

立法會 *Legislative Council*

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Paper for the House Committee meeting on 20 October 2000

Review of the Terms of Reference of LegCo Panels

Purpose

This paper sets out the proposed changes to the terms of reference of each of the 17 current Panels based on the discussion of the House Committee at its meeting on 13 October 2000 and the initial consultation with policy bureaux of the Government.

Background

2. There are 17 Panels formed by resolution of the Legislative Council in its first term with the following common terms of reference:

- (a) to monitor and examine relevant Government policies and issues of public concern;
- (b) to provide a forum for the exchange and dissemination of relevant policy matters;
- (c) to receive briefings and to formulate views on any major legislative or financial proposals in the relevant policy area(s) prior to their formal introduction to the Council or Finance Committee; and
- (d) to examine and to report on any major issues of wide public concern in the relevant policy area(s) as referred by the Council or House Committee or as raised by the Panel itself.

The names of individual Panels, the corresponding bureau/body in the Government and the respective policy areas covered by each Panel are separately set out in the Schedule to the resolutions passed by the Council.

3. While the functions of a Panel should remain the same, it was suggested at the House Committee meeting on 13 October 2000 that the terms of reference of individual Panels should be worded in a manner appropriate to individual circumstances, taking into account recent reshuffling of responsibilities among different bureaux. The Secretariat was also requested to consult the Administration on the delineation of responsibility within Government bureaux in respect of women matters, such as the Women's Commission.

Matters for consideration

4. Apart from incorporating the changes endorsed by the House Committee on 13 October 2000 in relation to the terms of reference of the Panel on Trade and Industry (to be renamed as Panel on Commerce and Industry) and the Panel on Economic Services, the following new changes are proposed for members' consideration:

(a) Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services

The Administration Wing of the Chief Secretary for Administration's Office be included as one of the corresponding bureaux/bodies of the Panel to reflect the practice that Director of Administration will be invited to attend Panel meetings on policy matters within the Panel's terms of reference and which are under the Director of Administration's responsibility.

(b) Technical amendments

The terms of reference of each Panel be set out separately as in the **Appendix** and the wording be refined to reflect the provisions in Rule 77(3) and 77(14) of the Rules of Procedure.

5. Regarding the responsibility for women matters, the Administration has advised that women matters including UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, APEC Ministerial Meeting on Women, Women Leaders' Network and the Women's Commission have been transferred from the Home Affairs Bureau to the Health and Welfare Bureau. On the Panel side, women matters are currently under the purview of the Panel on Home Affairs. Members may wish to consider whether there is a need to make a corresponding change to the terms of reference of the relevant Panels.

6. In order to allow other Government bureaux to have a chance to comment on the terms of reference, we are now in the process of consulting all bureaux through the Director of Administration.

Decision sought

7. Members are requested to consider:
 - (a) the proposed changes described in paragraph 4 and the terms of reference in the **Appendix**; and
 - (b) which Panel should take up the responsibility for monitoring Government policy relating to women matters.

8. Subject to members' decision and views from the Administration, the Secretariat would proceed with the drafting of the resolution to implement changes to the terms of reference of Panels. In accordance with past practice, the resolution will be moved by Hon Mrs Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, Chairman of the House Committee, at a Council meeting.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
18 October 2000

Legislative Council

Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services

Proposed Terms of Reference

1. To monitor and examine, consistent with maintaining the independence of the Judiciary and the rule of law, policy matters relating to the administration of justice and legal services, including the effectiveness of their implementation by relevant officials and departments.
2. To provide a forum for the exchange and dissemination of views on the above policy matters.
3. To receive briefings and to formulate views on any major legislative or financial proposals in the above policy areas prior to their formal introduction to the Council or Finance Committee.
4. To monitor and examine, to the extent it considers necessary, the above policy matters referred to it by a member of the Panel or by the House Committee.
5. To make reports to the Council or to the House Committee as required by the Rules of Procedure.

Legislative Council

Panel on Constitutional Affairs

Proposed Terms of Reference

1. To monitor and examine Government policies and issues of public concern relating to implementation of the Joint Declaration and the Basic Law, relations between the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government and the Central People's Government and other Mainland authorities, electoral matters and district organizations.
2. To provide a forum for the exchange and dissemination of views on the above policy matters.
3. To receive briefings and to formulate views on any major legislative or financial proposals in the above policy areas prior to their formal introduction to the Council or Finance Committee.
4. To monitor and examine, to the extent it considers necessary, the above policy matters referred to it by a member of the Panel or by the House Committee.
5. To make reports to the Council or to the House Committee as required by the Rules of Procedure.

