

(Updated version of part 5 of the draft submission to the Independent Commission
in respect of Members' remuneration)

5. Public views

5.1 As instructed by the Subcommittee, the Secretary General conducted a briefing for the media on 3 February 2012. The purpose of the briefing was to explain to the public the research findings and survey results in relation to the review of Members' remuneration, as well as the initial views of the Subcommittee. The briefing was televised by one of the TV companies. The Subcommittee's paper on the subject, LC Paper No. AS 91/11-12, was also tabled at the briefing. Some 12 newspaper/electronic media representatives attended the briefing.

5.2 ~~During 4 – 8~~ On 4 and 5 February 2012, there was wide coverage of the media briefing and also commentaries on the proposed mechanism of pegging the monthly remuneration of Members to a percentage of the salary of a Director of Bureau. A summary of ~~Extracts of the~~ media reports are provided at Annex VIII for easy reference (in Chinese only).

5.3 In gist, the views expressed on the subject can be summarized as follows:

- (a) The raise of Members' remuneration by 100% is too high and unacceptable as the performance of Members varies and some of them did not show up at meetings and did not raise any motion debates for some years;
- (b) It may not be necessary to increase the monthly remuneration of Members to attract young professionals to become Members as LegCo work itself is a service to the community;
- (c) There should be a credible independent third party to advise and give recommendations on Members' remuneration package;
- (d) It is not appropriate to peg the Members' remuneration to the salary of a Director of Bureau as the latter's salary is too high;
- (e) There is a lack of public consultation on Members' remuneration;
- (f) The present image of LegCo Members is not good and so it is difficult to get public support for such a big jump. However, the most ideal way to enhance support to Members is to increase the operating expenses reimbursement level.

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- (g) There should be a performance-based remuneration system reflecting the degree of involvement of Members in Council business.