

LC Paper No. CB(4)352/17-18 (These minutes have been seen by the Administration)

Ref : CB4/PL/PS

Panel on Public Service

Minutes of policy briefing cum meeting held on Monday, 16 October 2017, at 10:45 am in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex

Members present :	Hon POON Siu-ping, BBS, MH (Chairman) Hon Jeremy TAM Man-ho (Deputy Chairman) Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, SBS, JP Hon CHAN Hak-kan, BBS, JP Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee, GBS, JP Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee, GBS, JP Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming, SBS, JP Hon Charles Peter MOK, JP Hon Charles Peter MOK, JP Hon Charles Peter MOK, JP Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP Hon IP Kin-yuen Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, BBS, JP Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, JP Hon Martin LIAO Cheung-kong, SBS, JP Dr Hon CHUANG Lai-wan, JP Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan Hon CHU Hoi-dick Hon Jimmy NG Wing-ka, JP Hon HO Kai-ming Hon LAM Cheuk-ting Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding Hon SHIU Ka-fai Hon YUNG Hoi-yan Dr Hon Pierre CHAN Hon CHAN Chun-ying
Members attending :	Hon James TO Kun-sun Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, GBS, JP

Members absent	: Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP Hon WONG Kwok-kin, SBS, JP Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, BBS, JP Hon KWOK Wai-keung, JP
Public Officers : attending	: <u>Agenda item III</u>
	Mr Joshua LAW, GBS, JP Secretary for the Civil Service
	Mr Thomas CHOW, JP Permanent Secretary for the Civil Service
	Mr Eddie MAK, JP Deputy Secretary for the Civil Service 1
	Ms Amy WONG Deputy Secretary for the Civil Service 2
	Mr Eric CHAN Deputy Secretary for the Civil Service 3

Mr LI Pak-hong, JP Director of General Grades Civil Service Bureau

Agenda item IV

Miss Katharine CHOI Principal Assistant Secretary for the Civil Service (Manpower)

Mr Jeff LEUNG Wing-yan, JP Deputy Commissioner (Occupational Safety and Health) Labour Department

Mr WU Wai-hung Assistant Commissioner (Occupational Safety) Labour Department

Clerk in attendance	:	Mr Anthony CHU Chief Council Secretary (4)1
Staff in attendance	:	Ms Wendy JAN Senior Council Secretary (4)7
		Ms Maggie CHUNG Council Secretary (4)1
		Mr Griffin FUNG Legislative Assistant (4)8
		Mr Terry HON Clerical Assistant (4)1

I. Information papers issued since the last regular meeting on 17 July 2017

- (LC Paper No. CB(4)1506/16-17(01) -- Information note from the Administration on meal break arrangements for the Ambulanceman Grade in the Fire Services Department
- LC Paper No. CB(4)1547/16-17(01) -- Letter dated 8 August 2017 from Hon Jeremy TAM Man-ho requesting the annual number of Administrative Officer grade staff and Executive Officer grade staff who have retired and resigned respectively over the past ten years (Chinese version only)

LC Paper No. CB(4)1547/16-17(02) -- Administration's response

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to the letter dated 8 August 2017 from Hon Jeremy TAM Man-ho requesting the annual number of Administrative Officer grade staff and Executive Officer grade staff who have retired and resigned respectively over the past ten years)

<u>Members</u> noted that the above papers had been issued since the last regular meeting on 17 July 2017.

II. Date of next meeting and items for discussion

(LC Paper No. CB(4) 23/17-18(01) List of outstanding items for discussion)

2. <u>Members</u> noted that the next regular Panel meeting would be held on 20 November 2017 to discuss the following items proposed by the Administration:

- (a) Non-civil service contract staff; and
- (b) Central Policy Unit Re-organization.

(*Post-meeting note:* After the meeting, at the request of the Administration and with the concurrence of the Chairman, item (a) above was replaced by a staffing proposal item "Creation of a Principal Economist Post in the Economic Analysis and Business Facilitation Unit, Financial Secretary's Office". The revised agenda was issued to members on 1 November 2017 vide LC Paper No. CB(4)148/17-18.)

III. Briefing by the Secretary for the Civil Service on the Chief Executive's 2017 Policy Address

(LC Paper No. CB(4)18/17-18(01)	— Administration's paper
	on Policy Initiatives of
	Civil Service Bureau)

3. At the invitation of the Chairman, Secretary for the Civil Service ("SCS") briefed members on the policy initiatives relating to the Civil Service Bureau ("CSB") featured in the Chief Executive's 2017 Policy Address ("the Policy Address") and Policy Agenda ("the Policy Agenda") Administration's the paper (LC Paper No. set out in as CB(4)18/17-18(01)).

