

立法會
Legislative Council

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Establishment Subcommittee of the Finance Committee

**Minutes of the 4th meeting
held at the Legislative Council Chamber
on Wednesday, 11 December 2002, at 10:45 am**

Members present:

Hon CHAN Kwok-keung (Chairman)
Hon NG Leung-sing, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon James TIEN Pei-chun, GBS, JP
Hon Eric LI Ka-cheung, JP
Hon Margaret NG
Hon HUI Cheung-ching, JP
Hon Bernard CHAN, JP
Hon Jasper TSANG Yok-sing, GBS, JP
Hon Howard YOUNG, JP
Hon SZETO Wah
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Hon LI Fung-ying, JP
Hon Henry WU King-cheong, BBS, JP
Hon LAU Ping-cheung

Members absent:

Hon Albert HO Chun-yan
Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, JP
Dr Hon David LI Kwok-po, GBS, JP
Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong
Hon Andrew WONG Wang-fat, JP

Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, JP
Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung
Hon LEUNG Fu-wah, MH, JP
Dr Hon LO Wing-lok
Hon MA Fung-kwok, JP

Public Officers attending:

Mr Stanley YING, JP	Deputy Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury)
Mrs Jessie TING, JP	Deputy Secretary for the Civil Service
Mr K K LAM	Principal Executive Officer (General), Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (Treasury)
Mr Raymond YOUNG, JP	Deputy Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology (Commerce and Industry) 1
Miss Viola CHAN	Principal Executive Officer, Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau (Commerce and Industry)
Mr Paul TANG, JP	Deputy Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Transport and Works)

Clerk in attendance:

Miss Polly YEUNG	Chief Assistant Secretary (1)3
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Staff in attendance:

Ms Pauline NG	Assistant Secretary General 1
Ms Caris CHAN	Senior Legislative Assistant 1
Mr Frankie WOO	Legislative Assistant 2

EC(2002-03)9

Proposed creation of one permanent post of Administrative Officer Staff Grade C (D2)/non-civil service position at D2-equivalent in the Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau of Government Secretariat with effect from 1 January 2003 as Administrative Assistant to Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology; to be offset by deletion of one permanent post of Administrative Officer Staff Grade C (D2) in the Commerce and Industry Branch

Members noted that a paper on the present proposal had been circulated to the Panel on Commerce and Industry on 20 November 2002.

2. Mr Henry WU noted that as an interim arrangement, the responsibilities of the Principal Assistant Secretary (Commerce and Industry)1 (PAS(CI)1) would be taken up by the Deputy Secretary (Commerce and Industry)1 (DS(CI)1) upon deletion of the PAS(CI)1 post on 1 January 2003. Furthermore, the Administration would seek members' endorsement of the transfer of PAS(CI)1's duties to the Trade and Industry Department (TID) and other organizational changes in the Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau (CITB). Mr WU thus enquired whether the composite submission to be put up by the Administration in early 2003 would contain further streamlining proposals.

3. In response, DS(CI)1 confirmed that he would take on the duties of the PAS(CI)1 post upon its deletion on 1 January 2003 until the Finance Committee's approval was given for the permanent transfer of PAS(CI)1's duties to TID. The deletion of the said permanent post was to offset the creation of one permanent post of Administrative Officer Staff Grade C (AOSGC) (D2)/non-civil service position at D2 equivalent with effect from 1 January 2003 to serve as Administrative Assistant to the Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology (AA/SCIT). He further advised that the CITB was currently conducting a review on the Bureau's staffing and organizational structure with a view to streamlining the work of the Bureau and its executive departments. One of the findings of the organizational review was that the responsibilities of PAS(CI)1 might be absorbed by TID thereby achieving streamlining and de-layering between CIB and TID. The overall review was expected to be completed shortly and the Administration planned to put up a composite proposal for members' consideration in early 2003.

4. Mr James TIEN said that Members of the Liberal Party supported the present proposal as the creation of the proposed directorate post was cost-neutral. However, he expressed concern that the mere offsetting of the creation of a directorate post by the deletion of a post of equivalent rank might not suffice for the overall goal of reducing staff costs and streamlining structure. As an overall direction, he urged the Administration to take forward more streamlining initiatives which should be targeted at all levels of establishment and not solely at those on the lower pay bands.

5. In response, DS(CI)1 took note of Mr TIEN's concern and confirmed that it was CITB's overall direction to streamline organizational structure which would inevitably include the streamlining of staffing structure. However, he pointed out that pending completion of the review, the number of posts to be reduced could not be ascertained at this stage.

6. Mr HUI Cheung-ching expressed support for the present proposal. In reply to Mr HUI's enquiry about the tenure of the proposed AOSGC post to support SCIT during his five-year term, DS(CI)1 advised that when the accountability system was introduced on 1 July 2002, a supernumerary D2 post had been created under delegated authority for six months to provide administrative support to SCIT as all PAS posts in the Commerce and Industry Branch and the Information Technology and Broadcasting Branch of the Bureau could not be re-deployed at that time. Taking into account the operational need to continue to provide an Administrative Assistant to SCIT on a permanent basis upon the lapse of the existing supernumerary AA/SCIT post in end 2002, the Administration had put up the current proposal to seek members' endorsement for the creation of a AA/SCIT post on a permanent basis.

7. The item was voted on and endorsed.

EC(2002-03)8 Proposed creation of one permanent post of Administrative Officer Staff Grade C (D2)/non-civil service position at D2-equivalent in the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau of Government Secretariat with effect from 1 January 2003 as Administrative Assistant to Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works; to be offset by deletion of one permanent post of Administrative Officer Staff Grade C (D2) in the Transport Sub-branch

8. Members noted that an information paper on the present proposal had been circulated to the Panel on Environmental Affairs, Panel on Planning, Lands and Works and Panel on Transport on 20 November 2002.

9. Mr James TIEN supported the present proposal. Noting that the policy portfolio of the Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (SETW) comprised the programme areas of the environment, transport and works, he asked whether streamlining initiatives would be carried out separately in respect of each programme area; or whether SETW would steer and co-ordinate an overall streamlining exercise. In reply, the Deputy Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Transport and Works) confirmed that the overall review on staffing and organizational structure of ETWB covered all the

programme areas under SETW's purview although the post proposed to be deleted under the present proposal was from the Transport Sub-branch of the Bureau.

10. The item was voted on and endorsed.
11. The Subcommittee was adjourned at 11:00 am.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
13 December 2002