

**Replies to supplementary questions
raised by Finance Committee Members in
examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13**

**Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Session No. : 3**

Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
S-CMAB01	S004	Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd	144	Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
S-CMAB02	S005	Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd	144	Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
S-CMAB03	SV008	Hon. NG Margaret	144	Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question : What is the Bureau's working relationship with the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council (HKMAO) and the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the HKSAR (MFA Office)? Please set out the objectives or work. What are the ranks of officers responsible for liaising with the HKMAO and MFA Office and the ranks of officers with whom they come into contact? Please set out the dates and agenda of meetings with the MFA Office and HKMAO in the past 3 years. Have any files been created to keep records of these meetings? Please set out the respective titles and linear metres of these files.

Asked by : Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply :

Over the years, we have developed good working relations with the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council (HKMAO) and the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (OCMFA) in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) in accordance with the principle of "One Country, Two Systems" and the relevant provisions of the Basic Law. We maintain close contacts and communication on matters of mutual concern, such as the work of the HKSAR in support of reconstruction in the Sichuan earthquake stricken areas, the HKSAR's participation in the Shanghai Expo 2010, the HKSAR's work in complementing the National Five-year Plan, cooperation arrangements with various regions in the Mainland, and official exchanges and visits between Hong Kong and the Mainland; and Hong Kong's participation in external affairs including international conventions, international and regional organisations and conferences, as well as affording consular protection to Hong Kong residents in distress overseas. The ranks of officers involved in such liaison and contacts vary, having regard to the nature of the matters concerned.

2. As the work to enhance the relationship with the HKMAO and OCMFA forms part of the daily operation of this Bureau involving a wide range of policy matters, we do not keep separate files on such meetings.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	JOSHUA LAW
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Date	19 March 2012

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question : What specific work plan does the Bureau have, and how much resources and manpower will the Bureau deploy to deal with the electoral system for the 2016 Legislative Council Election with a view to fulfilling the Central Authority's promise of electing all Members of the Legislative Council by universal and equal suffrage in 2020? Please also set out the targets for monitoring progress and the timetable.

Asked by : Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply :

We have achieved a timetable for universal suffrage and secured the passage of the 2012 constitutional reform package, which significantly enhances the democratic elements of the electoral system. This paves the way for implementing universal suffrage for the Chief Executive ("CE") and the Legislative Council ("LegCo") in 2017 and 2020 respectively. We are fully committed to pursuing democracy for Hong Kong and to attaining universal suffrage for Hong Kong.

2. At this stage, the current-term Government has only been authorised by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress to determine the methods for selecting the CE and for forming the LegCo in 2012. As to how the two electoral methods should be amended for attaining universal suffrage, this is beyond what the current-term Government has been authorised to deal with. In the public consultation conducted from 18 November 2009 to 19 February 2010 on the methods for selecting the CE and for forming the LegCo in 2012, we have also received public views relating to universal suffrage for the CE and the LegCo. We have published the relevant views which will serve as reference for the Government to be formed in 2012 and 2017 for dealing with the issue of universal suffrage for the CE and the LegCo.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 19 March 2012

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question : Provide details, preferably a breakdown, of the additional resources allocated to the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) for launching studies and publicity programmes on relations between residents in Hong Kong and the Mainland to understand and mitigate the recent tensions between them, and for providing support services to new arrivals and ethnic minorities. Figures on complaints of discrimination received and handled by EOC in this regard should also be provided.

Asked by : Hon. NG Margaret

Reply :

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) is responsible for the implementation of the four anti-discrimination ordinances, and carries out publicity, promotion and education programmes and enforcement work to promote equal opportunities in these areas. In 2012-13, a subvention of \$90.8 million will be provided to the EOC, representing a net increase of \$2.6 million or 2.9% compared with the revised estimate of 2011-12. The increase includes a provision of \$1.162 million for the EOC to strengthen its manpower to enhance its training and promotion efforts, and \$0.5 million for the EOC to undertake partnership projects as new public engagement initiatives.

2. Although the recent incidents between residents of the Mainland and Hong Kong do not involve racial matters, the EOC has noted these incidents. In its promotion of inclusion and equal opportunities in society, the EOC has repeatedly called for tolerance and rationality in social debates through various channels (including media statements and interviews, radio programme, talks and sharing sessions, and other initiatives), and such efforts would continue. These efforts are part of the EOC's ongoing promotion work and no separate breakdown of provision is available. At present, services for new arrivals from the Mainland and ethnic minorities are provided by different bureaux and departments according to their respective policies. As regards support services to new

arrivals and ethnic minorities to facilitate their integration into the community, they are provided by the Home Affairs Department.

3. The EOC keeps statistics on complaints received and handled in accordance with the relevant anti-discrimination ordinances, and does not have breakdown of complaints concerning relations between residents in Hong Kong and the Mainland.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 19 March 2012