Establishing a new civil service college

Operation model of the new civil service college

4. Noting that the Chief Executive had visited the Civil Service College ("CSC") in Singapore in August 2017, <u>Mr IP Kin-yuen</u> and <u>Ms YUNG Hoi-yan</u> asked whether the operation of the new civil service college would make reference to CSC which was a statutory board that accepted sponsorship from the public and was a fee-charging institute. <u>Ms YUNG</u> further asked whether any compulsory courses would be organized by the new civil service college for civil servants. <u>Mr CHAN</u> <u>Chun-ying</u> and <u>Dr CHIANG Lai-wan</u> sought details on the implementation timeline of and proposed site for the new college.

5. <u>SCS</u> advised that the proposal of establishing a new civil service college was only at a preliminary conceptual stage and there were no implementation details at this stage. He would conduct a visit to Singapore to understand more about its civil service management and training. The Administration had no preconceived stance on the operation and scope of the new college and would adopt an open mind to listen to views from Members and the public.

6. In response to Mr IP Kin-yuen's question about the rationale and justifications behind establishing a new and independent civil service college, <u>SCS</u> advised that the Civil Service Training and Development Institute ("CSTDI") was moved to the North Point Government Offices in 1998, and its space and facilities were no longer sufficient for training use. Hence a new civil service college with upgraded facilities was required to enhance the training for civil servants, in order to better equip them with the necessary skill and knowledge for the provision of quality public services. <u>Mr IP</u> was dissatisfied with SCS's reply and commented that expanding and upgrading CSTDI's office and facilities would be an alternative to resolve the abovesaid problems. At the request of the Chairman and Mr IP Kin-yuen, <u>SCS</u> undertook to brief members at a future meeting of the Panel when more details had been worked out.

Courses provided by the new civil service college

7. <u>Members</u> noted that as specified in the Policy Address, the new civil service college would place emphasis on deepening civil servants' understanding of the Mainland's development and the relationship between the Central Authorities and Hong Kong. In this connection, <u>Mr LAM Cheuk-ting</u> was worried that the approach taken by the new college would have a strong bias to training in these areas, and he was of the view that most of the civil servants, especially those frontline staff, would not have a strong need for training in these areas. <u>Mr LAM</u> and <u>the Deputy Chairman</u> cautioned that the new civil service college should not become a "party school" emphasizing only on civil servants' understanding of the Mainland's development.

8. <u>SCS</u> clarified that in recent years, around 70% of the training programmes provided by CSTDI were about leadership, executive development and language training while national studies courses constituted around the remaining 30%. Nevertheless, he stressed that as contacts between Hong Kong and the Mainland were getting more frequent, there was a genuine operational need for some civil servants to understand the systems and development of the Mainland to facilitate their work.

9. <u>Ms Starry LEE</u>, <u>Mr HO Kai-ming</u> and <u>Mr Holden CHOW</u> agreed that the national studies training was necessary for civil servants, and the training should focus on the principle of "One Country, Two System" and the Basic Law.

10. <u>Mr LAM Cheuk-ting</u> asked whether local experts in national studies would be engaged as trainers of national studies training programmes. <u>SCS</u> pointed out that the Administration had been inviting experts from both the Mainland and Hong Kong to conduct the relevant courses.

11. <u>The Deputy Chairman</u> asked whether trainers of the national studies programmes were requested to conduct assessments on the participating civil servants and was concerned whether any such assessment results might have a negative impact on the participants' career development and promotion prospects.

12. <u>SCS</u> advised that the Administration had only conducted post-course surveys to collect feedback from both course providers and participants' with a view to further improving the training programmes.

13. <u>Ms YUNG Hoi-yan</u> enquired whether attending courses conducted by the new civil service college would have any bearing on the promotion prospects of civil servants. <u>SCS</u> stressed that the civil service had a rigorous and stringent promotion system, and the selection for promotion would only base on objective criteria, including ability, conduct, expertise and performance of the civil servants.

