立法會 Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)1108/17-18 (These minutes have been seen by the Administration)

Ref: CB2/PL/SE

Panel on Security

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday, 6 February 2018, 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 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 LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP

Hon Kenneth LEUNG

Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, BBS, JP

Hon KWOK Wai-keung, JP

Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung, SBS, JP

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

Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan

Hon Alvin YEUNG

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

Hon LAM Cheuk-ting

Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding

Hon YUNG Hoi-yan Hon CHAN Chun-ying

Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan, JP

Hon HUI Chi-fung

Hon LAU Kwok-fan, MH Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai

Member attending

: Hon Tanya CHAN

Members absent

: Hon CHAN Han-pan, JP

Hon Dennis KWOK Wing-hang

Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung

Hon CHU Hoi-dick Hon SHIU Ka-chun

Public Officers attending

: Item III

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

Secretary for Security

Ms Maggie WONG Siu-chu, JP Deputy Secretary for Security

Miss Winnie CHUI Hiu-lo

Principal Assistant Secretary for Security C

Item IV

Mr Sonny AU Chi-kwong, PDSM, PMSM, JP

Under Secretary for Security

Ms Iris LEE Ho-ki

Principal Assistant Secretary for Security A

Ms Louise HO Pui-shan, CMSM

Assistant Commissioner (Boundary and Ports)

Customs and Excise Department

Ms CHIANG Yi-lee Divisional Commander (Air Cargo Research)

Customs and Excise Department

Item V

Ms Manda CHAN Wing-man Commissioner for Narcotics

Mr Kevin LAI Ming-fai Principal Assistant Secretary for Security (Narcotics) 1

Mr Thomas YU Wai-leung Acting Chief Superintendent (Narcotics Bureau) Hong Kong Police Force

Mr WONG Yim-pui Group Head (Controlled Chemicals) Customs and Excise Department

Mr Lot CHAN Sze-tao Chief Pharmacist Department of Health

Dr CHENG Wing-chi Senior Chemist Government Laboratory

Clerk in : Miss Betty MA

attendance Chief Council Secretary (2) 1

Staff in : Mr Timothy TSO

attendance Senior Assistant Legal Adviser 1

Mr Raymond LAM

Senior Council Secretary (2) 7

Ms Kiwi NG

Legislative Assistant (2) 1

I. Information papers issued since the last meeting

(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)765/17-18(01), CB(2)778/17-18(01) and CB(2)824/17-18(01))

<u>Members</u> noted that the following papers had been issued since the last meeting:

- (a) joint letter dated 11 January 2018 from Mr Kenneth LEUNG and Mr Dennis KWOK regarding their intention to brief the Panel on their proposed Members' bill on human trafficking and the Administration's response dated 5 February 2018; and
- (b) Administration's response to issues raised in a letter dated 12 December 2017 from Ms Claudia MO.
- 2. <u>The Chairman</u> referred to item (a) in the above paragraph and said that the proposed Members' bill and the Administration's relevant policy might be arranged for discussion at the meeting in May or July 2018.

II. Date of next meeting and items for discussion

(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)801/17-18(01) and (02))

Regular meeting in March 2018

- 3. <u>Members</u> agreed that the following items would be discussed at the next regular meeting on 6 March 2018 at 2:30 pm:
 - (a) Initiatives for preventing and combatting deception cases of concern;
 - (b) Mountain rescue strategy and high angle rescue operations; and
 - (c) Next Generation Application and Investigation Easy Systems of the Immigration Department.
- 4. <u>Mr LAM Cheuk-ting</u> said that many items on the Panel's list of outstanding items, such as the one on management succession in the Independent Commission Against Corruption ("ICAC"), should be arranged for discussion. <u>Ms Claudia MO</u> said that the item on prosecution under section 161 of the Crimes Ordinance (Cap. 200)

concerning access to computer with criminal or dishonest intent, which was also on the Panel's list of outstanding items, should also be arranged for discussion. <u>The Chairman</u> said that he and the Deputy Chairman had discussed the Panel's list of outstanding items with the Secretary for Security ("S for S") when discussing the work plan of the Panel for the 2017-2018 session.

Visit to Pak Sha Wan Correctional Institution

5. <u>The Chairman</u> informed members that a visit would be made to the Pak Sha Wan Correctional Institution on 10 April 2018. Members would be informed of the details of the visit once available.

