

立法會
Legislative Council

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(These minutes have been
seen by the Administration)

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Establishment Subcommittee of the Finance Committee

**Minutes of the 5th meeting
held in Conference Room 1 of Legislative Council Complex
on Wednesday, 6 December 2017, at 8:30 am**

Members present:

Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee, GBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon Alvin YEUNG (Deputy Chairman)
Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, GBS, JP
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP
Hon WONG Kwok-kin, SBS, JP
Hon Steven HO Chun-yin, BBS
Hon WU Chi-wai, MH
Hon Charles Peter MOK, JP
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki
Hon KWOK Wai-keung, JP
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Hon IP Kin-yuen
Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, BBS, JP
Hon Martin LIAO Cheung-kong, SBS, JP
Hon POON Siu-ping, BBS, MH
Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, JP
Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, SBS, MH, JP
Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan
Hon CHU Hoi-dick
Hon HO Kai-ming

Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding
Hon SHIU Ka-fai
Hon SHIU Ka-chun
Hon YUNG Hoi-yan
Dr Hon Pierre CHAN
Hon CHAN Chun-ying
Hon KWONG Chun-yu
Hon Jeremy TAM Man-ho

Public Officers attending:

Ms Carol YUEN Siu-wai, JP	Deputy Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury) 1
Mr Eddie MAK Tak-wai, JP	Deputy Secretary for the Civil Service 1
Mr Jack CHAN, JP	Under Secretary for Home Affairs
Mr YEUNG Tak-keung, JP	Commissioner for Sports Home Affairs Bureau

Clerk in attendance:

Ms Connie SZETO	Chief Council Secretary (1)4
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Staff in attendance:

Mr Keith WONG	Council Secretary (1)4
Ms Alice CHEUNG	Senior Legislative Assistant (1)1
Miss Yannes HO	Legislative Assistant (1)6
Ms Haley CHEUNG	Legislative Assistant (1)9

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The Chairman drew members' attention to the information paper ECI(2017-18)11, which set out the latest changes in the directorate establishment approved since 2002 and the changes to the directorate establishment in relation to the three items on the agenda. She then reminded members that in accordance with Rule 83A of the Rules of Procedure ("RoP"), they should disclose the nature of any direct or indirect pecuniary interest relating to the item under discussion at the meeting before they spoke on the item. She also drew members' attention to RoP 84 on voting in case of direct pecuniary interest.

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EC(2017-18)10 Proposed creation of one supernumerary post of Administrative Officer Staff Grade C (D2) to head the Recreation and Sport Division (2) of Recreation and Sport Branch in the Home Affairs Bureau with effect from 1 January 2018 or upon approval of Finance Committee (whichever is later) to 31 December 2020

2. The Chairman remarked that the staffing proposal was to create one supernumerary post of Administrative Officer Staff Grade C (D2) (designated as Principal Assistant Secretary (Recreation and Sport) 2 ("PAS(RS)2")) to head the Recreation and Sport Division (2) of Recreation and Sport Branch ("R&S Branch") in the Home Affairs Bureau ("HAB") with effect from 1 January 2018 or upon approval of Finance Committee ("FC") (whichever is later) to 31 December 2020.

3. The Chairman pointed out that the Administration consulted the Panel on Home Affairs on the proposal on 20 January 2017. Members raised no objection and agreed to the Administration's submission of the proposal to the Establishment Subcommittee for consideration.

Impact of creating the supernumerary Principal Assistant Secretary (Recreation and Sport) 2 post on the Home Affairs Bureau's staff establishment

4. Mr CHAN Chun-ying enquired about the details of deployment of and salary expenses for the non-directorate staff supporting the PAS(RS)2 post, as mentioned in paragraph 23 of the paper. He also enquired about the reasons for the notable change in HAB's staff establishment in 2017.

5. Commissioner for Sports, Home Affairs Bureau ("C for S") replied that PAS(RS)2 would head the Recreation and Sport Division (2) of R&S Branch. To support the work of the proposed post, the Government would deploy staff from the Recreation and Sport Division (1) to the Recreation and Sport Division (2) apart from the creation of non-directorate posts. He added that the amount of \$19 million or so had already included the annual average salary expenses for both newly added and redeployed staff. As regards HAB's staff establishment in 2017, Under Secretary for Home Affairs ("USHA") explained that HAB had created nearly 20 short-term posts for the work relating to the "Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region", and these posts had been deleted upon conclusion of the event.

