

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

**Issues raised at the meeting on 17 May 2002
requiring the Administration's response**

1. The Bureaux

A member has requested more justifications for the proposed distribution of policy portfolios. He is concerned that some will become 'super-bureaux' which will be over-burdened by too many policy portfolios (e.g. the proposed Health, Welfare, Environment and Food Bureau), while some other bureaux may have a light schedule (e.g. Constitutional Affairs).

2. Relationship between bureaux and departments

To provide more information on the objectives, considerations and plans (e.g. percentage of savings) for streamlining the structure of departments and bureaux.

3. Employment package for principal officials

- (a) To provide information on the relativity of the remuneration for the principal officials (such as CS) and the Chief Justice;
- (b) The basis and principles for determining the remuneration for members of the Judiciary; and
- (c) Whether any overseas countries have a system where the Head of Judiciary has a lower salary than that of the principal officials such as Directors of Bureau.

4. Integrity checking

To provide the criteria and standards for integrity checks (e.g. moral standard and conduct guidelines), and the average time taken for completion of integrity check.

5. Involvement in political activities

To advise -

- (a) whether a principal official can be a member of a political party/organisation/body;
- (b) whether CE's approval is required for participation of activities organised by political organisations or bodies;
- (c) the meaning of 'not cause any embarrassment to the Government' and 'distract their attention' in paragraph 4.2 (b) and (c) of the draft Code for Principal Officials under the accountability system; and
- (d) whether a principal official can still be directors of companies during his term of office.