

**For discussion
on 5 December 2012**

EC(2012-13)11

ITEM FOR ESTABLISHMENT SUBCOMMITTEE OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

**Head 151 - GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT : SECURITY BUREAU
Subhead 000 Operational expenses**

Members are invited to recommend to Finance Committee the retention of the following supernumerary post in the Narcotics Division of the Security Bureau for a period of two years from 17 February 2013 to 16 February 2015 –

1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade C
(D2) (\$133,150 - \$145,650)

PROBLEM

The existing supernumerary Administrative Officer Staff Grade C (AOSGC) (D2) post in the Narcotics Division (ND) of the Security Bureau (SB) will lapse on 17 February 2013. There is a need to retain the post for two more years to continue with the work on combating drug abuse problem.

PROPOSAL

2. We propose to retain the supernumerary AOSGC post in ND of SB for two years from 17 February 2013 to 16 February 2015 to provide the Commissioner for Narcotics (C for N) with necessary support at the directorate level to combat the drug abuse problem, in particular on work relating to treatment and rehabilitation (T&R) services, as well as drug testing policies and programmes.

/JUSTIFICATION

JUSTIFICATION

Responsibilities of ND

3. Headed by C for N, ND is tasked with co-ordinating anti-drug policies and measures across the public sector, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the community. ND is also responsible for formulating anti-money laundering/counter-financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) measures pursuant to the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) in respect of the detection of physical cross-boundary transportation of currency and bearer negotiable instruments (CBNIs) and the AML regulation of designated non-financial businesses and professions¹ (DNFBPs).

4. The post of C for N is ranked at the Administrative Officer Staff Grade B (D3) level and is supported by two AOSGC posts. One of them, designated as Principal Assistant Secretary (Narcotics)1 (PAS(N)1), was first created on 13 February 2009, and subsequently made permanent on 13 February 2012 vide EC(2011-12)11. The other one, designated as Principal Assistant Secretary (Narcotics)2 (PAS(N)2), is a three-year supernumerary post created vide EC(2009-10)11 with effect from 17 February 2010 and will lapse on 17 February 2013.

5. Drug abuse is a complex problem which has to be tackled in a holistic manner. The Government has adopted a five-pronged strategy in combating drug abuse, namely (1) preventive education and publicity, (2) treatment and rehabilitation (T&R), (3) legislation and law enforcement, (4) external co-operation and (5) research. In November 2008, the Task Force on Youth Drug Abuse (Task Force) led by the then Secretary for Justice, made over 70 recommendations on a wide range of issues to tackle the problem of youth drug abuse in Hong Kong. These concern both policy matters and specific measures, and were subsequently furthered by initiatives formulated by a high level task force established under the steer of the then Chief Executive in July 2009. Against this background, the Finance Committee approved the creation of the supernumerary AOSGC post (i.e. PAS(N)2) on 22 January 2010 to provide the necessary additional support to C for N for sustaining the escalated efforts of the war against drugs.

/Developments

¹ DNFBPs include accountants, estate agents, lawyers, trust and company service providers, and dealers in precious metals and precious stones.

Developments since the creation of the PAS(N)2 post in 2010

6. Since 2010, the Government has continued to spearhead various initiatives in collaboration with different sectors to enhance preventive education and publicity programmes, T&R services, community mobilisation, community support, drug testing, and law enforcement.

7. Specifically, in respect of the areas for which PAS(N)2 is responsible, various initiatives have been taken forward. For example, in the area of T&R services, resources have been strengthened to increase the breadth and depth of various programmes and services including an increase in the number of counselling centres for psychotropic substance abusers (CCPSAs); manpower resources for outreaching and school social work services for supporting young people with drug problems have been enhanced; a pilot project on enhanced probation service for young drug offenders as a follow-up to one of the Task Force's recommendations has continued; and the number of clinic sessions at substance abuse clinics has been increased. There was an injection of \$3 billion to the Beat Drugs Fund (BDF) in 2010 to generate a higher level of income to support worthwhile anti-drug projects and programmes². In respect of drug testing, taking into account the successful experience of the Trial Scheme of School Drug Testing in Tai Po (the Trial Scheme) in the 2009/10 and 2010/11 school years, the Government launched the Healthy School Programme with a drug testing component (HSP(DT)) in the 2011/12 school year (paragraphs 28 and 29 below). In addition, the Government has started to explore the feasibility of community-based drug testing (CDT) aiming to facilitate early identification of drug abusers and intervention to help them. The target is to consult the public in due course (paragraphs 23 to 26 below).

8. Efforts over the past few years have brought improvements in the drug scene, with a decline in the number of drug abusers reported to the Central Registry of Drug Abuse (CRDA) as well as newly reported abusers. The decline among those aged under 21 has been more pronounced. The following table sets out the situation –

	2009	2011	Difference
No. of reported drug abuses to CRDA	13 990	11 469	- 18%
- Aged under 21	3 388	2 006	- 41%
No. of newly reported cases	4 460	3 200	- 28%
- Aged under 21	2 253	1 229	- 45%

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² The injection has enabled the BDF to strengthen financial support for drug treatment and rehabilitation centres to upgrade their facilities to meet statutory licensing requirements; as well as to fund the implementation of HSP(DT) at secondary schools.

