立法會 Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)2118/16-17 (These minutes have been seen by the Administration)

Ref: CB2/PL/SE

Panel on Security

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday, 4 July 2017, at 2:30 pm in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex

Members present

: Hon CHAN Hak-kan, BBS, JP (Chairman) Hon James TO Kun-sun (Deputy Chairman)

Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, GBS, JP Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, SBS, JP

Hon CHAN Kin-por, GBS, JP

Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP

Hon WONG Kwok-kin, SBS, JP Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung

Hon Claudia MO

Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP

Hon Steven HO Chun-yin, BBS

Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming, SBS, JP

Hon YIU Si-wing, BBS

Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP Hon Charles Peter MOK, JP

Hon CHAN Chi-chuen Hon CHAN Han-pan, JP

Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP

Hon Kenneth LEUNG

Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, BBS, JP

Hon Dennis KWOK Wing-hang

Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung, SBS, JP

Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung

Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, BBS, JP Hon POON Siu-ping, BBS, MH

Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan

Hon Alvin YEUNG

Hon CHU Hoi-dick

Hon Jimmy NG Wing-ka, JP Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP

Hon LAM Cheuk-ting

Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding

Hon SHIU Ka-chun Hon YUNG Hoi-yan Hon CHAN Chun-ying

Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan, JP

Hon HUI Chi-fung

Hon Nathan LAW Kwun-chung

Members : Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki

attending Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, SBS, MH, JP

Hon Tanya CHAN

Dr Hon YIU Chung-yim

Members: Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP

absent Hon KWOK Wai-keung, JP

Hon Wilson OR Chong-shing, MH

Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai

[According to the Judgment of the Court of First Instance of the High Court on 14 July 2017, LEUNG Kwok-hung, Nathan LAW Kwun-chung, YIU Chung-yim and LAU Siu-lai have been disqualified from assuming the office of a member of the Legislative Council, and have vacated the same since 12 October 2016, and are not entitled to act as a member of the Legislative Council.]

Public Officers: <u>Item II</u> attending

Mr John LEE Ka-chiu , SBS, PDSM, PMSM, JP

Secretary for Security

Mr Andrew TSANG Yue-tung

Principal Assistant Secretary for Security E

Mr KONG Man-keung

Assistant Commissioner of Police (Support)

(Acting), Support Wing

Ms Kitty CHIK Hsia-yu Chief Inspector of Police (General Support) (Support Branch), Support Wing

Item III

Mr John LEE Ka-chiu, SBS, PDSM, PMSM, JP Secretary for Security

Mr Vic YAU Cheuk-hang, JP Deputy Secretary for Security 2

Miss Venus TSOI Yuen-san Assistant Secretary for Security B2

Mr Terrance TSANG Wing-hung Assistant Director (Fire Safety) Fire Services Department

Mr CHENG Sui-on Senior Divisional Officer (Support) Fire Services Department

Item IV

Captain Michael CHAN, MBS, MBB, GMSM, AE Controller Government Flying Service

Mr Edward LI Air Crewman Officer I (Operations 1) (Acting) Government Flying Service

Ms Iris LEE Principal Assistant Secretary for Security A

Ms Trinky CHAN
Assistant Secretary for Security A1

Clerk in attendanceattendance: Miss Betty MAChief Council Secretary (2) 1

Staff in : Mr Timothy TSO

attendance Senior Assistant Legal Adviser 1

Mr Raymond LAM

Senior Council Secretary (2) 7

Miss Lulu YEUNG Clerical Assistant (2) 1

Action

I. Information paper issued since the last meeting

(LC Paper No. CB(2)1664/16-17(01))

Members noted that a joint letter dated 13 June 2017 from Dr Fernando CHEUNG and Mr SHIU Ka-chun had been issued since the last meeting. The Chairman said that the joint letter would be incorporated into the Panel's list of outstanding items for discussion under the item on the work of the Correctional Services Department in rehabilitation and community education.

II. Custodial and detention management of the Hong Kong Police Force

(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1761/16-17(01) to (02) and CB(2)1774/16-17(01) to (02))

- 2. <u>Secretary for Security</u> ("S for S") briefed Members on the custodial and detention management policy of the Police.
- 3. <u>Members</u> noted an information note entitled "Custodial and detention management of the Police" prepared by the Legislative Council ("LegCo") Secretariat.

