

Administration's response to the issue discussed at the Bills Committee meeting on 18 February 2003

Date of Meeting	Issue discussed at the meeting	Administration's Response
18-2-2003	To consider deleting the phrase "place or area of usual residence" in section 7B(2) of the Registration of Persons (ROP) Ordinance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 7B(2) provides that an order made by the Secretary for Security (S for S) under section 7B(1) of the same ordinance may direct that applications for identity cards be made by any description or category of persons, whether by reference to their date of birth, sex, place or area of usual residence, identity card numbers, or by reference to any other matter. It is a subsidiary legislation subject to the scrutiny of Members of the Legislative Council. • The phrase "place or area of usual residence" in section 7B(2) is one of the means by which S for S may adopt in determining how the territory-wide identity card replacement exercise should be conducted. Given that the exercise will affect the entire population in Hong Kong, sufficient flexibility must be provided to ensure that it can be carried out in an efficient and orderly manner. Whilst in the coming exercise, we plan to invite residents in different age group to come forward to replace their identity cards, we would like to retain some flexibility in the legislation to cater for scenarios in future where we have to refer to "place or area of usual residence" if needed. Our considered view is to retain this phrase. Its retention will not adversely affect card-holders' eligibility for replacement of new cards in future.