

Bills Committee on Interception of Communications and Surveillance Bill

List of issues awaiting the Administration's response

Legal professional privilege

1. to consider the feasibility of providing in the Bill that if in the course of a duly authorised interception of communications or surveillance operation, certain communications were found to be subject to legal professional privilege, the interception or surveillance should stop immediately (*raised at the meeting on 12 April 2006*);
2. to clarify the meaning of “intercept a private communication” in section 186(2) of the Canadian Criminal Code, to consider prohibiting authorisation of interception or surveillance of communications at a lawyer’s office or residence unless there were reasonable grounds to believe that the lawyer was a party to an offence, and to provide the draft Committee Stage amendments (*raised at the meeting on 12 April 2006*);
3. to explain how postal interception and covert surveillance products would be used by the prosecutor to carry out his duty to ensure a fair trial in a proceeding, and to provide the draft Committee Stage amendments in respect of use and destruction of products protected by legal professional privilege (*raised at the meeting on 12 April 2006*);

Scope of the term “public security”

4. to reconsider providing a definition for public security and explain what constituted “public” in the term “public security”, including whether national security and risks with no direct relevance to Hong Kong would be covered (*raised at the meeting on 19 April 2006*);
5. to consider restricting matters which threatened public security to those which could ultimately lead to or result in serious crimes, such as “terrorist act” as defined in the United Nations (Anti-Terrorism Measures) Ordinance (*raised at the meeting on 19 April 2006*);

6. to advise who would determine whether a matter would threaten public security and the criteria to be adopted in such determination (*raised at the meeting on 19 April 2006*);
7. to advise on the scope of the exclusion provision for the term “public security” to be proposed by the Administration and provide the draft wording (*raised at the meeting on 19 April 2006*);

Scope of the term “serious crime”

8. to consider providing an exclusion provision for the term “serious crime” in the Bill (*raised at the meeting on 19 April 2006*); and

Appointment of panel judges

9. to consult the Judiciary on the suggestion that panel judges should be appointed by the Chief Justice instead of the Chief Executive (*raised at the meeting on 19 April 2006*).

Council Business Division 2

Legislative Council Secretariat

24 April 2006