

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. AS241/07-08

Ref: AM 12/01/19

**Subcommittee on Members' Remuneration
and Operating Expenses Reimbursement**

**Opinion survey results on sharing of offices and staff
between LegCo and non-LegCo business**

Purpose

This paper seeks the Subcommittee's advice on the conclusions drawn from the opinion survey results on the shared use of Members' offices and staff between LegCo and non-LegCo business.

Background

2. In response to a recommendation of the compliance auditor appointed by The Legislative Council Commission, the Subcommittee conducted a survey, vide LC Paper No. AS230/07-08, to ascertain LegCo Members' views on the question of whether Members' offices and staff should be completely segregated from non-LegCo business and whether verifiable records should be maintained to justify the reimbursed portion of such shared expenses.

Survey results

3. By 16 June 2008, 53 Members responded to the survey. The views expressed are summarized below.

- (a) On the use of a Member's offices and staff,
 - (i) over 66% of the respondents opined that sharing with private or commercial business should not be allowed; and
 - (ii) about 90% of the respondents opined that sharing with organizations related to a Member's functional constituency or offices for District Council business should be allowed.

- (b) On the premise that shared use of a Member's office and staff between LegCo and non-LegCo business is allowed,
 - (i) only 40% of the respondents agreed that time sheets or time logs should be maintained, while over 45% disagreed; and
 - (ii) about 66% of the respondents, including some who agreed that time sheets or time logs should be kept, considered the present apportionment basis of relying on the Member's estimation adequate.

4. The questionnaire with a detailed breakdown of Members' responses is in the **Appendix**.

Advice sought

5. The Subcommittee's advice is sought on the following conclusions drawn from the results of the opinion survey:

- (a) Sharing of a Member's offices and staff with organizations related to a Member's functional constituency or offices for District Council business should be allowed; and
- (b) The present apportionment basis of relying on the Member's estimation is adequate.

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Subcommittee on Members' Remuneration and Operating Expenses Reimbursement

Opinion survey results on sharing of offices and staff between LegCo and non-LegCo business

Questions	Yes	No	No Comment
1. Should sharing of a Member's office and/or staff with the following parties (or for the following purposes) be allowed?			
(a) any private/commercial business	16 + 1 (i.r.o. staff)	35 + 1 (i.r.o. office)	1
(b) organizations related to the functional constituency that the Member represents	46	7	0
(c) the District Council office of the Member and/or other District Council Member(s)	50	2	1
2. If shared use of a Member's office and staff is allowed, should the following records be maintained?			
(a) time sheets or time logs for staff serving both LegCo and non-LegCo business (Please see Attachment to LC Paper No. AS230/07-08 for a sample time sheet.)	21	25	7
(b) time logs for shared rooms occasionally used by a Member's office (e.g. meeting rooms in a shared office) (Note: At present, the Reimbursement Guide requires that a floor plan demarcating areas dedicated to LegCo and non-LegCo business be submitted to justify the office rent shared.)	21	24	8
(c) no additional records are required, the present practice of relying on the Member's estimation is adequate	35	11	7