14. Mr CHAN Chun-ying stated his support in principle for the relevant initiatives in the Policy Address. Noting that at present, senior civil servants would attend national studies training courses conducted by reputable institutions in the Mainland, Mr CHAN enquired whether these courses would be replaced by those conducted by the new civil service college in Hong Kong. Mrs Regina IP was also concerned whether the overseas training programmes provided to civil servants at renowned universities would be reduced upon the establishment of the new civil service college. She was of the view that the exposure of civil servants could be widened through their participation in training in and visits to Sharing a similar view, Mr IP overseas countries/the Mainland. Kin-yuen asked how the Administration would ensure that trainings would widen the exposure of civil servants in order that they would have an international perspective.

15. <u>SCS</u> pointed out that organizing courses in Hong Kong would be more cost effective in terms of savings in time and resources. He also stressed the importance of visits to the Mainland in order to understand the latest development of the Mainland. It was crucial to promote sharing and exchange of knowledge and expertise between local civil servants and their Mainland/overseas counterparts. Hence the Administration would continue to arrange national studies training in the overseas and courses for civil servants. Mainland Some bureaux/departments ("B/Ds") would also arrange attachments to international organizations that had direct working relationship with them.

16. Dr Elizabeth QUAT suggested that with a view to the Administration's policies in promoting complementing the development of innovation, technology, smart city and creative industries, relevant training should be provided by the new civil service college. Dr CHIANG Lai-wan opined that the new civil service college should provide training to enhance civil servants' decision-making capability and communication skills with stakeholders in view of the rising civic awareness of the public and the demand of quality public service. Mr Holden CHOW was of the view that the training should ensure civil servants were kept abreast of the changing times.

17. <u>SCS</u> said that the Administration had been committed to providing civil servants with trainings that equipped them with the skills, knowledge and mindset necessary for providing quality service to the public. He assured members that due consideration would be given to their suggestions and concerns when formulating the detailed proposal for the new college. He said that in the meantime, before the establishment of the new civil service college, training in leadership development, communication with the public, customer services, complaints handling, work pressure management, innovation, use to technology, etc., would continue to be provided by CSTDI to enhance civil servants' skills in the above areas.

Target participants

18. <u>Ms Starry LEE</u> suggested that the training courses under the new civil service college should also be made available to Members and staff of some major subvented organizations so as to facilitate their mutual understanding and communication. <u>Mr LAM Cheuk-ting</u> also asked whether civil servants from the Mainland would be invited to join some training programmes.

19. <u>SCS</u> said that some of the courses provided by CSTDI were already open to staff from subvented bodies as this could achieve certain synergy between civil servants and other public bodies. He believed that apart from civil servants from the Mainland, those from the countries along the Belt and Road might also attend courses/seminars/workshops organized by the new civil service college in future.

Augmenting the civil service establishment

20. While welcoming the proposal of augmenting the civil service establishment, <u>Mrs Regina IP</u> considered that it did not appear to be in step with the expenditure control measure implemented to deliver 1% savings in the annual operating expenditure of B/Ds in each of the years of 2016-2017 and 2017-2018.

21. <u>SCS</u> explained that the proposal of augmenting the civil service establishment was based on the premise that B/Ds would first strive to reduce the demand for manpower by streamlining administration, fostering innovation and collaboration, and leveraging technologies. The Administration would give due regard to its overall fiscal situation in considering any change in the civil service establishment.

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22. <u>Dr CHIANG Lai-wan</u> said that while she was supportive of the impending increase in the civil service establishment, she considered it necessary to improve the effectiveness of the civil service and streamline the administration work. <u>Ms Starry LEE</u> welcomed the augmenting of the civil service establishment. She also noted the Administration's initiatives in streamlining administration, fostering innovation and collaboration and leveraging technologies, and she was concerned how these would be achieved.

23. <u>SCS</u> replied that any increase in civil service establishment and allocation of manpower resources would be based on the justifications advanced by B/Ds and their operational needs, rather than a pre-dictated growth rate applied across the board. Relevant details would be announced in the 2018-2019 Budget. Regarding the Administration's initiatives in streamlining administration, fostering innovation and collaboration and leveraging technologies, <u>SCS</u> believed that Heads of Departments were familiar with the operation of B/Ds, and they should able to co-ordinate departmental efforts and make use of new technologies to meet the objectives.

24. While welcoming the increase in civil service establishment which would be good news to young people, <u>Mr IP Kin-yuen</u> noted that the related expenditure would be a long-term commitment. <u>Mr IP</u> and <u>Mr LEUNG Che-cheung</u> asked whether the growth rate of not less than 3% for 2018-2019 was a rough estimate or based on any detailed study. <u>Mr LEUNG</u> and <u>Ms Starry LEE</u> asked the Administration about the distribution of the additional manpower among B/Ds. <u>Mr Holden</u> <u>CHOW</u> asked if there would be evaluation on the achievement of work targets after augmenting the civil service, and whether there might be further increase in the establishment.