9. In spite of the drop in reported drug abusers, the substantial lengthening of the drug history of newly reported drug abusers has become an issue of concern. It has taken a longer time for the existing help networks to reach first-time reported abusers, with more than half of them having taken drugs for more than 3.6 years in the first half of 2012³, almost doubling the figure of 1.9 years in 2009. Psychotropic substance abuse (PSA) is known to be associated with serious, at times irreversible, harm to the health of a drug abuser. The lengthening of the drug history of newly reported cases is corroborated by feedback from NGOs that drug abusers who seek help voluntarily in recent years have often been prompted by serious health problems. This calls for continued efforts to co-ordinate with relevant stakeholders to enhance and re-engineer the existing T&R services, and the need to explore further options for facilitating early identification of drug abusers. There is hence a need for retaining the PAS(N)2 post for two years so as to focus on these two important areas of work.

Main Duties of PAS(N)2

10. PAS(N)2⁴ will be responsible for (a) co-ordination of matters concerning the enhancement and re-engineering of T&R services to meet the changing circumstances of the drug scene; and (b) formulating policy and programmes relating to drug testing.

Enhancement and Re-engineering of T&R services

(a) Overall policy co-ordination and promoting cross-sector collaboration

11. The prevalence of PSA in recent years and the consequential severe health impact on the drug abusers have brought new challenges to anti-drug work. Such development has resulted in the need to involve more closely other sectors, such as the medical services sector, in the T&R of drug abusers, hence calling for better co-ordination among various service modes (e.g. between community-based counselling services and the residential treatment services) and across sectors (the anti-drug sector, the medical services and the education sector) at different stages of the treatment of drug abusers and rehabilitation. As the central co-ordinator, ND has to spearhead efforts across Government bureaux/departments (B/Ds), the public sector (e.g. the Hospital Authority) and NGOs to enhance cross-sector collaboration, promote new and effective programmes, and monitor and evaluate their effectiveness. Such a co-ordinating role has been reflected in various initiatives over the past few years to improve the effectiveness and integration of T&R services.

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³ The corresponding figure was 3.5 years in 2011.

⁴ The other PAS, PAS(N)1, is mainly responsible for policy and legislation concerning the control of dangerous drugs, community mobilisation in the prevention of drug abuse and publicity, the management of the BDF, and matters concerning implementation of FATF recommendations.

12. To provide focused and strategic directions for all stakeholders involved in the T&R services, PAS(N)2 is responsible for the development of triennial plans and a tiered, multi-modality framework of T&R services for drug abusers in Hong Kong. After extensive consultation with stakeholders in the anti-drug sector, social services and medical field, ND published the “Sixth Three-year Plan on Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Services in Hong Kong (2012-14)” (the 6th Three-year Plan) in June 2012. This mapped out the strategic direction of T&R services in the next three years. The multi-modality framework of T&R services for drug abusers, which was first published in December 2010 and updated in the light of field experience, was issued alongside the 6th Three-year Plan in June 2012. The framework conceptualises the interfacing of a wide spectrum of services in a more systematic manner. Apart from serving to channel input from different sectors and service providers, both initiatives have provided a platform for managing the diverse interest and views of different stakeholders. Dedicated support at the directorate level is essential for steering and managing the process of stakeholder engagement, initiating and co-ordinating the development and trial of initiatives and programmes, and overseeing their implementation and reviewing effectiveness. Examples of various initiatives to promote enhancements to T&R services and collaboration among different service modes and other sectors over the past few years are set out at Enclosure 1.

Encl. 1

13. Although progress has been made on various fronts, there is an urgent need for addressing some issues. Specifically, the prevalence of psychiatric and physical complications among abusers as a result of prolonged PSA calls for further efforts to ensure better integration of services of different sectors. In addition, the 6th Three-year Plan has also highlighted the need to further develop educational and vocational training as a necessary means to ensure sustained efforts in helping those who have completed treatment programmes to stay away from drugs. Therefore, in the next two years, PAS(N)2 will need to focus on exploring opportunities for enhancing educational and vocational training, and job replacement for the rehabilitees with the support of the anti-drug sector, and education and training institutions. He/She also has to work with the Social Welfare Department (SWD), the Judiciary and the Government Laboratory to map out the way forward for the pilot project of the enhanced probation scheme by March 2013, and with the Department of Health (DH) on issues concerning the Methadone Treatment Programme (MTP) upon completion of the ongoing review.

(b) Licensing of Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Centres (DTRCs)

14. Residential drug treatment facilities play an important role in the rehabilitation of drug addicts. As recommended by the Director of Audit (D of Audit) and the Public Accounts Committee respectively in their reports in late 2010 and early 2011, the Government should help those DTRCs under

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sub-standard conditions to meet the licensing requirements under the Drug Dependent Persons Treatment and Rehabilitation Centres (Licensing) Ordinance (the Licensing Ordinance) (Cap. 566) as soon as possible. These institutions had to either make in-situ upgrading or identify alternative sites for reprovisioning in order to meet licensing requirements. ND has since 2010 proactively provided assistance to relevant institutions in their search for alternative accommodation or sites in liaison with B/Ds, sought funding support from various sources including the BDF and served as the link with District Offices to facilitate local consultation. Since 2010, with assistance of ND, five DTRCs have successfully acquired the licences for operation.

