

政府總部
民政事務局

香港灣仔
軒尼詩道一百三十號
修頓中心三十一樓



GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT
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本局檔號 OUR REF : L/M (1) in HAB/CR/7/15/362 Pt. 77

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9 October 2009

Clerk to Panel
(Attn. : Mrs Claren MOK)
Legislative Council Building,
8 Jackson Road,
Central,
Hong Kong

Dear Mrs MOK,

Panel on Home Affairs

Lists of issues suggested to be considered

I refer to your letter dated 2 October 2009 on the captioned subject. Regarding Item 11 "Review of advisory and statutory bodies (ASBs)", we would like to provide information in ensuing paragraphs.

We have established guidelines and principles for appointments to ASBs such as the Six-year Rule, the Six-board Rule and gender balance. As a matter of principle, the Government makes appointments to ASBs on the basis of the merit of the individuals concerned, taking into account a candidate's ability, expertise, experience, integrity and commitment to public service and with due regard to the statutory provisions (for statutory bodies), functions and nature of business of the ASBs concerned. The appointment authorities are reminded on a regular basis of the main principles and general guidelines for appointments to ASBs.

On the time limit for submission of annual reports to Legislative Council (LegCo) by the 68 statutory bodies, 54% are required by their ordinances to submit annual reports within six months and 37% in more than six months after the end of the reporting period. The differences are mainly

due to historical reasons and the difference in functions specific to each statutory body. For the remaining 9% of statutory bodies, while there is no stipulated timeframe on submission of annual reports, most of them have submitted annual reports within six months after the reporting period.

The preparation and submission of annual reports would include finalizing all year-end figures and preparation of the statements of accounts; auditing the accounts by the auditor; and examination by members of the relevant bodies. While it is generally believed that a few months' time is necessary for the preparation, the actual time required by each statutory body would depend on the nature of its activities. Given the different nature and varied scale and complexity of different statutory bodies, it is neither necessary nor practical to introduce consistency in the time limit.

Nonetheless, we shall keep monitoring the time taken by statutory bodies in submitting annual reports to LegCo.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'W. Tse', written in a cursive style.

(Miss Winnie Tse)
for Secretary for Home Affairs