

**Finance Committee**  
**Follow-up to the Meeting on 9 July 2021**

The reply of the Government to the enquiries raised by the Hon CHAN Han-pan regarding FCR(2021-22)48 is as follows:

As at 30 June 2021, the vaccination in lieu of regular testing (VRT) arrangement covered about 64 000 frontline government employees<sup>1</sup> who were regularly involved in enforcement, inspection and investigation duties having frequent and close contact with members of the public, or involved in high-risk duties. The vaccination rate<sup>2</sup> of these frontline staff exceeded 70%. Frontline staff who are unfit for vaccination due to medical conditions and those who plan to but have not yet been vaccinated are required to undergo testing using combined nasal and throat swabs on a bi-weekly basis. The maximum amount for each test is \$240. With a number of measures put in place by the Government to encourage and facilitate vaccination by government employees, we expect that the number of frontline employees who are required to undergo regular testing under the arrangement will decrease. From 19 July 2021, the VRT arrangement was expanded to cover all frontline government employees. We will continue to closely monitor and review in a timely manner the implementation of the VRT arrangement. We will also consider further expanding the VRT to cover the entire civil service to ensure that government bureaux and departments have strong enough defense against the COVID-19 virus and its mutant strains. As mentioned by the Chief Executive at the Legislative Council Question and Answer Session on 15 July, we are also considering whether the government employees will be required to pay for the regular testing at their own expenses in the future.

Civil Service Bureau  
July 2021

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<sup>1</sup> Since the number of frontline positions varies according to operational needs, and the frontline positions may not be held by the same employees as frontline employees are subject to posting arrangements, the number of frontline employees required to undergo regular testing will vary from time to time.

<sup>2</sup> Under the VRT arrangement, the vaccination rate refers to the percentage of staff who receive at least one dose of the vaccine among all the frontline government employees covered by the arrangement.