

Item (k): What is the reason(s) that the expenditure of the CACS was absorbed by the Administration Branch since its inception until January 2011 and from September 2012 onwards and the Corruption Prevention Department (“CPD”) from January 2011 to 31 August 2012.

- The Centre of Anti-Corruption Studies (CACS) was established under the Administration Branch in April 2009 to facilitate and conduct research and analytical studies on issues pertaining to the development of anti-corruption initiatives locally, regionally and internationally, and to co-ordinate research initiatives under the three-pronged anti-corruption strategy within the Commission. Its expenditure came under the Administration Branch.
- Following the ratification by the Central People's Government (CPG) of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) in January 2006, the Convention was extended to Hong Kong in February 2006 and the CPG has designated the Hong Kong ICAC as the agency to assist other signatory state parties in developing and implementing corruption prevention measures. One of the chapters of UNCAC focuses on preventive measures, demonstrating that corruption prevention has gained recognition as an emerging global trend and hence CACS was transferred from the Administration Branch to the Corruption Prevention Department (CPD) in January 2011 with an attempt to take advantage of CPD's corruption prevention expertise. The CACS's expenditure thus came under the CPD.
- CPD has on many occasions shared its local corruption prevention experience with overseas anti-corruption counterparts and the like with CACS as the platform. Coupled with the enactment of the UK Bribery Act 2010, with an emphasis on the legal responsibilities of commercial entities on their role in corruption prevention, CPD was repeatedly consulted by local branches of UK companies as well as local companies having business in the UK on the adoption of corresponding corruption prevention measures to meet the requirements of the Bribery Act.
- In August 2012, the Commissioner and the Heads of Departments reviewed the role of the CACS. It was considered that areas like the legal and social changes as well as the core values of Hong Kong people should form the focus of research studies by the CACS, so that the research findings could be taken into consideration by the three departments when they formulated their work initiatives. As such, CACS was transferred back to the Administration Branch in September 2012.