

**立法會**  
***Legislative Council***

LC Paper No. FC235/18-19  
(These minutes have been  
seen by the Administration)

Ref : FC/1/1(20)

**Finance Committee of the Legislative Council**

**Minutes of the 21<sup>st</sup> meeting**  
**held at Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex**  
**on Friday, 10 May 2019, at 4:09 pm**

**Members present:**

Hon CHAN Kin-por, GBS, JP (Chairman)  
Hon CHAN Chun-ying, JP (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon James TO Kun-sun  
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung  
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, GBS, JP  
Prof Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, SBS, JP  
Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, GBS, JP  
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, GBS, JP  
Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, SBS, JP  
Hon CHAN Hak-kan, BBS, JP  
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP  
Hon WONG Kwok-kin, SBS, JP  
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee, GBS, 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 WU Chi-wai, MH  
Hon YIU Si-wing, BBS  
Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP  
Hon Charles Peter MOK, JP  
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen  
Hon CHAN Han-pan, BBS, JP

Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP  
Hon Kenneth LEUNG  
Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, BBS, JP  
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki  
Hon KWOK Wai-keung, JP  
Hon Dennis KWOK Wing-hang  
Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung, SBS, JP  
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung  
Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan  
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, SBS, JP  
Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-ki, SBS, MH, JP  
Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan  
Hon Alvin YEUNG  
Hon Andrew WAN Siu-kin  
Hon CHU Hoi-dick  
Hon Jimmy NG Wing-ka, JP  
Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP  
Hon HO Kai-ming  
Hon LAM Cheuk-ting  
Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding  
Hon SHIU Ka-fai  
Hon Wilson OR Chong-shing, MH  
Hon YUNG Hoi-yan  
Dr Hon Pierre CHAN  
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan, JP  
Hon HUI Chi-fung  
Hon LUK Chung-hung, JP  
Hon LAU Kwok-fan, MH  
Hon Kenneth LAU Ip-keung, BBS, MH, JP  
Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai  
Hon Jeremy TAM Man-ho  
Hon Gary FAN Kwok-wai  
Hon AU Nok-hin  
Hon Vincent CHENG Wing-shun, MH  
Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen, BBS  
Hon CHAN Hoi-yan

**Members absent:**

Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP  
Hon SHIU Ka-chun  
Hon Tanya CHAN  
Hon KWONG Chun-yu

**Public officers attending:**

Ms Alice LAU Yim, JP	Permanent Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury)
Mr Arthur AU Chung-pak	Acting Deputy Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury)1
Mr Mike CHENG Wai-man	Principal Executive Officer (General), Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (The Treasury Branch)
Miss Hinny LAM Shuk-yee	Deputy Secretary for Security (3)
Mr Cyrus CHEUNG Ho-chi	Assistant Secretary for Security (Review)(1)
Mr AU Ka-wang	Deputy Director of Immigration
Mr Isaac SO Chi-keung	Principal Immigration Officer (Removal Assessment and Litigation), Immigration Department
Miss Winnie CHUI Hiu-lo	Principal Assistant Secretary for Security (C)
Mr Erick TSANG Kwok-wai, IDSM	Director of Immigration
Mr Gavin HO Ka-wing	Assistant Director of Immigration (Management and Support)
Mr Ken TSE Shing-ngai	Assistant Principal Immigration Officer (Planning), Immigration Department
Mrs Sylvia LAM YU Ka-wai, JP	Director of Architectural Services
Mr Frank WONG Tak-choi, JP	Project Director (1), Architectural Services Department
Ms Florence CHAN Kwan-fong	Senior Project Manager 127, Architectural Services Department

**Clerk in attendance:**

Ms Anita SIT	Assistant Secretary General 1
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**Staff in attendance:**

Miss Bowie LAM  
Miss Queenie LAM  
Mr Frankie WOO  
Miss Mandy POON

Council Secretary (1)1  
Senior Legislative Assistant (1)2  
Senior Legislative Assistant (1)3  
Legislative Assistant (1)1

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Action

The Chairman reminded members of the requirements under Rules 83A and 84 of the Rules of Procedure.

**Rearranging the order of agenda items**

2. At 4:10 pm, Mr CHU Hoi-dick asked why the Finance Committee ("FC") had not accorded priority to the scrutiny of those items with no request by members for separate voting at the FC meeting before those requested by members for separate voting, so that the funding applications for the former items could be approved and hence implemented expeditiously. Permanent Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury) explained that according to FC's procedure, members could request that items endorsed by any subcommittee of FC be discussed and voted on separately at the relevant FC meeting one working day prior to the meeting concerned. The Administration would then set the order of agenda items, taking into account their relative priorities. That said, and subject to the agreement of the Chairman and members, the Administration would be willing to deal with items with no request for separate voting first, so that those items could commence as soon as possible. The Chairman asked whether members present agreed to such an arrangement, and no member indicated opposition. The Chairman advised that FC would proceed to deal with items with no request for separate voting by members first.

**Item 2 — FCR(2018-19)92**

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE PUBLIC WORKS  
SUBCOMMITTEE MADE ON 13 FEBRUARY 2019**

**PWSC(2018-19)37**

**HEAD 706 — HIGHWAYS**

**Transport — Roads**

**863TH — Widening of western section of Lin Ma Hang Road  
between Ping Yuen River and Ping Che Road**

3. The Chairman advised that the item sought FC's approval for the recommendation made by the Public Works Subcommittee ("PWSC") at its meeting held on 13 February 2019 vide PWSC(2018-19)37 regarding the upgrading of 863TH "Widening of western section of Lin Ma Hang Road between Ping Yuen River and Ping Che Road" to Category A at an estimated cost of \$432.3 million in money-of-the-day ("MOD") prices. No member had requested that the recommendation be put to vote separately at the FC meeting.

4. The Chairman declared that he was an independent non-executive director of The Bank of East Asia and a senior advisor of Well Link Insurance Group Holdings Limited.

Voting on FCR(2018-19)92

5. At 4:13 pm, the Chairman put item FCR(2018-19)92 to vote. The Chairman declared that the majority of the members present and voting were in favour of the item. The item was approved.