15. After the \$3 billion capital injection to the BDF in 2010, ND introduced a reformed Special Funding Scheme (SFS) under the Fund in 2011 to enhance support for DTRCs to take forward upgrading works. This included measures such as increasing the maximum level of grant for each application from \$3 million to \$50 million⁵.

16. Experience in the past two years has shown the complexity and challenges in helping many of the DTRCs to resolve their problems relating to licensing. To date, 18 out of 40 DTRCs have yet to meet the licensing requirements because of varying land issues and/or inherent technical difficulties and are operating on Certificates of Exemption. We would continue to work with these DTRCs to identify viable solutions to their problems. Of these, we expect at least four would be able to secure a licence in the next twelve months. There is a need for enhancing directorate support in this area of work. The target is to identify a clear way forward for addressing the licensing needs of the remaining DTRCs as far as practicable within the next two years.

(c) Service review and re-engineering

17. As the central co-ordinator of anti-drug issues, ND has to closely monitor the changes in the drug scene, work with relevant parties to ensure that services meet the changing needs of the day and, where necessary, initiate review to identify room for improvement. In the past few years, ND has, in collaboration with SWD, DH and other B/Ds and NGOs, undertaken a series of initiatives in this respect. First, ND has concluded the first phase of the Service Information System (SIS), which is a computerised data collection system for use by DTRCs. The SIS can streamline the reporting duties of DTRCs to various B/Ds, and also serve as a modern data management system. The plan is to assist and encourage at least one third of the 40 DTRCs to adopt the system within the next six months, with the ultimate goal of extending the use to all DTRCs.

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⁵ Within a year after the launch of the SFS, the BDF Association has approved sponsorship of \$47.8 million for two new projects, representing a significant jump from the \$9.9 million granted between 2002 and 2011.

18. Secondly, to ensure effective utilisation of service capacity, we have worked with SWD to improve the occupancy of DTRCs through measures like fostering communication and understanding between DTRCs and other stakeholders (e.g. Probation Offices and CCPSAs) and monitoring the waiting time for admission. Noticeable reduction in waiting time was recorded, with 87% of probationers from June to August 2012 having waited for only two weeks or less for admission to DTRCs, compared with 69% in April 2010 as reported in the D of Audit's Report in October 2010.

19. Thirdly, we have been working with DH to continue to steer the re-engineering of the Society for the Aid and Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers (SARDA), including a review on the positioning of SARDA's resources by the Efficiency Unit in 2010 and concluding a funding and service agreement (FSA) with SARDA in April 2011. Looking ahead, SARDA would need to map out the strategy for migration to a lump-sum grant model. ND will work with DH and relevant parties in providing the necessary assistance to SARDA.

20. Fourthly, in September 2012, DH engaged international consultants to conduct a review on the MTP, aiming to assess the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of the programme, identify service gaps taking into account changing social environment, and make recommendations on the future direction of the programme. ND will work with DH in mapping out the future direction of the MTP.

21. With the injection of additional resources to expand the number of CCPSAs to 11 by 2010, SWD is conducting a new round of FSA review with the CCPSAs for completion in 2013. ND will need to monitor the process to ensure that services by CCPSAs would be able to reflect the latest drug trend and service needs.

22. As set out at paragraphs 11 to 21, a number of major tasks relating to the review and re-engineering of T&R services have to be implemented in the next two years. These tasks involve complex issues, and require multiple stakeholder management and co-ordination. There is a need to retain the PAS(N)2 post for another two years, to provide dedicated directorate support for handling these issues.

Drug Testing*(a) Community-based Drug Testing (CDT)*

23. The increasingly hidden nature of PSA which brings serious harm to the health of drug abusers is a real cause for concern. It requires a closer collaboration among the Government, the medical services and the anti-drug sector. Apart from the Task Force which had specifically recommended that the Government should examine whether and how a compulsory drug testing scheme might be made available in Hong Kong, there are also voices in the community calling for the Government to look into the issue.

24. On 5 June 2012, we briefed the Panel on Security of the Legislative Council on a plan to consult the public later on whether a CDT scheme should be implemented after engaging different stakeholders in addressing issues of concern. The main objective of CDT is to identify drug abusers at an early stage so as to enable timely T&R intervention and reduce as far as practicable the adverse health impact of prolonged drug abuse. The Government has an open mind on the proposed CDT scheme. Community consensus is a prerequisite for pursuing the scheme.

25. We have engaged in dialogue with stakeholders in the past few months. In view of the diversity of views received, we consider it necessary and desirable to engage relevant sectors in further discussions on sensitive topics such as human rights and civil liberties issues, and assess different options for addressing issues such as how best to cater for the rehabilitation of those tested positive under the scheme before the public consultation. Subject to the outcome of the further discussions with relevant sectors, we plan to launch the public consultation in around mid-2013.

26. Given the sensitivity of the subject, we expect that the public would express views on a wide range of policy issues and measures for tackling the hidden nature of drug abuse. Therefore, ND will also need to follow up on the views received in the public consultation, hence further collaboration with B/Ds and other stakeholders is expected after the completion of the consultation exercise. C for N would require directorate support in taking forward the whole exercise as well as the follow-up work after the public consultation exercise.

