

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

Director of the Chief Executive's Office

Introduction

This paper outlines the role and functions of the Director of the Chief Executive's Office.

Chief Executive's Office

2. To complement the introduction of the accountability system, there will be the following changes to the Chief Executive's Office:

- (a) the position of Information Coordinator will be re-titled as Director of the Chief Executive's Office. He will be appointed on non-civil service contract terms; and
- (b) the Executive Council Secretariat will be transferred from the Chief Secretary for Administration's Office to the Chief Executive's Office. The Executive Council Secretariat will work to the Director of the Chief Executive's Office.

Director of the Chief Executive's Office

3. With the introduction of the accountability system, the position of Information Coordinator will be re-titled as Director of the Chief Executive's Office. He will be selected for appointment by the Chief Executive from within the civil service or from outside the civil service. He will be appointed on non-civil service contract terms. His term of appointment will not exceed that of the Chief Executive who selects him for appointment. There will be no change in rank: the Director of the Chief Executive's Office will be ranked at the equivalent of D8.

4. The Director of the Chief Executive's Office will assist the Chief Executive in overseeing the running of the Office. The Director will focus mainly on performing the current duties and functions of the Information Coordinator and overseeing the running of the Executive Council Secretariat. Aside from these principal duties, the Director will also oversee other matters within the Office as directed by the Chief Executive. The Director works to the Chief Executive.

5. The agenda of the Executive Council is ultimately a matter for the Chief Executive. The Chief Executive will continue to rely on the assistance of the Secretaries of Departments. The present internal procedures are such that the Chief Secretary for Administration's approval must be obtained before any urgent items can be added to the agenda of the Executive Council. This arrangement will continue after the introduction of the accountability system.

6. The Director of the Chief Executive's Office will not be a principal official. He will not be a member of the Executive Council, but he will attend Executive Council meetings, in the same way as the Information Coordinator is currently in attendance. If invited to do so, he will provide the Executive Council with input, for example, from the public relations and media perspective pursuant to his role in respect of information coordination.

7. Like other public servants, the Director of the Chief Executive's Office must be dedicated to his duties and be responsible to the Government of the HKSAR. He will also be subject to the full force of the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance as well as other legislation applicable to public servants.