**Item 4 — FCR(2019-20)1**

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT  
SUBCOMMITTEE MADE ON 22 MARCH 2019**

**EC(2018-19)29**

**HEAD 53 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: HOME AFFAIRS  
BUREAU**

**HEAD 33 — CIVIL ENGINEERING AND DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT**

**Subhead 000 — Operational expenses**

6. The Chairman advised that the item sought FC's approval for the recommendation made by the Establishment Subcommittee ("ESC") at its meeting held on 22 March 2019, i.e. the recommendation set out in EC(2018-19)29 to retain three supernumerary posts of one Principal Government Engineer (D3) and one Administrative Officer Staff Grade C ("AOSGC") (D2) in the Home Affairs Bureau, and one Chief Engineer (D1) in the Civil Engineering and Development Department to provide continual and dedicated support for monitoring and facilitating the implementation of the West Kowloon Cultural District ("WKCD") project and to drive the implementation of the integrated basement and government infrastructure projects in WKCD. No member had requested that the recommendation be put to vote separately at the FC meeting.

Voting on FCR(2019-20)1

7. At 4:14 pm, the Chairman put item FCR(2019-20)1 to vote. The Chairman declared that the majority of the members present and voting were in favour of the item. The item was approved.

**Item 8 — FCR(2019-20)6**

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE PUBLIC WORKS  
SUBCOMMITTEE MADE ON 9 APRIL 2019**

**PWSC(2018-19)42**

**HEAD 703 — BUILDINGS**

**Education — Primary**

**272ES — A 30-classroom secondary school at Site KT2e,  
Development at Anderson Road, Kwun Tong**

8. The Chairman advised that the item sought FC's approval for the recommendation made by PWSC at its meeting held on 9 April 2019 vide PWSC(2018-19)42 regarding the upgrading of 272ES "A 30-classroom secondary school at Site KT2e, Development at Anderson Road, Kwun Tong" to Category A at an estimated cost of \$434.8 million in MOD prices. No member had requested that the recommendation be put to vote separately at the FC meeting.

9. The Chairman declared that he was an independent non-executive director of The Bank of East Asia and a senior advisor of Well Link Insurance Group Holdings Limited.

Voting on FCR(2019-20)6

10. At 4:15 pm, the Chairman put item FCR(2019-20)6 to vote. The Chairman declared that the majority of the members present and voting were in favour of the item. The item was approved.

**Item 1 — FCR(2018-19)91**

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT  
SUBCOMMITTEE MADE ON 22 FEBRUARY 2019**

**EC(2018-19)23**

**HEAD 151 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: SECURITY  
BUREAU**

**Subhead 000 — Operational expenses**

**HEAD 70 — IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT**  
**Subhead 000 — Operational expenses**

11. The Chairman advised that the item sought FC's approval for the recommendation made by ESC at its meeting held on 22 February 2019, i.e. the recommendation set out in EC(2018-19)23 to retain two supernumerary posts of one AOSGC (D2) in the Security Bureau ("SB") and one Assistant Director of Immigration (GDS(C)2) in the Immigration Department ("ImmD") to continue steering the comprehensive review of handling non-refoulement claims and to step up the relevant measures. Some members had requested separate voting on the recommendation at the FC meeting. ESC had spent about 1 hour and 6 minutes on the scrutiny of the aforesaid proposal. The Administration had also submitted an information paper.

Prevention of potential non-refoulement claimants from entering Hong Kong

*Immigration control*

12. Mr Gary FAN said that the Administration had proposed retaining the two supernumerary posts in SB and ImmD until 31 March 2022 to continue steering the comprehensive review on matters relating to non-refoulement claims which commenced in early 2016 and to step up the relevant measures, including preventing potential non-refoulement claimants ("claimants") from entering Hong Kong. He noted that the Administration had previously advised that illegal immigrants in Hong Kong mainly came from India, Pakistan, Vietnam, Bangladesh, etc. Most of the illegal immigrants were smuggled into Hong Kong by sea or by land via the Mainland. Recently, the number of illegal immigrants and claimants had declined considerably as a result of joint operations conducted by the Mainland authorities and Hong Kong law enforcement agencies ("LEAs") to combat cross-boundary human trafficking syndicates. He asked whether the Administration had requested and would request the relevant Mainland immigration authorities to play their gatekeeping role properly, so that illegal immigrants could be intercepted at source; and if not, the reasons for that. He also asked whether efforts to tackle the problem at source could reduce the time and costs spent by Hong Kong on the matter, serving to enhance work effectiveness and save public expenses while obviating the need to extend the two supernumerary posts for three years.

13. Dr KWOK Ka-ki noted that the two supernumerary posts proposed for retention would continue to monitor the enforcement actions currently undertaken by various LEAs at land, sea and air from both the policy and implementation perspectives. He asked about the counterparts of the two proposed posts.

14. In response, Deputy Secretary for Security (3) ("DS for S3") advised that the Administration had been adopting a multi-pronged approach to intercept illegal immigrants at source. She pointed out that some illegal immigrants had overstayed after entering Hong Kong legally, while some were smuggled into Hong Kong after they had entered the Mainland legally with a visa. When such illegal immigrants were intercepted, they lodged non-refoulement claims. The Administration would continue to communicate with Mainland LEAs to step up interception of illegal immigrants at source. She further said that during the three years since 2016, the Administration had conducted nine large-scale joint operations against cross-boundary human smuggling activities with the Mainland authorities. Apart from the Guangdong Province, the Administration would launch joint operations with the relevant authorities in Guangxi, Yunnan and Xinjiang to crack down on the smuggling of illegal immigrants through sustained joint efforts.

15. Deputy Director of Immigration ("DD of Imm") supplemented that ImmD had all along maintained close contact with the relevant Mainland public security authorities (including the immigration authorities in the Guangdong Province) and exchanged intelligence on operations to intercept illegal immigrants at source. If an increasing trend in the number of illegal immigrants was detected, ImmD would immediately communicate with the Mainland authorities concerned, and take corresponding actions and measures.

16. Mr WU Chi-wai said that as set out in paragraph 2 of Enclosure 1 to EC(2018-19)23, the Principal Assistant Secretary (Security) Review ("PAS(S)Review") would be responsible for reviewing and closely monitoring various arrival prevention measures. He sought information about the countries to be closely monitored by the Administration, as well as the benchmarks for conducting reviews, and requested the Administration to brief members on its efforts to intercept illegal immigrants at source.