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6. Mr WU Chi-wai noted that the responsibilities of PAS(RS)2 included a number of matters to be dealt with over a long stretch of time. He enquired whether the Government would make the post permanent in the future.

7. C for S advised that it was necessary to strengthen directorate support given the substantial amount of resources the Government had dedicated to the promotion and development of sports in recent years as well as the rising workload of R&S Branch. However, the Government had been adopting a prudent approach in creating directorate posts, so that the post concerned was proposed to be created in a supernumerary basis. The Government would review the need of extending the post near the expiry of its three-year term.

8. Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok and Mr SHIU Ka-chun noted from the Government's paper that following the creation of the proposed post, the responsibilities of the current Principal Assistant Secretary (Recreation and Sport) 1 ("PAS(RS)1") would include overseeing matters relating to giant pandas and fireworks display. They enquired why such work was handled by R&S Branch.

9. C for S replied that HAB had assisted the Ocean Park years ago in the liaison work regarding the import of pandas from the Mainland for breeding, so panda-related matters remained under HAB's purview. In addition, fireworks display matters were all along under the charge of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department ("LCSD"), so they would be put under R&S Branch. He stressed that the two responsibilities did not involve a lot of workload and would not affect the handling of other recreation and sports related work by PAS(RS)1.

Responsibilities of Principal Assistant Secretary (Recreation and Sport) 2

Development of the Kai Tak Sports Park

10. Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok expressed support for the staffing proposal. He enquired about the division of work between the proposed post and Project Director (Sports Park) (to be filled by a Government Architect) for the development of the Kai Tak Sports Park ("Sports Park"). Mr WU Chi-wai enquired about the work of the proposed post in respect of management of the Sports Park, including setting up a monitoring mechanism for Sports Park operators.

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11. C for S advised that PAS(RS)2 would be responsible for offering policy advice on the operation of the Sports Park and devising a monitoring regime, and its first task would be to review whether the operation plans included in the tenders submitted by bidders of the Sports Park met the Government's policy objectives and requirements. Furthermore, the proposed post would devise a monitoring regime for operators prior to the commissioning of the Sports Park, and would make reference to the recommendations made in this regard by FC members in their earlier deliberations on the funding proposals in relation to the Sports Park project. He supplemented that a Government Architect post of Project Director (Sports Park) would be created under C for S to supervise the design and construction of the Sports Park.

12. Dr KWOK Ka-ki was worried that the Sports Park would be used for holding major international sports events as well as entertainment programmes such as concerts. The local sports sector might therefore not be able to benefit from the facilities. Mr Holden CHOW pointed out that the Administration should avoid holding a lot of non-sports events at the Sports Park in pursuit of short-term profits at the expense of the interests of the local sports sector.

13. USHA advised that priority was accorded to sports events under the operational objectives of the Sports Park, and operators could make use of the time slots available at the venues for holding non-sports events when no sports event was scheduled to be held. C for S added that apart from the Main Stadium, an outdoor Public Sports Ground with a capacity of 5 000 would also be built within the Sports Park as well as an Indoor Sports Centre for use by schools and the public.

Handling issues relating to Private Recreational Leases

14. Mr CHAN Chun-ying noted that PAS(RS)2 would be responsible for overseeing land matters relating to sports and recreation including the handling of Private Recreational Leases ("PRL"). He enquired about the progress of relevant work. Mr KWONG Chun-yu also pointed out that there were public views that some of the land dedicated to sports and recreation purposes should be used for housing development. For instance, it was proposed that the Fanling golf course site should be resumed for public housing development. He enquired how the proposed post would handle such aspirations.

15. USHA advised that the Government had set up an inter-departmental working group to review the PRL policy, and the

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proposed post would provide policy support and secretariat services to the working group. He supplemented that the inter-departmental working group would comprehensively review PRL issues from multiple perspectives with a view to putting forward a reasonable and feasible improvement proposal. The Government would then consult the Legislative Council ("LegCo") on the proposal and gather Members' views.

Development of community sports facilities

16. Dr Elizabeth QUAT noted from the Government's paper that PAS(RS)2 would oversee the planning of new public sports facilities and supervise the consultancy study on provision of sports facilities in Hong Kong and follow up on its recommendations. She enquired about the progress in implementing relevant work and whether the Administration would consider planning sports facilities in areas underneath flyovers across the districts in order to make good use of the idle public open space.

