excluded.</p> <p>(3) Gifts with a value of US\$100 or less need not be added towards the US\$260 disclosure threshold. (see Appendix 7)</p>