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(b) Healthy School Programme with a drug testing component (HSP(DT))

27. Prevention is better than cure. It is by fostering a drug-resistant attitude among the public that we could prevent them from falling prey to the adverse impacts of drugs. Preventive anti-drug work at schools is an important way to help young people to understand the evils of drugs and be able to resist temptations. Over the years, various efforts have been made to bring anti-drug messages to students and promote anti-drug work at schools. First, additional resources have been provided to increase the manpower of the school social work services to enhance counselling services and preventive educational programmes to students. Secondly, non-government organisations have been provided funding to provide outreaching programmes for teachers, parents and students. Thirdly, an anti-drug hotline (186 186) for teachers manned by professional social workers has been in operation since August 2009. We expanded the hotline to cover enquiries from the general public round the clock starting from end June 2012. Fourthly, with the creation of nine additional Police School Liaison Officer posts for the Hong Kong Police Force in 2010-11 on top of the previous establishment of 85, the Police has extended coverage of anti-drug school talks and enhanced collaboration with schools and NGOs concerned.

28. At the same time, we have made vigorous efforts to foster anti-drug culture in schools through the Trial Scheme in the 2009/10 and 2010/11 school years and school-based HSP(DT) from the 2011/12 school year onwards. According to an evaluation study commissioned by the ND, the Trial Scheme had proven to be an effective measure to enhance students' resolve to stay away from drugs, helping to build an anti-drug culture and triggering motivation of young drug abusers to quit drugs. Taking into account the successful experience of the Trial Scheme, the Government saw the need to maintain the momentum and decided to extend the HSP(DT) to more schools in the 2011/12 school year. The HSP(DT) comprises a school-based diversified personal growth programme and voluntary drug testing. In the 2011/12 school year, 43 schools volunteered to implement the HSP(DT) with the funding support of the BDF. The number of participating schools has increased to 53 in the 2012/13 school year. Participating schools and NGOs have so far indicated that they generally considered the programme effective in helping students to develop positive values and promote healthy lifestyles.

29. With the aim of progressively rolling out the programme to more secondary schools in Hong Kong, PAS(N)2 has to continue to promote the extension of HSP(DT) to other schools. Experience suggests that some schools have concern about bringing in drug testing, even on a voluntary basis. In order to continue to promote the extension of HSP(DT), it is necessary to promote understanding of the objective of the programme in the coming two school years.

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This can be done through arranging participating schools to share experience with other interested schools. We will also have to ensure proper procedures and guidelines for the administration of drug tests for the protection of personal data privacy, and to continuously fine-tune arrangements for the programme. All these tasks would require dedicated directorate support during the coming two years.

30. Owing to the need to take charge of extensive range of responsibilities in the coming two years as described above, we consider it necessary to retain PAS(N)2 post for two years.

Alternatives Considered

31. We have considered the possibility of re-deploying other existing directorate officers in SB to take on the work of the proposed post. We have reviewed the existing directorate support of ND and re-affirmed the need to retain the PAS(N)2 post for two years.

32. After reviewing the current level of work of the other AOSGC post in ND, namely PAS(N)1, which was made permanent in February 2012, we found that it would not have scope to absorb the proposed duties for PAS(N)2 during the coming two years. Apart from the duties on preventive education and publicity, policy and legislation on the control of dangerous drugs, and management of the BDF, PAS(N)1 is heavily involved in the implementation of the FATF's recommendations regarding the establishment, by statute, of a system for detecting the physical cross-boundary transportation of CBNIs and the AML regulation of DNFBPs in order to better align Hong Kong's regime with relevant requirements. These two tasks are time-critical since the next round of mutual evaluation (ME) on Hong Kong by FATF is expected to take place in 2015. To enable Hong Kong to meet relevant FATF requirements, it would be necessary to put in place separate legislation and make arrangements for implementation of the new system as soon as practicable. There is clearly no room for PAS(N)1 to take up the proposed duties of PAS(N)2 in the coming two years. The latest scope of responsibilities of PAS(N) 1 is at Enclosure 2.

Encl. 2

33. We indicated in the proposal for the creation of the permanent PAS(N)1 post in December 2011 [EC(2011-12)11] that we would need to review the directorate support of ND in 2012, taking into account, amongst others, whether it is necessary to take forward legislative work for implementation of the FATF's recommendations. We will review the continued need for the PAS(N)2 post in the light of the actual workload and progress of the legislative work in ND before the lapse of the post in February 2015.

Encl. 3 34. As for other directorate officers in SB, since all the directorate officers are fully committed to duties on different subject areas, we consider that redeployment is not operationally feasible without adversely affecting the discharge of their schedules of duties. The duties and existing work priorities of the five Principal Assistant Secretaries in SB are at Enclosure 3.