17. In response, DS for S3 advised that the Administration would continue to closely monitor the latest trends of illegal immigrants and claimants from major source countries such as India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, as well as the operation of various existing measures. For



example, the Administration would monitor the operation and effectiveness of the Pre-arrival Registration for Nationals of India and ascertain whether other means were used by Indian nationals to enter Hong Kong illegally. She further said that various measures would be adopted to intercept illegal immigrants at source, such as cracking down on human smuggling syndicates through joint operations, maintaining liaison with the consulates of the major source countries of illegal immigrants in Hong Kong and stepping up publicity and dissemination of information.

*Pre-arrival registration*

18. Dr KWOK Ka-ki and Mr CHAN Chi-chuen noted that the number of Indian visitors who overstayed after entering Hong Kong legally had declined substantially since ImmD's implementation of the Pre-arrival Registration for Nationals of India on 23 January 2017. Mr CHAN asked why the initiative had achieved the aforesaid objective effectively, and whether the implementation of such an initiative would cause any inconvenience to or adverse impact on Indian visitors coming to Hong Kong. Dr KWOK enquired about the respective percentages of claimants who were illegal immigrants and those who overstayed after entering Hong Kong legally.

19. Dr Priscilla LEUNG and Mr WU Chi-wai asked whether consideration would be given to extending the pre-arrival registration ("PAR") requirement to other countries (such as South Asian countries). Dr LEUNG enquired whether the relevant initiative could help reduce the number of "bogus refugees" and "bogus claimants".

20. In response, DS for S3 and DD of Imm explained that:

- (a) with the exception of Indian nationals, nationals of major source countries of illegal immigrants were required to apply for visas to enter Hong Kong;
- (b) Indian nationals used to be able to enter Hong Kong as visa-free visitors. But as some Indian nationals had lodged claims when they were refused entry or arrested after overstaying, ImmD introduced the Pre-arrival Registration for Nationals of India since January 2017, under which Indian nationals were required to apply for and successfully complete PAR online before they could visit Hong Kong visa-free;
- (c) the Pre-arrival Registration for Nationals of India had been operating smoothly since its implementation. The number of

Indian visitors overstaying in Hong Kong had decreased significantly by 82%;

- (d) the number of non-refoulement claims lodged by Indian nationals had decreased by about 80% from an average of 68 claims per month in 2016 to an average of 14 claims per month as at the end of April 2019;
- (e) the online PAR procedures were simple and free of charge. Registrants were only required to provide information for the questions set by the computer system. The system would then conduct analysis and risk assessment based on the relevant information provided by the applicants from India and return the application results instantly. In general, the process took about 15 minutes to complete, serving to facilitate PAR for genuine visitors coming to Hong Kong for business or other purposes;
- (f) as at the end of April 2019, 620 000 Indian visitors had successfully registered, representing a success rate of almost 93%;
- (g) unsuccessful PAR applicants could apply to ImmD for an entry visa. They could then visit Hong Kong after obtaining an entry visa; and
- (h) overall speaking, about half of the claimants were illegal immigrants, while the other half were overstayers who entered Hong Kong legally.

Expediting screening of claims and handling of appeals

*Screening procedures and processing time*

21. Mr AU Nok-hin requested the Administration to provide information as follows:

- (a) the average and maximum numbers of days from the submission of claims to the attendance of screening interviews by the claimants;
- (b) the average and maximum numbers of days from the screening interviews to the making of decisions by case officers; and

- (c) the extent of anticipated improvement in respect of the time taken to screen the claims to be achieved by the retention of the two supernumerary posts.

22. In response, DS for S3 and DD of Imm advised that in general, a claimant would have seven weeks to complete a claim form, and most of the screening interviews would be conducted within two weeks after the claimant had returned the claim form. Depending on the complexity of individual claims and subject to the clarification of facts, the case officers would generally make determination on the claims within about one week after the screening interviews. The handling time per claim (i.e. from the commencement of screening procedures to determination by ImmD) had been expedited from about 25 weeks on average during the initial implementation of the Unified Screening Mechanism to the current average of about 10 weeks. The Administration envisaged that with the amendments made to the Immigration Ordinance (Cap. 115) to further shorten the statutory timeframe for submission of claim forms, the time required for screening claims could be shortened accordingly.

#### *Screening of pending claims*

23. Citing paragraph 20 of EC(2018-19)23 which stated that if the number of new claims remained at the current level, it was anticipated that the screening of all pending claims could be completed within the first half of 2019, Mr CHAN Chi-chuen sought an update of the Administration's progress of work over the past six months or so since the issuance of the paper on 19 December 2018.

24. In response, DS for S3 and DD of Imm advised that the Administration's comprehensive review of the strategy of handling non-refoulement claims over the past three years had yielded positive results. As ImmD had basically completed the screening of 10 000-odd pending claims, it could now commence the screening procedures immediately upon receipt of new claims. As at April 2019, there were less than 300 pending claims. Currently, ImmD received an average of less than 100 new claims per month, which was a marked decline compared with over 300 to 400 claims per month in 2014-2015. The two supernumerary posts proposed for retention would continue to steer the comprehensive review of matters relating to non-refoulement claims.

#### *Handling of appeals and judicial review cases*

25. Dr Elizabeth QUAT and Mr Holden CHOW expressed support for the proposal. Dr QUAT said that notwithstanding the implementation of

various measures by the Administration and the achievement of certain results, currently about 6 500 appeals lodged by the claimants rejected by ImmD were still pending decisions by the Torture Claims Appeal Board ("TCAB"). She pointed out that in the view of some members of the public, it was tantamount to squandering public money for the Administration to spend over \$1 billion in total on the handling of non-refoulement claims annually. She asked whether other means could be adopted by the Administration to expedite the handling of appeals. Mr CHOW enquired how, apart from expediting the handling of appeals, the Administration could enhance the capacity to respond to civil litigations related to non-refoulement claims.

26. Mr CHAN Hak-kan asked whether the two supernumerary posts would be dedicated to the duty of screening claims or handling appeals, and how much time was expected to be required to clear the backlog of the 6 500 appeals.

27. Mr WU Chi-wai noted that PAS(S)Review would be responsible for reviewing and closely monitoring the operation of TCAB, with a view to enhancing its capacity for handling appeals. He asked whether any performance indicators had been set in this regard and to what level the handling capacity was expected to be raised.

