

Department of Justice

An Overview

The Secretary for Justice is appointed by the Central People's Government upon nomination by the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. The Secretary for Justice is the principal legal adviser to the Chief Executive, to the government and to individual government departments and agencies. The incumbent Secretary has been appointed to the Executive Council. In addition to her duties and responsibilities in relation to the conduct of criminal proceedings, the Secretary for Justice is the defendant in all civil actions brought against the government.

Before 1 July 1997, the post of Secretary for Justice was called Attorney General.



Please click [here](#)[format: doc] for the biography of the Secretary for Justice, Ms Elsie Leung.

Top

Role of The Secretary for Justice

The Department of Justice is headed by the Secretary for Justice, who fulfils a wide range of duties. Chief among these is to act as the principal legal adviser to the Chief Executive, to the Government and to individual Government bureaux, departments and agencies. The Secretary for Justice is also a member of the Executive Council.

The decision to prosecute criminal offences is the sole responsibility of the Secretary for Justice who in this respect operates independently, free from any interference. The Secretary for Justice is also the defendant in all civil actions brought against the Government and represents both the Government and the public interest in the courts.

As guardian of the public interest in a wider sense, the Secretary for Justice may make application for judicial review to enforce public legal rights. The Secretary has a right to intervene in any case involving a matter of great public interest. The Secretary represents the public interest as counsel to tribunals of inquiry. The Secretary is the Protector of Charities and must be joined as a party in all actions to enforce charitable or public trusts. The Secretary for Justice also has a more general public interest role as *amicus curiae* (literally, friend of the court), the most important example of which is the bringing of alleged contempts to the notice of the courts.

Amongst many other functions, the Secretary for Justice is Chairman of the Committee on Bilingual Legal System, the Chief Secretary for Administration's Legal Affairs Policy Group, the Legal Practitioners' Liaison Committee and the Law Reform Commission, Vice-Chairman of the Fight Crime Committee, and serves on the Chief Executive's Advisory Committee on Legal Education.



About CSB



Secretary for the Civil Service and his Deputies

Secretary for the Civil Service

Mr WONG Wing-ping, Joseph, GBS, JP

Schedule of Responsibilities

- Head of Civil Service Bureau, responsible for the overall management and development of the Civil Service to ensure that the Civil Service serves the best interests of the community and delivers various services in a trustworthy, efficient and cost effective manner.
- Formulating Civil Service policies and securing the necessary approval and funding for implementing these policies.
- Explaining Civil Service policies and issues, and answering related enquiries to the Legislative Council, staff associations, Government departments and the general public.