25. In response, <u>SCS</u> explained that the Administration had a well-established resource allocation mechanism for preparing the annual estimates of expenditure. Every year, B/Ds would review their manpower and resources requirements and submit bids for new resources through the Resource Allocation Exercise ("RAE") for the following year. The Administration was currently finalizing RAE for the 2018-2019 Budget, and the estimated establishment growth of not less than 3% had taken into account the preliminary assessment of the manpower and resources bids submitted by B/Ds. He stressed that the estimated growth rate was not a fixed target and the Administration would consider B/Ds' manpower and resources to be provided by B/Ds, prevailing financial principles and sustainability, and the policy priorities of the new term of

Government. If additional resources were required between RAEs, in-year bids might be considered on a case-by-case basis.

26. Both the Deputy Chairman and Mr CHAN Hak-kan expressed concern about the manpower wastage of the pilot grade in the Government Flying Service ("GFS"). Mr CHAN pointed out that GFS took around ten years and substantial resources to train up a full-fledged However, the remuneration package for GFS pilots was not pilot. competitive when compared with that in the private sector. In addition, the pilots were assigned a wide range of duties (including air ambulance service, search and rescue and fire-fighting) and also to undertake administration work. As a result, there was a drainage of experienced pilots to the commercial sector. Mr CHAN commented that GFS should raise the salary and benefits of its pilots for staff retention. In this connection, the Deputy Chairman requested the Panel to discuss the item that he raised at the Panel meeting on 12 October 2017, i.e. the review of the structure of pilot grade and operations inspector post, and the rank of the Controller of GFS, as soon as possible.

27. <u>SCS</u> said that he would further discuss with the Security Bureau the manpower situation of GFS pilots. He believed that in general GFS pilots were very committed to serving the community and remuneration package was not their only concern.

Extending the service of civil servants

28. <u>Dr Elizabeth QUAT</u> recalled that some disciplined services staff had requested that all disciplined services staff, irrespective of their date of joining the Government, should be offered the option to extend their service beyond the current retirement age to 60 without going through any selection by the management. <u>Mr CHAN Chun-ying</u> expressed concern on whether adopting a higher retirement age for serving civil servants would give rise to promotion blockage and sought details on the financial implications arising from the proposed extension of service.

29. <u>SCS</u> advised that the proposal of allowing serving civil servants who joined the Government between 1 June 2000 and 31 May 2015 to choose to retire at 65 (for civilian grades) or 60 (for disciplined services grades) was to tie in with the goal of expanding the labour force and to respond to the aspirations of civil servants. The Administration was working on the implementation details, and the staff side would be consulted in early 2018.

30. <u>Dr CHIANG Lai-wan</u> opined that civil servants who joined the

Government before 1 June 2000 should similarly be given the option to extend their service. <u>Mr HO Kai-ming</u> also urged the Administration to provide non-civil service contract ("NCSC") staff with the same option to renew their contracts even after they had reached 60 years of age. He mentioned that while the Hongkong Post ("HKPO") was facing the problem of manpower shortage, and many NCSC staff in HKPO were well-experienced, HKPO had only offered further appointment to two NCSC staff who had reached their retirement age this year.

31. <u>SCS</u> advised that, policy-wise, no compulsory age limit had been set by CSB for the employment of NCSC staff. B/Ds could, depending on their operational needs and the experience of the NCSC staff concerned, decide whether to renew the contract of the relevant staff upon expiry of contract.

Reviewing time-limited posts

32. <u>Mr Charles Peter MOK</u> said that some T-contract staff, i.e. the information technology contract staff engaged under term contracts centrally administered by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer, had complained to him that the Administration had planned to replace their posts by civil service posts and fill these new posts by internal promotion, so as to reduce the number of T-contract staff in the Administration. As a result, the T-contract staff concerned might lose their job and many of them had served in the Government for over five to ten years. He asked the Administration whether the complaints were substantiated. He further urged the Administration to discuss with the concerned T-contract staff before making any decision that would have an impact on the employment.

33. <u>SCS</u> highlighted that, as far as NCSC staff were concerned, all B/Ds were encouraged to replace those contract positions with established long-term service needs by civil service posts. Regarding employment of T-contract staff, <u>SCS</u> said that these personnel were not civil servants and the relevant engagement arrangement was under the purview of the Innovation and Technology Bureau. Nonetheless, he would convey Mr MOK's concern to Secretary for Innovation and Technology for consideration. In this connection, <u>the Chairman</u> said that the Administration might consider communicating with the T-contract staff concerned as suggested by Mr MOK.