Legislative Council

Panel on Economic Services

Proposed Terms of Reference

1. To monitor and examine Government policies and issues of public concern relating to economic infrastructure and services, including air and sea transport facilities and services, postal and weather information services, energy supply and safety, consumer protection, competition policy and tourism.
2. To provide a forum for the exchange and dissemination of views on the above policy matters.
3. To receive briefings and to formulate views on any major legislative or financial proposals in the above policy areas prior to their formal introduction to the Council or Finance Committee.
4. To monitor and examine, to the extent it considers necessary, the above policy matters referred to it by a member of the Panel or by the House Committee.
5. To make reports to the Council or to the House Committee as required by the Rules of Procedure.

Legislative Council**Panel on Education****Proposed Terms of Reference**

1. To monitor and examine Government policies and issues of public concern relating to education matters.
2. To provide a forum for the exchange and dissemination of views on the above policy matters.
3. To receive briefings and to formulate views on any major legislative or financial proposals in the above policy area prior to their formal introduction to the Council or Finance Committee.
4. To monitor and examine, to the extent it considers necessary, the above policy matters referred to it by a member of the Panel or by the House Committee.
5. To make reports to the Council or to the House Committee as required by the Rules of Procedure.

Legislative Council

Panel on Environmental Affairs

Proposed Terms of Reference

1. To monitor and examine Government policies and issues of public concern relating to environmental and conservation matters, and environmental hygiene.
2. To provide a forum for the exchange and dissemination of views on the above policy matters.
3. To receive briefings and to formulate views on any major legislative or financial proposals in the above policy areas prior to their formal introduction to the Council or Finance Committee.
4. To monitor and examine, to the extent it considers necessary, the above policy matters referred to it by a member of the Panel or by the House Committee.
5. To make reports to the Council or to the House Committee as required by the Rules of Procedure.

Legislative Council

Panel on Financial Affairs

Proposed Terms of Reference

1. To monitor and examine Government policies and issues of public concern relating to financial and finance matters.
2. To provide a forum for the exchange and dissemination of views on the above policy matters.
3. To receive briefings and to formulate views on any major legislative or financial proposals in the above policy areas prior to their formal introduction to the Council or Finance Committee.
4. To monitor and examine, to the extent it considers necessary, the above policy matters referred to it by a member of the Panel or by the House Committee.
5. To make reports to the Council or to the House Committee as required by the Rules of Procedure.

Legislative Council

Panel on Health Services

Proposed Terms of Reference

1. To monitor and examine Government policies and issues of public concern relating to medical and health services, public health education, food safety, and agriculture and fisheries matters.
2. To provide a forum for the exchange and dissemination of views on the above policy matters.
3. To receive briefings and to formulate views on any major legislative or financial proposals in the above policy areas prior to their formal introduction to the Council or Finance Committee.
4. To monitor and examine, to the extent it considers necessary, the above policy matters referred to it by a member of the Panel or by the House Committee.
5. To make reports to the Council or to the House Committee as required by the Rules of Procedure.

Legislative Council

Panel on Home Affairs

Proposed Terms of Reference

1. To monitor and examine Government policies and issues of public concern relating to district, community and rural matters, human rights, civic education, data protection, press freedom, building management, youth and women matters, the provision of leisure and cultural services as well as matters relating to development of arts and culture, public entertainment, sport and recreation.
2. To provide a forum for the exchange and dissemination of views on the above policy matters.
3. To receive briefings and to formulate views on any major legislative or financial proposals in the above policy areas prior to their formal introduction to the Council or Finance Committee.
4. To monitor and examine, to the extent it considers necessary, the above policy matters referred to it by a member of the Panel or by the House Committee.
5. To make reports to the Council or to the House Committee as required by the Rules of Procedure.

Legislative Council

Panel on Housing

Proposed Terms of Reference

1. To monitor and examine Government policies and issues of public concern relating to private and public housing matters.
2. To provide a forum for the exchange and dissemination of views on the above policy matters.
3. To receive briefings and to formulate views on any major legislative or financial proposals in the above policy areas prior to their formal introduction to the Council or Finance Committee.
4. To monitor and examine, to the extent it considers necessary, the above policy matters referred to it by a member of the Panel or by the House Committee.
5. To make reports to the Council or to the House Committee as required by the Rules of Procedure.

