

NOTE FOR PUBLIC WORKS SUBCOMMITTEE OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

Attendance of public officers at meetings of the Public Works Subcommittee

At the meeting of the Public Works Subcommittee (PWSC) held on 16 October 2002, Members requested the Administration to clarify whether there had been any change in the representation and role of public officers attending PWSC meetings since the introduction of the accountability system and whether public officers attending PWSC meetings could represent their bureaux and departments.

2. Further to the discussion at PWSC, the Chief Secretary for Administration has assured the Chairman of the House Committee at their regular weekly meeting on 22 October 2002 that all public officers attending meetings of the Legislative Council, be they committee or panel meetings, represent the Government and speak on behalf of the Government. Whereas Principal Officials (POs) would attend full meetings of the Legislative Council, representation at subcommittees and panels would depend on the subject being discussed. The guiding principle is that the Government would send the most suitable representative(s). Irrespective of the level of Government's representation, however, the POs would accept total responsibility for matters under their policy portfolios.

Government Secretariat
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