17. C for S advised that in the coming five years, PAS(RS)2 would promote the development of 26 new sports and recreation facilities, of which five had secured support from relevant Panels and the rest of them would be submitted to LegCo. The Government expected that funding for 10 of the projects to be available within the 2017-2018 legislative session so that the commencement of works would be expedited. He added that when planning for the recreation and sports facilities, the Government would fully consult the views of stakeholders, including the District Councils as well as district personalities and groups. If any group considered an area underneath a flyover a suitable location for holding sports events, the Lands Department could consider granting the area for use by the group concerned under short-term tenancy.

18. As regards Mr KWONG Chun-yu's suggestion for the Government to add venues for the promotion of balance bike as an option of sport for children, C for S advised that the significant growth of public demand for recreation and sports facilities in recent years had resulted in supply being outstripped by demand. As traditional sports had already taken up a large share of the public recreation and sports facilities, it was difficult to identify suitable venues for development of new sports such as balance bike. The Government looked forward to seeking improvement to the current inadequacy of venues by expediting the construction and conversion of 26 new or existing recreation and sports facilities under the five-year plan as well as conducting technical feasibility studies on 15 other sports facilities and projects.

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19. Mr CHU Hoi-dick pointed out that cricket was a very popular sport among the local ethnic minorities and that the Hong Kong cricket team had also been achieving remarkable success in international tournaments. Given the severe shortage of venues for cricket competitions and training across the districts, he urged the Administration to plan for more venues for cricket in order to promote its sustainable development in Hong Kong. Mr Holden CHOW suggested that the Administration should construct more multi-purpose grass pitches for competitions and training involving football, rugby and cricket in order to make good use of land resources.

20. C for S advised that the Government had earmarked part of the restored landfill in Gin Drinkers Bay, Kwai Chung to the Hong Kong Cricket Association for the development of a cricket training ground which was scheduled for completion by early 2018. As cricket ground was currently not included as a designated sport facility under the Government's planning standards, the consultancy study to be overseen by PAS(RS)2 would review the long-term demand for cricket ground in Hong Kong. As regards the suggestion of developing multi-purpose grass pitches, C for S pointed out that efforts would be made to enable the new natural and artificial turf pitches being built by the Government to accommodate multiple purposes, including football and rugby, etc. As formal cricket games had to take place at a round-shaped venue, these multi-purpose grass pitches could only be used for cricket training but not for holding formal games.

21. Mr HO Kai-ming and Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung requested the Administration to consider adding public swimming pools across the districts and expediting the progress of converting old swimming pools into heated pools with a view to meeting the demands from the public.

22. C for S advised that the Government had planned to renovate and convert several old public swimming pools including the redevelopment of Kowloon Tsai Swimming Pool and the conversion of a swimming pool in Morse Park into a heated pool. In addition, the consultancy study to be overseen by PAS(RS)2 would review the current planning standards for determining the number of public swimming pools across the districts, with a view to considering the necessity of adding more swimming pools across the districts to meet the growing demand.

Promotion of major sports events

23. Noting from the Government's paper that PAS(RS)2 would be responsible for overseeing the promotion and implementation of the "M"

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Mark System, the Chairman enquired about the outcomes of the Government's work in promoting the hosting of international sports events, including how to help national sports associations ("NSAs") organize sports events at an international level under the "M" Mark System.

24. C for S replied that promoting the hosting of international sports events was one of the Government's policy objectives. Over the years, the Government had endeavored to assist NSAs in organizing large-scale international sports events through the "M" Mark System, including providing subsidies for holding events and assistance in the form of traffic arrangements, etc. Since the introduction of the "M" Mark System in 2004, the number of sports events held under the System had increased from four in 2005 to 13 in 2017, coupled with continuous enhancement in the number of participants as well as level of games.

25. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen, Mr SHIU Ka-chun and Dr Fernando CHEUNG said that the four-yearly Gay Games hosted by the Federation of Gay Games would be held in Hong Kong in 2022. As the organization of the event was predicated on the efforts made by local community groups, they were worried that the organizer would find it difficult to find adequate venues for holding various competition events in the absence of the Government's assistance. They urged the Government to take the initiative to assist the organizer and reserve sufficient sports venues for use by the Games.

26. The Chairman declared that she was a volunteer ambassador for Hong Kong's bid to host the 2022 Gay Games. She was aware that some NSAs refused to assist the Gay Games organizer in arranging professional referees and venues due to personal reasons of their responsible persons. She enquired about the Administration's roles in the organization of the Gay Games in Hong Kong.

