

**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 February 2004, at 10:45 am**

**Members present:**

Hon CHAN Kwok-keung, JP (Chairman)  
Hon NG Leung-sing, JP (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon James TIEN Pei-chun, GBS, JP  
Hon Albert HO Chun-yan  
Hon Margaret NG  
Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong  
Hon Andrew WONG Wang-fat, JP  
Hon Jasper TSANG Yok-sing, GBS, JP  
Hon Howard YOUNG, SBS, JP  
Hon SZETO Wah  
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, JP  
Hon LI Fung-ying, JP  
Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung  
Hon LEUNG Fu-wah, MH, JP  
Dr Hon LO Wing-lok, JP

**Members absent:**

Dr Hon Eric LI Ka-cheung, GBS, JP  
Dr Hon David LI Kwok-po, GBS, JP  
Hon HUI Cheung-ching, JP  
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP  
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP  
Hon Henry WU King-cheong, BBS, JP  
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip  
Hon LAU Ping-cheung  
Hon MA Fung-kwok, JP

**Public Officers attending:**

Miss Elizabeth TSE, JP	Deputy Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury)
Miss Jennifer MAK, JP Mr K K LAM	Deputy Secretary for the Civil Service Principal Executive Officer (General), Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (Treasury)
Mr John Anthony MILLER, JP	Permanent Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Financial Services)
Miss AU King-chi, JP	Deputy Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Financial Services)
Mr Alan LAI, GBS, JP	Permanent Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury)
Mr LUK Nai-man, JP Miss Shirley LEUNG	Deputy Commissioner of Inland Revenue Departmental Secretary, Inland Revenue Department
Ms Ernestina WONG	Principal Assistant Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment and Transport)
Mr James CHAN	Principal Assistant Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Works)
Mr MAK Chai-kwong, JP Mr WONG Chee-keung, JP Mr Thomas YIU, JP	Director of Highways Deputy Director of Highways Deputy Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Health)
Mr Edward LAW	Principal Assistant Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Health)
Dr LAM Ping-yan, JP Mrs Jennifer LI	Director of Health Departmental Secretary, Department of Health

**Clerk in attendance:**

Miss Becky YU	Chief Council Secretary (1)1
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**Staff in attendance:**

Ms Pauline NG	Assistant Secretary General 1
Mr S C TSANG	Senior Council Secretary (1)7
Ms Caris CHAN	Senior Legislative Assistant 1
Mr Frankie WOO	Legislative Assistant 2

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Action

**EC(2003-04)16 Proposed re-organization of the directorate structure under the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau of Government Secretariat and the Inland Revenue Department with effect from 1 April 2004 to better meet government policy objectives and reflect changes in responsibilities and workload**

Members noted that the Panel on Financial Affairs was consulted on the proposal on 5 January 2004.

2. As members raised no questions on the proposal, the Chairman put the item to vote.
3. The item was voted on and endorsed.

**EC(2003-04)17 Proposed redistribution of duties and responsibilities of three Government Engineer (D2) posts and two Chief Engineer (D1) posts in the Headquarters and Regional Offices, under the charge of the Deputy Director of Highways, in the Highways Department with immediate effect to enhance operational efficiency in the light of changing demands and new initiatives**

4. Members noted that an information paper on the proposal was circulated to the Panel on Planning, Lands and Works on 17 January 2004.

5. Mr James TIEN said that Members of the Liberal Party supported the proposal. He however questioned why the establishment of the Highways Department (HyD), particularly in respect of non-directorate ranks with maximum pay point above MPS point 33 or equivalent, as set out in paragraph 20 of the paper had increased since 1 April 2001. Such an increase was at variance with the Government's policy on zero growth in the Civil Service. The Director of Highways explained that the paragraph referred to only reflected the establishment changes in HyD over the past few years. In line with the Government policy, there would be reduction in the overall establishment of HyD starting from 2004 to 2007. It was expected 30 posts would be deleted in 2004. To facilitate members' understanding, the Administration undertook to provide detailed information on the establishment changes in respect of the non-directorate posts in HyD over the period from April 2001 to January 2004.

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6. The item was voted on and endorsed.

Action

**EC(2003-04)18 Proposed creation of two permanent posts of one Controller, Centre for Health Protection (D4) in a new grade and rank and one Administrative Officer Staff Grade C (D2) with effect from 1 April 2004, to be offset by the deletion of three permanent posts of two Consultant (D4/D3/D2) and one Deputy Director of Health (D3); redeployment of some directorate posts from other divisions/offices to the Centre for Health Protection (CHP); and expansion of the duties of Assistant Director of Health (Elderly Health Services) (D2), to be retitled Assistant Director of Health (Personal Health Services) (D2) to facilitate the establishment of a CHP in the Department of Health (DH)**

7. Members noted that the Panel on Health Services was consulted on the proposal on 5 January 2004.

8. While supporting the setting up of CHP, Mr MAK Kwok-fung expressed concern that the proposed deletion of two Consultant posts in the Dental Service would affect the overall level of services. He also enquired about the policy on the development of dental service in the long run. The Director of Health (D of Health) advised that the operation of Dental Service included the provision of oral health care to the Civil Service and primary school students and curative services in dental clinics and hospitals. Consequent upon a review of the Dental Service, it was concluded that the Consultant in-charge Dental Service post and the Consultant post in the Orthodontic Service could be deleted. Given the relatively small establishment for the Orthodontic Service and the fact that contract orthodontists had all along been employed to provide the service, the proposed deletion of the Consultant post would not unduly affect the existing level of service.

9. Mr MAK Kwok-fung expressed appreciation for the initiative taken by DH in rationalizing resources without compromising the quality of service. This should set a good example for other bureaux/departments to follow suit.

10. Mr James TIEN indicated his support for the proposal. Referring to paragraph 22, Mr TIEN sought clarification on the establishment changes in both DH and the Hospital Authority as a result of the transfer of general outpatient clinics from the former to the latter in July 2003. D of Health replied that this involved the transfer of about 1 000 posts from DH to HA. To facilitate members' understanding, the Administration undertook to provide details of the establishment changes.

11. The item was voted on and endorsed.

12. The Subcommittee was adjourned at 11:00 am.

Council Business Division 1  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
25 February 2004

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