III. New arrangements on the reciprocal notification mechanism between the Mainland and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)801/17-18(03) and (04))

- 6. <u>S for S</u> briefed Members on the new arrangements on the reciprocal notification mechanism between the Mainland and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region ("HKSAR") relating to the imposition of criminal compulsory measures or the institution of criminal prosecution and unnatural deaths. He informed Members that the Arrangements on the Reciprocal Notification Mechanism between the Mainland and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Relating to Situations Including the Imposition of Criminal Compulsory Measures or the Institution of Criminal Prosecution ("the New Arrangements") had taken effect on 1 February 2018.
- 7. <u>Members</u> noted a background brief entitled "Notification mechanism between the Mainland authorities and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government" prepared by the Legislative Council ("LegCo") Secretariat.

Scope of notification

Mainland agencies and matters covered by the New Arrangements

8. <u>Mr LAM Cheuk-ting</u> expressed concern about the compliance of Mainland agencies with the New Arrangements. He said that according to Mr LAM Wing-kee, Manager of Causeway Books, he had been

kidnapped and detained by a central special investigation task force on the Mainland. He asked whether the New Arrangements covered similar incidents and the forcing of a detained Hong Kong resident to sign a document giving up his right to hire a lawyer and inform his family.

- 9. <u>S for S</u> responded that he was not aware of any agency with the name referred to by Mr LAM Cheuk-ting. According to the Mainland laws, only four Mainland agencies could impose criminal compulsory measures on Hong Kong residents. These included the public security authorities, the state security authorities, the customs departments and the prosecution authorities, and these four agencies were covered by the New Arrangements.
- 10. <u>S for S</u> said that in the course of discussions with the Mainland counterparts on the New Arrangements, he noted that Mainland agencies adopted a serious attitude towards the matter. He was confident that the New Arrangements would be observed by relevant Mainland agencies. He added that any person dissatisfied with the measures imposed on him by Mainland agencies could lodge a complaint with the competent authorities at a higher level or the People's Procuratorates.
- 11. Referring to paragraph 9(1) of the Administration's paper, Mr Holden CHOW sought information on the meaning of imposition of criminal compulsory measures.
- 12. <u>S for S</u> responded that the Criminal Procedure Law of the People's Republic of China ("PRC") set out clearly the Mainland agencies which could impose criminal compulsory measures on Hong Kong residents. The New Arrangements required all agencies which could impose criminal compulsory measures on Hong Kong residents according to the laws of the Mainland, namely the public security authorities, the state security authorities, the customs departments and the prosecution authorities, to notify the HKSAR Government of the imposition of criminal compulsory measures on Hong Kong residents.
- 13. <u>Dr CHENG Chung-tai</u> asked whether the requirement under the New Arrangements for notification from the Mainland side to be given within seven working days would only apply when criminal prosecution was instituted against a Hong Kong resident.
- 14. <u>Mr MA Fung-kwok</u> sought information on the categories of cases notified under the New Arrangements.

- 15. <u>S for S</u> responded that under the New Arrangements, the Mainland side would notify the Hong Kong side of the imposition of criminal compulsory measures, including detention, arrest, putting on bail and residence under surveillance, on or unnatural deaths of Hong Kong residents. The Hong Kong side would notify the Mainland side of the criminal prosecution instituted against Mainland residents or unnatural deaths of Mainland residents.
- 16. Mr YIU Si-wing asked whether serious traffic accidents of Hong Kong tour groups on the Mainland involving deaths of Hong Kong residents were covered by the notification mechanism. So for So responded that the New Arrangements covered such unnatural deaths of Hong Kong residents.
- 17. Mr Alvin YEUNG asked whether a Mainland resident who had become a Hong Kong permanent resident would be regarded as a Hong Kong resident under the New Arrangements. S for S responded that such a person would be regarded as a Hong Kong resident. The Mainland household registration of a Mainland resident would be cancelled upon his becoming a Hong Kong permanent resident. Mainland residents were those who held a household registration of the Mainland.
- 18. <u>Mr YIU Si-wing</u> asked whether a foreign national who had become a Hong Kong resident was covered by the New Arrangements. <u>S for S</u> said that notification might be made to the relevant embassy, if applicable, for a Hong Kong resident who was a foreign national.
- 19. The Deputy Chairman asked whether the Administration had made enquiries with the Mainland regarding Mr XIAO Jianhua reportedly being seized from Hong Kong and taken to the Mainland. He said that the notification mechanism would be of no use, if the Administration had made such enquiries but no reply had been received from the Mainland. So for So responded that while it was not the Administration's policy to comment on individual cases, he could confirm that the Administration had made relevant enquiries with the Mainland side.

