

立法會
Legislative Council

Ref : CB2/SS/5/05

LC Paper No. CB(2)2551/05-06
(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Subcommittee on Security and Guarding Services (Fees)
(Amendment) Regulation 2006

Minutes of the first meeting
held on Thursday, 8 June 2006 at 2:30 pm
in Conference Room B of the Legislative Council Building

- Members present** : Hon KWONG Chi-kin (Chairman)
Hon LEE Cheuk-yan
Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon LAU Kong-wah, JP
Hon LI Fung-ying, BBS, JP
- Members absent** : Hon CHAN Yuen-han, JP
Hon WONG Kwok-hing, MH
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
- Public Officers attending** : Ms Manda CHAN
Principal Assistant Secretary (Security) A
- Ms Angela CHIU
Superintendent (Licensing Office)
- Mr Edmond WONG
Chief Inspector (Licensing Office)
- Ms Carmen CHU
Senior Government Counsel
- Ms Amy WONG
Assistant Secretary for Security
- Clerk in attendance** : Miss Flora TAI
Chief Council Secretary (2)2

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Staff in attendance : Miss Anita HO
Assistant Legal Adviser 2

Ms Joanne MAK
Senior Council Secretary (2)2

Miss Vivian POON
Council Secretary (2)3

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I. Election of Chairman

Mr KWONG Chi-kin was elected Chairman of the Subcommittee.

II. Meeting with the Administration

[LegCo Brief: SEC 9/6/11, LC Paper Nos. LS72/05-06, CB(2)2124/04-05(01), CB(2)2285/05-06(01) & (02)]

2. The Subcommittee deliberated (index of proceedings attached at **Annex**).
3. Principal Assistant Secretary (Security) A (PAS(S)A) explained that the fee proposals were based on the policy of full cost recovery. For the various security company licences (licences), the downward fee adjustments were attributable to the decrease in costs. For example, the removal of the Security Companies Inspection Unit from commercial premises to the Police Headquarters in August 2004 had resulted in lower office accommodation cost.
4. On the increase in the cost for the issue and renewal of the security personnel permits (permits), PAS(S)A informed the Subcommittee that the main increase was in staff costs. She said that the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) had conducted a review in 2000 on the issue of permits and made a series of recommendations for the purpose of corruption prevention. The recommendations included assigning more senior police and clerical officers to conduct supervisory and random checks in respect of applications submitted by applicants who had record of criminal conviction(s), and before permits were to be issued. The Police Licensing Office (PLO) had adopted the recommendations and had increased the number of higher-ranked clerical officers and the number of supervisory checks performed, which had resulted in an increase in staff costs. She added that PLO had already implemented efficiency measures and streamlined procedures to maintain costs at a reasonable level.
5. Members present objected to the proposed increase of permit fees mainly on the following grounds –

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- (a) the measures taken to tighten up the vetting process seemed to be unnecessary because it was questionable whether anyone would resort to bribery in order to get such a low-pay job as that of security guards;
- (b) while the Administration said that the job of security guards was very important and considered it necessary to conduct stringent vetting of applications for the permits, the low salary level of security guards had failed to reflect such high importance attached to the job;
- (c) it would be unfair to require the security personnel who were low-income employees to bear the increase in cost and to increase their financial burden.

6. After discussion, PAS(S)A said that the Administration would carefully consider members' views and examine whether the increase of permit fees should proceed. The Chairman requested the Administration to provide a written reply for circulation to members. He said that if the Administration decided to proceed with the proposed increase, the Administration would need to provide a detailed cost analysis for the Subcommittee to consider whether there was room for cost compression at a future meeting.

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7. Members agreed that if the Administration decided not to increase the permit fees, and subject to members' confirmation, it would not be necessary for the Subcommittee to conduct further discussion on the Amendment Regulation. Members further agreed that the Chairman would move a motion at the Council meeting on 21 June 2006 to extend the scrutiny period of the Amendment Regulation to 12 July 2006. Members noted that if the scrutiny period was extended, the deadline for giving notice to amend the Amendment Regulation would be 5 July 2006.

8. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 3:00 pm.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
26 June 2006

**Proceedings of the first meeting of the
Subcommittee on Security and Guarding Services (Fees)
(Amendment) Regulation 2006
on Thursday, 8 June 2006 at 2:30 pm
in Conference Room B of the Legislative Council Building**

Time Marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
000000 - 000435	Mr LEE Cheuk-yan Ms LI Fung-ying Mr KWONG Chi-kin	Election of Chairman	
000436 - 002753	Chairman Admin Ms LI Fung-ying Mr LEE Cheuk-yan	Factors contributing to the decrease in the cost for the issue of various security company licences and to the increase in the cost for the issue of security personnel permits (permits), and members' views on the proposed increase in permit fees	
002754 - 002853	Chairman Clerk	Undertaking of the Administration to examine whether the increase of permit fees should proceed, and the legislative timetable	Admin to revert and the Chairman to move a motion at the Council meeting on 21 June 2006 to extend the scrutiny period of the Amendment Regulation (paras. 6 & 7 of the minutes)

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
26 June 2006