

立法會
Legislative Council

Ref : CB2/PL/HS

Panel on Health Services

Meeting on 8 December 2003

Proposal to undertake an overseas duty visit

Purpose

Members' comments are invited on a preliminary proposal for the Panel to undertake an overseas duty visit.

The proposed visit

Background

2. One of the recommendations of the SARS Expert Committee is to set up a Centre for Health Protection within the Government, which will have responsibility, authority and accountability for the prevention and control of communicable disease.

Proposed scope and objective

3. The Panel Chairman and the Deputy Chairman have suggested that the Panel conducts a visit to the United Kingdom to gain a better insight into the functions and operation of its Health Protection Agency in the following areas -

- (a) surveillance and epidemiology;
- (b) prevention and control programme;
- (c) public health laboratories;
- (d) applied research and development; and
- (e) training.

4. It is proposed that meetings will be held with the relevant parties, such as officials of the Health Protection Agency, public health officials, and relevant parliamentary committee(s).

5. Members may wish to refer to the "Fact sheet on organisations dealing with infectious disease prevention and control in selected places" prepared by the Research and Library Services Division of the Legislative Council Secretariat (*LC Paper No. CB(2)224/03-04(01) issued on 4 November 2003*) for information on the Health Protection Agency.

Proposed duration

6. It is proposed that the visit will be conducted in early April 2004, say, from 3 to 9 April.

Size and composition

7. The broad guidelines are that members of the Panel should have priority in participating in the visit, and the delegation should be of a manageable size in order not to create difficulties in logistical arrangements. Non-Panel members may join a duty visit outside Hong Kong with the consent of the Panel.

Funding

8. As approved by The Legislative Council Commission on 20 February 2001, each Member (except the President) is provided with an overseas duty visit account of \$61,000 for the purpose of duty visits outside Hong Kong organised by committees, other than the Parliamentary Liaison Committee, of the Council. The fund in the account is for use by the Member in a four-year term. Any expenditure incurred in one term in excess of \$61,000 has to be paid by the Member personally.

The way forward

9. Subject to members' agreement in principle for the Panel to undertake the visit to the Health Protection Agency of the United Kingdom, the Secretariat will proceed with the preparatory work, and report to and consult the Panel on further progress as appropriate.