

Panel on Security

List of outstanding items for discussion

(position as at 29 December 2005)

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

Items proposed by members

1. Commencement of the Fire Safety (Buildings) Bill

In the course of examination of the commencement clause of the Fire Safety (Buildings) Bill, the Bills Committee considered that the Bill should not come into operation before the amendments to the Building Management Ordinance to empower owners' corporations to borrow from the Building Safety Loan Scheme had been enacted. The Administration would, when time was ripe and circumstances permit, prepare a paper setting out its views and proposal for bringing the Bill into force for discussion by the Panel. The Administration undertook not to bring the Bill into operation without first obtaining the support of a great majority of members of the Panel. To be confirmed

The Administration provided a paper (LC Paper No. CB(2)104/04-05(01) issued on 27 October 2004) advising that subject to the passage of the Building Management (Amendment) Bill, which was introduced into the Legislative Council in April 2005, and related subsidiary legislation, the Administration would in due course prepare a paper to consult the Panel on the timing for bringing the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance into force.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

2. Monitoring of anti-terrorism measures by the Administration

In the course of deliberations of the Bills Committee on United Nations (Anti-Terrorism Measures) Bill, the Administration undertook to review periodically the anti-terrorism measures set out in legislation to ensure that they were in line with the international trend. The Bills Committee agreed that the monitoring of anti-terrorism measures should be referred to the Panel for follow-up. The Administration provided updated information on the anti-terrorism laws of a number of overseas jurisdictions at the Panel meeting on 20 February 2003 vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1113/02-03(03).

To be confirmed

A submission from the Amnesty International, Hong Kong Section Limited on the United Nations (Anti-Terrorism Measures) Ordinance was circulated vide LC Paper No. CB(2)170/02-03 on 25 October 2002 for members' information. The Administration's response to the submission was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)411/02-03 on 19 November 2002.

At the suggestion of members, the subject of "Measures to combat terrorist activities in Hong Kong" was discussed at the meeting on 5 December 2002.

At the meetings on 16 January 2003 and 20 February 2003, the Panel was consulted on the proposals in the United Nations (Anti-Terrorism Measures) (Amendment) Bill 2003, which sought to implement relevant international conventions against terrorism, and to provide the means for the Secretary for Security to effectively freeze terrorist assets which are not funds. The Administration subsequently introduced the Bill on 21 May 2003. A Bills Committee formed to study the Bill had completed its work and the Bill was passed at the Council meeting on 30 June 2004. During the resumption of Second Reading debate on the Bill, the Administration stated that it would review the reporting requirements under section 12 of the Ordinance and section 25A of the Drug Trafficking (Recovery of Proceeds) Ordinance and the Organized and Serious Crimes Ordinance in the context of the exercise to put in place the Financial

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

Action Task Force on Money Laundering's Forty Recommendations which was scheduled to start in 2004-05.

In its letter dated 27 October 2004 (LC Paper No. CB(2)110/04-05(01) issued on 28 October 2004), the Administration advised that it planned to launch the proposed review of the suspicious transaction reporting requirements in the first quarter of 2005.

A progress report provided by the Administration was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)875/04-05 on 16 February 2005.

The review of the suspicious transaction reporting requirements was launched in the first quarter of 2005 and is still underway. The Administration will inform the Panel of the result of the review in the course of the preparation of the legislation for implementing the FATF Recommendations.

3. Follow-up on issues relating to the Police's List of Recordable Offences

Issues relating to the Police's List of Recordable Offences and Certificate of No Criminal Conviction were discussed at the meeting on 2 April 2004. Members were concerned that besides some 167 recordable offences which might be recordable by the Police, offences where a heavier sentence would be imposed on conviction would also be recorded. They considered that the criteria for recording a conviction should be set out clearly and the records of convictions maintained by the Police should be separated from the system for issuing Certificate of No Criminal Conviction. The Administration stated that it would examine the issue having regard to the practice in other countries. Hon James TO proposed that the matter be followed up by the Panel.

To be confirmed

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

4. Issues relating to the merging of Tseung Kwan O and Sai Kung Police Divisions into a Police District

Issues relating to the merging of Tseung Kwan O Police Division and Sai Kung Police Division into a Police District was discussed at the meeting between LegCo Members and Sai Kung District Council members on 7 April 2005 and referred to the Panel. The referral was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1990/04-05 on 17 June 2005. Members agreed at the Panel meeting on 5 July 2005 that the subject matter be followed up by the Panel.

To be confirmed

5. Policy on the admission of refugees

In its Concluding Observations issued on 13 May 2005, the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that the HKSAR should reconsider its position regarding the extension of the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol to its territorial jurisdiction, and that it should strengthen cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in particular, in the formulation of a clear and coherent asylum policy based on the principle of non-discrimination. At the suggestion of Hon James TO, members agreed at the meeting on 5 July 2005 that the subject matter be followed up by the Panel. A relevant letter from Hon James TO was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)2092/04-05 on 27 June 2005.