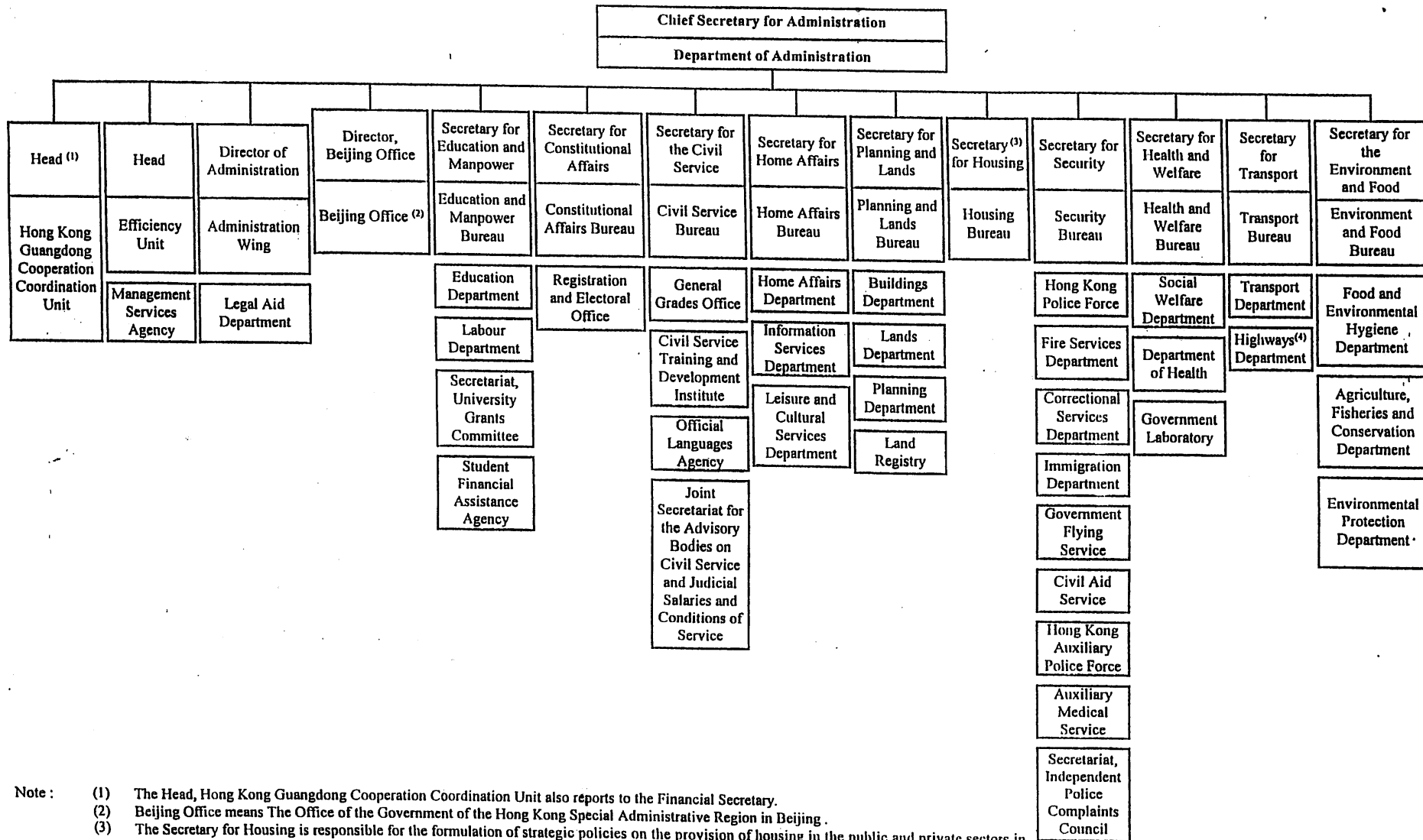
[E-mail]

The Chief Secretary for Administration is principally responsible to the Chief Executive for the formulation of government policies and their implementation. As the head of the Public Service, the Chief Secretary for Administration is one of the Chief Executive's principal advisers, along with the Financial Secretary and the Secretary for Justice.

The Chief Secretary for Administration exercises direction primarily as head of the Government Secretariat, the central organisation comprising the secretaries of the policy bureaux and resource bureaux and their staff.

The Chief Secretary for Administration deputises for the Chief Executive during his absence, and is the Senior Official Member of the Executive Council.

Chief Secretary for Administration



- Note :
- (1) The Head, Hong Kong Guangdong Cooperation Coordination Unit also reports to the Financial Secretary.
 - (2) Beijing Office means The Office of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in Beijing.
 - (3) The Secretary for Housing is responsible for the formulation of strategic policies on the provision of housing in the public and private sectors in Hong Kong, and co-ordinating and monitoring the delivery of these policies by the Hong Kong Housing Authority, the Hong Kong Housing Society, Government departments and private developers.
 - (4) The Director of Highways is responsible to Secretary for Transport for transport policy and the highways development programme and to Secretary for Works for works policy and standards, contract procedures and co-ordination of the Public Works Programme.



[E-mail]

The Financial Secretary, who reports directly to the Chief Executive, is responsible for the fiscal and economic policies of the government. He is an ex officio member of the Executive Council and regularly attends meetings of the Legislative Council as senior government representative.

