

Panel on Constitutional Affairs

**Research studies relating to the portfolio of the Panel undertaken by the
Research and Library Services Division**

No. of Research Paper (RP)/ Information Note (IN)/ Fact Sheet (FS)	Subject	Major issues covered
I. Political System		
RP03-09/99-00	Systems of Government in Some Foreign Countries (Singapore, New Zealand, Germany, United Kingdom (UK), Japan, France and United States (US))	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- election/appointment of the Executive;- election/appointment of the Legislature;- relationship between the Executive and the Legislature; and- other features of political participation, e.g. referendum, constitutional assembly and political parties, etc.
RP10/99-00	Systems of Government in Some Foreign Countries : The Overall Comparison Table	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- composition and characteristics of the Legislature;- dissolution of Parliament;- role of Parliament in appointment of the Executive;- ministerial responsibility to Parliament;- initiation of legislation;- regulation of political party;- recent electoral reform; and- amendments of constitution.
IN05/99-00	Supplementary Information : Systems of Government in Some Foreign Countries (RP03-10/99-00)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- general election following dissolution of Parliament;- number of UK ministers resigned or dismissed between 1980 and 2000 as a result of taking individual responsibility; and- monitoring of Administration by Parliament.

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RP05/01-02	Process of Appointment of Senior Members of Government in Selected Countries (UK, US and Singapore)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - qualification of senior members of government; - routes to senior members of government; - appointment process; - pay and benefits; - terms of appointment; - conflict of interest; and - removal of senior members of government.
RP01/02-03	The Relationship between the Government and the Opposition or Minority Parties in Selected Places (UK, New Zealand and US)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - recognition of opposition parties; - parliamentary rules relating to opposition parties; and - shadow cabinet system.
RP05/03-04	The Regulatory Framework of Political Parties in Germany, the United Kingdom, New Zealand, and Singapore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - modes of regulatory framework; - registration requirements; - proscription of political parties; - regulation of selection of candidates for election; - rules on party operations; and - other related rules such as broadcasting rules and anti-defection rules.
IN11/03-04	The Selection of Head of State and Head of Government in Selected Places (France, Germany, US, UK, Singapore, New Jersey of US and Scotland of UK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - information about the selection of head of state and head of government in the selected places.
IN16/03-04	Functional Representation in Ireland, Slovenia and France	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - how functional interests are represented in the upper chamber of the legislatures in Ireland and Slovenia; and

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - how various social and economic interests are represented in the Economic and Social Council, which is not part of the French legislature, but a consultative body with constitutional basis.
II. Declaration of interests/post-office restrictions		
RP02/99-00	Declaration of Interests by Senior Civil Servants in Some Overseas Countries (UK, US, Australia, Singapore and Japan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - practices governing declaration of interests made by senior civil servants, including the declaration procedure and the control mechanisms.
RP02/01-02	Restrictions on Activities of Former Heads of Government and Former Senior Members of Government (France, UK, US, California of US and Ontario of Canada)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - general principles underlying post-office arrangements; - arrangements applicable to former heads of government and former senior members of government; and - enforcement mechanisms.
IN09/01-02	Supplementary Information : Restrictions on Activities of Former Heads of Government and Former Senior Members of Government (RP02/01-02)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - terms of office and condition of service of members of authorities relating to post-office restrictions; - restrictions for former senior members of government on accepting appointments of public office; - post-office restrictions and benefits for former heads of government; - post-office restrictions and benefits for former ministers/political appointees/elected officials; and - post-office restrictions and benefits for former senior civil servants.
IN21/01-02	Supplementary Information : Post-Office Restrictions on Activities of Government Officials in the People's Republic of China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - information regarding restrictions on activities of former members of government in the People's Republic of China equivalent in rank to the Chief Executive.