Notifications from the Independent Commission Against Corruption

20. Referring to paragraph 8 of the Administration's paper, Mr POON Siu-ping asked whether the notification of criminal prosecution instituted by ICAC against Mainland residents was newly

added under the New Arrangements in response to request from the Mainland side. <u>S for S</u> responded that criminal prosecution instituted by ICAC against Mainland residents had been newly included under the New Arrangements for comprehensive notification.

Administrative detention on the Mainland

- 21. <u>Mr Michael TIEN</u> said that the New Arrangements, which was an improvement over previous arrangements, should be extended to cover the imposition of administrative detention on Hong Kong residents on the Mainland.
- 22. <u>Ms Claudia MO</u> said that the notification mechanism should be extended to cover the imposition of administrative detention on Hong Kong residents on the Mainland. The family members of a Hong Kong resident under administrative detention should be notified of the detention.
- 23. <u>S for S</u> noted the views of Mr Michael TIEN and Ms Claudia MO. He said that administrative detention imposed under the Law of the People's Republic of China on Penalties for Administration of Public Security (《中華人民共和國治安管理處罰法》) or measures imposed under the Measures for the Detention Education of Persons Engaging in Prostitution and Whoring (《賣淫嫖娼人員收容教育辦法》) were not under the Criminal Procedure Law (《刑事訴訟法》) of the PRC. Notwithstanding that, Mainland agencies were required to notify the family members of a Hong Kong resident under administrative detention.

Review of the New Arrangements on the Notification Mechanism

24. Mr POON Siu-ping asked whether the New Arrangements would be reviewed in future. S for S responded that the implementation of the New Arrangements would be reviewed and the views of members, such as the suggestion of extending the notification mechanism to cover administrative detention, would be conveyed to the Mainland side.

Time frame for notification

25. Mr Holden CHOW asked why the reply from either party to an enquiry from the other side was required to be made within 30 days, but not seven or 14 days, under the New Arrangements. S for S responded that under the New Arrangements, notification should be made within seven working days following the date of imposing criminal compulsory

measures, instituting criminal prosecution or confirmation of the person's identity in unnatural deaths; not later than 14 working days for serious and complicated criminal cases; and not later than 30 working days for cases involving terrorist activities or suspected offences endangering national security. If there was any doubt or request for assistance from a Hong Kong resident, the HKSAR Government could make an enquiry with the Mainland side, which should reply within 30 working days after the date of receipt of such an enquiry.

- 26. <u>Ms Claudia MO</u> expressed concern that a time frame of not later 30 working days would apply to the notification of suspected offences endangering national security.
- 27. <u>Dr Elizabeth QUAT</u> welcomed the New Arrangements. Referring to paragraph 9(3) of the Administration's paper, she asked whether the time frame for direct notification from the Anti-smuggling Bureau of the General Administration of Customs, the Shanghai Municipal Bureau of Public Security and the Guangdong Provincial Public Security Department to the Hong Kong side could be further reduced.
- 28. <u>S for S</u> responded that there was not a time frame for notification in the past. The timeframe for notification of imposition of criminal compulsory measures, institution of criminal prosecution or unnatural deaths had been reduced in the discussions from 14 days to seven days after much effort by the Administration. He said that a time frame of seven days was reasonable given the vast territory of the Mainland.
- 29. Mr POON Siu-ping welcomed the New Arrangements. Referring to paragraph 3 of the Administration's paper, he sought information on the average notification time for the 15 265 notifications made by the Mainland to Hong Kong between 1 January 2001 and 31 December 2017. Sofor Sofor Presponded that about 85% of the notifications had been made within 15 days between 2012 and 2017. Among the cases, about 30% were smuggling cases, about 30% were drug-related cases, about 4% to 5% were related to theft and fraud respectively.

