

Proposed Research Outline: System of Advisory Committees in Some Overseas Places

1. Background

1.1 At the meeting of the Panel on Home Affairs on 12 March 2002, the Home Affairs Bureau presented a report on the review of the operation of advisory committees and the remuneration policy for non-official members. Members of the Panel requested the Administration to undertake a comprehensive review of the advisory and statutory body system, including the functions of each committee, the method of appointing non-officials, the involvement of these non-officials as well as the rationale for the level of remuneration. The Research and Library Services Division (RLSD) proposes to conduct a research on the system of advisory committees in some overseas places to facilitate the Panel's discussion on this issue.

2. Places to be Studied

2.1 RLSD proposes to study the system of advisory committees in the United Kingdom (UK), Ontario in Canada and New South Wales (NSW) in Australia. In the UK, the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments, an independent authority, is responsible for the monitoring and regulation of advisory committees. In both Ontario and NSW, the appointment and remuneration process of advisory committees is administered by government departments. The three proposed places of this study all have either codes of practices or guidelines for the appointment and remuneration of advisory committees.

3. Proposed Outline

Part 1 — Definition and Categorization of Boards and Committees by Functions

Part 2 — Study on the Operation of Advisory Committees in the UK, Ontario and NSW

- Authority Responsible for Appointment and Remuneration of Advisory Committees
- Guidelines / Codes of Practice for Appointment and Remuneration
- Principles for Appointment
- Determination of Remuneration
- Mechanism for Review of the Performance / Effectiveness of Advisory Committees

Part 3 — Analysis

Part 4 — Reference for Hong Kong

4. Proposed Timetable

4.1 RLSD proposes to complete the research project by October 2002.