28. In response, DS for S3 advised that:

- (a) to further expedite the handling of appeals, TCAB had expanded its membership from the original size of 28 to the current strength of about 100, and the Administration would continue to appoint suitable members to TCAB. Meanwhile, the Administration would allocate additional resources to enhance support for TCAB in various aspects, including its secretariat, offices, translation services and publicly-funded legal assistance ("PFLA") services;
- (b) TCAB had already expedited the handling of appeals. With nearly 4 000 appeals being handled last year, the latest number of pending appeals stood at around 5 600. Given the Administration's hope to maintain the annual number of appeals to be handled at the level of around 4 000, it was expected that the assessment of all pending appeals would be completed in two years' time at the earliest; and
- (c) some rejected claimants had already applied for judicial review ("JR") with the court. As the Chief Justice of the

Court of Final Appeal ("the Chief Justice") had once said, the current backlog of over 3 000 pending JR cases had exerted considerable pressure on the Judiciary. The Administration had all along maintained communication with the Judiciary on the progress of handling non-refoulement claims and would continue to work in coordination with the Judiciary to facilitate timely deployment of additional manpower and resources in response to the latest situations.

Law and order issues arising from non-refoulement claimants

29. Ms CHAN Hoi-yan, Dr Priscilla LEUNG and Mr SHIU Ka-fai expressed support for the proposal. While Ms CHAN gladly noted that the Administration had expedited the handling of new claims and appeals, she considered that the current bottleneck lied with the 6 500 appeals which would take two years to clear by the Administration's estimation. Counting together the current backlog of about 4 000 JR cases, there were a total of over 13 000 claimants remaining in Hong Kong. She added that residents in Kowloon West, such as those living in Sham Shui Po and Whampoa, had relayed to her that some claimants were involved in crimes such as robbery and street fights at night, causing disruptions to social order and the peaceful life of local residents. She asked whether SB had any special policies or measures to address those specific law and order issues; for example, whether the Police would step up patrols in various districts to protect public safety. Separately, given that the Court of Final Appeal ("CFA") had only handled 200 appeals last year, she asked whether SB could put pressure on the Judiciary for the deployment of additional manpower and support to clear the backlog of cases expeditiously. She suggested that while SB should strive to ensure that the screening mechanism would continue to meet the high standards of fairness required by law, it should also proactively identify practical and feasible ways to maintain law and order in Hong Kong.

30. Mr CHAN Hak-kan was also concerned that some claimants/appellants whose cases had been rejected by ImmD were quite active in the community after remaining in Hong Kong for a long time and might even get involved in serious crimes, greatly affecting law and order in society.

31. Dr Priscilla LEUNG and Mr SHIU Ka-fai pointed out that some illegal immigrants, being holders of recognizance forms (commonly known as "going-out passes") who were prohibited from taking up employment, had committed crimes in the community, giving rise to many law and order issues. A case in point was the serious daylight robbery which happened

in Whampoa Garden recently. While thanking SB and ImmD for deploying additional manpower to intercept potential claimants from entering Hong Kong, which had resulted in a drastic drop in the number of claimants in recent years, Mr SHIU called on the Administration to expedite the screening process so that "bogus refugees" could be screened out as soon as possible. Meanwhile, Dr LEUNG suggested that for the sake of avoiding abuse of the system, the Administration should consider setting up holding centres again and should stop issuing "going-out passes" to claimants, so as to lower the incentives and aspirations of illegal immigrants to enter Hong Kong to take up illegal employment.

32. In response, DS for S3 advised that SB and the Police had all along kept law and order issues in view. Given that some claimants who had been remaining in Hong Kong actually posed certain threats to the safety of local people, SB would continue to maintain communication and cooperate with the departments concerned in respect of law and order issues, step up law enforcement against unlawful acts and closely monitor if the situations had worsen such that appropriate actions should be taken in response. Moreover, the Chief Justice had publicly stated in early 2019 that noting the serious backlog of cases, he had instructed the Judiciary to study and liaise with the Department of Justice for the introduction of modest legislative amendments to expedite the assessment procedures.

#### Detention policies

33. Mr AU Nok-hin said that while one of the duties of the two supernumerary posts was to study the detention policies and step up law enforcement, SB had advised the Panel on Security that the Administration would continue to explore all lawful, practicable and effective options in the study of setting up detention centres and would keep the Legislative Council ("LegCo") updated when ready. He enquired about the progress and outcome of the relevant research efforts over the past three years. Mr WU Chi-wai asked about the details and specific timetable of the Administration's work to research into ImmD's power on detention and to identify suitable facilities to detain the claimants.

34. In response, DS for S3 advised that ImmD had the power to detain a claimant if he had any convictions (past or present) associated with serious violent crimes, or if there was doubt about his identity, or if he had a record of absconding. At present, most illegal immigrants (including claimants) detained by ImmD were placed in the Castle Peak Bay Immigration Centre ("CIC"). She further said that the Administration had all along reviewed and studied the detention policies and relevant ancillary arrangements from the perspectives of law, resources, public law and order, security, etc.

ImmD had also formulated the detention policies setting out the department's power and the legal principles observed by the court on the detention of illegal immigrants. She said that the Administration noted members' views and concerns about the additional provision of detention centres and/or the provision of closed camps or open holding centres. The Administration would continue with the review in this regard, in the hope of completing the relevant studies expeditiously and briefing the Panel on Security of the details within the current year.

Numbers of substantiated non-refoulement claims and non-ethnic Chinese illegal immigrants intercepted

35. Mr AU Nok-hin and Mr CHU Hoi-dick were concerned that some substantiated claimants with persecution risk had been remaining in Hong Kong for a long time. With no right of abode in Hong Kong and prohibited from taking up employment, they were disadvantaged groups in the community for they could hardly make ends meet. Regarding claimants who had been remaining in Hong Kong for a long time after making non-refoulement claims with ImmD (for example, cases with claimants remaining in Hong Kong for over 10 years), Mr CHU requested the Administration to respectively provide figures on:

- (a) the number of substantiated claimants with persecution risk pending confirmation of the refugee status and resettlement to a third country by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees ("UNHCR"); and
- (b) the number of rejected claimants pending TCAB's determination on their appeals against ImmD's decisions or applying for JR of the decisions of TCAB.

[*Post-meeting note:* The supplementary information provided by the Administration was issued to members vide LC Paper No. FC222/18-19(01) on 29 July 2019.]

