

Panel on Financial Affairs

List of outstanding items for discussion
(as at 3 April 2013)

	Proposed timing for discussion at Panel meeting
<p>1. Briefing on the work of Hong Kong Monetary Authority ("HKMA")</p> <p>The Chief Executive of HKMA briefs the Panel on the work of HKMA on a regular basis. Such briefings are normally held in February, May and November each year.</p>	<p>May 2013</p>
<p>2. Electricity charges subsidy</p> <p>The 2013-14 Budget Speech proposes to provide an electricity charges subsidy of \$1,800 to each residential account. The Administration plans to seek the Panel's views on the details of the scheme before taking the proposal to the Finance Committee in June 2013.</p>	<p>May 2013</p>
<p>3. Annual briefing on the work of the Financial Reporting Council ("FRC")</p> <p>In line with the usual practice, FRC will brief the Panel on the work of FRC in the past year and the work plan for the year ahead.</p>	<p>May 2013</p>
<p>4. Public consultation on improvement of corporate insolvency law</p> <p>On 7 November 2011, the Panel discussed the Administration's plan to roll out an exercise to improve the corporate insolvency law. The Administration plans to launch a public consultation in the first half of 2013. The Administration would like to consult Panel members on the legislative proposals.</p>	<p>May 2013</p>
<p>5. Briefing by the Financial Secretary ("FS") on Hong</p>	

**Proposed
timing for
discussion at
Panel meeting**

Kong's latest overall economic situation

The Panel has invited FS to brief the Panel and all other LegCo Members on macro economic issues on a regular basis since mid-1999. Such briefings are normally held in June and December each year.

June 2013

6. Proposed legislation for regulation of sponsors

The Administration will brief the Panel on the legislative proposal on regulation of sponsors.

2nd quarter of
2013

7. Proposed establishment of an independent Insurance Authority ("IIA") – consultation conclusions on key legislative proposals

The Administration consulted the Panel on the consultation conclusions and detailed proposals of the public consultation on the proposed establishment of IIA on 4 July 2011. The three-month public consultation on the key legislative proposals ended in January 2013. The Administration is studying the comments received and will brief the Panel on the conclusions of the consultation in the second quarter of 2013.

2nd quarter of
2013

8. Proposed legislation for the introduction of a scripless securities market in Hong Kong

The Administration will brief the Panel on the legislative proposal of introducing a scripless securities market in Hong Kong.

To be confirmed

9. Withdrawal of Mandatory Provident Fund ("MPF") benefits

The Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority ("MPFA") has earlier conducted public consultation on the withdrawal arrangements of MPF benefits. It proposes to expressly provide scheme members with the option to opt to receive payment in stages; and add "terminal illness" as an additional ground for early withdrawal of MPF benefits.

To be confirmed

The proposals received public support and MPFA is in the process of formulating the implementation details. MPFA will consult the Panel in due course.

10. Duration of lunch break under the extended trading hours of Hong Kong securities market

Since 7 March 2011, Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited ("HKEx") has implemented a two-phase extension of the trading hours of its securities and derivatives market by 1.5 hour to increase the overlap of the trading hours with the Mainland's and to strengthen the competitiveness of HKEx with its regional competitors. Under the extended trading hours, the morning trading session was advanced by 30 minutes. The lunch break was shortened from two to 1.5 hours with effect from 7 March 2011 and further shortened to one hour from 5 March 2012.

Information paper to be provided by the Administration in the 2nd quarter of 2013

At the meeting on 16 October 2012, Hon Christopher CHEUNG expressed concern on the impact of the shortened lunch break on market practitioners and suggested that the Panel should discuss the issue in due course. The Administration has been invited to provide an information paper on the matter. The Panel would decide whether and how to follow up the issue in due course.