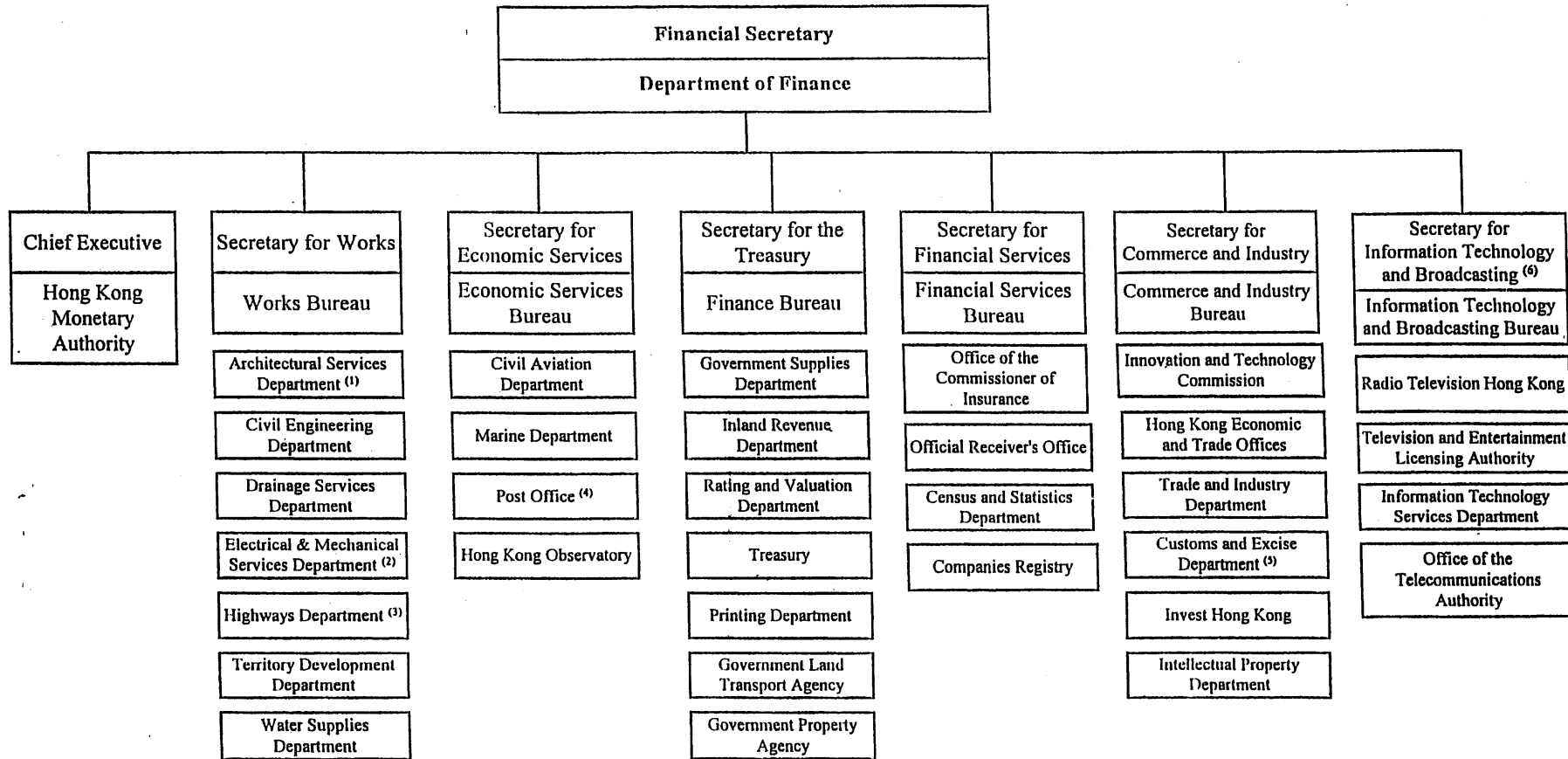
As the government official with primary responsibility for Hong Kong's fiscal, monetary and economic policies, the Financial Secretary oversees the operations of the Finance, Financial Services, Commerce and Industry, Economic Services, and Works Bureaux of the Government Secretariat, and the Hong Kong Monetary Authority. He also chairs the Exchange Fund Advisory Committee.