To be confirmed

At the meeting on 1 November 2005, Hon Margaret NG suggested that the subject matter be discussed at the meeting in January 2006. The Administration advised in November 2005 that the item was not yet ready for discussion.

6. Provision of emergency ambulance service

The provision of emergency ambulance service was discussed at the Panel meeting on 7 June 2005. Members agreed at the meeting on 5 July 2005 that the subject matter be followed up by the Panel. (See also item 14.)

To be confirmed

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

7. Legislative proposals on covert surveillance

The Panel discussed the Law Enforcement (Covert Surveillance Procedures) Order at its special meetings on 15 August and 4 October 2005. The Panel also discussed the Police's internal guidelines on covert surveillance at the meeting on 1 November 2005. At the meetings, the Administration informed members that it intended to introduce legislative proposals on covert surveillance in the first half of the 2005-06 legislative session.

1st Quarter 2006

8. Legislative amendments to the Public Order Ordinance and Police's internal guidelines

At its meeting on 1 November 2005, the Panel discussed issues arising from the judgment delivered by the Court of Final Appeal on the case of *LEUNG Kwok-hung and others v. the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region*. The Administration informed the Panel that it would introduce legislative amendments to the Public Order Ordinance in the light of the judgment.

To be confirmed

The Administration also informed the Panel that the Police would, in consultation with the Department of Justice, review the internal guidelines for dealing with notifications of public meetings and processions.

Items likely to be proposed by the Administration

9. Interception of communications/covert surveillance

The Administration intends to brief the Panel on its legislative proposals covering the two areas of covert surveillance and interception of communications. (See also item 7.)

1st Quarter 2006

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

10. Hong Kong Port Areas Bill

The Administration intends to brief the Panel on its proposed statutory framework to underpin the implementation of “co-location” arrangement at the new control point at Shekou in Shenzhen, for the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Corridor. 1st Quarter 2006

11. Admission of quality immigrants

The Administration intends to brief the Panel on a new scheme to attract talents and investors. 1st Quarter 2006

12. Review of the coverage of the Frontier Closed Area

The Administration intends to brief the Panel on the outcome of the review. 1st Quarter 2006

13. Prison development

The Administration intends to brief the Panel on its proposed redevelopment of the Lo Wu Correctional Institution. 1st Quarter 2006

14. Improvements to emergency ambulance service

The Administration intends to brief the Panel on its proposals for introducing a Priority Dispatch System in Hong Kong and other improvement options. 1st Quarter 2006

15. Independent Police Complaints Council Bill

The Administration intends to brief the Panel on its proposal to establish the Independent Police Complaints Council as a statutory body. 1st/2nd Quarter 2006

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

16. Diving Rescue Centre of the Fire Services Department

The Administration intends to brief the Panel on its proposal to enhance training for department divers. 2nd Quarter 2006

17. Anti-terrorism legislation

The Administration intends to brief the Panel on its plans to - 2nd Quarter 2006

- (a) prepare a code of practice and make subsidiary legislation in connection with the United Nations (Anti-Terrorism Measures) Ordinance (Cap. 575);
- (b) prepare a code of practice for the exercise of the powers to require production of information or materials under section 12A of Cap. 575;
- (c) make rules of Court to provide for procedural matters under Cap. 575; and
- (d) make Mutual Legal Assistance (Terrorist Bombings) Order and Fugitive Offenders (Terrorist Bombings) and (Maritime Safety) Orders to implement the requirements under the Terrorist Bombings and Maritime Safety Conventions and the Fixed Platforms Protocol, subject to the extension of the Convention and Protocol to Hong Kong by the Central People's Government.

18. United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

The Administration intends to brief the Panel on the Orders required to be made under the Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Ordinance (Cap. 525) and the Fugitive Offenders Ordinance (Cap. 503) to implement the requirements, subject to the extension of the Convention to Hong Kong by the Central People's Government. 2nd Quarter 2006

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

19. Commencement of the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance

The Administration intends to brief the Panel on its proposed commencement of the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance.

2nd Quarter 2006

[Note: subject to the scrutiny and passage of the Building Management (Amendment) Bill]

The Administration undertook during the examination of the Fire Safety (Buildings) Bill that it would not bring the Ordinance into force until relevant amendments have been made to the Building Management Ordinance to empower Owners' Corporations to borrow money from the Government to comply with statutory requirements for upgrading works.

20. Licensing Scheme for Voluntary Residential Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Centres

The Administration intends to brief the Panel on the progress of the implementation of the scheme since the commencement of the Drug Dependent Persons Treatment and Rehabilitation Centres (Licensing) Ordinance (Cap. 566) in April 2002.

2nd Quarter 2006

The last progress report provided by the Administration was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)2585/03-04 on 31 May 2004.