

本署檔號：OUR REF：HAB/CR/7/15/362 Pt. 37
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27 March 2003

Miss Flora Tai
Clerk to Panel on Home Affairs
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Miss Tai,

Legislative Council
Panel on Home Affairs

Review of Government
Advisory and Statutory Bodies in 2001

Thank you for your letter of 18 March 2003.

I would like to report progress on the following outstanding issues of the Panel meeting held on 12 March 2002.

- (a) Statistics on attendance rate of members at meetings of advisory and statutory bodies

According to a survey conducted by the Home Affairs Bureau in 2001, the average attendance rate of members of advisory and statutory bodies at meetings during the period from November 1999 to October 2000 is as follows:

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- 2 -

Average attendance rate of members at meetings	Number of boards/ committees	Percentage of boards/ committees
50% or less	13	2.5%
51% - 90%	416	78.9%
91% - 100%	98	18.6%
	527	100%

(b) Representation of the interests of ethnic minorities and the disabled on advisory and statutory bodies

When making appointments to advisory and statutory bodies, there should be no discrimination on the grounds of gender, age, race, disability, religion, marital status, sexual orientation or social background. In fact, an advisory or statutory body should be representative of different interests and sections of the community.

Care will be taken to ensure that the interests of ethnic minorities and the disabled are represented on advisory and statutory bodies.

(c) Declaration of Interests

Nearly all advisory and statutory bodies have a system of declaration of interests for their members. The following boards and committees do not have a system of declaration of interests because of their nature and functions:

- (i) Legal Practitioners' Liaison Committee;
- (ii) Committee on Bilingual Legal System;
- (iii) Law Reform Commission of Hong Kong;
- (iv) Tripartite Committee on Theatres Industry;

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- (v) Tripartite Committee on Warehouse and Cargo Transport Industry;
- (vi) Tripartite Committee on Property Management Industry;
- (vii) Tripartite Committee on Catering Trade;
- (viii) Tripartite Committee on Cement and Concrete Industry;
- (ix) Tripartite Committee on Construction Industry;
- (x) Tripartite Committee on Hotel and Tourism Industry;
- (xi) Tripartite Committee on Printing Industry; and
- (xii) Labour Department Customer Liaison Group.

(d) Transparency

All advisory and statutory bodies have now taken measures to enhance the transparency of their work.

(e) Openness

Bureaux and departments have been asked to keep relevant information concerning the work of advisory and statutory bodies under their purview and to provide this information to members of the public upon request. Bureaux and departments have also been asked to upload such information onto their websites.

(f) Proactive role

The Administration is committed to reviewing the role and functions of advisory and statutory bodies in order to enhance their accountability, transparency, openness, effectiveness and efficiency.

A two-stage approach is used in this review. As the first stage of the review, the Home Affairs Bureau has commenced an overall review of the existing system of advisory and statutory bodies. The objective is to identify issues and problems. After considering these issues and problems, a set of guiding principles for conducting a detailed review will be recommended.

During the second stage of the review, individual bureaux will be asked to conduct an in-depth review of the advisory and statutory bodies under their purview on the basis of the recommended guiding principles.

The Home Affairs Bureau plans to complete the first-stage review by June this year. We will revert to the Panel of Home Affairs after we have completed the first-stage review.

Yours sincerely,

(Stephen Fisher)
for Secretary for Home Affairs

b.c.c. Department of Justice
(Attn.: Mr. Howard Chan, AA/SJ)

Commissioner of Labour
(Attn.: Mr. William Siu, Deputy Commissioner)