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Panel on Constitutional Affairs

Background Brief prepared by Legislative Council Secretariat

Prevention of conflict of interest of principal officials and related issues

PURPOSE

This paper provides a summary of the main views and concerns raised by Members regarding prevention of conflict of interest of principal officials (POs) and related issues.

BACKGROUND

2. Following the implementation of the accountability system for POs, the Panel on Constitutional Affairs (CA Panel) held meetings on 9 July, 7 and 21 October 2002 to discuss, inter alia, prevention of conflict of interest and related issues. Members, in particular, focused on the provisions in Chapter 5 of the "Code for Principal Officials" which dealt specifically with prevention of conflict of interest. According to the Administration, the Code sets out the basic principles which POs should follow in the performance of their duties. The Code was published in the Government gazette on 28 June 2002.

3. The Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting (ITB Panel) and the Panel on Education (Education Panel) also discussed issues relating to prevention of conflict of interest of the Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology and the Secretary for Education and Manpower at the meetings on 17 September and 18 November 2002 respectively.

4. To facilitate the consideration of the CA Panel, the Research and Library Services Division has prepared an Information Note entitled "Selected Issues Relating to Declaration of Interests and Avoidance of Conflicts of Interests by Senior Members of Government" (IN35/01-02). The Information Note provides information relating to declaration of interests by senior members of government in the United States (US) and the United Kingdom (UK). The specific topics include -

- (a) declaration of interests;

- (b) procedures to avoid conflicts of interests;
- (c) operation of blind trusts; and
- (d) operation of British Virgin Island (BVI) companies.

5. At the request of the Panel, two supplementary Information Notes (IN03/02-03 and IN06/02-03) have also been prepared on the following topics -

- (a) declaration of interests for Presidential appointees in the US and Ministers in the UK;
- (b) penalties for violation of the declaration requirement in the US;
- (c) difference in the declaration of interests for Ministers and Members of Parliament in the UK;
- (d) what is a family trust;
- (e) restrictions for US Cabinet Secretaries reverting to their professions after stepping down from office;
- (f) arrangement for US Cabinet Secretaries appointed from the private sector to be on no-pay leave from their previous employers during the period of office;
- (g) arrangements made by the former US President Jimmy Carter in managing his family business during his presidency; and
- (h) comparison of the requirements applicable to members of the US Congress and senior members of the government in respect of declaration of interests.

ISSUES CONSIDERED

Timing for making public declarations of interests

The Code

6. Under clause 5.6 of the Code, POs shall declare their investments and interests, and such declarations will be made available for public inspection on request. However, the Code does not specify any time frame for POs to complete the declarations.

Concerns of Members and response of the Administration

7. At the meeting on 9 July 2002, the Administration advised the CA Panel that the declarations of interests of POs would be available for public inspection by end of July 2002.

8. A Member has expressed concern that POs are allowed several weeks after the commencement of their term of office to declare interests, and asked whether similar arrangements were adopted for civil servants and Members of the Executive Council (ExCo) before implementation of the accountability system. The Member has pointed out that it would cause embarrassment to the Government if it is discovered that a PO's private investments/interests are in conflict with his official capacity only weeks after his assumption of duty. The Member considers that the Code should provide a mechanism for requiring POs to duly declare all related interests before taking up offices.

9. Another Member has pointed out that every Member of the Legislative Council (LegCo) is required to furnish to the Clerk to LegCo the particulars of his registrable interests not later than the first meeting of each term. A new LegCo Member who is elected to fill a vacant seat should also furnish to the Clerk the particulars of his registrable interests within 14 days from the date of his becoming a new Member.

10. The Administration has subsequently advised the Panel in writing that ExCo Members and Directors of Bureau were usually given several weeks to submit their declarations in the last few years.

11. The declarations of interests made by the Chief Executive (CE), POs and other ExCo Members were issued to Members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)2679/01-02 on 6 August 2002.

Interests to be declared

The Code

12. Under clause 5.6 of the Code, POs shall declare their investments and interests, and such declaration will be made available for public inspection on request.

Overseas experience and practice

13. In the US, Cabinet Secretaries are required by law to file the "Public Financial Disclosure Report" (SF 278) to disclose information on assets and income, transactions, gifts, reimbursements and travelling expenses, liabilities, agreements or arrangements, outside positions and compensation in excess of US\$5,000 paid by one source. On real estate, Cabinet Secretaries are required to

describe its nature, location and value. There is no requirement to report the specific address or the acreage. If the real estate is held in connection with a business operation, the business name, type and location must be indicated. Cabinet Secretaries are also required to disclose similar information concerning their spouses and dependent children. SF 278 is available for public inspection upon request.

