

立法會
Legislative Council

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Establishment Subcommittee of the Finance Committee

**Minutes of the 6th meeting
held at the Legislative Council Chamber
on Wednesday, 21 May 2003, at 8:30 am**

Members present:

Hon CHAN Kwok-keung (Chairman)
Hon NG Leung-sing, JP (Deputy Chairman)
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 LEUNG Fu-wah, MH, JP

Members absent:

Hon James TIEN Pei-chun, GBS, JP
Hon Albert HO Chun-yan
Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, JP
Hon Eric LI Ka-cheung, JP
Dr Hon David LI Kwok-po, GBS, JP
Hon Margaret NG
Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong
Hon Andrew WONG Wang-fat, JP
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, JP
Hon Henry WU King-cheong, BBS, JP

Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung
Dr Hon LO Wing-lok
Hon LAU Ping-cheung
Hon MA Fung-kwok, JP

Public Officers attending:

Mr Stanley YING, JP	Deputy Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury)1
Miss Jennifer MAK, JP Mr K K LAM	Deputy Secretary for the Civil Service 1 Principal Executive Officer (General), Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (Treasury)
Mrs Rebecca LAI, JP Mr Christopher WONG	Permanent Secretary for the Civil Service Deputy Secretary for the Civil Service 3
Mrs Agnes ALLCOCK, JP Miss Denise YUE, GBS, JP	Commissioner for Official Languages Permanent Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology (Commerce & Industry)
Mr Raymond YOUNG, JP	Deputy Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology (Commerce & Industry)
Mr Francis HO, JP	Permanent Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology (Information Technology and Broadcasting)
Mrs Sarah KWOK	Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

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(2003-04)1

Proposed incorporation of the Official Languages Agency into the Civil Service Bureau with effect from 1 July 2003, and creation of one permanent post of Administrative Officer Staff Grade C (D2)/non-civil service position at D2-equivalent as Administrative Assistant to Secretary for the Civil Service

Members noted that the Panel on Public Service had been consulted on the present proposal on 17 March 2003.

2. Mr Howard YOUNG supported the present proposal. While noting the proposed deletion of posts, he sought clarification on the increase in the ceiling placed on the total notional annual mid-point salary (NAMS) value of non-directorate posts in the permanent establishment under Head 143 - Civil Service Bureau (CSB) in 2003-04, as well as the net savings of some \$1.3 million arising from the proposed changes involving directorate posts.

3. In reply, the Permanent Secretary for the Civil Service (PSCS) confirmed that the present proposal would result in net savings in terms of both establishment and staff costs. Regarding the increase in the NAMS ceiling, PSCS clarified that this was an accounting arrangement. As a result of the incorporation of the Official Languages Agency (OLA) into CSB, Head 115 - OLA would be deleted and the existing establishment of non-directorate posts under this Head would be placed under Head 143 - CSB starting from 1 July 2003. Hence, the NAMS ceiling of CSB had to be increased to include the relevant staff costs previously borne by OLA.

4. Noting that under the accountability system implemented since July 2002, each Director of Bureau was underpinned by an Administrative Assistant (AA), Mr TAM Yiu-chung asked whether the Administration had reviewed the effectiveness of this staffing arrangement. As the policy responsibility of the bureaux varied in scope and complexity, he questioned whether it was more appropriate to pitch the AA post at a rank commensurate with its specific schedule of duties, and whether consideration could be given to other arrangements such as assigning more responsibilities to the AAs.

5. In response, PSCS advised that the Administration had taken into account the operational experience of the accountability system in proposing to create the AA posts on a permanent basis. Having regard to the level of administrative support to be provided to the Directors of Bureau and the need for co-ordination work at a high level, the Administration considered it appropriate to pitch all the AA posts at D2 level. PSCS further pointed out that while the specific responsibilities of the AA posts might differ among bureaux, where there was room for them to take up additional duties in the policy-making process, the Administration would certainly consider such an arrangement.

6. In reply to Mr HUI Cheung-ching's enquiry on the phased deletion of 23 non-directorate posts in OLA, PSCS explained that there was scope for streamlining the organization structure of OLA following the completion of major policy tasks such as the issuance of guidelines and standards. Nevertheless, staffing support was still required for providing ongoing service such as simultaneous interpretation for major meetings and Chinese translation of documents.

7. In reply to Mr LEUNG Fu-wah's enquiry about staff consultation on the implementation details of the proposed incorporation of OLA into CSB and the future role of the Chinese Language Officer (CLO) Grade, the Commissioner for Official Languages (COL) advised that upon re-organization with effect from 1 July 2003, 10 CLO II posts would be deleted. In the course of consultation, members of the CLO Grade had indicated willingness to take up additional work, at the same time offered constructive suggestions on how various tasks could be re-distributed and re-prioritized. On the timetable for the deletion of posts, COL said that the various service units of OLA would be consulted, having regard to the departure of staff through natural wastage and voluntary retirement.

8. The item was voted on and endorsed.

EC(2003-04)2 Proposed reorganisation of the Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau of Government Secretariat with effect from 1 July 2003

9. Members noted that the present proposal had been discussed at the joint Panel meeting of the Panel on Commerce and Industry and the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting held on 14 April 2003.

10. The item was voted on and endorsed.

EC(2003-04)3 Proposed creation of one permanent post of Administrative Officer Staff Grade C (D2)/non-civil service position at D2-equivalent in the Security Bureau of Government Secretariat with effect from 1 July 2003 as Administrative Assistant to Secretary for Security, to be offset by deletion of one permanent post of Administrative Officer Staff Grade C (D2) post in the Narcotics Division

11. Members noted that the Panel on Security had taken note of the present proposal at its meeting on 6 May 2003.

12. Mr Howard YOUNG expressed support for the present proposal.
13. Representatives from the Administration had not yet arrived at the meeting. However, since no members had any question on the paper, the Chairman put the item to vote. The item was endorsed by the Subcommittee.
14. The Subcommittee was adjourned at 8:50 am.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
28 May 2003