

**Extract from the minutes of the
House Committee meeting on 15 October 2004**

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XII. Proposals to set up the following subcommittees -

(b) Subcommittee to consider a mechanism for handling complaints and allegations concerning Members' Operating Expenses Reimbursement claims

104. Ms Emily LAU said that a subcommittee was set up under the House Committee in December 2003 to consider a mechanism to handle complaints and allegations concerning improper use of OER. At the House Committee meeting on 18 June 2004, Members agreed to the Subcommittee's recommendation that the need to establish a mechanism for handling complaints and allegations relating to Members' OER claims be further considered in the third LegCo term.

105. Ms LAU further said that as there had been some more complaints and allegations relating to Members' OER claims in recent months, a subcommittee should be formed again to continue to study a mechanism for handling such complaints and allegations.

106. Mr Abraham SHEK asked whether such a mechanism, if established, could handle and investigate complaints relating to the misuse of OER in previous terms.

107. Ms Emily LAU suggested that the issue be considered by the proposed subcommittee. Ms LAU clarified that the proposed subcommittee was not to formulate new rules on Members' OER claims, as there were already established guidelines. The subcommittee would focus on considering a mechanism for handling complaints and allegations relating to Members' OER claims.

108. The Chairman proposed that a subcommittee to consider a mechanism for handling complaints and allegations relating to Members' OER claims be formed. Members agreed. The Chairman said that the LegCo Secretariat would issue a circular to invite Members to join the subcommittee.

109. The Chairman advised that when deciding whether to join the subcommittee, Members should have regard to the need to ensure that the membership was balanced and broadly representative of the membership of the Council.

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