27. USHA said that the Government noted and welcomed the holding of the 2022 Gay Games in Hong Kong and considered that the access of people of different genders and sexual orientations to the Games was consistent with the Government's objective of promoting equality. C for S also advised that as part of the effort to examine the bidders' applications, the Federation of Gay Games had sent a delegation to Hong Kong to inspect the venues and was briefed by LCSD officers during their visits to the venues and facilities in Hong Kong. As venues and professional referees were required in holding the Games, it was essential for the organizer to secure the support and assistance from NSAs. Under the support of NSAs, the organizer might be accorded priority through NSAs

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to book LCSD venues for holding games. To his understanding, the organizer had been in negotiation with some NSAs over the matter. Should it encounter difficulties in seeking assistance from NSAs or identifying venues, the Government was prepared to liaise with different parties and offer assistance.

28. Mr SHIU Ka-chun urged the Administration to enhance the skills and sensitivity of frontline staff in providing services to sexual minority persons. USHA advised that government guidelines were regularly circulated among staff requiring frontline staff to adopt a people-oriented approach to service provision and respect the equal rights of people from diverse backgrounds.

Promotion of sports policy

School sports training programmes

29. Mr WU Chi-wai pointed out that promotion of "sports for all" had all along been one of the objectives of the Government's sports policy, but the lack of specific indicators in relevant work had made it difficult for the public to monitor the effectiveness of the Government's work in this respect. Dr KWOK Ka-ki urged the Administration to strengthen the promotion of sports in schools, including encouraging schools to open up sports venues at their campuses for organizing district-based sports training courses, and exploring with the Education Bureau the prospect of increasing the number of hours of physical education lessons in schools.

30. C for S explained that according to the prevailing curriculum guides of the Education Bureau, schools needed to arrange two physical education sessions for students a week. To increase the number of venues and enhance the sporting culture among schools, the Government had invited all government and subsidized schools to open up their sports facilities for NSAs and groups to organize training classes at schools for their students as well as members of the public. At present, nearly 100 schools had joined the scheme to offer 30 or so training programmes, and the Government would continue to invite more schools to join the scheme. In addition, nearly 600 schools had joined a subsidy scheme for student athletes to benefit a large number of students engaged in sports training. C for S added that the effort on promoting sports in the community in recent years had borne some fruit, as evidenced by the enhancement in both the results achieved by student athletes as well as the breadth of their participation. The Government would provide statistics on community sports events, school sports events coupled with the sports events joined by

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student athletes and their results to reflect the effectiveness of its work on promoting sports in the community, supporting elite sports and making Hong Kong a centre for international sports events.

[*Post-meeting note:* The supplementary information provided by the Administration was circulated to members on 9 January 2018 vide LC Paper No. ESC53/17-18(01).]

Updating the Leisure Link computerized booking system

31. Mr HO Kai-ming pointed out that the current design of the Leisure Link system for the booking of venues managed by LCSD was outdated, and members of the public often found it difficult to book popular facilities (including turf football pitches and badminton courts during peak hours) through the system. He urged the Administration to update the entire system as soon as possible.

32. C for S advised that the Leisure Link system had been in use for many years and a lot of its functions might no longer be compatible with the actual operational needs nowadays. In this connection, the Government planned to seek funding from FC to develop a new booking system. Moreover, the Government also planned to add a lot-drawing function in the new booking system with a view to achieving fairer distribution of the more popular facilities and periods.

Promoting new sports

33. The Chairman pointed out that the second FIA Formula E Championship—Hong Kong e-Prix ("Hong Kong e-Prix") had just been held in December, and enquired how the Administration had assisted the organizer in holding this international event. Mr Jeremy TAM advised that some members of the public criticized the event tickets for being expensive, and enquired whether the Government would urge the organizer to reduce the event ticket prices next year so as to boost the attendance.

34. C for S said that Hong Kong e-Prix was promoted and held by the Hong Kong Automobile Association ("HKAA"). In order to meet the organizer's requirements in relation to the specifications of tracks, the Government had funded the modification of roads surrounding the Central Harbourfront, including the alternations made to the width and curvature of the roads. Various government departments had also offered assistance to the organizer in its applications for road closure as well as the setting up of temporary spectator stands and catering areas at the venue, etc. He

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supplemented that the organizer had all along looked forward to higher public participation in the event, and the Government would relay to the organizer the view of members about expensive ticket prices.

35. The Chairman said that she was aware that HKAA was promoting the construction of a motor racing circuit in Tung Chung North Reclamation Area for holding international events, and pointed out the worries of some residents that this would cause noise problems and aggravate the traffic load of Tung Chung. Dr KWOK Ka-ki pointed out that it would be unreasonable to use a substantial portion of land for constructing motor car racing facilities in view of shortage of land for housing. Mr Jeremy TAM kept an open mind towards the proposal from HKAA, and commented that consideration could be given to include automobile research and driving safety improvement activities in the motor racing circuit for the benefits of local drivers.

