

Bills Committee on Public Officers Pay Adjustments (2004/2005) Bill
Third meeting on 10 October 2003

List of follow-up actions to be taken by the Administration

1. In examining the need for the Government to implement civil service pay reduction through legislation and the feasibility of implementing pay reduction through alternative means, a member pointed out that in respect of civil service pay increase in previous years, the Administration had sought the approval of the Finance Committee (FC) for the pay increase. In response to the member, the Administration advised that the Government could not implement a civil service pay reduction with certainty solely by seeking the approval of FC as such an approach did not address the issue that the employment arrangements between the Government and the majority of serving civil servants did not contain an express provision authorizing the Government to reduce pay. To facilitate the Bills Committee's consideration of the issue, please provide a paper to explain the mechanism for the Administration to seek FC's approval for civil service pay adjustment, and whether the FC's approval has legal effect and legislative effect in the case of pay increase and in the case of pay reduction. The Administration is invited to make reference to the functions of FC as are conferred upon the committee by the Public Finance Ordinance (Cap. 2).
2. Regarding the complaint lodged by the Hong Kong Confederation of Trade Unions to the International Labour Organization (ILO) that the enactment of the Public Officers Pay Adjustment Ordinance (Cap. 574) is in violation of the International Labour Convention no. 151, please brief the Bills Committee on the up-to-date progress of the case, in particular, whether the Administration has provided its response to ILO in relation to the complaint.
3. Regarding the Administration's proposed amendments to clauses 14 and 15, please report the outcome of staff consultation to the Bills Committee at its meeting on 24 October 2003.
4. Regarding the further submission dated 6 October 2003 from the Hong Kong Bar Association, please provide the Administration's written response for the Bills Committee's consideration at its meeting on 24 October 2003.