The Financial Secretary is responsible under the Public Finance Ordinance for laying before the legislature each year the government's estimates of revenue and expenditure. He delivers the annual budget speech, outlining the government's budgetary proposals and moving the adoption of the Appropriation Bill, which gives legal effect to the annual expenditure proposals contained in the budget.

Address:

12/F, Central Government Offices, West Wing,
Lower Albert Road,
Central,
Hong Kong.

Financial Secretary



- Note :
- (1) The Director of Architectural Services is also responsible to the Secretary for the Treasury for maintenance and repair of government buildings and facilities.
 - (2) The Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services is also responsible to Secretary for Economic Services, Secretary for Security, Secretary for the Environment and Food and Secretary for Planning and Lands.
 - (3) The Director of Highways is responsible to Secretary for Transport for transport policy and the highways development programme and to Secretary for Works for works policy and standards, contract procedures and co-ordination of the Public Works Programme.
 - (4) The Postmaster General is also responsible to the Secretary for Home Affairs for stamp design and to the Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting for matters relating to certification authority.
 - (5) The Commissioner of Customs and Excise is also responsible to the Secretary for Security, Secretary for the Treasury and Secretary for Economic Services.
 - (6) The Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting is also responsible to the Chief Secretary for Administration for matters relating to the Radio Television Hong Kong and broadcasting.



[Chinese](#) | [Government Homepage](#)

Under the Basic Law, the Executive Council is an organ for assisting the Chief Executive in policy-making. The Executive Council normally meets once a week. The Chief Executive presides over its meetings. Except for the appointment, removal and discipline of officials and the adoption of measures in emergencies, the Chief Executive consults the Executive Council on all major policy matters. If the Chief Executive does not accept a majority opinion of the Executive Council, he is required to put the specific reasons on record.

Members tender their advice individually, but the Council's conclusions are presented as collective decisions.

Appointment and Removal of Executive Council Members

Article 55 of the Basic Law stipulates that the Chief Executive shall appoint members of the Executive Council from among principal officials, members of the Legislative Council and the community. At present, the membership of the Executive Council comprises the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Financial Secretary and the Secretary for Justice, together with 9 non-officials of whom one serves as the Convenor. Members' appointment or removal is decided by the Chief Executive.

Members of the Executive Council have to be Chinese citizens who are permanent residents of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region with no right of abode in any foreign country.

Terms of Office of Executive Council Members

Members hold office for a period no longer than the expiry of the term of office of the Chief Executive who appoints them.

Biodata of Executive Council Members

Register of Members' Interests



Members of the Executive Council

Ex-Officio Members (Officials)

The Hon TUNG Chee Hwa
The Chief Executive

The Hon Donald TSANG , JP
The Chief Secretary for Administration

The Hon Antony LEUNG Kam-chung, GBS, JP
The Financial Secretary

The Hon Elsie LEUNG Oi-sie, JP
The Secretary for Justice

Non-Official Members

The Hon LEUNG Chun-ying, GBS, JP
The Convenor of the Executive Council

The Hon YANG Ti-liang, GBM, JP

The Hon Mrs Nellie FONG WONG Kut-man, GBS, JP

Dr the Hon Rosanna WONG Yick-ming, JP

The Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP

Dr the Hon Raymond CHIEN Kuo-fung, GBS, JP

The Hon Charles LEE Yeh-kwong, GBS, JP

The Hon Henry TANG Ying-yen, GBS, JP

The Hon CHUNG Shui-ming, GBS, JP