

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

**Administration's response to  
issues raised at the meeting on 11 May 2002**

This paper sets out the Administration's response to the list of issues raised at the meeting on 11 May 2002 as set out in LC Paper No. CB(2)1926/01-02(01).

**Permanent Secretaries**

- (1) Issue raised: Whether there will be a Permanent Secretary working to the politically appointed Secretary for the Civil Service under the proposed accountability system for principal officials.

Administration's response: There will be a Permanent Secretary working to the Secretary for the Civil Service.

- (2) Issue raised: Whether the Permanent Secretaries will be required to "sell" Government policies and if so, how are they to carry out such duty under the proposed system.

Administration's response: Permanent Secretaries would be required to assist the principal officials in formulating, explaining and defending policies. They would also be required to assist principal officials in securing the support of the public and the Legislative Council. Subject to the direction of the relevant principal officials, Permanent Secretaries as well as other civil servants would have to explain and defend policies in public.