

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BRIEF

Census and Statistics Ordinance (Chapter 316)

CENSUS AND STATISTICS (2006 POPULATION CENSUS) ORDER

INTRODUCTION

At the meeting of the Executive Council on 6 December 2005, the Council ADVISED and the Chief Executive ORDERED that the Census and Statistics (2006 Population Census) Order (“the Order”), at the **Annex**, should be made under section 9 of the Census and Statistics Ordinance (“the Ordinance”) (Chapter 316), to direct the Commissioner for Census and Statistics to take a general population by-census for Hong Kong in 2006.

JUSTIFICATIONS

2. In accordance with section 9 of the Ordinance, an order is required to render statutory backing for conducting the 2006 Population By-census. The data topics to be collected in the By-census are specified in the schedule under the Order. In drawing up this list of data topics, the Census and Statistics Department (“C&SD”) had consulted relevant policy bureaux and Government departments, as well as non-Government organisations including academic institutions and organisations engaged in social and economic research.

3. Preparatory work for the 2006 Population By-census has been proceeding smoothly. A Pilot Survey has been conducted in July to August 2005 to test out the questionnaire and operational arrangements. Other work in progress includes development of the data processing systems and arrangements for staff recruitment, training and operational support.

4. As in previous censuses and by-censuses, strict procedures will be implemented in the 2006 Population By-census to ensure that all information collected on individual persons and households will be handled

in strict confidence for protecting data privacy. Only statistics from which individual identity cannot be revealed will be released. The completed questionnaires containing data on individual persons and households will all be destroyed not later than one year from the commencement date of the By-census.

THE ORDER

5. The main provisions of the Order are to specify the dates for taking the 2006 Population By-census, the persons and premises in respect of which particulars are to be obtained, the purpose of the By-census, persons who are required to give the information, and the dates for destroying the completed questionnaires. A schedule specifying the matters in respect of which particulars are required to be given by the respondents is also included in the Order.

LEGISLATIVE TIMETABLE

6. The legislative timetable is as follows-

Publication in the Gazette	16 December 2005
Tabling at the Legislative Council for negative vetting	21 December 2005

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSAL

7. The proposal is in conformity with the Basic Law, including the provisions concerning human rights. The Order does not affect the binding effect of the Ordinance. The proposal has no productivity or environmental implications.

FINANCIAL AND CIVIL SERVICE IMPLICATIONS

8. The total expenditure (excluding data processing expenditure) for conducting the 2006 Population By-census over a four-year period from 2004-2005 to 2007-2008 is about \$110 million. The necessary provision has been included in the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury's

Operating Expenditure Envelope. As to expenditure for data processing, the amount is estimated to be about \$30 million. The funding has been approved by the Finance Committee in June 2004.

9. For the purposes of taking the 2006 Population By-census, C&SD has established a By-census project team comprising mainly statistical, administrative, clerical and field staff. The number of additional posts required varies in different stages of the project, with a peak of about 70 nearer and during the By-census period. Upon completion of the By-census, these posts will lapse. About 60 civil servants will be posted to the project team through internal deployment within C&SD and temporary staff reinforcement from the General Grades Office. About 10 statistical professional/sub-professional staff will also be employed on non-civil service contract terms and they will leave upon completion of contract.

10. Apart from the By-census project team, about 5 000 temporary field workers, mainly school teachers and post-secondary students, will be recruited by C&SD. The objectives of employing school teachers and post-secondary students are to ensure a secured and stable supply of manpower, to enhance effectiveness of fieldwork, to increase public confidence and to bring about a civic education effect for the younger generation. Open recruitment of temporary field workers is not practicable because the drop-out rate of open recruits is high owing to the time lag of about six months between recruitment and operation. Yet for temporary positions for indoor work, they will be filled through open recruitment because the time lag between recruitment and operation is much shorter owing to the fact that the training to be provided to the recruits is simpler.

ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

11. The 2006 Population By-census will provide comprehensive and useful population and household related information to the Government as well as other agencies for planning and policy making purposes and to the business community for formulating business strategies, which will benefit Hong Kong as a whole.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

12. The 2006 Population By-census per se would have no direct sustainability implications. However, the data when available would

provide essential information for policy formulation and services planning.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

13. C&SD had consulted relevant policy bureaux and Government departments, as well as non-Government organisations, including relevant faculties and departments in academic institutions, on various aspects of the 2006 Population By-census, in particular on the data collection period and the list of data topics. Apart from this, the Statistics Advisory Board¹ has also been consulted on the subject all along. Consultation will continue throughout the planning period so as to ensure that the project can be completed smoothly.

PUBLICITY

14. A publicity campaign will be launched around ten weeks before the commencement of the 2006 Population By-census in tandem with a press conference to enhance public confidence and co-operation which are essential to the collection of accurate data. We shall highlight in our publicity campaign the importance of the By-census and its benefits to the overall development of Hong Kong, and the measures that Government will take to protect data privacy so as to solicit wider public support for the project. Additional media sessions will be held where appropriate during the campaign period to publicise various related activities and to address concerns raised.

BACKGROUND

15. It has been an established practice in Hong Kong since 1961 to conduct a population census every ten years and a by-census in the middle of the intercensal period. The aim of conducting population censuses and by-censuses is to obtain up-to-date benchmark information on the socio-economic characteristics of the population and on its geographical distribution. They provide benchmark data for studying the direction and trend of population changes. The data are key inputs for making

¹ The Statistics Advisory Board is a non-statutory advisory body which advises the Commissioner for Census and Statistics on matters pertaining to official statistics work. Chaired by the Commissioner, it comprises ten non-official members and three official members. The composition of non-official members offers a balanced representation from businesses, the academia and the community.

projections concerning population, household, labour force and employment.

