

**Subcommittee on Nine Amendment Regulations made under the
Electoral Affairs Commission Ordinance**

Follow-up on the Meeting on 17 June 2011

**Supplementary Information
Related to Voter Registration and Polling**

BACKGROUND

At the Subcommittee meeting held on 14 June 2011, Members enquired about some aspects of the existing arrangements for voter registration and polling. In response to Members' enquiries, this paper sets out some supplementary information for reference.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

(A) Complaints relating to election advertisements

2. The numbers of complaints received in the 2007 District Council Election and the 2008 Legislative Council Election are shown in the following table:

	2007 DC Election	2008 LC Election
Total no. of complaints received	6 187	3 480
No. of complaints about EAs	1 968 (31.8%)	857 (24.6%)

3. The above statistics show that quite a proportion of the complaints handled are related to election advertisements (EAs) displayed, distributed or otherwise used by candidates. In this regard, there is a genuine need for Returning Officers to be provided with sufficient information in respect of EAs so that any such complaints can be handled speedily and efficiently in elections.

(B) Persons who are refused to cast votes at polling stations

4. At present, the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) does not keep statistics on the number of persons who request to cast votes at the polling stations but are refused on the ground that they are not registered electors on the Final Register. In accordance with the established procedures, investigation is conducted on each and every case and, in general, the majority of them can be dealt with speedily on the polling day. As a matter of fact, any person who has questions or doubt about his elector status can call the Election Hotline 2891 1001 to ascertain his elector status and/or seek assistance in relation to his application for registration as an elector. Nevertheless, having regard to Members' views, the REO will consider putting in place a system for compiling and maintaining a complete set of such statistics in future elections.

(C) Omissions List

5. The number of electors included in the Omissions List for the Geographical Constituencies (GCs) for 2009 and 2010 (including the deceased electors) are shown in the following table:

	2009 Omissions List	2010 Omissions List
No. of electors included in the Omissions List for the GCs (Number of deceased electors included)	62 672 (23 883)	27 467 (25 200)

Remark: The number of electors included in the 2009 Omissions List exceeded 60,000 because of the large number of undelivered poll cards (returned by the Hongkong Post) from the 2008 Legislative Council Election, which formed the basis for the Electoral Registration Officer to make inquiries with the electors concerned under the law.

6. Apart from the deceased electors, the names of the electors are included in the Omissions List mainly because, as a result of a rigorous inquiry process, there is evidence to show that the addresses as recorded in the existing final register against the relevant electors' entries are no

longer their principal residential addresses. As a well-established practice, the REO will take the following measures to update the residential addresses of the electors concerned before their names are included in the Omissions List:

- (a) for electors who have provided the REO with their contact phone numbers, the REO will make telephone calls to the electors concerned to remind them to update their residential addresses before the statutory deadline for reporting change of electoral particulars (statutory deadline);
- (b) for those who have provided REO with their email addresses, the REO will send an email to each of them to remind them to update their residential addresses before the statutory deadline; and
- (c) an annual data matching exercise will be conducted with the Housing Department (HD) to see whether the electors concerned have moved to the residential developments of the HD without notifying the REO. For such cases, the residential addresses of the electors concerned will be updated according to the data provided by the HD.

7. If the address records of the electors cannot be updated after the completion of the above procedures, the REO will, in accordance with the relevant legislation, issue an inquiry letter to each of these electors by registered post to formally ascertain whether their addresses as recorded in the current final register remain their principal residential addresses. If the electors fail to inform REO of their updated residential addresses within a stipulated deadline, their names will then be included in the Omissions List to be published for public inspection for that year. If these electors do not make claims with the Revising Officer that they are entitled to be registered in the final register, their names will be removed from the next final register.