Enhancing medical and dental benefits for civil service eligible persons

34. As many civil servants had expressed concerns over the long

waiting times for medical and dental services, <u>Dr Elizabeth QUAT</u> enquired whether the Administration would consider providing these services under the public-private collaboration model with a view to shortening the waiting times.

35. <u>SCS</u> advised that as stated in the Administration's paper, clinical psychology and specialized dental services for civil service eligible persons ("CSEPs") would be enhanced, and the operation of the sixth Families Clinic in Sai Kung would commence in 2018-2019. With the Administration and the Hospital Authority ("HA") pressing ahead with the delivery of the 10-year Public Hospital Development Plan, the medical and dental benefits for CSEPs should be further enhanced. <u>SCS</u> said that Dr QUAT's proposal involved a significant change in policy and that he would discuss with the Food and Health Bureau and the Department of Health how to further enhance the existing services.

Ms YUNG Hoi-yan was disappointed that even though the 36. Administration had decided to build a Chinese medicine hospital at Tseung Kwan O, it still had not acceded to the repeated requests of Members and civil servants to include Chinese medicine in the scope of Mr HO Kai-ming and Dr CHIANG civil service medical benefits. Lai-wan shared Ms YUNG's views and agreed that the Administration had no excuse for not providing Chinese medicine service to CSEPs. Mr HO in particular pointed out that many public hospitals in Hong Kong were currently providing Chinese medicine services. Dr CHIANG also opined that as Chinese medicine practitioners registered in Hong Kong were eligible to participate in the Elderly Health Care Voucher Scheme, this implied that the Administration had recognized the role of Chinese medicine in the Hong Kong public healthcare system. Mr HO informed the meeting that the Panel on Health Services would meet with deputations/individuals to receive their views about the mode of operation of Chinese medicine hospital, and he urged SCS to consider members' views.

37. In response, <u>SCS</u> clarified that the existing 18 public Chinese medicine clinics were not regarded as part of HA's standard services as they were operated on a tripartite collaboration model involving HA, a non-governmental organization and a local tertiary institution, and the proposed Chinese medicine hospital might be operated by a non-profit-making organization instead of by the Government. That said, he promised to keep in view the development of the Chinese medicine hospital, and further explore with the Food and Health Bureau and the Department of Health if there was room to further enhance the medical and dental benefits for CSEPs.

Other concerns

Housing benefits for civil servants

38. <u>Dr CHIANG Lai-wan</u> pointed out that many retired civil servants faced housing problems as they could not afford private housing or were not allocated public rental housing flats. She therefore called on the Administration to improve the housing benefits for retired civil servants to address their housing needs.

Revamping the Central Policy Unit

39. Noting from the Policy Agenda and the Policy Address that the Chief Executive proposed to revamp the Central Policy Unit into the Policy Innovation and Co-ordination Unit, <u>Ms Starry LEE</u> asked how the proposal could facilitate cross-bureau collaboration and sought details of the proposal.

40. <u>SCS</u> said that the Administration would brief members at the next regular Panel meeting the outcome of the Central Policy Unit review and the new organization structure.

IV. Manpower situation of the Occupational Safety Officer grade of the Labour Department

(LC Paper No. CB(4)23/17-18(02)	Administration's paper
	on manpower situation
	of the Occupational
	Safety Officer grade of
	the Labour Department)

41. At the invitation of the Chairman, <u>Deputy Commissioner</u> (Occupational Safety and Health) ("DC(OSH)"), briefed members on the manpower situation of the Occupational Safety Officer ("OSO") grade of the Labour Department ("LD"), details of which were set out in the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(4)23/17-18(02)).

Manpower of the OSO grade

42. <u>Mrs Regina IP</u> expressed disappointment that despite the increase in the establishment of OSO grade of LD by 17.4% from 363 posts in 2010 to 426 posts in 2017, OSO manpower remained insufficient

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to cope with the increasing workload arising from the blooming construction industry and a number of major infrastructure projects implemented in recent years. <u>Mrs IP</u> considered that the improvement measures adopted by LD, such as work process re-engineering and internal staff redeployment, would only relieve the workload of the OSO grade to a limited extent, having regard to the potential hazards at workplaces of high-risk industries such as the construction industry and the food and beverage services industry. Referring to the policy initiative in the Policy Address that the Administration would augment the civil service establishment by not less than 3% in the 2018-2019 financial year, she called on LD to bid for additional manpower resources in RAE to strengthen the establishment of the OSO grade.