Encl. 4
Encls. 5-6 35. The scope of responsibilities of the proposed PAS(N)2 is set out at Enclosure 4. The proposed organisation charts of ND and SB with the post incorporated are at Enclosures 5 and 6 respectively.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

36. The proposal will bring about an additional notional annual salary cost at mid-point of \$1,696,200. The full annual average staff cost, including salaries and staff on-cost, is \$2,427,132. To support the proposed PAS(N)2 post, we plan to create one Administrative Officer post and one Personal Secretary I post in ND for two years with a total notional annual salary cost at mid-point of \$1,096,920 and full annual average staff cost of \$1,192,056. SB will include the necessary provision in the Estimates of subsequent years to meet the cost of the proposal.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

37. The Action Committee Against Narcotics has been consulted and supported the implementation of the anti-drug strategies on a sustained basis, and urged the Government to take all possible measures to work with the community to combat drug abuse.

38. On 6 November 2012, we consulted the Legislative Council Panel on Security on the proposal. Members gave in-principle support to the submission of this proposal to the Establishment Subcommittee. Individual Members made observations regarding the need to enhance early identification of hidden drug abusers and the assessment of the effectiveness of HSP(DT) and other anti-drug initiatives in PAS(N)2's portfolio. In response, we explained that, apart from the plan to stage a public consultation exercise on CDT in 2013, the Government would continue to tackle the drug supply and demand by strengthening law enforcement, as well as preventive education and publicity. In respect of HSP(DT), it was one of the many preventive education initiatives. ND/SB would continue to promote HSP(DT) to more schools, the participation of which was on a voluntary basis.

39. It is important to note that the problems of drug abuse encompass complex social issues with implications on various fronts, healthcare, welfare, legal and law and order. While ND serves as a central co-ordinator, there are many other parties contributing to the anti-drug movement. The causal relationship between anti-drug efforts in different areas and their results may not be directly established. Nonetheless, we may assess the results of the overall anti-drug efforts by drawing reference to factors such as the overall drug scene and community awareness of the drug problems, etc. With efforts in the past few years, we have seen some improvement in the situation of youth drug abuse, as reflected in the notable decline in young drug abusers over the past few years (paragraph 8 above).

BACKGROUND

40. The social costs of the drug problem are significant, estimated to be around \$4.23 billion in 1998, or about 0.3% of the local Gross Domestic Product that year⁶. The social costs included the cost to the health and welfare systems in providing counselling, treatment and rehabilitation services; the cost of law enforcement and criminal justice system in tackling the drug problem; the loss of income due to lower or non-productivity of the abusers and so forth. In view of the popularity of psychotropic substances which have more hidden harmful effects, the costs to the medical system may be even larger as many abusers have cognitive, neuromuscular, psychiatric, respiratory, urinary or cardiovascular problems which may persist for years even after quitting drugs. Added to this is the serious psychological and physiological damage inflicted by drugs on young people and their families, which cannot be measured in quantifiable terms.

ESTABLISHMENT CHANGES

41. The establishment changes in SB for the past two years are as follows –

Establishment (Note)	Number of Posts			
	Existing (as at 1 November 2012)	As at 1 April 2012	As at 1 April 2011	As at 1 April 2010
A	14+(1) #	14+(1)	13+(2)	13+(2)
B	42	42	42	42
C	132	133	131	124
Total	188+(1)	189+(1)	186+(2)	179+(2)

/Note

⁶ See the study entitled "Social Costs of Drug Abuse in Hong Kong, 1998" conducted by Professor Y W Cheung of the Chinese University of Hong Kong in 2000.

Note:

A – ranks in the directorate pay scale or equivalent

B – non-directorate ranks, the maximum pay point of which is above MPS point 33 or equivalent

C – non-directorate ranks, the maximum pay point of which is at or below MPS point 33 or equivalent

() number of supernumerary directorate post created with the approval of the Establishment Subcommittee and Finance Committee

as at 1 November 2012, there was no unfilled directorate post in SB

CIVIL SERVICE BUREAU COMMENTS

42. The Civil Service Bureau supports the proposed retention of the supernumerary AOSGC post for two years to provide C for N with the necessary support at the directorate level to combat the drug abuse problem, in particular in respect of T&R services, as well as drug testing policies and programmes. The grading and ranking of the proposed post are considered appropriate having regard to the level and scope of the responsibilities required.

ADVICE OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON DIRECTORATE SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

43. As the post is proposed on a supernumerary basis, its retention, if approved, will be reported to the Standing Committee on Directorate Salaries and Conditions of Service in accordance with the agreed procedure.

Security Bureau
November 2012

**Examples of Enhancement to
Treatment and Rehabilitation (T&R) Services
and Collaboration Among Different Service Modes
and Other Sectors in the Past Few Years**

- (i) The injection of resources to provide for the support of professional nursing staff at counselling centres for psychotropic substance abusers (CCPSAs), starting from October 2009, taking into account the health issues prevalent among psychotropic substance abusers.
- (ii) The launch of the “Pilot Project on Enhanced Probation Service for Young Drug Offenders” in 2009, as a follow-up to one of recommendations of the Task Force on Youth Drug Abuse. The project brings about closer collaboration between probation officers and magistrates to develop a more structured and intensive treatment programme for young drug abusers under the penal system.
- (iii) Supporting, through the Beat Drugs Fund, pilot projects on new service models to create a more efficient interface of the medical services with non-government organizations (NGOs) in the treatment of ketamine abusers.
- (iv) Arrangements of meetings and visits by the Social Welfare Department among different types of services within the T&R sector to promote service interfacing among probation officers, CCPSAs and drug treatment and rehabilitation centres and to ensure the better utilisation of resources.
- (v) Promoting local networks comprising for example, District Offices, district social welfare offices, law enforcement agencies, NGOs and public sector organisations in individual districts to tackle local drug issues.

