

7 April 2016

Clerk to the Establishment Subcommittee  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central, Hong Kong  
(Attn: Jason Kong)

Dear Mr Kong,

**Establishment Subcommittee  
Follow-up to meeting on 29 February 2016**

I refer to your letter of 2 March 2016 to this Bureau enclosing a list of follow-up actions arising from the discussion at the Establishment Subcommittee meeting held on 29 February 2016. Please find our reply at **Annex**.

(Ms Venus Yiu)  
for Secretary for Financial Services and Treasury

cc : Director of Administration  
Secretary for Civil Service (Attn: Ms Winnie Tse)  
Government Economist (Attn: Ms Wynne Lam)

**Establishment Subcommittee  
Follow-up actions arising from the discussion of  
the meeting on 29 February 2016**

**EC(2015-16)14**

During discussion on the proposal to retain a supernumerary Principal Economist ("Pr Econ") post in Section V of the Economic Analysis Division in the Economic Analysis and Business Facilitation Unit ("EABFU"), members expressed concern that, after the Finance Committee ("FC")'s approval of the proposal, the post holder might be assigned new duties not covered in the job description of the post. The Administration is requested to provide supplementary information to explain the mechanism for changing the job duties of and reassigning new duties to the Pr Econ post concerned after its creation by FC, and whether EABFU had the authority to amend the duties of the post after FC's approval of the proposal.

**Reply**

**Supernumerary Principal Economist (Pr Econ) post in Section V of the Economic Analysis Division in the Economic Analysis and Business Facilitation Unit (EABFU)**

Government proposes to extend the supernumerary Pr Econ (5) post in EABFU, which was created by FC in 2013, for three years to continue with the necessary analytical support and research work in the areas of population, poverty, welfare and retirement protection. Having regard to the significant, heavy and complex nature of the responsibilities involved, it is operationally not possible for the incumbent to take up new assignments other than those in the areas of population, poverty, welfare and retirement protection on a long-term basis. In fact, since the establishment of the supernumerary Pr Econ post in question, the job duties of this post as well as the division of responsibilities amongst the Pr Econ posts in the four sections have generally remained unchanged over the years.

2. As set out in the terms of reference of the Establishment Sub-committee (ESC), it will consider submissions from the Government

and, as appropriate, recommend to FC, amongst others, creation and redeployment of permanent and supernumerary directorate posts.

3. If EABFU intends to re-deploy the proposed Pr Econ (5) post to take up other duties different from those of the approved post, the Controlling Officer (i.e. the Director of Administration) should seek the approval of FC after consulting ESC in accordance with the existing mechanism.