

For information
on 15 September 2011

Legislative Council Panel on Security
Security Arrangements for Public Consultation Sessions and Forums
Conducted by the Government

Introduction

This paper provides information on the security arrangements for public consultation sessions and forums conducted by the Government.

Security Arrangements for Public Consultation Sessions and Forums conducted by the Government

2. The Government always respects and listens carefully to different views expressed by the public on government policies through various channels, so as to make prompt response to public demands.
3. According to the established mechanism, the relevant subject bureaux and departments would take the lead in deciding how to conduct public consultation and address public concerns on their respective policies and measures. Channels to gauge public views used by the lead bureaux and departments may include public consultation forums, consultation with the relevant Legislative Council Panels, District Councils, advisory boards and committees, other organisations, political parties and individuals concerned, etc.
4. With regard to the security arrangements for a public consultation forum, the Government would take into account various factors, including the public's right of expression, arrangements for media coverage, maintenance of order of the venue, safety of the participants and impacts on the general public.
5. For security arrangements outside the venue of a consultation forum, generally speaking, having due consideration to the actual circumstances and in consultation with the Police and the venue management, the event organiser would consider setting designated press area and designated public activity area outside the venue to facilitate the work of the media and for people with different views to express their opinions respectively.

6. As to the order inside the venue, staff (including staff of security companies and the venue, etc.) would be deployed to maintain order as circumstances require. In general, anybody who disrupts the order, neglects the instructions of the organiser and impedes the conduction of the forum, or refuses to comply with the rules of the venue would be invited to leave the venue. The organiser would seek the Police's assistance if criminal offence is involved.

Maintenance of Public Safety and Public Order

7. The Police have the responsibility to maintain public safety and public order. If organisers of large-scale events, such as public consultation sessions and forums, seek the Police's assistance as required, the Police will discuss with the organisers and implement appropriate crowd management measures and traffic arrangements when necessary to ensure public safety and public order. On occasions where the law is, or is likely to be, violated during the course of the events by acts of individuals, especially when there are acts which may cause danger to others or lead to a breach of the public order, the Police will make professional judgement based on the assessment at scene. Intervention actions will be taken when the circumstances so warrant and the individuals involved in the acts will be dealt with in accordance with the law.

**Home Affairs Department
Hong Kong Police Force
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