14. In the UK, Ministers are required by the Ministerial Code to provide a full list of all interests which might give rise to a conflict. These include financial instruments and partnerships, financial interests such as unincorporated businesses and real estate, and relevant non-financial private interests such as links with outside organisations and previous relevant employment. The list covers interests of a spouse or partner, of children who are minors, of a trust of which a Minister, or a spouse, or partner is a trustee or beneficiary, or closely associated persons. The information disclosed by Ministers is treated in complete confidence and may not be disclosed without their permission.

Concern of Members and response of the Administration

15. Members have sought clarification on the interests required to be declared by POs and whether there are any guidelines for POs to complete the declarations.

16. The Administration has advised that ExCo Members (including POs) are required to declare their interests in "The Register of Interests of Members of the Executive Council" for the purpose of public inspection. CE's declaration is made on the same form. As the form is self-explanatory, there are no further guidance notes or guidelines.

17. POs are also required to declare their interests in the "Registration of Interests and Affiliation with Political Parties for Public Inspection". The "interests" which should be declared are set out in the guidance notes in Part B of the form, a copy of which is in **Appendix I**.

18. The Administration has advised that the declaration system for the current ExCo is the same as that for the previous ExCo. The declaration system for POs under the accountability system is largely adopted from that which is applicable to senior civil servants generally covering officers ranked at D8. On first appointment and annually thereafter, senior civil servants and POs under the accountability system are required to declare their investments and interests in and outside Hong Kong.

Information on properties

19. According to the guidance notes for completing the "Registration of Interests and Affiliation with Political Parties for Public Inspection" (Appendix I refers), POs should declare the location (country/city/area) of the property.

Making reference to the overseas practice as mentioned in paragraphs 13 - 14 above, some Members consider that apart from the location, POs should also be required to declare information such as the usage of the properties held by them.

20. The Administration has subsequently provided updated declarations to incorporate information on the usage of the properties held by POs and ExCo Members for Members' reference (LC Paper No. CB(2)97/02-03 issued on 18 October 2002 and LC Paper No. CB(2)272/02-03 issued on 5 November 2002 refer).

Company directorships

The Code

21. Under clause 5.5 of the Code, POs shall not, without the consent in writing of CE, engage or be concerned either directly or indirectly as principal, agent, director or shadow director, employee or otherwise in any other trade, business, occupation, firm, company (private or public), chamber of commerce or similar bodies, public body or private professional practice. The consent of CE is likely to be given where a PO is appointed to the relevant board of directors in his official capacity or in connection with his private family estate.

Overseas experience and practice

22. In the US, Cabinet Secretaries are required to resign from any position they hold as a director or officer of a company.

23. In the UK, Ministers must resign from any directorships, no matter whether the directorship is in a public or private company and whether it carries remuneration or is honorary.

Concern of the Members and response of the Administration

24. A Member has noted that the practice in Hong Kong is very different from that in the US and the UK. The Member is of the view that POs should not be allowed to hold company directorships.

25. The Administration has advised that where a PO holds a directorship in his private capacity, the PO would be required to declare to CE the nature of business of the company irrespective of whether it is a Hong Kong company or a foreign company, whether the company has active business activities, whether he has actively participated in the business of the company, and his shareholding and names of other shareholders which are known.

26. The Administration has explained that company directorships held by POs have to be approved by CE. As far as private companies are concerned, the financial interests/assets held are limited to the family estate of the POs concerned,

land and buildings for leasing and self-use, cars and club memberships, etc. Some companies are public companies to which the POs are appointed as directors in their official capacity.

27. In response to Members' request, the Administration has provided updated declarations completed by POs and ExCo Members to incorporate information on company directorships to which CE has given consent (LC Paper No. CB(2)97/02-03 issued on 18 October 2002 and LC Paper No. CB(2)272/02-03 issued on 5 November 2002 refer).