36. In response, DS for S3 reiterated that the United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its Protocol were not applicable to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, and the Administration would not consider any non-refoulement claimants as "refugees". She and DD of Imm advised that substantiated claimants accounted for less than 1% of the total number of claimants. As at the end of April 2019, there were 138 substantiated claimants, among which 117 were with persecution risk and had been referred to UNHCR for follow up, including 4 who had been arranged for resettlement to a third country by

UNHCR. Substantiated claimants still remaining in Hong Kong would be provided with basic necessities and support, such as the arrangement for school-age children to go to school. Under exceptional circumstances, ImmD had the power to grant exemption for those people to take up employment in Hong Kong. The Administration would regularly review the substantiated claims. If the alleged risk ceased to exist, such claimants could be repatriated to their places of origin.

37. DD of Imm added that the numbers of non-ethnic Chinese illegal immigrants ("NECIIs") had dropped significantly in recent years. While the monthly average numbers of NECIIs intercepted were 318, 185, 74 and 53 respectively between 2015 and 2018, the figure saw a slight increase to 78 in the first four months of 2019. He advised that the Administration would closely monitor the latest trend and situations, while making continuous efforts to review and formulate effective response measures in a timely manner to prevent potential claimants with malicious intent from entering Hong Kong.

38. Referring to the illegal workers arrested by the Administration in operations to combat illegal employment, Mr CHU Hoi-dick sought information about the number of those people who had already lodged non-refoulement claims or held "going-out passes", as well as the numbers of those people who had illegally entered or overstayed in Hong Kong. Regarding the Administration's claim that cross-boundary joint operations to combat illegal immigrants had achieved certain results, he sought information about the numbers of illegal immigrants intercepted in cross-boundary law enforcement operations.

39. In response, DS for S3 and DD of Imm advised that:

- (a) the Administration had conducted a total of 720 operations to combat illegal employment in 2018, in which 451 non-ethnic Chinese ("NEC") persons were arrested involving 242 employers. In the first four months of 2019, 212 operations to combat illegal employment had been conducted, in which 114 NEC persons were arrested involving 59 employers;
- (b) between 2015 and 2018 and for the first four months of 2019, the numbers of persons arrested for taking up unlawful employment in violation of section 38AA of the Immigration Ordinance were 232, 302, 381, 332 and 84 respectively. Most of the arrested persons were subject to a removal order or a deportation order under the section, and the majority of them were claimants; and



- (c) the Administration had launched dedicated joint operations with the Mainland to combat cross-boundary human smuggling activities since mid-February 2016. In 2018, 639 NECIIs had been intercepted (an average of 53 per month), representing a drop of 28% compared with 2017 or a more staggering drop of 83% compared with the peak in 2015 (an average of 318 per month), which was a clear testimony to the effectiveness of the relevant operations.

40. Mr CHU Hoi-dick held that it was inadequate for the Administration to use the number of claims received as an indicator when reviewing the effectiveness of the policies on handling non-refoulement claims. He pointed out that despite the drop in the number of claims, the relevant figures did not tally with the number of persons arrested in the cross-boundary law enforcement operations, not to mention the fact that there was no significant improvement in terms of public order in the community. He suggested that the Administration should expand the scope of review to include the overall immigration policy, as well as the efforts to intercept illegal immigrants. He further suggested that the Administration could exercise discretionary power to allow the aforesaid 10-odd substantiated claimants with persecution risk who had remained in Hong Kong for many years to live and work here.

#### Removal of rejected claimants

41. Mr Holden CHOW asked how the proposed posts for retention could help carry out follow-up work to facilitate speedy removal of rejected claimants after the Administration had expedited the handling of pending claims. Dr Elizabeth QUAT hoped that the Administration would amend the Immigration Ordinance as soon as possible to introduce a time limit on the screening of claims and extend the detention period of claimants who posed threats to public order and safety. She enquired about the number of rejected claimants currently pending repatriation in Hong Kong. DD of Imm replied that currently about 13 300 claimants still remained in Hong Kong.

42. DS for S3 advised that after TCAB had completed the assessment of pending appeals, the number of rejected claimants would keep increasing, posing a considerable challenge in terms of their repatriation. She explained that the Administration had to liaise with the governments or consulates of the claimants' country of origin for verification of their

identity and issuance of the necessary travel documents before repatriation arrangements could be made.

43. DD of Imm advised that upon request by TCAB and the court, the Removal Assessment and Litigation Branch of ImmD would provide information on individual cases as and when necessary. After all appeals and legal proceedings had been completed, ImmD would strive to make available resources for the deployment of additional staff responsible for repatriation work. Moreover, ImmD would maintain close and effective communication with the governments of the claimants' country of origin to rationalize the repatriation process. He added that ImmD had removed 1 734 unsubstantiated claimants from Hong Kong in 2015 and a similar number of claimants in 2016, while the numbers had increased to 2 520 and 2 527 in 2017 and 2018 respectively. Separately, the Administration had chartered three flights to repatriate rejected claimants to their places of origin, with a view to expediting their removal from Hong Kong through various means.

#### Amendment of the Immigration Ordinance

44. Expressing support for the proposal, Mr Tony TSE considered that various initiatives introduced by SB and ImmD since 2016 had achieved certain results. Notwithstanding the above, he was of the view that as the Government had sometimes failed to complete various tasks on schedule and give due consideration to the relevant manpower requirement, it was only natural that its work had drawn criticisms from the public. Thus, it was necessary to extend the terms of the two supernumerary posts expeditiously, with a view to clearing the backlog of appeals and JR cases and facilitating the early amendment of the Immigration Ordinance. He asked whether the legislative amendment exercise originally scheduled for completion in the first quarter of this year would in any way be affected by the fact that the two posts had been left vacant for nearly two months upon their expiry on 31 March 2019, and whether the Administration had set any specific timetable in this regard. Mr AU Nok-hin was concerned that some appeals had been dragged on for a long time and asked how the problem could be resolved by the amendment of the Immigration Ordinance.