<u>Installation of closed-circuit television cameras for monitoring situation</u> inside detention cells

4. Mr Kenneth LEUNG said that closed-circuit television ("CCTV") cameras had been installed inside detention cells in the United Kingdom in recent years. Although the privacy laws in many European countries were more stringent than that in Hong Kong, the European Court of Human Rights had pointed out in many cases that the installation of CCTV cameras inside detention cells was a reasonable means to prevent detainees from escape and inflicting self-harm. He asked whether the

Administration would consider installing CCTV cameras inside detention cells.

- 5. <u>S for S</u> responded that the Administration was aware of the use of CCTV cameras in safety management of detention facilities. He said that CCTV cameras had been installed at all police stations with detention cells for monitoring the passage, exits and entrances of detention cells. The Coroner's Court had recommended the Police to install CCTV cameras for monitoring the situation inside detention cells and the recommendation was being actively considered by the Police, having regard to legal advice on necessity, proportionality, impact on privacy as well as the need for full justifications for the installation of CCTV cameras with video-recording function for detention cells.
- 6. Mr Michael TIEN said that CCTV cameras had effectively facilitated law enforcement and the detection of crime. He considered that the Police could first install CCTV cameras without video-recording function to monitor detention cells, followed by the incorporation of video-recording function after the relevant legal and privacy issues had been addressed.
- 7. <u>Dr KWOK Ka-ki</u> expressed concern about the number of detainees who had committed suicide in recent years and asked whether there was a timetable for the installation of CCTV cameras with video-recording function for monitoring the situation inside detention cells.
- 8. <u>S for S</u> responded that the Police had implemented most of the recommendations made by the Coroner's Court in 2015 and 2016 in relation to detainees. The Police intended to implement the recommendation of the Coroner's Court to install CCTV cameras to enable monitoring of the situation in cells which could help to prevent detainees from harming themselves at an early stage. Inclusion of video-recording function is also considered beneficial as it could provide full footage of the detention for the purpose of handling relevant complaints, disciplinary investigations and coroner inquests. However, the relevant legal and privacy issues had to be addressed before such CCTV cameras could be installed.
- 9. <u>Mr Jimmy NG</u> expressed concern that 177 detainees had harmed themselves or attempted to commit suicide inside police stations in the past five years. He sought information on the follow-up actions taken by the Police and whether such statistics would constitute sufficient

ground for the installation of CCTV cameras with video-recording function.

10. <u>S for S</u> responded that there were four deaths among the 177 detainees who had attempted to harm themselves or committed suicide in the past five years. He said that the use of CCTV cameras was one of the measures to facilitate the fulfilling of the Police's duty of care of detainees. Measures such as the conducting of custody search, the checking of detention facilities at every 25-minute intervals and the prompt handling of any incident that occurred inside detention cells were also key elements to fulfilling the Police's duty of care of detainees.

Detention management

- 11. Referring to paragraph 11 of the Administration's paper, Mr CHAN Chun-ying asked whether the police stations in which improvement works to detention facilities had been completed met the latest requirements. He also asked whether there was a timetable for improvement of detention facilities in the remaining police stations.
- 12. <u>S for S</u> responded that after conducting a review on detention facilities in 2008, the Police had carried out improvement works to detention facilities in police stations to enhance security and better protect the rights and privacy of detainees, having regard to impact on frontline operations. <u>Assistant Commissioner of Police (Support) (Acting)</u> ("ACP(SUP)(Atg)") added that improvement works to the detention facilities of three police stations had commenced in 2010. These included the installation of air-conditioners and retrofitting of polycarbonate gates and walls at temporary holding areas and detention cells with a view to reducing the likelihood of detainees committing suicide. The Police had also commenced site inspections as well as layout designs for four other police stations and included five other police stations in the next phase of improvement programme.
- 13. <u>Dr Elizabeth QUAT</u> expressed concern about how the problem of blind spots in the CCTV camera systems of police stations were addressed. She asked whether there were adequate and clear guidelines on detention management, such as circumstances under which a custody search was conducted and whether a further custody search should be conducted on a detainee every time the detainee re-entered a detention cell after temporary removal from such facility.