Use of British Virgin Islands (BVI) companies to hold assets

The Code

28. The Code does not prohibit the use of BVI companies to hold assets.

Overseas experience and practice

29. In the UK, there is no restriction on Ministers using BVI companies to hold assets. However, it is likely that any Minister using BVI companies to hold assets would be reminded by the departmental Permanent Secretary of the potential allegations of criticism on the ground of tax avoidance. If the Minister is, for example, a Treasury Minister, he would be advised to surrender such assets so as to avoid conflict of interests

30. In the US, there is no absolute prohibition against an official to use a foreign company to hold assets. However, if a Cabinet Secretary uses a foreign company to hold assets, he is required to report the ownership on the Public Financial Disclosure Report (SF 278).

Concerns of Members and response of the Administration

31. Members note that if a BVI company engages in business activities in Hong Kong and the profits are sourced in Hong Kong, it would be subject to Hong Kong taxation at the same rate as companies incorporated in Hong Kong.

32. Some Members have questioned the propriety of some ExCo Members and POs using BVI companies to hold investments/assets. A Member has pointed out that a major feature of a BVI company is confidentiality of the identity of shareholders and directors. He considers that POs using foreign or BVI companies to hold financial interests/assets should disclose information concerning all partners and shareholders of the companies.

33. The Administration has advised Members that foreign or BVI companies currently owned by POs have no active business activities.

Declaration on liabilities

The Code

34. There is no requirement for POs to report any liabilities under the Code.

Overseas experience and practice

35. In the US, a Cabinet Secretary is required to report liabilities in excess of US\$10,000 which he, his spouse or dependent child owed to any creditor at any time during the reporting period. However, there are some exceptions, e.g. a personal liability owed to his spouse or dependent child, a mortgage loan for a property which is his personal residence.

36. A Cabinet Secretary is also required to report any liability of any non-public company, investment pool, or other entity in which he, his spouse or dependent child has an interest, unless the liability is incidental to the primary trade or business, or the entity is an excepted investment fund.

Concern of Members and the response of the Administration

37. Some Members consider that transparency in declaring financial interests held by POs is a prerequisite of an effective mechanism for prevention of conflict of interest. POs, being the most senior officials in the Government, should be required to disclose liabilities, if any.

38. The Administration has advised that in deciding what information should be made available for public inspection, it is necessary to strike a balance between transparency on the one hand, and the need to protect the privacy of POs on the other. Prior to their appointment, POs are subject to comprehensive integrity checks which include an assessment of their financial positions. During their term of office, they are required to observe the highest standards of personal conduct and integrity. They are also bound by their employment contract not to borrow money at interest other than from licensed money-lenders, banks or deposit-taking companies. In addition, they are required to abide by the same provisions in the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance applicable to civil servants. The Administration is satisfied that the existing monitoring arrangements are effective and there is no need to require POs to declare their liabilities.

39. Some Members have pointed out that police officers are required to declare their indebtedness and the same requirement should also apply to POs. The Administration has explained that civil servants do not normally have to report their debts or liabilities except in certain specified circumstances such as in the case of new appointees, applications for salary advances, insolvency or bankruptcy. In the case of the Police Force, owing to the nature of duties of police officers, applicants who might be offered employment, re-employment or further employment would be asked to declare their financial obligations.

Blind trusts

The Code

40. Under clause 5.7 of the Code, where it appears to CE that there is or may be a conflict of interest between a PO's investments or interests and his official duties, CE may require the PO to take certain measures such as to place his investments or interests in a "blind trust".

Overseas experience and practice

41. In the UK and US, the setting up of blind trusts is a legitimate way, among other measures, for senior members of government to avoid conflict of interest. A blind trust is a trust of which the beneficiaries do not have knowledge of the trust's assets, and a fiduciary third party has complete management discretion.

42. In the US, a Cabinet Secretary who chooses to set up a blind trust has to follow the legal provisions stipulated in the Ethics in Government Act 1978. The trustee appointed must be independent from any interested party and approved by the Office of Government Ethics. "Interested party" refers to the Cabinet Secretary, his spouse, any minor or dependent child, and their representatives in any case in which the Cabinet Secretary, his spouse, or child has a beneficial interest in the principal or income of the blind trust.

43. In the UK, there is no specific legislation regulating the setting up and operation of a ministerial blind trust. The arrangements (including blind trust arrangements) that Ministers enter into regarding the handling of their private financial interests are confidential, although they may need to make public the list of interests declared by them. The UK Ministerial Code stipulates that a blind trust is "only blind in the case of a widely-spread portfolio of interests, managed by external advisers. Once a blind trust has been established, the Minister should not be involved or advised of decisions on acquisition or disposal relating to the portfolio".

