

**Subcommittee to Study the Proposed  
Accountability system for Principal Officials and Related Issues**

**Issues raised at the meeting on 7 May 2002  
requiring the Administration's response**

**Executive Council**

- (1) To provide the paper on the review of statutory appeals and objections to ExCo conducted by the Attorney General's Chambers in 1995;
- (2) On the 53 references providing for appeals to the Chief Executive in Council, to advise what is the nature of these appeals, what are the decisions involved, who are the policy secretaries under appeal, whether any other remedies are available to the aggrieved parties, and whether these 53 references should be reviewed in the light of the proposed change of the composition of ExCo;
- (3) In the interest of transparency and consistency, a mechanism should be put in place to deal with appeals that go to ExCo against decisions of principal officials under the proposed accountability system;

**Principal officials/Civil Service**

- (4) To provide copies of the Code of Practice for principal officials, and the composite circular for civil servants (the Administration's paper on "Preserving the Integrity and Probity of the Civil Service" refers);
- (5) What would be the terms and conditions of service for principal officials and how would they be different from those applicable to existing principal officials (who may have been promoted from within the Civil Service or appointed from outside the Civil Service); and

**Permanent Secretaries**

- (6) Whether the legal status of Permanent Secretaries will be established by legislative means or through administrative measures; and whether Permanent Secretaries would be acting as principal officials and performing the functions of principal officials during the leave absence of the latter.