45. In response, DS for S3 advised that as the two supernumerary posts had been abolished for the time being upon their expiry on 31 March 2019, the relevant initiatives were being undertaken according to their respective priorities through the redeployment of internal resources. As such, the Administration hoped that with FC's funding approval, the two posts could be reinstated as soon as possible. She further advised that the

Administration had already briefed the Panel on Security on the proposed legislative amendments in July 2018 and January 2019, including setting a time frame for the screening of claims and stipulating requirements to prevent claimants from resorting to the delaying tactic of not submitting the required documents, with a view to striking a balance between meeting the high standards of fairness and expediting the screening procedures.

46. Mr CHU Hoi-dick pointed out that in January, February and April this year, the Government had respectively presented to the Panel on Security and sought the views of Panel members on the proposed legislative amendments relating to the Immigration Ordinance, the Fugitive Offenders Ordinance (Cap. 503) and the legislation on delimiting 150 m of the Central waterfront as a military control zone for use by the People's Liberation Army as a military dock. Noting that the latter two pieces of legislation had already gone through their First Reading, he asked whether the First Reading of the Immigration (Amendment) Bill had been delayed for so long because there were substantive changes in the current version of the Bill compared with the January version. Mr WU Chi-wai enquired about the specific timetable for amending the Immigration Ordinance.

47. In response, DS for S3 advised that when consulting the Panel on Security in January this year, the Administration received many views from members on several specific issues. The Administration was now analyzing and studying those views carefully, particularly some suggestions that were more controversial. That said, the Administration was also working on the drafting of the legislation in parallel, and a final decision had yet to be made. The Administration aimed to introduce the said Bill to LegCo for consideration within the current legislative session.

48. Mr AU Nok-hin pointed out that according to Article 8 of the Basic Law, "[t]he laws previously in force in Hong Kong, that is, the common law, rules of equity, ordinances, subordinate legislation and customary law shall be maintained, except for any that contravene this Law, and subject to any amendment by the legislature of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region." Given that it was the responsibility of PAS(S)Review to ensure that implementation of the future statutory mechanism would be consistent with latest jurisprudence and that SB had undertaken not to scrap the high standards of fairness and *Hardial Singh* principles (i.e. ImmD could not continue to detain any illegal immigrants if it could not complete the removal or screening procedures within a reasonable period of time), he requested the Administration to honour its undertaking by removing the provision seeking to amend the common law principles in the soon-to-be-introduced Immigration (Amendment) Bill.

49. In response, DS for S3 advised that according to CFA's ruling in a case in 2014, ImmD was subject to the common law *Hardial Singh* principles when exercising its power to detain a person. She further said that SB and ImmD had all along handled claims in accordance with the high standards of fairness as required by the court and the *Hardial Singh* principles. SB and ImmD would also ensure that the proposed legislative amendments were in line with CFA's decisions and the common law principles.

#### Provision of publicly-funded legal assistance

50. Noting that PAS(S)Review would be responsible for reviewing and closely monitoring the provision of PFLA to claimants, Mr WU Chi-wai asked whether any conditions and financial ceilings had been set on PFLA payable to claimants, what the details and timetable of the review were, and whether it was envisaged that PFLA would increase or decrease upon completion of the review.

51. In response, DS for S3 advised that as only a limited number of claims could be handled each month under the Duty Lawyer Service previously, it was impossible to clear the huge backlog of cases within a short period of time. Hence, the Administration launched the Pilot Scheme for Provision of Publicly-funded Legal Assistance for Non-refoulement Claimants ("Pilot Scheme") in September 2017 to expedite the handling of pending cases. PFLA was provided to claimants free of charge and without upper limit. Having consulted the views of the two legal professional bodies, the Administration had taken on board their recommendation and set up a committee chaired by a retired judge to review various matters, including whether the level of legal support provided under the Pilot Scheme was reasonable, and whether resources had been properly utilized. The Administration aimed to complete the review within the current year.

#### Motion proposed by a member under paragraph 37A of the Finance Committee Procedure

52. At 5:56 pm, members voted on whether the [motion](#) proposed by Mr AU Nok-hin under paragraph 37A of the Finance Committee Procedure ("the FCP 37A motion") should be proceeded with forthwith. The Chairman put to vote the question that the FCP 37A motion should be proceeded with forthwith. At the request of members, the Chairman ordered a division. The Chairman declared that the question on proceeding with the motion forthwith was [negatived](#).

Voting on FCR(2018-19)91

53. At 6:02 pm, the Chairman put item FCR(2018-19)91 to vote. At the request of members, the Chairman ordered a division. The Chairman declared that 38 members voted in favour of and 7 members voted against the item, and 1 member abstained from voting. The votes of individual members were as follows:

*For:*

Mr Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan	Prof Joseph LEE Kok-long
Mr Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung	Mr WONG Ting-kwong
Mr CHAN Hak-kan	Mr WONG Kwok-kin
Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee	Mr Paul TSE Wai-chun
Mr Steven HO Chun-yin	Mr WU Chi-wai
Mr YIU Si-wing	Mr MA Fung-kwok
Mr CHAN Han-pan	Mr LEUNG Che-cheung
Ms Alice MAK Mei-kuen	Mr KWOK Wai-keung
Mr Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung	Dr Helena WONG Pik-wan
Mr IP Kin-yuen	Dr Elizabeth QUAT
Mr Martin LIAO Cheung-kong	Mr POON Siu-ping
Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok	Mr Alvin YEUNG
Dr Junius HO Kwan-yiu	Mr HO Kai-ming
Mr Holden CHOW Ho-ding	Mr SHIU Ka-fai
Mr Wilson OR Chong-shing	Mr CHAN Chun-ying
Mr CHEUNG Kwok-kwan	Mr LUK Chung-hung
Mr LAU Kwok-fan	Mr Kenneth LAU Ip-keung
Mr Jeremy TAM Man-ho	Mr Vincent CHENG Wing-shun
Mr Tony TSE Wai-chuen	Ms CHAN Hoi-yan
(38 members)	

*Against:*

Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung	Ms Claudia MO
Mr CHAN Chi-chuen	Dr Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Mr CHU Hoi-dick	Dr CHENG Chung-tai
Mr AU Nok-hin	
(7 members)	

*Abstained:*

Mr Gary FAN Kwok-wai  
(1 member)

54. The Chairman declared that the item was approved.

55. At 6:07 pm, the Chairman directed that the meeting be suspended. The meeting resumed at 6:20 pm.

**Item 3 — FCR(2018-19)93**

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE PUBLIC WORKS  
SUBCOMMITTEE MADE ON 20 FEBRUARY 2019**

**PWSC(2018-19)39**

**HEAD 703 — BUILDINGS**

**Government Offices — Intra-governmental services**

**130KA — Immigration Headquarters in Tseung Kwan O**

56. The Chairman advised that the item sought FC's approval of the recommendation made by PWSC at its meeting held on 20 February 2019 vide PWSC(2018-19)39 for the upgrading of 130KA to Category A at an estimated cost of \$6,806 million in MOD prices for the construction of the Immigration Headquarters ("HQ") in Area 67, Tseung Kwan O. Some members had requested that the recommendation be put to vote separately at the FC meeting. PWSC had spent about 3 hours and 20 minutes on scrutinizing the item. The Administration had also provided a number of supplementary information papers.