36. Ms YUNG Hoi-yan said that e-sports was internationally recognized as a sport activity. A number of e-sports organizations had also been set up in the local community, but were unable to be recognized as local official sports associations. She urged the Administration to assist these organizations in developing into official e-sports associations and joining as NSAs under the Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China ("SF&OC"), so that they would be eligible for the funding provided by the Government to NSAs. Mr KWONG Chun-yu also urged the Government to strengthen the promotion of local e-sports.

37. C for S advised that to develop into a NSA, an e-sports association needed to have a history of promoting the development of local e-sports in addition to being a member of the international federation on e-sports. To his understanding, e-sports associations in Hong Kong had not yet been qualified as members of the relevant international federation on e-sports, so they were illegible to apply for membership of SF&OC for the time being. He added that the Government saw the multifarious business opportunities brought by e-sports, and the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau had also organized large-scale events to promote the development of e-sports in Hong Kong.

Promoting sports for the elderly

38. Dr CHIANG Lai-wan proposed that the Administration should establish elderly sports associations to put forward the suggestion for the elderly to maintain a healthy lifestyle through regular exercise. USHA said that various recreation and sports facilities were available across the

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districts for use by the elderly. The Government would consider Dr CHIANG's suggestion of establishing elderly sports associations.

Development of sports for persons with disabilities

39. Dr Fernando CHEUNG noted from the Government's paper that the responsibilities of the original PAS(RS)1 would include implementing recommendations of the Consultancy Study on Sports for Persons with Disabilities after the creation of the proposed post. He pointed out that the Government currently did not have a policy in place to support the use of recreation and sports facilities by persons with disabilities ("PWDs"), and urged the Government to implement recommendations of the Consultancy Study as soon as possible.

40. C for S advised that PAS(RS)1 had already taken forward recommendations of the Consultancy Study on Sports for PWDs, including setting up a mechanism for organizations related to PWDs to enjoy priority in booking specified LCSD sports venues for non-peak-hour sessions. The arrangement was scheduled for implementation in the first half of 2018. Moreover, the Government was also looking into the feasibility of introducing a scheme for arranging coaches to offer outreaching training courses at residential care homes for PWDs. The Government would conduct a survey on the development of sports for PWDs a few years later in order to review the effectiveness of these new measures in promoting sports among PWDs.

41. Mr SHIU Ka-chun was concerned that at present the monetary awards received by athletes with disabilities who achieved good results at international competitions were far less than that received by their able-bodied counterparts. He considered such system unfair and urged the Government to improve the monetary award system for and treatment of athletes with disabilities so as to encourage more of them to develop into full-time athletes.

42. C for S responded that the Government had taken on board the recommendations of the Consultancy Study on Sports for PWDs to introduce a system for full-time athletes with disabilities. The Government would seek further resources in the light of the expense to be involved in such initiatives as hiring additional coaches and offering scholarships to athletes under the new system. As for the awarding of prize money to athletes winning medals in large-scale international events, C for S explained that the awards were provided under the Jockey Club Athlete Incentive Awards Scheme, and the Government would look into

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the award arrangements for the events together with the Hong Kong Sports Institute ("HKSI") and the Hong Kong Jockey Club to come up with appropriate levels of awards.

Protection for female athletes

43. Dr Elizabeth QUAT and Mr Jeremy TAM expressed concern that a female athlete had recently openly claiming that she had been sexually assaulted by her coach. They requested the Government to explain what measures or guidelines were currently in place to protect female athletes from sexual harassment or sexual assault by coaches or others during training or competitions.

44. USHA said that the Government had zero tolerance towards any act of sexual harassment or sexual assault against athletes. In the light of the community's concern about the incident, the Government would follow it up with HKSI and SF&OC. C for S added that the Government would review whether relevant policies and guidelines were currently in place among NSAs and would urge them to update and enhance the guidelines where necessary for the protection of the rights and interests of athletes and coaches.

Voting on the item

45. The Chairman put the item to vote. She was of the view that the majority of the members voting were in favour of the item. She declared that members of the Subcommittee agreed to recommend the item to FC for approval. Dr KWOK Ka-ki requested that the item be voted on separately at the relevant FC meeting.

46. The meeting ended at 10:40 am.