Concerns of Members and response of the Administration

44. There is no definition of the term "blind trust" in the Code, nor in relevant local legislation such as the Trustee Ordinance. Members of the CA Panel have requested the Administration to provide information on the establishment, operation and management of a "blind trust".

45. The Secretary for Constitutional Affairs (SCA) has advised the CA Panel that a trust is a legal relationship created when a person (the "settlor") places assets under the name and control of another person (the "trustee") for the benefit of some persons (who may include the settlor and the trustee and who are referred to as beneficiaries) for a specified purpose. To set up a trust, one needs to appoint a trustee, who can be a person or a company.

46. SCA has also explained to the CA Panel that "blind trust" is a kind of trust. In the laws of Hong Kong, there are no specific provisions on what constitutes a "blind trust". Nor are there any provisions relating to the setting up, operation or management of a blind trust. However, as the term indicates, the settlor of a "blind trust" leaves all matters concerning the investment, management and disposal of the trust assets entirely in the hands of the trustee. The trustee acts in accordance with the terms of the Trust Deed. It is an essential term of the Trust Deed that at no time and in no manner shall the trustee seek, directly or indirectly, any advice, direction or instruction from the settlor in connection with the trust assets or the management, disposition or investment thereof or act upon any advice, direction or instruction which might nevertheless be proffered by the settlor or by anyone on behalf of the settlor.

47. Some Members have raised concern about the family trusts set up by Mr Henry TANG, Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology (SCIT) and Mr Frederick MA, Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (SFST) which are different from the "blind" trusts laid down in the Code. They have questioned whether such arrangements can serve the purpose of preventing conflict of interest and maintaining public trust and confidence. They consider that POs should be required to set up blind trusts, instead of family trusts, to manage their assets.

48. Members of the CA Panel have asked about the differences between a "blind trust" and a "family trust". SCA has advised that the term "family trust" refers to a trust set up for the benefit of the settlor's spouse, children and other family members. The settlor could be one of the beneficiaries.

49. As regards the trusts set up by SCIT and SFST, SCA has advised the CA Panel that -

- (a) SCIT has transferred all of his shares in his family companies to a trust of which his father is the trustee. He has no right to give instructions to the trust or its trustee. He is not involved in the management and operation of the companies in which he has shares; and
- (b) SFST has set up a trust of which HSBC International Trustee Limited is the Trustee. Under the terms of the Trust, the Trustee has full discretionary powers in investment of the Trust assets. SFST does not participate in the decision-making of the Trust assets. The Trust holds no Hong Kong equities. No investment in Hong Kong equities is one of the investment parameters adopted by the Trustee.

50. According to SCA, CE has given due consideration to the trusts set up by SCIT and SFST and is satisfied that the arrangements are acceptable. The trust

set up by SFST is referred to as a family trust because the beneficiaries include family Members. The operation of the trust, however, is similar to that of a blind trust.

51. The arrangement adopted by SCIT to handle his interests was also raised at the ITB Panel meeting on 17 September 2002 when SCIT briefed the Panel on his work. A Member has taken the opportunity to ask SCIT whether it is more appropriate for him to transfer his shares in his family companies to a blind trust which would operate independently and at arm's length.

52. SCIT has explained that, on being appointed to the position of SCIT, he had sold all his shares in listed companies except units in Tracker Fund. Since his family companies engage in textiles and electronics are not listed companies, his shares in these companies cannot be transacted at the stock market and cannot be entrusted to any funds for management. He has fully met the stipulated requirements on declaration of registrable interests by POs under the accountability system.

Prevention of conflict of interest in participating in ExCo business

53. Members are concerned about the arrangements in place to prevent POs from participating in the business of ExCo in cases of possible conflict of interest.

54. The Administration has advised that there are no hard and fast rules on what constitutes a conflict of interest, but the following would likely be considered as having a conflict of interest -

- (a) significant personal pecuniary interests which may be materially affected by the decision of the Council;
- (b) directorship, partnership or advisory positions of companies or associations which may be materially affected by the decision of the Council;
- (c) professional positions held by Members in advising or representing any party in connection with the item under discussion; and
- (d) close or substantial interests which, if known publicly, may lead Members of the public to think that a Member's advice may well have been motivated by his or her personal interest rather than by the duty to give impartial advice.

