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**Legislative Council Panel  
on Information Technology and Broadcasting**

**Institutional Arrangements for Implementation of  
the Digital 21 Strategy and E-government Initiatives**

At the Information Technology and Broadcasting Panel meeting on 10 December, the Hon. Albert CHAN Wai Yip asked for some figures as to how much more our proposal to have one D3 post – offset by one Assistant Director (D2) post – would cost. I am happy to provide these.

The NAMS value of an Administrative Officer Staff Grade ‘B’ is \$1.659M. The NAMS value for an Assistant Director (D2) post is \$1.515M. Thus the additional cost per annum is only some \$144,000. (In terms of the full annual average staff cost, the difference is less - \$118,956.) I hope Members will appreciate that this offsetting arrangement thus means that the additional cost is quite small.

I should again like to reiterate that I fully understand Members' concerns on the number of directorate posts. I have taken the difficult decision to freeze resources in ITSD, hence there will be no net addition in the number of directorate posts. I believe it would not have been possible at this time to find someone in ITSD to carry out this work – which I firmly believe needs to be done at D3 level and in the context of a bureau (in view of the number of bureaux and departments that need to be dealt with). The current Deputy in ITSD has only just taken up his duties and he must concentrate in repositioning the Department to meet with all the challenges and delivery of services outlined in our Digital 21 Strategy.

There was also the suggestion we go outside the Government to recruit an expert in IT for the EGC post. I appreciate the idea. But I consider that, particularly at this time, a coordinating role is best performed by someone who knows how the government works – and knows the people involved. He (or she) will thus be able to hit the ground running – very important to get the momentum going. If the issue was primarily about taking forward individual projects themselves, then an IT professional might indeed be the best. But it is a rather different role.

I hope the above helps to put Members minds at rest.

( Mrs Carrie Yau )  
Secretary for Information Technology  
and Broadcasting

- c.c. The Hon. SIN Chung Kai, Chairman of Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting  
The Hon. Howard Young, JP, Deputy Chairman of Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting  
The Hon. Albert CHAN Wai Yip, Member of Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting