

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

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**Finance Committee of the Legislative Council**

**Minutes of the 9th meeting  
held at the Legislative Council Chamber  
on Friday, 16 January 2009, at 2:30 pm**

**Members present:**

Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP (Chairman)  
Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, SBS, S.B.St.J., JP  
Hon LEE Cheuk-yan  
Dr Hon David LI Kwok-po, GBM, GBS, JP  
Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong  
Hon CHAN Kam-lam, SBS, JP  
Hon Mrs Sophie LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, GBS, JP  
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung  
Dr Hon Philip WONG Yu-hong, GBS  
Hon Miriam LAU Kin-ye, GBS, JP  
Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo  
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP  
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, SBS, JP  
Hon LI Fung-ying, BBS, JP  
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip  
Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, SBS, JP  
Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee, SC, JP  
Hon Vincent FANG Kang, SBS, JP  
Hon WONG Kwok-hing, MH  
Hon LEE Wing-tat  
Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, SBS, JP  
Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen, SBS, JP  
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC  
Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming, SBS, JP  
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, BBS  
Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC  
Hon CHIM Pui-chung

Hon KAM Nai-wai, MH  
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan  
Hon Starry LEE Wai-king  
Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai, BBS, JP  
Hon CHAN Hak-kan  
Hon Paul CHAN Mo-po, MH, JP  
Hon CHAN Kin-por, JP  
Hon Tanya CHAN  
Dr Hon LEUNG Ka-lau  
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che  
Hon WONG Kwok-kin, BBS  
Hon IP Wai-ming, MH  
Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP  
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-ye, GBS, JP  
Dr Hon PAN Pey-chyou  
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun  
Dr Hon Samson TAM Wai-ho, JP

**Members absent:**

Prof Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon Albert HO Chun-yan  
Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, JP  
Dr Hon Margaret NG  
Hon James TO Kun-sun  
Hon WONG Yung-kan, SBS, JP  
Hon LAU Kong-wah, JP  
Hon LAU Wong-fat, GBM, GBS, JP  
Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, GBS, JP  
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, SBS, JP  
Dr Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, JP  
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung  
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun  
Hon WONG Sing-chi  
Hon WONG Yuk-man

**Public officers attending:**

Professor K C CHAN, SBS, JP	Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury
Mr Stanley YING, JP	Permanent Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury)
Ms Bernadette LINN, JP	Deputy Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury) 1

Ms Elsie YUEN	Principal Executive Officer (General), Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (The Treasury Branch)
Mr SO Kam-shing, JP	Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (3)
Miss Polly KWOK Wai-ling	Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs (Culture) 2
Mr CHUNG Ling-hoi, JP	Deputy Director (Culture), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr LEE Yuk-man	Assistant Director (Libraries and Development), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms Angela LO Yim-po	Senior Information Technology Manager 3, Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr D C CHEUNG	Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare) 4
Miss Nancy LAW, JP	Deputy Director of Social Welfare (Administration)
Ms LEUNG Kwai-ling	Assistant Director of Social Welfare (Social Security)
Mr LUI Hon-kwong	Chief Social Security Officer (Social Security) 3, Social Welfare Department
Mr Victor LAM Wai-kiu	Assistant Government Chief Information Officer (Business Transformation), Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

**Clerk in attendance:**

Mrs Constance LI	Assistant Secretary General 1
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**Staff in attendance:**

Ms Anita SIT	Chief Council Secretary (1)4
Mr Simon CHEUNG	Senior Council Secretary (1)5
Ms Alice CHEUNG	Senior Legislative Assistant (1)1
Mr Frankie WOO	Legislative Assistant (1)2

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**Item No. 1 - FCR(2008-09)57**

**CAPITAL WORKS RESERVE FUND**

**HEAD 710 – COMPUTERISATION**

**Leisure and Cultural Services Department**

- **New Subhead "Major upgrade of Multimedia Information System for the Hong Kong Public Libraries"**

Mr IP Kwok-him, Chairman of the Home Affairs Panel, reported that the Panel discussed the Administration's proposal to upgrade the Multimedia Information System (MMIS) for the Hong Kong Public Libraries on 12 December 2008. The Panel also conducted a visit to the Hong Kong Central Library on 6 January 2009. Panel members supported the Administration's proposal but had expressed the following concerns and views --

- (a) the updated MMIS should aim at facilitating users' access to library resources;
- (b) the Administration should enrich the scope and contents of the MMIS and step up publicity to enhance public knowledge of the new system;
- (c) the Administration should pay due attention to the broadband capacity of the new MMIS and make the necessary preparation to cope with the simultaneous access to the system by a large number of users;
- (d) the Administration should draw up yearly targets on the likely increase of digital data to prepare for future development and upgrading of the MMIS, and earmark the required funding accordingly;
- (e) the Administration should improve collaboration with the libraries in the Mainland so as to strengthen online exchange of library materials; and
- (f) the Administration should draw up a plan to monitor and review the upgraded MMIS after its installation.

2. The Chairman put the item to vote. The Committee approved the proposal.

**Item No. 2 - FCR(2008-09)58**

**CAPITAL WORKS RESERVE FUND**

**HEAD 710 – COMPUTERISATION**

**Social Welfare Department**

• **New Subhead "Replacement of the Computerised Social Security System"**

3. Ms Cyd HO said that in view of the occurrence of recent incidents involving leakage of personal data by Government departments, it was necessary to put in place effective data security facilities in the new Computerised Social Security System (CSSS) as well as administrative measures to prevent recurrence of similar incidents. She enquired about the detailed arrangements in this regard.