55. The Administration has explained to Members that the Clerk to ExCo keeps the Register of Members' Interests. The ExCo Secretariat will check the registered interests against the discussion items of an ExCo meeting in ascertaining the possibility of a conflict of interest in respect of particular ExCo

Members. If considered necessary, a Member would be requested not to participate in the discussion, or the Secretariat could withhold relevant ExCo papers and minutes from the Member. The final decision on whether an ExCo Member should withdraw from the discussion of a particular item or be withheld from access to the relevant ExCo papers vests in CE.

56. The Administration has stressed that it is the personal responsibility of the individual ExCo Member to decide whether or not he or she has an interest in the matter under discussion and, if so, the Member should declare it to CE and other ExCo colleagues prior to discussion of the relevant item. The basic principle is that a Member of ExCo must tender to the CE disinterested and impartial advice. Details of Members' declarations and withdrawal from discussion at ExCo meetings are recorded in the minutes. The minutes of ExCo meetings are, however, not made public.

Secretary for Education and Manpower (SEM)'s ties with the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK)

The Code

57. There is no specific provision in the Code which governs the relationship of a PO with his previous employers. Clause 5.1 provides that POs shall avoid putting themselves in a position where they might arouse suspicion of dishonesty, unfairness or conflict of interest. Clause 5.2 requires POs to observe the principles of fairness and impartiality in discharging their duties etc. Clause 5.3 stipulates that POs shall refrain from handling cases with actual or potential conflict of interest.

Overseas experience and practice

58. In the US, only Cabinet Secretaries coming from universities are allowed to maintain no-pay leave of absences with their previous employers, i.e universities. However, they are required to formally declare their future employment arrangement by filing the Public Financial Disclosure Report (SF 278). The Office of Government Ethics is responsible for examining SF 278 to identify any potential conflicts of interests. If conflicts of interests exist, the Cabinet Secretary is required to take remedial measures to resolve the conflicts within 90 days of being sworn in.

Concerns of Members and response of the Administration

59. Some Members have expressed concern that SEM has retained his visiting professorship in CUHK after taking up the office of SEM, and whether the arrangement could give rise to concern about a conflict of interest.

60. SCA has advised the CA Panel that SEM has resigned from the position of

Vice-Chancellor of CUHK but retained his professorship. SEM has been allowed to take no pay leave by CUHK to enable him to take up the office of SEM. Since assuming the office, SEM no longer participates in the activities of the Senate of CUHK and hence in the administration of CUHK. The Administration is satisfied that the arrangement would not involve any conflict of interest on the part of SEM.

61. When the Education Panel received a briefing from SEM on his work at the meeting on 18 November 2002, a Member took the opportunity to question SEM on the issue of conflict of interest. The Member has pointed out that SEM has still retained his visiting professorship and a seat at CUHK's Senate, and has continued to receive documents regarding the business of the Senate. Moreover, SEM is allowed to live in the quarter for the Vice-Chancellor of CUHK after his resignation. The Member has questioned whether SEM would perform his role and functions as the PO in charge of education affairs in an impartial and objective manner when he maintains such a close relationship with CUHK.

62. SEM has explained that his contract with CUHK for the appointment of the Vice-Chancellor of CUHK has stipulated that he would be reinstated as Professor of Surgery, if he resigns from the position of Vice-Chancellor before the normal retirement age. He is now retaining the title but without pay. The title is an essential requirement for him to attend an international medical function scheduled for April 2003 and deliver a speech on that occasion. SEM has advised the Panel that he has written to CUHK to stop sending him any papers relating to the University.

63. On his accommodation at CUHK, SEM has clarified that CUHK has offered him a grace period of three months for living in the premises since he has taken up the appointment of SEM. After the three-month period, SEM is in a difficult position to move out from the premises due to personal reasons. CUHK has agreed that SEM could continue living in the premises by paying a monthly rental at market rate. Nevertheless, SEM would have to move out from the premises with one month's notice if requested by CUHK.

RELEVANT PAPERS

64. A list of the relevant papers and documents is in **Appendix II** for Members' easy reference. These papers/documents are available on the Research and Library Information System and the Council's web site at <http://www.legco.gov.hk>.