16. The 2006 Population By-census will comprise an enquiry on the detailed socio-economic characteristics of one-tenth of the households in Hong Kong. Enumerators will visit the sampled households during 15 July to 1 August 2006 and call upon all members therein to complete the questionnaires. The size and characteristics of the entire population are inferred from the sample results in accordance with appropriate statistical theory.

ENQUIRIES

17. Enquiries on this brief can be directed to Ms. Cora HO, Principal Assistant Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Financial Services) at 2527 3903 or Miss K L CHAN, Assistant Commissioner for Census and Statistics (Social) at 2582 4801.

Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau
13 December 2005

CENSUS AND STATISTICS (2006 POPULATION CENSUS) ORDER

(Made by the Chief Executive in Council under section 9
of the Census and Statistics Ordinance (Cap. 316))

1. Census to be taken

(1) The Commissioner shall take a census of population (referred to in this Order as “the census”) from 15 July to 1 August 2006 (both dates inclusive) to obtain particulars of –

- (a) persons dwelling in Hong Kong other than –
 - (i) naval, military or air force personnel; and
 - (ii) subject to paragraph (b), persons dwelling on board any vessel;
- (b) persons dwelling on board any vessel in Hong Kong other than –
 - (i) any vessel for the time being used by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region;
 - (ii) any warship; or
 - (iii) any ship for the time being used by the Central People’s Government or the Government of any foreign state;
- (c) premises in Hong Kong which are not a vessel and are occupied by any person for dwelling purposes, and households in any such premises; and
- (d) vessels on board of which persons dwelling are subject to census under paragraph (b), and households on board any such vessel.

(2) In this section –
“premises” (處所) includes any staircase, corridor and any unsheltered place;

“vessel” (船隻) means any ship, boat or other description of vessel, whether or not it is used in navigation or constructed or adapted for use in navigation.

2. Purpose of census

The purpose of the census is to obtain information on the demographic, social and economic characteristics of the population of Hong Kong at the time of the taking of the census.

3. Sampling methods may be used

The Commissioner may use sampling methods for the collection of information relevant to the census.

4. Occupants to give particulars of matters specified in the Schedule

Each person aged 15 or above occupying any premises subject to census under section 1(1)(c) or dwelling on board any vessel subject to census under section 1(1)(d) shall, for the purpose of the census, give to the Commissioner particulars of the matters specified in the Schedule in respect of –

- (a) himself, the premises or the vessel and the household in such premises or on board such vessel; and
- (b) any person –
 - (i) who occupies the premises or dwells on board the vessel; and
 - (ii) who is –
 - (A) aged below 15 under his guardianship; or
 - (B) unable to give such particulars by reason of sickness, disablement, absence or other sufficient cause.

5. Deadline for destroying the schedules

The Commissioner shall destroy all completed schedules collected or received by census officers for the census, and all copies of the schedules, not later than 14 July 2007.

SCHEDULE

[s. 4]

MATTERS IN RESPECT OF WHICH PARTICULARS ARE TO BE OBTAINED

A. In the case of persons

Year and month of birth

Sex

Whether a member of the household

Relationship to other members of the household

Whereabouts at 3:00 a.m. on 14 July 2006 (“census reference moment”)

Whether usually living at the same premises or on board the same vessel during the 6-month period preceding the census reference moment

Whether expecting to be usually living at the same premises or on board the same vessel during the 6-month period following the census reference moment

If not a member of the household, whether living at another premises in Hong Kong or on board another vessel in Hong Kong

Place of birth

Nationality

Ethnicity

Duration of residence in Hong Kong

Whether Hong Kong Permanent Resident, ordinarily resides in
Hong Kong or visitor

Number of months in Hong Kong in the past 6 months

Number of months expected to be in Hong Kong in the next 6
months

If not usually living in Hong Kong, reason for usually living
outside Hong Kong

Marital status

School attendance

Educational attainment –

highest level attended

highest level completed

Place of study

Mode of transport to place of study

Field of education

Usual language

Ability to speak other languages/dialects

Place of residence 5 years ago

Economic activity status

Industry

Occupation

Place of work

Mode of transport to place of work

Earnings from main employment

Whether having secondary employment

Earnings from secondary employment

Cash income from rent

Other cash income

Whether owner of premises

B. In the case of households

Type of household
Household size
Household composition
Household income

C. In the case of premises other than vessels

Type of premises
Occupancy of premises
Number of households in premises
Number of occupants in premises
Type of accommodation
Number of living/dining rooms
Number of bedrooms
Number of kitchens
Number of bathrooms/toilets
Number of other rooms
Tenure of accommodation
Rent
Rates, Government rent and management fee
Mortgage payment
Outstanding mortgage or loan period

D. In the case of vessels

Type of vessel
Occupancy of vessel
Number of households on board vessel
Number of occupants on board vessel

Clerk to the Executive Council

COUNCIL CHAMBER

2005

Explanatory Note

This Order directs the Commissioner for Census and Statistics to carry out a census of population of Hong Kong in 2006 to obtain particulars of matters relating to persons dwelling, and households based, on land or on any vessel described in the Order.