Mainland agencies authorized to make direct notifications to Hong Kong side

30. Noting that the Shanghai Municipal Bureau of Public Security and the Guangdong Provincial Public Security Department were authorized to make direct notifications to the Liaison Bureau of the Hong Kong Police

- Force, <u>Dr Elizabeth QUAT</u> asked whether the Fujian Provincial Public Security Department could also be authorized to make direct notifications to the Hong Kong side.
- 31. Mr MA Fung-kwok asked whether consideration would be given to increasing the number of Mainland agencies making direct notifications to Hong Kong side.
- 32. <u>S for S</u> responded that the direct notification arrangement sought to avoid bottleneck in notification. The Guangdong Provincial Public Security Department was authorized to make direct notifications because experience indicated that about 90% of notifications were made from Mainland agencies in the Guangdong Province. The Shanghai Municipal Bureau of Public Security was authorized to make direct notifications because many Hong Kong residents were residing or working in Shanghai. The need for direct notification from Fujian Provincial Public Security Department might be discussed with the Mainland side, if there was a substantial increase in the number of notifications from Fujian Provincial Public Security Department.

Enquiry and sanction

- 33. Mr Alvin YEUNG sought information on the criteria for the making of an enquiry referred to in paragraph 9(1) of the Administration's paper and whether there was any sanction for failure to comply with the agreed time frame.
- 34. <u>Mr LEUNG Che-cheung</u> sought information on the actions that could be taken by the Administration if a Mainland agency failed to make a notification under the New Arrangements.
- 35. <u>S for S</u> responded that upon the receipt of a request for assistance from a Hong Kong resident on the Mainland or his family members, the Administration would, after verifying that the Hong Kong resident concerned had left Hong Kong for the Mainland, make enquiries with the Mainland side through the New Arrangements as well as the police co-operation mechanism. In the course of discussions with the Mainland counterparts on the New Arrangements, he noted that Mainland agencies adopted a serious attitude towards the matter. He was confident that both sides would comply with the New Arrangements and the Mainland side would appropriately respond to any enquiry made by the Hong Kong side.

Assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress on the Mainland

- 36. <u>Mr Michael TIEN</u> said that the Administration should, besides notifying the family members of Hong Kong residents on whom criminal compulsory measures had been imposed, provide assistance to such residents.
- 37. <u>Ms Claudia MO</u> asked whether assistance would be provided by the HKSAR Government to Hong Kong residents detained on the Mainland for offences endangering national security. <u>Mr LAM Cheuk-ting</u> asked whether officials of the HKSAR Government were allowed to visit Hong Kong residents under detention on the Mainland.
- 38. <u>S for S</u> responded that all requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents who encountered difficulties outside Hong Kong were followed up by the Administration. Regarding the question of visits by officials of the HKSAR Government to Hong Kong residents under detention on the Mainland, he pointed out that HKSAR Government officials did not have any legal status under the Criminal Procedure Laws of the PRC to do so on the Mainland. Nevertheless, the Administration would examine the issue in due course.
- 39. <u>Ms Claudia MO</u> asked whether lawyers and family members were allowed to visit a Hong Kong resident detained on the Mainland for offences endangering national security. <u>S for S</u> responded that as the relevant Mainland agency had to inform family members of the detention within 24 hours, the family members would be able to appoint lawyers, who were allowed to visit the detained person.
- 40. Mr Kenneth LEUNG asked whether the Administration would draw up a list of Mainland lawyers for reference by Hong Kong residents detained on the Mainland. He also asked whether the Administration would convey to Mainland agencies the requests of family members for visiting detained Hong Kong residents.
- 41. <u>Ms Alice MAK</u> said that among requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents handled by her office, a majority were related to drug trafficking and smuggling of air guns by young people. She enquired whether legal advice and assistance were provided to the family members of such Hong Kong residents.