- S for S responded that the Police adopted a responsible approach in the introduction of improvement measures for detention facilities in police stations. Detention facilities in police stations were safeguarded with a combination of deployment of CCTV cameras at cell corridors and entrances, and regular checking of detention facilities. ACP(SUP)(Atg) added that detention facilities in police stations were inspected at regular intervals by a Duty Officer ("DO") to ensure that its security, safety and hygiene were meeting relevant requirements. There were clear guidelines on detention management. Regarding custody search on detainees, he said that before 2008, the Police conducted custody search on a detainee every time prior to his return to a detention cell. Following the recommendation of the LegCo's Subcommittee on Police's Handling of Sex Workers and Searches of Detainees, the Police had implemented a revised arrangement since April 2009. Under the revised arrangement, a DO could decide whether a further custody search should be conducted on a detainee every time the detainee re-entered a detention cell after temporary removal from such facility, if the detainee had already been searched immediately before he was put in a detention cell.
- 15. The Deputy Chairman said that the Police had a responsibility to fulfil the duty of care to detainees. He said that the checking of detainees at no more than every 25-minute intervals could be shortened to 10-minute or 15-minute intervals. Consideration could also be given to the deployment of robots installed with CCTV cameras to monitor the situation inside detention cells. S for S responded that the suggestions would be conveyed to the Review Committee on Custody Management ("RCCM") for consideration.
- 16. Referring to paragraph 7 of the Administration's paper, Mr YIU Si-wing asked whether there were many occasions when two or more detainees were accommodated in a detention cell at the same time. S for S responded that it was the Police's policy to maintain single-cell occupancy as far as there was sufficient vacancy in the detention facilities in order to reduce the probability of detainees in a detention cell causing harm to each other. When there was a lack of vacant detention cells, which usually arose from a large number of persons being arrested at the same time, three or more detainees, but not two, might be accommodated in a detention cell at the same time. In response to Mr YIU's question on whether there were many cases of detainees in a detention cell causing harm to each other, ACP(SUP)(Atg) responded that such cases were rare.

- 17. Noting that 177 detainees had harmed themselves or attempted to commit suicide in police stations in the past five years, Mr YIU Si-wing said that there was a need to review the Police's assessment of self-harm and suicidal tendency of detainees. S for S responded that the suggestion would be conveyed to RCCM for consideration.
- 18. Mr Nathan LAW said that police officers should be required to handle the requests of detainees for addressing medical needs within a specified time limit. S for S said that the suggestion would be conveyed to RCCM for consideration.
- 19. <u>Dr KWOK Ka-ki</u> said that a detainee had complained of not being allowed to take asthma drug. A female detainee had also complained that a male police officer was found patrolling outside her detention cell.
- 20. Mr Nathan LAW said that a detainee suffering from a temperature had to wait for two hours before being seen by a doctor. A detainee on long-term medication had to wait for 20 hours before receiving the medicine required. He expressed concern that inadequate police officers were deployed for handling detainees. There was no female police officer present when a male police officer was found patrolling outside the detention cell of a female detainee.
- 21. <u>ACP(SUP)(Atg)</u> said that there were established guidelines and procedures on the checking of detention facilities. If there was a need for a male DO to conduct supervisory check of female detention facilities, a female police officer should first be deployed to the detention facilities concerned to ensure that there were no privacy issues before the male DO carried out supervisory check of the detention facilities. If there was any violation of such procedures, a complaint could be lodged with the Complaints Against Police Office ("CAPO"). <u>ACP(SUP)(Atg)</u> added that priority was given to handling requests for addressing medical needs. That said, a detainee would be allowed to take medicine only after his medical needs were assessed by a medical doctor.
- 22. <u>Mr SHIU Ka-chun</u> said that he was a diabetic and thus would need medication if being detained. He considered that a time limit should be set for the Police's handling of the medical needs of detainees. Sufficient training and guidelines on assessment of suicidal tendency should be provided to police officers. <u>S for S</u> responded that the suggestions would be conveyed to RCCM for consideration.

23. Noting that four detainees had died of suicide in detention facilities in the past five years, Mr MA Fung-kwok sought information on the means of committing suicide by the detainees concerned. S for S responded that two of the detainees had died of suicide by hanging themselves with clothes, one had died of suicide by hanging himself with a blanket and the Police was still investigating into the death of a detainee who had committed suicide in May 2017.