4. The Assistant Government Chief Information Officer (Business Transformation) AGCIO(BT) responded that all Government bureaux/departments had to strictly comply with the Administration's information technology (IT) security regulations and guidelines. Sensitive information stored in portable IT storage devices including Universal Serial Bus (USB) flash drives would be encrypted for data protection. As for the new CSSS, an independent consultant would be engaged by the Administration to conduct the Privacy Impact and Security Risk Assessment to examine data security in all aspects of the system, including hardware and software installations, administrative measures and operational guidelines to identify security issues and risk areas. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) would have to rectify any error and security risk identified prior to the live run of each phase of the CSSS. The Deputy Director of Social Welfare (Administration) (DDSW(A)) supplemented that even for the existing CSSS, the system had been so designed to bar unauthorized downloading of data from the system. In the case where it was necessary to download data from the system to meet operational needs, the relevant staff/unit was required to seek authorization in accordance with very stringent vetting procedures. Currently, only a small number of staff (around 10) within SWD's headquarters had been issued with USB flash drives to meet operational needs in relation to the CSSS. AGCIO(BT) further advised that latest data protection technologies including access authorization, user authentication, data encryption and Virtual Private Networks (VPN) would be adopted to protect the data/information stored and exchanged in the new CSSS. Since all data/information would be encrypted when stored in portal devices and transmitted via VPN, it would not be possible for any unauthorised person to extract the data/information even if any of USB flash drives or other mobile devices was lost.

5. In respect of paragraph 8(a)(v) about the availability of mobile computing facility with the new CSSS, Mrs Sophie LEUNG enquired how the mobile devices would be used and whether sufficient security measures would be in place to ensure data security.

6. DDSW(A) explained that as a service improvement, when SWD staff visited aged or physically disabled service users in their homes, they would be able to

use the mobile computing devices to record and upload the required data to the CSSS. The Chief Social Security Officer (Social Security)<sup>3</sup> added that these devices would obviate the need for SWD field staff to make hand-written case records. AGCIO(BT) advised that in order to guard against leakage of sensitive information, all data handled by wireless and mobile computer devices would be encrypted and transmitted through the VPN.

7. Ms LI Fung-ying referred to paragraph 8(a)(vi) of the Administration's paper which stated that the new CSSS would be able to provide alert or warning messages on anomalies, and enquired how the facility would actually operate to identify frauds and abuses. In response, DDSW(A) advised that apart from built-in tools to provide alert on anomalies, the new CSSS would integrate separate systems currently operated within SWD into one system and provide instant on-line sharing and exchange of information within SWD and with other departments. This would facilitate the detection of fraud by SWD and better guard against frauds and abuses of social security benefits.

8. Ms LI Fung-ying sought elaboration on the realisable and notional savings that would be brought about by the new CSSS. DDSW(A) advised that with the phasing out of the existing system, the Administration would be able to achieve realisable savings of \$47.14 million per annum, which were the recurrent system maintenance costs of the existing CSSS. The savings would be ploughed back to set off part of the recurrent costs for maintaining and supporting the new CSSS estimated to be \$61.86 million per annum. As for the projected notional savings of the new CSSS, DDSW(A) explained that the system would enable more efficient storage, retrieval and transfer of information, thereby leading to a substantial reduction of staff efforts in different service areas. The notional savings achieved were estimated to be \$34.94 million per annum. The saved resources would be deployed to other service areas. AGCIO(BT) also advised that SWD would compile a post-implementation departmental return within six months after the live run of the new CSSS to assess whether the intended objectives including operational efficiency and cost-effectiveness were met. The Director of Audit might examine the report to ascertain the actual costs and benefits of the CSSS.

9. The Chairman put the item to vote. The Committee approved the proposal.

### **Item No. 3 - FCR(2008-09)59**

#### **Starting time of Finance Committee meetings and related meeting arrangements**

10. At the invitation of the Chairman, the Clerk to the Finance Committee (Clerk) introduced the paper, highlighting that the Legislative Council Secretariat had conducted two rounds of consultation with members on the starting time of the Finance Committee (FC) meetings and related meeting arrangements. According to

the consultation findings, most members were in support of maintaining the existing arrangements regarding the starting time of FC meetings, viz. --

- (a) if there was no House Committee (HC) meeting scheduled for the same afternoon, the FC meeting would start at 2:30 pm;
- (b) if a HC meeting was scheduled for the same afternoon, the FC meeting would be scheduled to start at 3:00 pm; and
- (c) if it was anticipated that the preceding HC meeting would go beyond 3:00 pm, the starting time of the FC meeting would be rescheduled to a fixed time after 3:00 pm and the rescheduling notice should reach the Administration by Wednesday noon.

11. As regards the duration of FC meetings, the Clerk said that most members who responded to the consultation were in support of the arrangement that the duration of FC meetings should normally be maintained at two hours, while the Chairman could extend a meeting for up to 15 minutes if necessary.

12. The Clerk further said that the Administration had also been consulted and its position was that to minimize the waiting time of public officers designated to attend FC meetings, it would be more convenient if the starting time of FC meetings was a fixed time.

13. The Chairman put the following proposed arrangements to vote --

"That the existing arrangements regarding the starting time of FC meetings should continue, while the Chairman may extend a FC meeting for up to 15 minutes where necessary."

The Committee approved the proposed arrangements.

14. The meeting was adjourned at 2:54 pm.