- S for S responded that the Office of the Government of the HKSAR in Beijing had produced a booklet setting out the rights and obligations of persons suspected to have committed a criminal offence on the Mainland. Information on the contact addresses and telephone numbers of law societies on the Mainland was also provided to the family members concerned upon receipt of request for assistance so that they might consider seeking legal advice. Requests for provision of clothing, medicine and medical treatment were conveyed to relevant Mainland agencies. Free advice was provided through the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong on the legal rights of a person on whom criminal compulsory measure was imposed. He added that requests from the family members and lawyer of a Hong Kong resident under detention on the Mainland for visiting the Hong Kong resident concerned were dealt with by Mainland agencies in accordance with relevant Mainland laws.
- 43. Mr MA Fung-kwok asked how assistance was provided to family members of Hong Kong residents on whom criminal compulsory measures were imposed. S for S said that assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress outside Hong Kong were provided by the Assistance to Hong Kong Residents Unit ("AHU") of the Immigration Department. In 2017, AHU had handled about 3 300 requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents, among which more than 2 000 were related to loss of travel documents, about 100 were related to traffic accidents, about 650 were related to hospitalization for illnesses and about 470 were related to matters such as arrest for criminal offences.

Notification statistics

- 44. Mr Kenneth LEUNG asked about the number of notifications received from the Mainland side in 2017 on the imposition of criminal compulsory measures on Hong Kong residents and the offences involved. S for S responded that among the notifications from the Mainland side in 2017, the top four offences involved were 356 smuggling cases, 324 drug-related cases, 44 deception cases and 49 theft cases.
- 45. Noting from paragraph 3 of the Administration's paper that a total of 15 265 notifications, among which 630 involved unnatural deaths of Hong Kong residents, had been made by the Mainland side whereas 42 345 notifications, among which 121 involved unnatural deaths of Mainland residents, had been made by the Hong Kong side, Dr CHENG Chung-tai expressed concern that the percentage of unnatural

deaths of Hong Kong residents on the Mainland were higher than the percentage of unnatural death of Mainland residents in Hong Kong. Sor for Sor responded that the percentages were not directly comparable, as there was a large number of notifications from Hong Kong to the Mainland involving cases of smuggling. He said that unnatural deaths of Hong Kong residents on the Mainland, which would be notified within seven working days under the New Arrangements, were mainly related to deaths due to traffic accidents, falling from height, drowning, gas poisoning, drug abuse, homicide, etc.

46. Mr LEUNG Che-cheung expressed concern that the number of notifications from the Hong Kong side was more than the number of notifications from the Mainland side. He said that the Administration should launch publicity to enhance the awareness of Mainland residents on the requirements in the laws of Hong Kong. S for S responded that the Administration would consider strengthening publicity in the area.

IV. Customs enforcement against smuggling using air postal packet and express cargo

(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)801/17-18(05) and (06))

- 47. <u>Under Secretary for Security</u> ("US for S") briefed Members on the overall situation of the Customs and Excise Department ("C&ED")'s enforcement against smuggling using air postal packets and express cargoes. With the aid of video footages, <u>Assistant Commissioner</u> (Boundary and Ports), Customs and Excise Department ("AC(BP)") briefed Members on the latest smuggling trend using air postal packets and express cargoes as well as the enforcement strategy and measures adopted by C&ED.
- 48. <u>Members</u> noted an information note entitled "Customs enforcement against smuggling using air postal packet and express cargo" prepared by the LegCo Secretariat.

Manpower deployment and training by the Customs and Excise Department

49. <u>Dr Elizabeth QUAT</u> asked whether sufficient manpower and training was provided to C&ED for coping with the rapid increase in the volume of air postal packets and express cargo deliveries associated with the rapid increase in online shopping activities. <u>Mr POON Siu-ping</u>

asked whether measures were adopted by C&ED to retain experienced staff.

- 50. <u>AC(BP)</u> said that there was currently an establishment of 627 posts in C&ED for handling the customs clearance of air cargoes and postal packets. To cope with the rapid growth of e-commerce which generated a much bigger demand for delivery of air postal packets and express cargoes, C&ED planned to increase the number of staff for carrying out customs clearance of air postal packets and express cargoes.
- 51. <u>AC(BP)</u> added that C&ED was not experiencing problems in staff retention. She said that induction training was provided to newly recruited customs officers. Training was also provided to customs officers before they took up new postings.
- 52. Ms YUNG Hoi-yan commended C&ED for its anti-smuggling work and said that sufficient resources should be provided to C&ED for carrying out anti-smuggling work. She sought information on the training of frontline staff to enhance their capability in the detection of counterfeit goods which involved intellectual property rights. AC(BP) responded that arrangements were made for training to be provided by brand name owners to facilitate frontline customs officers in distinguishing between genuine and counterfeit goods.
- 53. Mr LEUNG Che-cheung asked whether C&ED had any plan to increase customs manpower to meet the needs arising from the commissioning of new land boundary control points. He also asked whether there were plans to operate the Shenzhen Bay Control Point ("SBCP") on a 24-hour basis. US for S responded that the volume of land cargo clearance at land boundary control points was relatively stable in general. The Administration would monitor the situation and submit request for additional manpower for new control points when necessary. AC(BP) said that adequate customs manpower and equipment were deployed at land boundary control points. There was no plan to operate SBCP on a 24-hour basis so far.