Detainees under "Special Watch"

- 24. Referring to paragraphs 7 and 8 of the Administration's paper, Mr LAM Cheuk-ting sought information on the details of measures on detainees under "Special Watch". So for Some responded that general measures on the management and checking of detention facilities were set out in paragraph 7 of the Administration's paper. For detainees who must be put under "Special Watch", the Police would make special arrangements to further ensure their safety and that of others in contact with them. A detainee who had expressed or known suicidal tendency would be put under continuous watch by police officers during the entire detention period. ACP(SUP)(Atg) added that a detainee who had a record of exhibiting serious violence would also be put under continuous watch by police officers.
- 25. Mr LAM Cheuk-ting asked whether a detainee arrested for rape and died of suicide in Sau Mau Ping Police Station in May 2017 had been put under "Special Watch". S for S responded that as a death inquest would be held by the Coroner's Court into the death of the detainee concerned, it was inappropriate for him to provide information on the case. As a general rule, the officer-in-charge of investigation into the case concerned would recommend to the DO whether a detainee should be put under "Special Watch".
- 26. Referring to paragraph 8 of the Administration's paper, Mr Alvin YEUNG asked about the criteria for determining whether a detainee should be put under "Special Watch".
- 27. Mr MA Fung-kwok sought information on the categories of detainees put under "Special Watch".
- 28. <u>S for S</u> responded that detainees put under "Special Watch" included those who had a previous record of serious and violent offences or offences involving firearms or explosives; those who were suspected of, or charged with, serious and violent offences or offences involving

firearms or explosives; those who were detained on behalf of other Government Departments or the Independent Commission Against Corruption where there was a specific request that such persons be subject to "Special Watch"; those who had previously escaped from custody or those who were thought to be of high escape risk; and those who had an expressed or known suicidal tendency. ACP(SUP)(Atg) added that an officer-in-charge of the case concerned could convey his request for putting a detainee under "Special Watch" to the DO, who would also inform the Divisional Commander in charge of the detention facility.

Review Committee on Custody Management

- 29. Referring to paragraph 14 of the Administration's paper, Mr POON Siu-ping asked whether members who were not police officers had been appointed to RCCM established in June 2017. He also sought information on the scope of the comprehensive review to be conducted by RCCM, the timetable for completion of the review and whether the review report would be made public.
- 30. <u>ACP(SUP)(Atg)</u> responded that RCCM, which comprised members from different police divisions and had held its first meeting in June 2017, would carry out a comprehensive review covering such areas as policies and procedures, facilities and environment, information technology support, as well as training and frontline engagement. <u>S for S</u> said that LegCo would be informed of the results of the Police's comprehensive review.

Other issue

- 31. <u>Ms Claudia MO</u> and <u>Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung</u> expressed concern that Mr NG Man-yuen of the Legaue of Social Democrats had recently complained of being punched by police officers inside a police vehicle. <u>S for S</u> responded that CAPO had received a complaint on the matter, which would be handled in accordance with the established procedures. He stressed that there were clear guidelines and records on the custody of detainees.
- 32. <u>Dr Fernando CHEUNG</u> said that he had noted during a visit of the Subcommittee on Children's Rights to a correctional institution that CCTV cameras were installed inside penal institutions and the footages were retained for 31 days. He considered that CCTV cameras should be installed at all police detention facilities and police vehicles.

Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung considered that CCTV cameras should be installed inside police vehicles and arrestees should be given the choice of whether to video-record the situation inside police vehicles with CCTV cameras. S for S responded that police vehicles were deployed for a wide range of duties, including the conveyance of arrestees, witnesses and persons invited to attend a police station. The suggestion to install CCTV cameras inside police vehicles had to be considered having regard to privacy, necessity and proportionality considerations.

33. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung and Mr Nathan LAW said that they had recently been detained for nearly 24 hours with no follow-up actions taken by police officers. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen queried whether it was lawful for the Police to detain a person without taking any follow-up actions. S for S responded that the Police would normally detain a person for no more than 48 hours. It was the Police's practice to release a detainee after completion of all procedures, provided that such release would not affect the Police's operations to arrest the detainee's accomplices. He said that the Police's power to arrest and detain persons were subject to the necessity and proportionality tests. Detainees who wished to lodge a complaint on the detention arrangements could do so with CAPO.

