

The Committee noted that the Audit Commission had conducted a review on the operation and training of the Civil Aid Service (CAS).

2. The Committee did not hold any public hearing on this subject. Instead, the Committee asked for written response to its enquiries.

3. The Committee noted with concern from paragraph 5.5 of the Director of Audit's Report that the average usage rate of the four training centres (namely, the CAS Headquarters in Causeway Bay, the CAS Hong Kong Training Centre in Causeway Bay, the CAS Kowloon Training Centre in Kowloon City and the CAS Cadet Training Centre in Hung Hom) was only 23%. It also noted from paragraph 5.7(a) that the CAS would return the CAS Kowloon Training Centre and the CAS Cadet Training Centre to the Government Property Agency (GPA) in mid-2006 upon the reprovisioning of the CAS Headquarters to the West Kowloon Reclamation. Given that the usage rate of the morning session of the CAS Hong Kong Training Centre in Causeway Bay was only 4%, the Committee asked:

- about the measures that would be taken by the CAS to increase the usage of the CAS Hong Kong Training Centre; and
- whether the CAS would consider returning the CAS Hong Kong Training Centre to the GPA in view of its low usage; if not, the reasons for retaining it.

4. The **Chief Staff Officer, CAS**, responded to the Committee's enquiries in his letter of 12 December 2005, in *Appendix 30*. The Committee took note of the information provided therein.