

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

**Administration's response to
issues raised at the meeting on 28 May 2002**

This paper sets out the Administration's response to the list of issues raised at the meeting on 28 May 2002 as set out in LC Paper No. CB(2)2106/01-02(01).

Composite civil service circular

- (1) Issue raised: The Administration has agreed to consider including in the circular the working relationship between civil servants and the Director of the Chief Executive's Office.

Administration's response: We will consider how to make reference to the Director of Chief Executive's Office in the proposed circular.

- (2) Issue raised: To consider deleting paragraph 12 (first sentence in particular) of the proposed circular.

Administration's response: We will revise the language in paragraph 12 of the proposed circular to take account of concerns expressed by members at the meeting.

- (3) Issue raised: The Administration to consult civil servants' associations and provide feedback of civil servants' views on the proposed circular.

Administration's response: We have invited the staff sides to provide comments on the proposed circular and will provide feedback of their response.

Conflict of interest and Code of Practice

- (4) Issue raised: On post-office employment of principal officials, the Administration has agreed to consider the suggestion of providing a more effective mechanism so that the committee's advice is enforceable, e.g. to empower CE to approve or disapprove whether a former principal official may take up a particular employment.

Administration's response: We have further considered this and remain of the view that an advisory system should suffice.

- (5) Issue raised: To provide an express provision in the Code to prohibit principal officials from using government resources for work relating to their political parties or constituencies.

Administration's response: We will give further consideration to a suitable formulation.

- (6) Issue raised: To provide a written response on the procedures to amend the Code, whether LegCo Panels will be consulted on proposed amendments to the Code, and whether CE's decisions under paragraph 5.6 in the Code will be recorded and made public.

Administration's response: We will inform the relevant LegCo Panel should there be any change to the Code for Principal Officials.

- (7) Issue raised: The Administration has agreed to consider ways to disclose information provided by principal officials with regard to their political affiliation.

Administration's response: We will make available for public inspection upon request principal officials' declaration on membership of political parties.

- (8) Issue raised: The Administration to consider ways to make the Code public.

Administration's response: We will publish the Code in the Government Gazette.