**Job Description
Principal Assistant Secretary (Narcotics)1**

Rank : Administrative Officer Staff Grade C (D2)

Responsible to : Commissioner for Narcotics (C for N) (D3)

Main Duties and Responsibilities –

- (i) To monitor the drug abuse trends and pattern through the Central Registry of Drug Abuse and student surveys, and assist C for N in formulating anti-drug measures to address the latest drug abuse situation.
- (ii) To monitor and formulate necessary response to the threats posed by emerging drugs, including review of legislation and, where necessary, propose legislative control on new substances; work with law enforcement departments in targeting illegal drug trafficking and youth drug abuse; and oversee external co-operation in curbing cross-boundary drug activities.
- (iii) To develop and take forward innovative and effective publicity strategy to curb drug abuse problems.
- (iv) To enhance mobilisation of various quarters of the community to join the fight against drugs through the Path Builder initiative as well as through various community and district level programmes.
- (v) To oversee policy and institutional matters of the Beat Drugs Fund as well as resource planning to ensure an effective use of the Fund for the community to help fight drugs.
- (vi) To assist C for N in overseeing and following through the implementation of the recommendations of the Task Force on Youth Drug Abuse on the five-pronged anti-drug strategies, in collaboration with other bureaux and departments as well as stakeholders, including the Action Committee Against Narcotics, the Fight Crime Committee, as well as the education, social services, youth, community sectors and other key stakeholders in the community.
- (vii) To assist C for N in formulating and co-ordinating the strategy and measures on anti-money laundering/counter financing of terrorism with respect to Designated Non-Financial Businesses and Professions and the detection of cross-boundary transportation of currency and bearer negotiable instruments, pursuant to the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force.

**Duties and Existing work Priorities of
Principal Assistant Secretaries in the Security Bureau**

Principal Assistant Secretary for Security (A) is responsible for policy matters relating to boundary administration, closed area, counter-terrorism, surrender of fugitive offenders and mutual legal assistance in criminal matters. He oversees the liaison between the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government and the Garrison and handles matters with a Garrison dimension. He also deals with policy and resource matters relating to the Government Flying Service and certain security-related functions of the Customs and Excise Department, as well as matters concerning the Security and Guarding Services Industry Authority. Apart from the heavy workload of his normal business, he is currently heavily engaged in the implementation of the reduced coverage of the Frontier Closed Area and its associated legislative amendments.

2. Principal Assistant Secretary for Security (B) is responsible for policies in respect of the emergency rescue services provided by the Fire Services Department, including matters relating to fire safety, fire prevention, fire-fighting, the emergency ambulance service, and the control of dangerous goods. She also oversees policies relating to the penal system maintained by the Correctional Services Department, covering such matters as rehabilitation of prisoners and the prison development programme. She deals with issues relating to the transfer of sentenced persons and supports the statutory boards on prison sentence review and prisoner supervision. In addition, she is responsible for the aviation security policies, including the maintenance and implementation of the Hong Kong Aviation Security Programme. She is currently heavily engaged in pursuing initiatives to improve fire safety (for old buildings in particular) and enhance the provision of emergency ambulance service, overseeing the prison development and improvement programmes to address the problems of outdated facilities and overcrowding, and reviewing issues of concerns related to penal management and offenders' rehabilitation.

3. Principal Assistant Secretary for Security (C) is responsible for immigration policies and strategies in respect of a wide range of matters. These include nationality and residency; travel documents and convenience of Hong Kong residents; visa regime for foreign nationals and travel convenience for Taiwan residents; the Outbound Travel Alert system and assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress outside Hong Kong. She oversees policy issues concerning entry into Hong Kong for study, employment, investment and settlement, as well as those relating to entry from the Mainland, including the operations of the One-way Permit and Two-way Permit Scheme. She is also responsible for the policy, resource and housekeeping matters of the Immigration Department. She is also engaged in handling a series of judicial review cases concerning right of abode of foreign domestic helpers.

4. Principal Assistant Secretary for Security (D) is responsible for handling policy issues concerning torture claimants, asylum seekers and refugees; combating human trafficking; registration of persons, births, deaths and marriages; the processing of detention and deportation cases under the Immigration Ordinance; the processing of immigration-related statutory and non-statutory petition cases; and housekeeping matters relating to the Immigration Tribunal, Registration of Persons Tribunal, HKSAR Passports Appeal Board, and Civil Celebrant of Marriages Appointment Appeal Board. He is also responsible for policy, legislation and resource matters relating to the operation of boundary control points and related co-operation with the Mainland, including complementary immigration/enforcement measures on non-local pregnant women and cross-boundary students. He is currently heavily engaged in the implementation of the new statutory torture claim screening mechanism upon the passage of the Immigration (Amendment) Bill 2011 in July 2012 and overseeing the handling of related judicial review cases. Furthermore, he is also engaged in the planning for new control points (including the New Cruise Terminal, Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link and the Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point); extending and promoting the e-Channel service for Mainland and other frequent visitors; and implementing various new information technology initiatives (including new information technology infrastructure and new immigration control system) of the Immigration Department.

