

# 立法會 *Legislative Council*

LC Paper No. LS 13/14-15

## **Requests for late membership under paragraph 4B of the Public Works Subcommittee Procedure**

At the special meeting of the Public Works Subcommittee held on 11 November 2014, a member sought clarification on whether or not the Chairman had the discretion under paragraph 4B of the Public Works Subcommittee Procedure (PWSCP) to accept an application for late membership from a Member on grounds other than indisposition or absence from Hong Kong. This note provides our views on the proper interpretation of that paragraph.

2. Paragraph 4B of PWSCP provides that "[t]he Chairman may agree to accept late membership on grounds of indisposition or absence from Hong Kong", and that "[a] request for late membership on grounds other than indisposition or absence from Hong Kong shall be put to the Subcommittee" which "shall accept such applications only when sufficient grounds have been provided". In our view, the effect of paragraph 4B is that there are only two grounds on which the Chairman (as opposed to the Subcommittee as a whole) may agree to accept late membership, namely, indisposition and absence from Hong Kong. If a request for late membership is made on any other grounds, the Chairman does not have the discretion to accept such request which must be put to the Subcommittee.

Prepared by

Legal Service Division  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
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