57. The Chairman declared that he was an independent non-executive director of The Bank of East Asia and a senior advisor of Well Link Insurance Group Holdings Limited.

Construction costs, design and area of the proposed project

*Design and construction costs of glass curtain walls*

58. Mr Gary FAN stated that he and other Members (including Ms Tanya CHAN) had expressed concerns about the use of glass curtain walls in the proposed project when the item was discussed by PWSC. They were worried that sunlight reflection from the proposed HQ might cause light pollution and create a sense of pressure for residents living in the large residential estates one street apart. Referring to the artist's impression illustrating the preliminary design of the proposed project as set out in the supplementary information provided by the Administration, he said that the portion of glass panels on the curtain walls of the proposed HQ had been reduced markedly with an increasing greening area on the facades. Notwithstanding the enhanced design of the facades, he asked why the overall project cost could be maintained at \$6,806 million. Considering that the situation was unreasonable from the architectural and

engineering perspectives, he sought an explanation from the Administration.

59. Ms Claudia MO was concerned that while the glass curtain wall design would cause light pollution and affect nearby residents, birds would often be injured or even killed as they crashed into the glass walls under the impression that they were flying towards the woods or the sky due to reflection on the glass walls. Separately, in the aftermath of typhoon Mangkhut hitting Hong Kong last year, many glass curtain walls on a number of government buildings in Wanchai had been smashed, and the repair works had yet to be completed. She enquired whether glass curtain wall design of the building facade was a mandatory requirement under the "design-and-build" contract of the proposed project, and how the Administration could ensure that the glass curtain walls in the proposed project could withstand super typhoon attacks. She also queried why the Administration had insisted on adopting the glass curtain wall design instead of building the facade using conventional reinforcement and cement materials.

60. Noting that the glass curtain wall design was mostly adopted for facades of new government buildings, Mr WU Chi-wai enquired whether it was a new directive from the Architectural Services Department to adopt the glass curtain wall design for all new government structures. He also sought the respective construction costs for glass curtain walls and conventional concrete walls, and enquired whether there were substantial differences between the two types of walls in terms of repair and maintenance.

61. In response, Director of Architectural Services ("DArchS") advised that:

- (a) the curtain wall design was adopted for the facade of the proposed HQ featuring the use of glass materials, metal cladding panels, shading fins and adoption of green elements. Taking into account the views expressed by Members when the item was discussed by PWSC, the Administration had minimized the area of glass panels in the original design, so as to address Members' queries;
- (b) the construction works of the proposed HQ would be delivered through a "design-and-build" contract. While the Administration had already provided the overall design parameters and requirements to the tenderers, design details

could still be suitably adjusted, for example, by the use of materials with lower external reflectance; and

- (c) to satisfy the lighting requirements prescribed by law and the guidelines, glass would be used to provide natural lighting for the buildings. Depending on the actual needs, the facades could adopt a combination design of glass and cladding panels. As curtain walls were lighter in weight and could be constructed with prefabricated components, time savings could be achieved when compared with the construction of concrete facades in general. Nowadays, the curtain wall design was widely adopted for the facades of office buildings.

62. Ms Claudia MO said that while the Government had strived to train up workers in the construction industry as a solution to the manpower shortage problem on the one hand, it had, on the other hand, widely adopted the use of prefabricated components in its construction works to save time and costs. She asked whether the curtain wall components were produced in Mainland factories, and how the Administration could ensure that their quality was up to standard. DArchS replied that there was no requirement on the place of origin of the components such as cladding panels under the contract. Instead, the components would be procured on the basis of the installation requirements and functions of the curtain walls. Ms MO and Mr Gary FAN requested the Administration to provide a detailed breakdown of the overall project costs (in particular, the costs of constructing the glass curtain walls and greening features) before and after the facade design was enhanced, in order to explain why the overall project costs could be maintained at \$6,806 million despite the enhanced design of the building facades.

[*Post-meeting note:* The supplementary information provided by the Administration was issued to members vide LC Paper No. FC182/18-19(01) on 17 May 2019.]

#### *Construction unit cost*

63. Mr Alvin YEUNG thanked the Administration for providing a supplementary paper (LC Paper No. PWSC160/18-19(01)) as per the request of some Members, setting out in tabular form related information such as the project costs, construction unit cost, construction floor area and major facilities of the proposed HQ, as well as the headquarters of other disciplined services and government office buildings delivered under "design-and-build" contracts in the past decade, to facilitate members' consideration of whether the construction costs of the proposed project



were reasonable. He pointed out that according to adjustments made to September 2018 prices, the project cost and construction unit cost of the proposed HQ were \$5,455.7 million and \$30,314 respectively, while the figures for the Customs Headquarters Building completed in the third quarter of 2010 were around \$2,400 million and \$26,128 respectively. As both ImmD and the Customs and Excise Department ("C&ED") were disciplined services, he sought the differences between their headquarters which resulted in the substantially higher construction unit cost of the proposed HQ compared with C&ED's headquarters. He also asked whether the said difference in construction costs was only a result of the changing technical and legal requirements over the past eight years.

64. In response, DArchS advised that as C&ED was also a disciplined service, the Administration had provided information related to its headquarters to members for comparison. That said, after completion of the Customs Headquarters Building, many relevant legal requirements had been enhanced, such as those related to barrier-free access facilities and energy efficiency, as well as those concerning site management, workers' training and safety, in the construction industry. As such, the two headquarters should not be compared directly. Separately, unlike the Customs Headquarters Building, the proposed HQ would be provided with public-oriented offices and a greater number of facilities for public use. Thus, it was necessary to provide relevant facilities such as public corridors, escalators and lifts, as well as other ancillary facilities such as barrier-free access and toilets.

