Supplementary information paper

<u>LegCo Panel on Health Services</u> <u>Amendments to the Dentists Registration Ordinance</u>

Introduction

This paper seeks to inform members of the major issues considered by the Dental Council of Hong Kong (the Council) in its previous review of the Dentists Registration Ordinance (DRO) (Cap. 156).

Background

2. At the Health Services Panel meeting of 14 March 2005, members considered the Administration's proposal to amend the DRO in respect of the setting up of a Specialist Register. At the meeting, members requested the Administration to supplement on the above mentioned information.

Major issues considered by the Council

3. The Council proposed some amendments to the DRO in 1994 and subsequently formed a Working Group in 1997 to undertake a full review of the DRO. The following are major proposals made by the Council :

- (a) to introduce a Specialist Register for dental practitioners qualified in various specialist fields of dentistry;
- (b) to expand the composition of the Council in order to broaden its representation and to meet the increasing workload;
- (c) to amend the Chinese name of the Dental Council of Hong Kong from "香港牙醫管理委員會" to "香港牙科醫務委員會";
- (d) to establish other statutory committees including the Education and Accreditation Committee, Health Committee, Ethics Committee, Examination Committee and the Board of

Examiners under the Council;

- (e) to require registered dentists who have been convicted in Hong Kong or elsewhere of any offence punishable with imprisonment, or have been issued with a disciplinary order against him by an overseas dental authority, to report to the Council details of the matter within 28 days upon conviction or receipt of order, failing which he may be subject to disciplinary action;
- (f) to increase the level of maximum fines and penalties to strengthen deterrent effect;
- (g) to expand the composition of the Preliminary Investigation Committee and to improve its operation;
- (h) to increase the level of maximum fines for committing an offence against the requirement that the majority of the directors running a dental company must be registered dentists, and to require dental companies to transmit a statement in the prescribed form to the Registrar within three months upon its establishment or subsequent change in personnel within the board of directors and managers of the company;
- (i) to amend the term "unprofessional conduct" to read as "misconduct in any professional aspect" to give the Council flexibility in handling disciplinary cases; and
- (j) to specify the procedures for considering applications for restoration of the name of a dentist to the Dental Register and empower the Council to require the applicant to prove his/her competency to be eligible for restoration.

4. The Administration, upon enactment of the proposed amendments in relation to the establishment of the Specialist Register, will consider the appropriate timing to take forward the Council's other proposals. The Council and other stakeholder groups will be consulted on the details of the proposed amendments as appropriate.

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