

**Follow-up to Establishment Subcommittee  
meeting on 28 November 2007**

**Proposed creation of 24 positions under the Political Appointment  
System and remuneration for these positions**

In response to the letter of 28 November 2007 from the Clerk to the Establishment Subcommittee (“ESC”), this note provides more information on the use of public resources by officials under the Political Appointment System.

2. As set out in the ESC paper for discussion on 28 November 2007 (EC(2007-08)11), we propose to create 24 non-civil service positions under the Political Appointment System. These 24 positions comprise 11 Under Secretary positions and 13 Political Assistant positions. All politically appointed officials are subject to the provisions in the “Code for Officials under the Political Appointment System” (“the Code”).

3. The Code provides, among other things, that officials under the Political Appointment System may be a member of any political party and may take part in activities organised by political parties. To ensure transparency, politically appointed officials are required to declare to the Government whether they are in any way affiliated with any political party. The declaration will be made available for public inspection. When taking part in activities organised by political parties, politically appointed officials should ensure that their participation in such activities is not in conflict with the business of the Government or their official duties, and that it will not cause any embarrassment to the Government.

4. The Code has set out the basic principles which politically appointed officials shall follow in the performance of their duties. One of the principles is that they “shall not use any public resources for non-government purposes (including purposes relating to any political party)”.

5. In addition, the guidelines issued by the Electoral Affairs Commission have also required that, whilst officials under the Political

Appointment System may, subject to the relevant guidelines, participate in election-related activities, they should not use any public resources for any election-related activities.

6. The provisions for the remuneration of the politically appointed officials and the departmental expenses incurred by them are included in the annual Estimates in the same way as other similar expenses of the relevant bureaux or offices. The use of such resources is subject to the same financial rules and procedures applicable to government expenditure in general.

Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau  
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