Enforcement against smuggling

54. Mr Holden CHOW expressed support for an increase in customs manpower and deployment of advanced technology by C&ED in anti-smuggling work. He expressed concern about whether there were difficulties in prosecution relating to smuggling activities. AC(BP)

responded that although there were difficulties in identifying the senders and recipients of air postal packets and express cargoes containing smuggled items, efforts were made by C&ED to carry out in-depth investigation of each case.

- 55. Mr MA Fung-kwok expressed concern about reports that some companies had received postal packages claimed to be samples but actually containing smuggled items. Such postal packages were immediately collected by someone who claimed that the samples had been sent to the wrong address. He sought information on the measures adopted by C&ED to combat such mode of smuggling. AC(BP) responded that besides enforcement, C&ED actively disseminated anti-smuggling information to the public through different channels. Relevant information was provided to the industries concerned, which were encouraged to report such cases.
- 56. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen said that some company owners were reported to allow others to use their company addresses for receiving postal packages which contained drugs or smuggled items. He sought information on the liability of such company owners. US for S responded that in addition to evidence of an act in breach of the law, circumstantial evidence and proof of *mens rea* were also required for the conviction of a serious offence.
- 57. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen asked how mitigating factors, such as the admission of an offence, were taken into consideration in sentencing. AC(BP) responded that mitigation of sentence was determined by the court.

Deployment of latest technology in combating smuggling

- 58. <u>Dr Elizabeth QUAT</u> commended C&ED for its enforcement against smuggling activities. She asked whether latest technology was deployed to facilitate the anti-smuggling work of C&ED.
- 59. <u>AC(BP)</u> responded that efforts were made by C&ED to deploy advanced technology in customs clearance. Besides traditional X-ray scanners, X-ray systems employing backscatter technology were also deployed to enhance detection capability. C&ED was also enhancing the degree of automation in its postal clearance, so that selected air postal packets could be automatically and quickly conveyed to the customs examination hall for X-ray scanning and further inspection if required.

C&ED endeavoured to source the most updated equipment for deployment by frontline staff, including ion scanner and Raman spectroscopy for detection of narcotics and explosive. <u>US for S</u> added that with the approval of funding in the amount of \$38 million by the Finance Committee in 2016, C&ED was developing the Customs and Excise Information and Risk Management System.

60. <u>US for S</u> said that adequate resources were provided for supporting C&ED's anti-smuggling work. In the preceding three years, the manpower establishment of C&ED had increased by 9% to about 6 600 posts. Financial provision on control and enforcement for C&ED had increased from \$2.4 billion in 2015-2016 to \$2.7 billion in 2017-2018.

[To allow sufficient time for discussion, the Chairman advised that the meeting would be extended to 4:45 pm.]

V. Proposed amendments to the First Schedule to the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance and Schedule 2 to the Control of Chemicals Ordinance

(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)788/17-18(01) and CB(2)801/17-18(07))

- 61. <u>Commissioner for Narcotics</u> briefed Members on the Administration's proposal to bring five dangerous drugs under control in the First Schedule to the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance (Cap. 134) and bring two chemicals under control in Schedule 2 to the Control of Chemicals Ordinance (Cap. 145).
- 62. <u>Members</u> noted an updated background brief entitled "Amendments to the schedules to the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance and Control of Chemicals Ordinance" prepared by the LegCo Secretariat.
- 63. <u>Members</u> raised no question on the Administration's proposal. <u>The Chairman</u> concluded that the Panel supported the proposal.
- 64. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 4:32 pm.

Council Business Division 2
<u>Legislative Council Secretariat</u>
26 March 2018