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IN35/01-02	Selected Issues Relating to Declaration of Interests and Avoidance of Conflicts of Interests by Senior Members of Government (US and UK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - declaration of interests; - procedures to avoid conflicts of interests; - operation of blind trusts; and - operation of British Virgin Island Companies.
IN03/02-03	Supplementary Information on Selected Issues Relating to Declaration of Interests and Avoidance of Conflicts of Interests by Senior Members of Government (IN35/01-02)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - declaration of interests of presidential appointees in the US and ministers in the UK; - penalties for violation of the declaration requirement in the US; - difference in the system of declaration of interests for ministers and Members of Parliament in the UK; and - family trusts.
IN06/02-03	Supplementary Information on Selected Issues Relating to Declaration of Interests and Avoidance of Conflicts of Interests (US)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - restrictions for cabinet secretaries reverting to their professions after stepping down from office; - appointment of cabinet secretaries from the private sector by way of no-pay leave arrangements; - arrangements made by the former US President Jimmy Carter in managing his family business during his presidency; - the Presidents Records Act; and - comparison of the requirements applicable to members of the US Congress and senior members of the government in respect of declaration of interests.
III. Electoral matters		
IN31/01-02	Legislative Council Elections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - constitutional framework; - electoral arrangements;

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - elector/voter; - qualification for candidacy; - nomination and election deposit; and - election expenses and donations.
IN09/02-03	Public Subsidies for Parliamentary Election Expenses in Canada, Germany and Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - basic information on public subsidies for parliamentary election expenses, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - eligibility; - entitlement; - election expenses limits; - payment arrangement; - disclosure of election expenses; - tax credit and aid in-kind; and - election deposit.
IN17/02-03	Supplementary Information on Public Subsidies for Parliamentary Election Expenses in Canada, Germany and Australia (IN09/02-03)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - limits on election expenses; - limits on donations; and - allocation of broadcasting time to candidates and political parties.
IN28/02-03	Donation Declaration Systems for Political Parties in the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - acceptance of donations; - definition of party donation; and - donation reporting requirements.
RP04/03-04	Operation of Electoral Regulatory Bodies in Selected Places (UK, Australia, New Zealand and the State of New Jersey of US)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - statutory status, functions and power; - chairmanship and membership; - staffing arrangement and funding arrangement; - mechanisms for conducting public consultation on electoral affairs;

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - types of activities supervised; and - monitoring mechanisms of the regulatory bodies.
IN09/03-04	Regulatory Arrangements for Major Election-related Activities at Parliamentary General Elections in Selected Places (RP04/03-04)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - definition of election expenses and period under regulation; - distribution and display of election advertisement; and - other major electoral activities supervised by the Electoral Affairs Commission in Hong Kong.
IN12/03-04	Practices of Voter Registration in Selected Overseas Jurisdictions (Australia, Canada and UK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - practices of voter registration, particularly on the time gap between the deadline for application for voter registration and polling day in a parliamentary general election.
IV. Other issues		
RP10/00-01	Parliamentary Handling of Non-Ordinary Bills (UK and France)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - legislative procedures for motion of censure in France; - legislative procedure for other non-ordinary bills in France; and - legislative procedures for motion of censure in UK.
IN26/01-02	Some Basic Information on Constitutional Conventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - nature of constitutional conventions; - difference between law and constitutional conventions; - functions, source, establishment and codification of constitutional conventions.
RP06/02-03	Chairmanship of Parliamentary Committees in Some Selected Places (UK, New Zealand, Ontario of Canada and California of US)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - types and functions of committees; - membership of committees; - role of chairmen of committees;

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - method of selecting committee chairman; - allocation of committee chairmanships; - chairmanship of committees concerning rules of procedures; and - restrictions on chairmanship of committees.
IN02/03-04	Supplementary Information on the Operation of Committees on Bills in the United Kingdom Parliament	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the operation of Standing Committees on bills; - the operation of Second Reading Committees, and - the operation of Select Committees.
FS06/03-04	Information on Code of Practice/Guideline on Public Consultation in Selected Places (UK, Canada, and Western Australia)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - issuing authority, objective, background and content of code/guideline on public consultation.