Legislative Council

Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting

Proposed Terms of Reference

1. To monitor and examine Government policies and issues of public concern relating to information technology, telecommunications, broadcasting, film censorship and services.
2. To provide a forum for the exchange and dissemination of views on the above policy matters.
3. To receive briefings and to formulate views on any major legislative or financial proposals in the above policy areas prior to their formal introduction to the Council or Finance Committee.
4. To monitor and examine, to the extent it considers necessary, the above policy matters referred to it by a member of the Panel or by the House Committee.
5. To make reports to the Council or to the House Committee as required by the Rules of Procedure.

Legislative Council

Panel on Manpower

Proposed Terms of Reference

1. To monitor and examine Government policies and issues of public concern relating to labour and manpower planning matters.
2. To provide a forum for the exchange and dissemination of views on the above policy matters.
3. To receive briefings and to formulate views on any major legislative or financial proposals in the above policy areas prior to their formal introduction to the Council or Finance Committee.
4. To monitor and examine, to the extent it considers necessary, the above policy matters referred to it by a member of the Panel or by the House Committee.
5. To make reports to the Council or to the House Committee as required by the Rules of Procedure.

Legislative Council

Panel on Planning, Lands and Works

Proposed Terms of Reference

1. To monitor and examine Government policies and issues of public concern relating to lands, buildings and planning matters, works and water supply and Public Works Programme.
2. To provide a forum for the exchange and dissemination of views on the above policy matters.
3. To receive briefings and to formulate views on any major legislative or financial proposals in the above policy areas prior to their formal introduction to the Council or Finance Committee.
4. To monitor and examine, to the extent it considers necessary, the above policy matters referred to it by a member of the Panel or by the House Committee.
5. To make reports to the Council or to the House Committee as required by the Rules of Procedure.

Legislative Council

Panel on Public Service

Proposed Terms of Reference

1. To monitor and examine Government policies and issues of public concern relating to the civil service and Government-funded public bodies, and other public service matters.
2. To provide a forum for the exchange and dissemination of views on the above policy matters.
3. To receive briefings and to formulate views on any major legislative or financial proposals in the above policy areas prior to their formal introduction to the Council or Finance Committee.
4. To monitor and examine, to the extent it considers necessary, the above policy matters referred to it by a member of the Panel or by the House Committee.
5. To make reports to the Council or to the House Committee as required by the Rules of Procedure.

Legislative Council

Panel on Security

Proposed Terms of Reference

1. To monitor and examine Government policies and issues of public concern relating to security, public order, public safety, corruption-related matters and nationality and immigration matters.
2. To provide a forum for the exchange and dissemination of views on the above policy matters.
3. To receive briefings and to formulate views on any major legislative or financial proposals in the above policy areas prior to their formal introduction to the Council or Finance Committee.
4. To monitor and examine, to the extent it considers necessary, the above policy matters referred to it by a member of the Panel or by the House Committee.
5. To make reports to the Council or to the House Committee as required by the Rules of Procedure.

Legislative Council

Panel on Trade and Industry

(to be renamed as Panel on Commerce and Industry)

Proposed Terms of Reference

1. To monitor and examine Government policies and issues of public concern relating to commerce, industry, business and services promotion, innovation and technology, intellectual property protection and inward investment promotion matters.
2. To provide a forum for the exchange and dissemination of views on the above policy matters.
3. To receive briefings and to formulate views on any major legislative or financial proposals in the above policy areas prior to their formal introduction to the Council or Finance Committee.
4. To monitor and examine, to the extent it considers necessary, the above policy matters referred to it by a member of the Panel or by the House Committee.
5. To make reports to the Council or to the House Committee as required by the Rules of Procedure.

Legislative Council

Panel on Transport

Proposed Terms of Reference

1. To monitor and examine Government policies and issues of public concern relating to transport matters.
2. To provide a forum for the exchange and dissemination of views on the above policy matters.
3. To receive briefings and to formulate views on any major legislative or financial proposals in the above policy area prior to their formal introduction to the Council or Finance Committee.
4. To monitor and examine, to the extent it considers necessary, the above policy matters referred to it by a member of the Panel or by the House Committee.
5. To make reports to the Council or to the House Committee as required by the Rules of Procedure.

Legislative Council

Panel on Welfare Services

Proposed Terms of Reference

1. To monitor and examine Government policies and issues of public concern relating to welfare and rehabilitation services matters.
2. To provide a forum for the exchange and dissemination of views on the above policy matters.
3. To receive briefings and to formulate views on any major legislative or financial proposals in the above policy areas prior to their formal introduction to the Council or Finance Committee.
4. To monitor and examine, to the extent it considers necessary, the above policy matters referred to it by a member of the Panel or by the House Committee.
5. To make reports to the Council or to the House Committee as required by the Rules of Procedure.