5. Principal Assistant Secretary for Security (E) is responsible for policy matters concerning internal security and law and order, as well as resources matters relating to the Hong Kong Police Force and the Hong Kong Auxiliary Police Force. She also oversees the implementation of the Interception of Communications and Surveillance Ordinance. She is the Secretary to the Fight Crime Committee and oversees the operation of the Committee and its Subcommittees.

**Job Description
Principal Assistant Secretary (Narcotics)2**

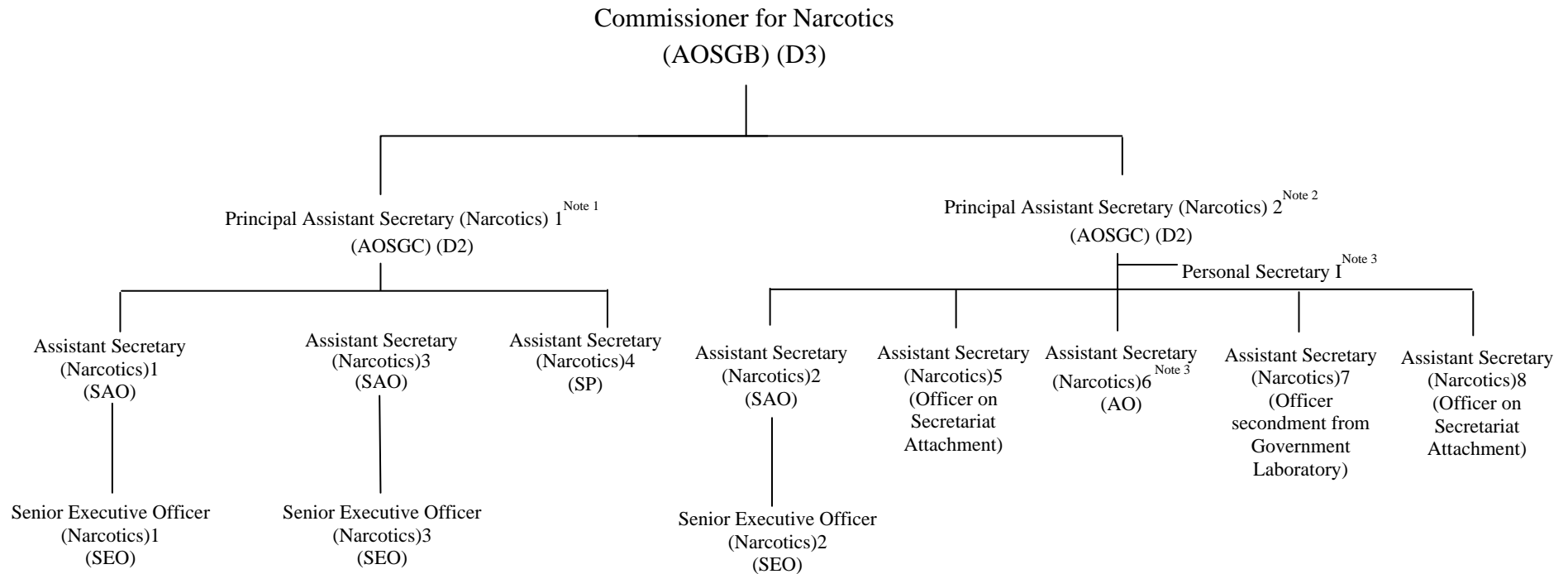
Rank : Administrative Officer Staff Grade C (D2)

Responsible to : Commissioner for Narcotics (C for N) (D3)

Main Duties and Responsibilities –

- (i) To consolidate and enhance the treatment and rehabilitation (T&R) services in the context of the implementation of the “Sixth Three-year Plan on Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Services in Hong Kong (2012-14)”.
- (ii) To promote re-engineering of existing services to meet the needs of the latest drug trends.
- (iii) To promote collaboration between different sectors and service modalities to ensure a continuum of services for drug abusers and promote new and effective ways for the provision of T&R services to meeting prevailing needs.
- (iv) To develop a more systematic assessment and monitoring of the efficiency and effectiveness of residential T&R programmes, including the extension of a service information system to other drug treatment and rehabilitation centres (DTRCs).
- (v) To render assistance to DTRCs to ensure the better utilisation of resources, including helping existing DTRCs which have not yet been licensed to seek in-situ upgrading or relocation, by addressing issues such as land use planning, land administration, and liaison with Government departments, and assisting in local consultation exercises.
- (vi) To assist C for N in taking forward matters concerning the formulation of a community-based drug testing scheme having regard to legal, human rights, privacy and other perspectives, including staging the process of stakeholder engagement and the public consultation, and the subsequent legislative exercise, if necessary.
- (vii) To explore and develop other measures to seek to address the growing problems of hidden drug abuse.
- (viii) To oversee and promote the implementation of the Healthy School Programme with a drug testing component, and co-ordinate with the Education Bureau and other relevant departments to strengthen drug preventive education work.