#### *Area of basement and parking facilities*

65. Mr WU Chi-wai noted the large area of the proposed project site and the Administration's statement that the current design had already fully utilized the plot ratio, while meeting the relevant height restrictions. He enquired whether spare capacity had been factored into the foundation in the design of the proposed HQ to allow for the construction of additional storeys in the future to meet new operational needs (e.g. the need to provide an additional detention centre), so as to address the problem of land shortage. He also enquired whether the basement of the proposed HQ would occupy the entire area of the site or would just be underneath the two towers of the proposed HQ; and whether, given the present serious shortage of public parking spaces, the Administration would make space available or construct an additional storey of basement to provide additional parking spaces for both internal and public uses.

66. Mr Gary FAN opined that the design of the proposed HQ should fully realize the principle of "single site, multiple uses". Referring to the

Secretary for Transport and Housing's recent statement about Hong Kong being a suitable place to introduce underground smart car parks as a planning option for reference, he said that the Administration had also responded to the demand from different districts to address the shortfall of parking spaces through various government building projects in New Territories West (including Tsuen Wan), the Northern District and Tai Po. Moreover, the Sai Kung District Council had been discussing the provision of underground car parks in different facilities for the past two to three years. But according to the Administration, given the provision of a 24-hour data centre, an identity card personalization centre and a travel document personalization centre in the proposed HQ, together with the storage of a substantial amount of sensitive information, it was not suitable to provide public parking spaces on account of security considerations. He requested the Director of Immigration ("D of Imm") and DArchS to consider the provision of a multi-storey carpark at the proposed HQ, in which one to two storeys would be designated as reserved parking spaces for the internal use of ImmD staff, and the remaining storeys allocated for public car parking spaces with separate access. Such an arrangement could not only resolve ImmD's security problems, but also address the public demand for public parking spaces.

67. In response, DArchS advised that as the two towers of the proposed HQ would be sharing one single basement, the actual area of the basement would be larger than the total ground floor area of the two towers. But due to technical constraints and limitations presented by the existing site, the periphery of the site could not be used for construction of the basement. She further said that the Administration was aware of Members' concerns about the shortage of public parking spaces. In response to Members' views, the Administration had strived to maximize the provision of parking spaces inside the proposed Joint-user Government Office Building in Tseung Kwan O which was adjacent to the proposed HQ, increasing substantially from the original plan of providing about 100 public parking spaces to around 200. A passageway would be provided to connect the proposed HQ with the said office building.

#### Need for an in-house indoor fire range

68. Mr AU Nok-hin considered that notwithstanding the Administration's view that in-house fire ranges of the disciplined services were tailor-made to meet their respective operational and training needs, currently, only about 170 staff in ImmD were authorized to use firearms compared to nearly 33 000, 6 200 and 5 800 staff receiving firearms training in the Hong Kong Police Force, Correctional Services Department and C&ED respectively. As such, there was no need for ImmD to be

provided with an in-house fire range. He enquired about the following: among the some 7 000 disciplined staff in ImmD, how many were authorized to use firearms at work; given ImmD had made known its plan to provide firearms and ammunition training to newly recruited disciplined staff in the future, when such a change of policy was made and the reasons for that; and whether it was cost-effective to provide a fire range at the proposed HQ and why it must be done.

69. Mr CHAN Hak-kan considered that as ImmD's work ahead would become more challenging, it was necessary for ImmD to be provided with its own in-house fire range, just like other disciplined services. Although only about 170 staff in ImmD were authorized to use firearms, thousands of ImmD staff would need to receive firearms and ammunition training because they would fill the relevant posts by rotation. Noting the large number of staff in other disciplined services requiring firearms and ammunition training, he enquired whether ImmD must borrow the fire ranges of other disciplined services for training of those staff currently required to carry firearms at work; and if so, how the arrangements were made, and whether the shared use of fire ranges by disciplined services would affect the daily training of the departments concerned.

70. In response, D of Imm advised that:

- (a) in order to meet operational needs, ImmD planned to provide all disciplined staff (including newly recruits and serving staff) with firearms and ammunition training to facilitate staff posting and strengthen support. Thus, the need for providing an in-house fire range should not be considered solely on the basis of the current number of staff authorized to use firearms;
- (b) ImmD currently had about 7 000 disciplined staff, among which about 170 were deployed to CIC. Those posts in CIC would be filled by rotation once every three to four years;
- (c) in case of emergencies in the detention facilities of CIC, ImmD must deploy additional staff for support to ensure the safety of both ImmD staff and the detainees;
- (d) ImmD staff deployed to CIC must receive and complete a three-week specialized training comprising a one-week management course of the detention centre and a two-week tactical training that included training on the use of firearms and anti-riot equipment (such as pepper spray). The staff

would also undergo a one-day refresher training four times each year;

- (e) currently, ImmD must borrow the facilities of other disciplined services for the relevant training. As ImmD had been taking up the time of other disciplined services in using the fire ranges, the latter had already stated clearly that they would have difficulties in lending their fire ranges to ImmD. It was thus clear that it would be more difficult for ImmD to increase the usage time of fire ranges on loan; and
- (f) given that ImmD's disciplined staff had little opportunity to receive comprehensive firearms and ammunition training due to the ImmD's current absence of an in-house fire range, it was necessary for ImmD to have its own fire range, so as to meet the operational and training needs effectively and enhance training efficiency.

Other views

71. Mr SHIU Ka-fai stated support for the proposed project. He expressed concern about ImmD's increasing workload in recent years as a result of the influx of overseas visitors as well as the increasing number of non-refoulement claims lodged by South Asians. Separately, the Shenzhen World Exhibition and Convention Center, with an area of 500 000 sq m, would open in October 2019, while the total floor area of the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre in Wanchai and the AsiaWorld-Expo at the Hong Kong International Airport was only about 160 000 sq m to 170 000 sq m. He thus considered it necessary to vacate the site for the development of convention and exhibition facilities to enhance Hong Kong's competitiveness. He said that reprovisioning the existing Immigration Headquarters in Wanchai to Tseung Kwan O could not only meet the increasing operational needs of ImmD and enhance its work efficiency, but also facilitate the future planning of the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre.

72. The meeting ended at 6:57 pm.