Part B

**Points to note when completing the form on Registration of Interests
and Affiliation with Political Parties
for Public Inspection**

- (1) The "interests" which shall be declared for public inspection include:
- (a) land and buildings (including self-occupied property);
 - (b) proprietorships, partnerships or directorships;
 - (c) shareholdings of 1% or more of the issued share capital in any company (both listed and unlisted); and
 - (d) gift, advantage, payment, sponsorship (including financial sponsorships and sponsored visits) or any material benefit received by the Principal Official or his spouse from any organization, person or government other than the Government which in any way relates to his office as Principal Official.
- (2) If the interests mentioned in (1) above are held in the name of the Principal Official's spouse, children or other persons or companies, but are actually acquired on the Principal Official's account or in which the Principal Official has a beneficial interest, they shall be declared.
- (3) For reporting information on properties under (1)(a) above, the following information shall be included:
- (a) the location (country/city/area) of the property; and
 - (b) if a property is owned through a company in which the declarant holds a beneficial interest, both the property and the company shall be reported. For example, one residential flat in the New Territories (leased) co-owned by the Principal Official and his spouse under the name of a company in which the declarant holds a beneficial interest.

- (4) The Principal Official shall declare whether he is in any way affiliated with any political party, whether he is a member of any political party and whether he holds any office in any political party. The Principal Official shall also declare if there is any change in his status in relation to any political party.
- (5) The information provided in this form will be made available for public inspection on request.
- (6) The Principal Official who reports his financial or other interests or affiliation with any political party in this form will have a right to request access to and correction of the information provided herewith. Such requests can be made to Private Secretary to Chief Executive.
- (7) This registration will be retained until five years after the Principal Official has left office.

Panel on Constitutional Affairs

Relevant Papers/Documents

LC Paper No.

Papers/Documents

Papers provided by the Administration

- CB(2)2462/01-02(01)
(issued on 29 June 2002) -- Code for Principal Officials under the Accountability System published in the Gazettee on 28 June 2002 (G.N. 3845)
- CB(2)2868/01-02(02)
(issued on 4 October 2002) -- Paper on "Declaration of interests by the Chief Executive, Members of the Executive Council and principal officials under the accountability system"
- CB(2)114/02-03(01)
(issued on 19 October 2002) -- Paper on "Declaration and Handling of Investments/Interests"

Declarations of interests made by principal officials etc

- CB(2)2679/01-02(01) - (35)
(issued on 6 August 2002) -- Declaration of interests made by CE, ExCo Members and principal officials under the accountability system
- CB(2)2679/01-02(36) - (40)
(issued on 6 August 2002) -- Curriculum vitae of the five new Directors of Bureau appointed from outside the civil service
- CB(2)2699/01-02(01)
(issued on 12 August 2002) -- Supplementary information on declaration of interests provided by Hon James TIEN as a Member of ExCo
- CB(2)97/02-03(01) - (14)
(issued on 18 October 2002) -- Updated declarations of interests made by principal officials and ExCo Members to incorporate information on company directorships and the usage of properties
- CB(2)272/02-03(01) - (19)
(issued on 5 November 2002)

Information provided by Research and Library Services Division

- IN35/01-02
(issued vide LC Paper No.
CB(2)2868/01-02 on 4 October 2002) -- Information Note on "Selected Issues Relating to Declaration of Interests and Avoidance of Conflicts of Interests by Senior Members of Government"

IN03/02-03 -- Supplementary information on "Selected Issues
(issued vide LC Paper No. Relating to Declaration of Interests and Avoidance
CB(2)114/02-03 on 19 October 2002) of Conflicts of Interests by Senior Members of
Government"

IN06/02-03 -- Supplementary information on "Selected Issues
(issued vide LC Paper No. Relating to Declaration of Interests and Avoidance
CB(2)450/02-03 on 22 November of Conflicts of Interests"
2002)

Minutes of meetings

CB(2)2845/01-02 -- Minutes of meeting of Panel on Constitutional
(issued vide LC Paper No. Affairs on 9 July 2002
CB(2)2846/01-02 on 30 September
2002)

CB(1)299/02-03 -- Minutes of meeting of Panel on Information
(issued vide LC Paper No. Technology and Broadcasting on 17 September
CB(1)310/02-03 on 15 November 2002
2002)

CB(2)379/02-03 -- Minutes of meeting of Panel on Constitutional
(issued vide LC Paper No. Affairs on 7 October 2002
CB(2)380/02-03 on 15 November
2002)

CB(2)545/02-03 -- Minutes of meeting of Panel on Constitutional
(issued vide LC Paper No. Affairs on 21 October 2002
CB(2)546/02-03 on 5 December 2002)

CB(2)627/02-03 -- Minutes of meeting of Panel on Education on
(issued vide LC Paper No. 18 November 2002
CB(2)626/02-03 on 13 December
2002)