

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. FC45/99-00

**Paper for the House Committee meeting
on 14 January 2000**

**Issues relating to the payment of honoraria to non-official
members serving on boards and committees set up by the Government**

Purpose

This paper seeks members' advice on whether a subcommittee should be formed under the House Committee to review issues related to the payment of honoraria to non-official members serving on boards and committees set up by the Government.

Background

2. The subject of payment of honoraria to non-official chairmen/members serving on boards and committees appointed by the Government has been raised on almost every occasion when there was a funding request to the Finance Committee for the granting of such honoraria. The query has always been directed to the lack of consistency in the granting of honoraria.

Present situation

3. At the Finance Committee meeting on 7 January 2000, when considering the payment of honoraria to the Chairman and Deputy Chairmen of the Review Body on Bid Challenges (the Review Body), the same subject was raised. Members specifically pointed out the following issues:

- (a) under what circumstances would non-official members of committees be remunerated for their service;
- (b) the rationale for remunerating the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of a committee, but not its members, as in the case of the Review Body; and
- (c) the rationale for determining the remuneration rates, in particular where professional practitioners are involved.

4. It is noted that the payment methodology for a particular committee is determined by the respective policy bureau. As a result, the practice for different committees under the purview of different bureaux can be quite different. Whilst the funding proposal in respect of the aforesaid Review Body has been withdrawn by the Administration for further discussion by the Panel on Trade and Industry, members agreed that the policy on current arrangements for remunerating non-official members of boards and committees should be examined separately.

The way forward

5. As the responsibility for determining the remuneration arrangements for individual committees lies with the respective policy bureaux, examination of the related policy therefore does not fall within the purview of any existing Panels. As such, members of the Finance Committee agreed that the matter be referred to the House Committee for considering whether a subcommittee should be formed to examine the subject in its entirety.

Advice sought

6. Members are invited to consider whether a subcommittee should be formed to examine issues related to the payment of honoraria to non-official members serving on boards and committees set up by the Government.

Council Business Division 1
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