43. Echoing a similar view, <u>Mr SHIU Ka-fai</u> pointed out that while the number of construction workers had significantly increased by almost 62% from over 71 000 in 2012 to over 115 000 in the first half of 2017, the establishment of OSO grade had merely increased by just over 10% during the same period. The different extent of increases implied that there was a serious shortage of OSO manpower to cope with the rising workload. As such, <u>Mr SHIU</u> strongly urged the Administration to submit funding proposals to the Legislative Council to strengthen OSO manpower.

44. In reply, DC(OSH) advised that LD had reviewed the manpower requirement for OSOs and put forth proposals for additional manpower in light of the actual circumstances in the recent RAE. Principal Assistant Secretary for the Civil Service (Manpower) supplemented that the increase of 17.4% in the establishment of the OSO grade was already higher than the increase of 9.2% in the overall civil service establishment during the same period, and assured members that the Administration would take into account their views in the ongoing exercise to allocate manpower resources to B/Ds for the 2018-2019 financial year. DC(OSH) further advised that, apart from strengthening manpower of the OSO grade, LD had been prioritizing workplace inspection and enforcement work by adopting a risk-based approach which took into account factors such as the potential hazards and nature of work procedures. Publicity and promotion on occupational safety and health were also strengthened to improve occupational safety performance.

Work of OSOs

45. Noting the increase in the establishment of the OSO grade in the past five years, <u>Dr CHIANG Lai-wan</u> sought information on the corresponding change in the number of prosecutions for breaches of the

statutory requirements under the relevant occupational safety and health legislation. $\underline{DC(OSH})$ replied that the number of such cases had increased from some 2 500 cases in 2012 to about 2 700 cases in 2015.

46. Mr HO Kai-ming remarked that shortage of manpower in the OSO grade had been a long-standing problem in LD. In addition to the establishment of dedicated Mega Infrastructure Projects Offices by LD to handle safety-related work arising from the mega infrastructure projects, Mr HO asked whether LD would collaborate with other departments/organizations, such as Buildings Department ("BD"), to identify work activities that were more prone to serious accidents like work-at-height in order to optimize the effectiveness of the inspections conducted by OSOs.

47. DC(OSH) said that LD had been making efforts to optimize the deployment of manpower resources. In this connection, referral systems had been set up with departments/organizations, such as BD, the Housing Department and the Hong Kong Association of Property Management Companies, to notify LD of unsafe work activities. DC(OSH) further advised that, as stated in the Policy Address, the Administration would also strengthen and promote the existing complaint channels to encourage construction workers to lodge complaints about unsafe working environment to LD, so that LD could conduct more targeted inspections.

48. Referring to another policy initiative in the Policy Address that the Administration would formulate measures to safeguard the safety and health of people at work in the construction industry through various means, such as strengthening of inspection and enforcement, <u>Mr HO Kai-ming</u> hoped that LD would implement these measures as soon as possible with a view to achieving a greater deterrent effect. <u>DC(OSH)</u> assured members that the Administration was taking forward this initiative expeditiously.

Compensation for work accidents

49. While expressing concern about the amount of compensation received by employees injured at work and family members of employees who died in fatal work accidents, <u>Dr CHIANG Lai-wan</u> called on the Administration to consider raising the ceilings of compensations under the Employees' Compensation Ordinance (Cap. 282) for employees working in high-risk industries. She also opined that the amount of damages for bereavement claimable under the Fatal Accidents Ordinance ("FAO") (Cap. 22), which was set at \$150,000, was far too low to sustain the daily lives of the family members of deceased employees. Pointing

d not been substantially reviewed for more

out that FAO had not been substantially reviewed for more than 20 years, she urged the Administration to review it in light of current economic environment.

50. At the request of Dr CHIANG Lai-wan, <u>DC(OSH)</u> undertook to provide the following information:

- (a) out of the some 115 000 construction workers in the first half of 2017, the number of self-employed persons; and
- (b) the number of industrial accidents involving workers with no insurance coverage in the past five years.

(*Post-meeting note*: The Administration's written response was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4)230/17-18(01) on 17 November 2017.)

V. Any other business

51. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 12:35 pm.

Council Business Division 4 <u>Legislative Council Secretariat</u> 13 December 2017