

**The Administration's response to the request for information by
the Legislative Council Panel on Public Service
at the meeting held on 19 November 2007 on
the implementation of five-day week in the Government**

At the Panel meeting held on 19 November 2007, the Administration undertook to provide information regarding the number of applications and the expenditure involved of the civil service training sponsorship schemes before and after the implementation of the five-day week work pattern, so as to facilitate comparison between the situation of civil servants pursuing learning to enhance their knowledge, personal effectiveness and qualifications before and after the five-day week was introduced.

2. Since April 2005, junior and middle ranking civil servants who wish to enhance their knowledge, personal effectiveness and qualifications may apply to join the training sponsorship schemes to pursue learning through external courses. Phase one of the five-day week initiative started on 1 July 2006. The number of approved applications under the training sponsorship schemes and the expenditure for the years 2005/06 to 2007/08 are as follows:

Year	Number of approved applications	Expenditure (HK\$million)
2005/06	449	0.49
2006/07	732	3.22
2007/08 ¹	780	5.39

Civil Service Bureau
December 2007

¹ Projected figures. Starting from April 2007, we have lifted the sponsorship ceiling for frontline staff and junior ranking civil servants from HK\$2,000 to HK\$6,000.