

**SUPPLEMENTARY NOTE TO**  
**ITEM FOR ESTABLISHMENT SUBCOMMITTEE**  
**OF FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
**[EC(2014-15)12]**

**PURPOSE**

This note sets out the Administration's proposal to amend the period of retention of the supernumerary posts of one Administrative Officer Staff Grade B (AOSGB) (D3) and one Administrative Officer Staff Grade C (AOSGC) (D2) in the Health Branch of the Food and Health Bureau from five years to three years as presented in EC(2014-15)12.

**ESTABLISHMENT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING ON 10 DECEMBER 2014**

2. The Establishment Subcommittee (ESC) met on 10 December 2014 and deliberated on the proposal in EC(2014-15)12. Specifically, Members were invited to recommend to Finance Committee the retention of the following supernumerary posts for five years in the Health Branch of the Food and Health Bureau –

1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade B  
(D3) (\$158,850 - \$173,350)

1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade C  
(D2) (\$136,550 - \$149,350)

3. Some Members requested that the period of retention of the two supernumerary posts be amended from five years to three years.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO EC(2014-15)12**

4. As detailed in EC(2014-15)12, the two supernumerary posts are to provide continued steer and leadership to the Healthcare Planning and Development Office (HPDO) in taking forward the various policy initiatives entrusted to the Office.

5. The AOSGB post, designated as Head(HPDO), will provide an overall strategic direction to members of the office and oversee all aspects of work of the HPDO in the coming five years, including steering the formulation and passage of legislative proposals, as well as putting in place institutional and regulatory arrangements for implementing the Health Protection Scheme (now known as Voluntary Health Insurance Scheme (VHIS)) and introduction of a revamped regulatory regime for private healthcare facilities (PHFs); overseeing the conduct of the strategic review on healthcare manpower and professional development and the implementation of relevant recommendations; and providing strategic steer for policy matters relating to the mental health. He will be heavily involved in engaging and consulting stakeholders concerned, which requires sufficient stature, strategic perspective and consensus-building capability.

6. The AOSGC post, designated as Deputy Head(HPDO), will mainly assist Head(HPDO) in carrying out duties relating to the implementation of the VHIS and introduction of a revamped regulatory regime for PHFs in the coming five years. He will oversee the consultation exercises on the proposed way forward for the VHIS and regulation of PHFs, the subsequent drafting work for the two major pieces of legislation, devise the legislative frameworks, examine the legal issues relating to the two initiatives, as well as set up and provide support to consultative platforms for engaging stakeholders. Upon the passage of the relevant legislation, Deputy Head(HPDO) will assist Head(HPDO) in implementing the VHIS and introducing the revamped regulatory regime for PHFs through putting in place relevant institutional and regulatory arrangements.

7. In view of the importance of the various policy initiatives to enhancing the long-term development of our healthcare system, as well as the complexity and sensitivity of the wide range of issues involved, we consider it necessary to retain the supernumerary posts to steer through the work of the HPDO for five years. At the Panel on Health Services meeting of 20 October 2014, we undertook to review the need for continued retention of the two posts after three years, taking into account the work progress of the HPDO.

8. Having regard to Members' concerns and our above undertaking to review the need for continued retention of the two posts after three years, the Administration proposes to amend the retention period of the two supernumerary posts from five years to three years.

9. We invite the ESC to recommend to Finance Committee the retention of the two supernumerary posts of AOSGB and AOSGC for three years.