

# 立法會 *Legislative Council*

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## **Information Note for the House Committee meeting on 5 December 2003 regarding members of the Select Committee to inquire into the handling of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome outbreak by the Government and the Hospital Authority serving as Duty Roster Members for the Legislative Council Redress System**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this note is to inform Members of the decisions of the Select Committee regarding its members serving as Duty Roster Members for the Legislative Council (LegCo) Redress System.

### **Decisions**

2. In anticipation of members of the public approaching the Complaints Division of the LegCo Secretariat with cases which may contain information directly relevant to the terms of reference of the Select Committee ("the Information"), the Select Committee would wish Duty Roster Members handling the cases to consider, subject to the consent of the members of the public concerned, referring the Information to the Select Committee.

3. In addition, in order to avoid any confusion about the role of the members of the Select Committee, the Select Committee has decided that its members should not serve as Duty Roster Members (DRMs) for such cases. In reaching such a decision, the Select Committee has taken into consideration that its inquiry must be conducted in a fair and open manner, and that its members should not act in any way which might compromise their role as members of the Select Committee and in turn affect the credibility and impartiality of the Select Committee. In the context of its members' possible participation in the handling of such cases which may involve receiving information from complainants and the holding of Case Conferences, which are not conducted in the open, members of the Select Committee should not serve as DRMs in such cases.

4. The Select Committee has also decided that should the ward/district offices of an individual member of the Select Committee be approached by a member of the public to handle a case which contains information directly relevant to the terms of reference of the Select Committee, the member should invite the member of the public to provide the Information to the Select Committee directly. In considering whether it would be appropriate for the member to handle the case, the member would take into consideration the principles spelt out above.

5. If the ward/district offices of other LegCo Members are approached by members of the public with such cases, the Select Committee recommends that, in addition to the Members' normal handling of these cases, the members of the public should be invited to consider providing the Information in writing to the Select Committee directly.

6. The Information received through the above procedure will be treated by the Select Committee in the same manner as information received from other sources.