III. Proposed implementation details of the Registered Fire Engineer Scheme

(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1761/16-17(03) and (04))

- 34. <u>S for S</u> briefed Members on the proposed implementation details of the Registered Fire Engineer ("RFE") Scheme.
- 35. <u>Members</u> noted a background brief entitled "Registered Fire Engineer Scheme" prepared by the LegCo Secretariat.

Scope of premises covered under the Registered Fire Engineer Scheme

36. Referring to the Annex to the Administration's paper, Mr CHAN Chun-ying asked whether the Administration had any plan to include mini-storages under licensed premises covered under the RFE Scheme. S for S responded that after the RFE Scheme had been implemented for two years, the Administration would conduct a review on the scheme, including the subject of whether there would be a need to expand the scope of premises covered under the RFE Scheme.

- 37. <u>Dr Elizabeth QUAT</u> expressed support for the Administration's proposal on implementation details of the RFE Scheme. She asked whether the scope of premises covered by the RFE Scheme would be expanded in future.
- 38. Assistant Director (Fire Safety), Fire Services Department ("AD(FS)/FSD") responded that as the RFE Scheme was a new initiative, the Administration would adopt a prudent approach in selecting the types of licensed premises to be covered under the scheme, starting with those with relatively low fire risks. The Administration would conduct a review on the RFE Scheme two years after its implementation, including the types of premises covered under the scheme.

Fire safety risk assessment and certification for the licensing of premises under the Registered Fire Engineer Scheme

- 39. Noting that the Fire Services Department ("FSD") would conduct audit inspections of at least 70% of the certification completed at the initial stage of implementation of the RFE Scheme, Mr CHAN Chun-ying asked whether such a percentage would be lowered in future. S for S responded that consideration would be given to lowering the percentage subject to the operational experience of the RFE Scheme.
- 40. Noting that with the introduction of the RFE Scheme, the estimated time required for fire safety risk assessment and certification for the licensing of food premises could be reduced from 31 days by FSD to about seven days by RFEs, Mr Nathan LAW asked whether it involved abolition of any existing procedures. S for S responded that taking the licence application for general restaurants as an example, FSD currently took around 17 working days to conduct fire safety risk assessment and formulate fire safety requirements upon receipt of the referral of a licence application from the licensing authority, and around 14 working days to conduct compliance inspection and certification after the licence applicant concerned notified FSD of the completion of the relevant Upon implementation of the RFE Scheme, it was estimated that the time required for fire safety risk assessment and certification for the licensing of general restaurants by RFEs could be reduced to as short as five and three days respectively due to an increase in qualified manpower available for performing the relevant procedures and the more flexible working hours of RFEs.

- 41. <u>Mr Nathan LAW</u> expressed reservation about the participation of the private sector in the RFE Scheme. He asked whether the Administration would report to the Panel on the progress of implementation of the RFE Scheme. <u>S for S</u> replied in the affirmative.
- 42. Referring to paragraph 8(ii) of the Administration's paper, Dr YIU Chung-yim said that a person applying for becoming an RFE should also be required to possess certification awarded by the relevant professional bodies. <u>AD(FS)/FSD</u> responded that the Administration would further consult the relevant professional bodies and members of the relevant trades on the proposed implementation details of the RFE Scheme.
- 43. <u>Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok</u> expressed support for the proposed implementation details of the RFE Scheme. He sought information on the fire safety risk assessments and certificates processed by FSD in a year and whether there would be a decrease in such workload after the RFE Scheme was implemented. <u>AD(FS)/FSD</u> responded that FSD processed an annual average of about 3 300 licence applications requiring fire safety risk assessments and certification services in the past three years.

Other issues

- 44. Mr CHAN Chun-ying asked whether an RFE would be criminally liable for failure to discover false or misleading information provided by a contractor. S for S responded that generally speaking, whether a person would be criminally liable for an act would be subject to, among other factors, whether there was an element of *mens rea* behind his act.
- 45. <u>Dr YIU Chung-yim</u> sought information on the composition of the Disciplinary Boards referred to in paragraph 11 of the Administration's paper. <u>Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung</u> also sought information on the criteria for appointment of members to the Registration Committee, Disciplinary Boards and Appeal Boards and asked whether retired judges would be appointed to the Appeal Boards. <u>AD(FS)/FSD</u> responded that the Registration Committee, Disciplinary Boards and Appeal Boards under the RFE Scheme would tentatively comprise representatives from FSD, members of the relevant professional sectors and/or academics.

46. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung asked why the RFE Scheme did not cover the main complex and off-course betting branches of the Hong Kong Jockey Club ("HKJC"). AD(FS)/FSD responded that while the main complexes of HKJC in Happy Valley and Sha Tin were places of public entertainment, which was one of the types of licensed premises proposed to be covered under the RFE Scheme, the off-course betting branches did not fall within the proposed scope of licensed premises under the RFE Scheme.

[To allow sufficient time for discussion, the Chairman advised that the meeting would be extended to 4:50 pm.]

IV. Inshore and mountain search and rescue operations of the Government Flying Service

(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1761/16-17(05) and (06))

- 47. With the aid of video footages, <u>Controller, Government Flying Service</u> ("C/GFS") briefed Members on the inshore and mountain search and rescue operations of the Government Flying Service ("GFS").
- 48. <u>Members</u> noted an information note entitled "Inshore and mountain search and rescue operations of the Government Flying Service" prepared by the LegCo Secretariat.

Adequacy of manpower and equipment of the Government Flying Service

- 49. <u>Dr Elizabeth QUAT</u> commended GFS for its professional search and rescue service. She asked whether the existing manpower and equipment of GFS could meet its operational needs. <u>C/GFS</u> responded that the manpower and equipment needs of GFS were constantly reviewed and requests for additional resources would be made if necessary in accordance with the established mechanism.
- 50. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen sought information on the adequacy of manpower and staff wastage rate of GFS. C/GFS responded that 32 new posts had been created in GFS in 2016-2017 and 31 new posts would be created in 2017-2018. The wastage rate of air crewman officers was low, whereas three pilots had resigned in the past six months. GFS was addressing the pilot retention problem through improvement of working conditions.

Rescue capability of the new helicopter fleet

- 51. <u>Members</u> noted that GFS was operating seven helicopters and two fixed-wing aircrafts. The existing seven-helicopter fleet, which comprised three large-sized Super Puma helicopters and four medium-sized Dauphin helicopters, had been in operation for about 18 years and would be replaced by seven new helicopters to be delivered in batches from 2018. <u>Mr MA Fung-kwok</u> expressed concern that the number of call-outs for inshore search and rescues missions had increased by 26.5% between 2012 and 2016. He asked how the rescue capability of the new helicopters compared with that of the existing helicopter fleet.
- 52. <u>C/GFS</u> responded that in comparison with the existing helicopter fleet, the new helicopter fleet had a better search and rescue capability. The seven new helicopters would be smaller in size than Super Puma helicopters but larger than Dauphin helicopters. While a Super Puma helicopter could carry a maximum of 27 passengers, a Dauphin helicopter could only carry a much smaller number of passengers. A new helicopter could carry a maximum of 20 passengers and the overall passenger carrying capacity of the new helicopter fleet would be increased. The endurance of a new helicopter was comparable to that of a Super Puma helicopter.

Statistics on inshore search and rescue carried out by the Government Flying Service in 2012-2016

- 53. Noting from Annex III to the Administration's paper that inshore search and rescue operations carried out by GFS in 2016 involved 699 flying hours, <u>Dr Junius HO</u> asked whether the average annual flying hours of a GFS pilot was in the region of 20 to 30 hours. <u>C/GFS</u> explained that besides inshore search and rescue operations, GFS was also involved in other duties, such as assisting in law enforcement operations and gathering weather information for the Hong Kong Observatory. The average monthly flying hours of a GFS pilot was in the region of 35 to 40 hours.
- 54. Referring to Annex III to the Administration's paper, Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok asked why the statistics on inshore search and rescue operations carried out by GFS in 2015 were comparatively higher than other years. C/GFS responded that the circumstances and flying hours of each search and rescue operation differed from one to another.

Action

55. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 4:48 pm.

Council Business Division 2 <u>Legislative Council Secretariat</u> 26 September 2017