

Bills Committee on Public Officers Pay Adjustments (2004/2005) Bill

Summary of submissions

(Position as at 16 September 2003)

Six submissions

	<u>LC Paper No.</u>
Disciplined Services Consultative Council (Staff Side) (DSCC(SS))	CB(1)2427/02-03(01)
Hong Kong Civil Servants General Union (HKCSGU)	CB(1)2427/02-03(02)
Government Disciplined Services General Union (GDSGU)	CB(1)2427/02-03(03)
Hong Kong Confederation of Trade Unions (HKCTU)	CB(1)2427/02-03(04)
The Hong Kong Bar Association (The Bar)	CB(1)2427/02-03(05)
Senior Non-Expatriate Officers Association (SNEOA)	CB(1)2427/02-03(06)

Remarks:

Representatives of DSCC(SS), HKCSGU, GDSGU and HKCTU will be attending the Bills Committee meeting on 17 September 2003.

Subject (Clause no.)	Name of Organization	Views of organizations on the Bill
1. <i>Objective of the Bill</i>	HKCTU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It should be clearly set out in the Bill that the Bill aims to provide details for implementation of the pay adjustment decision which is a consensus reached between the Government and the staff side.
2. <i>Implementation of the pay adjustment decision for 2004 and 2005</i>	<p>SNEOA</p> <p>GDSGU</p> <p>DSCC(SS) GDSGU</p> <p>GDSGU</p> <p>HKCSGU</p> <p>HKCTU</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No objection to the Bill because of the fiscal deficit and public interest considerations. The proposal to reduce civil service pay back to the level it was at, in dollar terms, on 30 June 1997 in two phases is acceptable. Given that the Government and the staff side have already reached a consensus on the pay reduction for 2004 and 2005, there is no need to legislate for the pay reduction. Objects to the Government's approach to legislate on a one-off basis to implement civil service pay reduction. Disagrees with the Government's legislative approach in implementing the pay reduction decision. According to the schedules of the Bill, some of the civil service pay levels will be reduced by over 6% upon the implementation of pay reductions in 2004 and 2005. This is inconsistent with the extent of pay adjustments under the consensus reached between the Government and the staff side.

Subject (Clause no.)	Name of Organization	Views of organizations on the Bill
<p>3. <i>Application of the pay adjustments (Clause 3)</i></p>	<p>The Bar</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clause 3(1)(b) which seeks to exclude judicial officers from the Bill does not cover the Registrar of the Court of Final Appeal. Suggests to add a new subclause (i)(c) to clause 3(1)(b): “known as Registrar of the Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal” to remedy the above omission. The Government should also consider amending Schedule 1 of the Judicial Officers Recommendation Commission Ordinance (Cap. 92) to include in it the office of Registrar of the Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal. • Clause 3(1)(b) might not include all members of the Lands Tribunal appointed pursuant to section 4(4) of the Lands Tribunal Ordinance (Cap 17). Clarification is necessary.
<p>4. <i>Provisions on future pay adjustments and express authority for pay adjustments (Clauses 14 and 15)</i></p>	<p>DSCC(SS) GDSGU</p> <p>HKCSGU</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Object to clauses 14 and 15 which contravene the Basic Law. • The Government is working with the staff side for an improved civil service pay adjustment mechanism before end 2004. Future pay adjustments should be implemented in accordance with the improved mechanism. Clauses 14 and 15 are unnecessary and should therefore be deleted. • Proposes to replace clauses 14 and 15 by a new clause 14 which specifies that the Bill only applies to public officers pay adjustments in 2004 and 2005.

Subject (Clause no.)	Name of Organization	Views of organizations on the Bill
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Requests the Government not to further reduce the pay of the civil servants on permanent and pensionable terms in future.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
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