

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CRM 982/14-15

Ref : AM 12/01/19 (12-16)

**Subcommittee on Members' Remuneration and
Operating Expenses Reimbursement**

**Minutes of meeting held on 12 May 2015 at 10:45 am
in Conference Room 2B of the Legislative Council Complex**

Members present : Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP (Chairman)
Hon LEE Cheuk-yan
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, SBS, JP
Hon Claudia MO

Members absent : Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP
Hon WONG Yuk-man

Clerk in attendance: Ms Dora WAI
Principal Council Secretary 1

Staff in attendance : Mr Kenneth CHEN, SBS
Secretary General

Mrs Justina LAM
Deputy Secretary General

Miss Roxanna LO
Accountant

Mrs Goppi CHENG
Senior Deputy Accountant

Mr Simon CHEUNG
Deputy Accountant 4

I. Draft Report of the Subcommittee on the Review of Members' Remuneration and Operating Expenses Reimbursement
(LC Paper No. CRM 782/14-15)

The Chairman said that in order to ascertain whether any proposals to change the level of remuneration and operating expenses reimbursement ("OER") for Members of the Sixth Legislative Council ("LegCo") should be put forward to the Administration, the Subcommittee had conducted a survey to seek views from all Members. A total of 41 Members had responded to the survey and the findings were provided in the draft Report of the Subcommittee on the Review of Members' Remuneration and Operating Expenses Reimbursement ("draft Report").

2. At the invitation of the Chairman, the Clerk briefed members on the major findings of the survey. In gist, all the 41 Members who had responded to the survey, which constituted a majority of all Members of LegCo, agreed that:

- (a) Members should be allowed the flexibility to use the Winding Up Expenses Reimbursement for long service payment or severance payment made in the middle of a LegCo term, or alternatively there should be a separate provision for Members to fulfil obligations of this kind as required by the Employment Ordinance (details in paragraph 25 of the draft Report); and
- (b) the nine outstanding proposals carried forward from the Fourth LegCo should continue to be pursued with the Administration (details in paragraphs 5, 15 to 18 and 27 to 32 of the draft Report).

3. Mr LEE Cheuk-yan enquired about the implementation progress of the recommendations contained in the report of the Subcommittee of the Fourth LegCo on the "Review of the Operating Expenses Reimbursement for Legislative Council Members" ("the previous Report"). The Clerk responded that some recommendations in the previous Report were taken on board and reflected in the new rates of Members' remuneration and reimbursement ceilings for operating expenses effective from the Fifth LegCo. The nine outstanding proposals mentioned above were those not supported by the Administration in the Fourth LegCo.

4. The Clerk further said that at the meeting of the Subcommittee held in June 2013, the Administration indicated that as the nine proposals had already been reviewed by the Independent Commission on Remuneration for Members of the Executive Council and the Legislature, and Officials under the Political Appointment System of the HKSAR ("IC") in the Fourth LegCo and its views included in its report on the review of the remuneration package for Members of

the Fifth LegCo issued in February 2012, IC would not conduct another review unless fresh justifications and statistics were provided by the Subcommittee.

5. The Clerk added that subsequent to the above meeting, the Subcommittee conducted a survey in October 2013 on staff turnover in Members' offices. The findings of the survey, as well as some supplementary information requested by the Administration, had been forwarded to the Administration for consideration by IC.

6. Mr LEE Cheuk-yan expressed concern about the high staff turnover rate in Members' offices, which was 21% on average in 2012-2013 for full-time assistants. He pointed out that some Members had encountered great difficulties in retaining a pool of experienced and quality staff to effectively assist them in carrying out their LegCo duties. He expressed disappointment at the Administration's failure to address the problem of high staff turnover in Members' offices. He suggested that the Subcommittee should discuss with IC the outstanding issues raised in the previous Report and the recommendations put forward in the draft Report.

7. In response to Ms Claudia MO's enquiry about the timetable for the current review of Members' remuneration and OER, the Clerk said that the Administration had already commenced work. In fact, in preparation for the review of the remuneration package for Members of the Sixth LegCo, members of IC and representatives of the Administration had paid visits to a number of Members' offices in early May 2015 with a view to gaining a deeper understanding of the operation of Members' offices. The Administration had indicated that IC would study the report of the Subcommittee as soon as the report was received.

8. Mr WONG Ting-kwong noted that the Councillors' Workers Association had made a submission to all Members on issues relating to Members' OER and the submission was included in the draft Report. He enquired about the background and composition of the Association. The Clerk undertook to obtain more information about the Association for members' reference.

(Post-meeting note : Subsequent to this meeting, members have been informed that the Councillors' Workers Association was established in 2001. Moreover, representatives of the Association attended the Subcommittee's meetings in 2010 and 2012 to give views on matters relating to Members' OER.)

9. Members agreed that the Report of the Subcommittee should be presented to the House Committee ("HC") on 15 May 2015. Members also agreed that HC should be invited to:

- (a) note the report; and
- (b) agree to forward the Report to the Administration for consideration by IC.

(Post-meeting note : With the endorsement of HC, the Report of the Subcommittee was forwarded to the Administration on 15 May 2015. The Administration has invited members of the Subcommittee to meet with members of IC on 24 July 2015 to exchange views on the Report.)

II. Any other business

10. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 11:30 am.

Complaints and Resources Management Division
Legislative Council Secretariat
June 2015