Organisation Chart of Narcotics Division
(after the Proposed retention of the Principal Assistant Secretary (Narcotics)2 post)



Legend

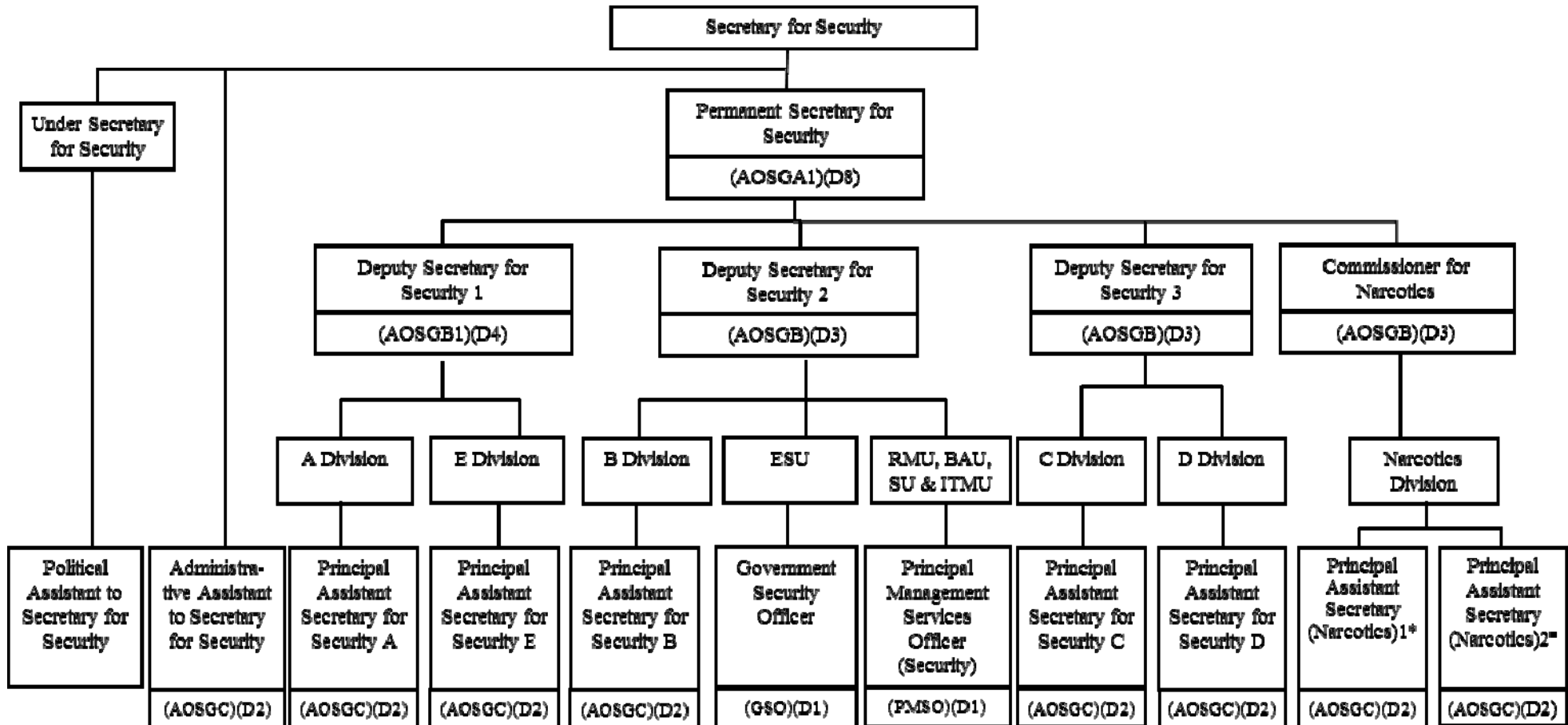
AOSGB : Administrative Officer Staff Grade B
 AOSGC : Administrative Officer Staff Grade C
 SAO : Senior Administrative Officer
 AO : Administrative Officer
 SP : Superintendent of Police
 SEO : Senior Executive Officer

Note 1 Permanent AOSGC post created on 13.2.2012, as approved by the Finance Committee on 6.1.2012.

Note 2 Proposed supernumerary AOSGC post retained for two years from 17.2.2013 to 16.2.2015

Note 3 Non-directorate posts to be created to support the proposed PAS(N)2 post

Organisation Chart of Security Bureau
(after the proposed retention of the Principal Assistant Secretary (Narcotics) 2 post)



Legend:

- | | | | |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|------|--|
| AOSGA1 | Administrative Officer Staff Grade A1 | ESU | Emergency Support Unit |
| AOSGB | Administrative Officer Staff Grade B | GSO | Government Security Officer |
| AOSGB1 | Administrative Officer Staff Grade B1 | ITMU | Information Technology Management Unit |
| AOSGC | Administrative Officer Staff Grade C | PMSO | Principal Management Services Officer |
| BAU | Bureau Administration Unit | RMU | Resource Management Unit |
| CP Division | Contingency Plan Division | SU | Statistic Unit |

* Permanent AOSGC post created on 13.2.2012

Supernumerary AOSGC post proposed to be retained for two years from 17.2.2013 to 16.2.2015