

立法會
Legislative Council

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Tel : 3919 3401

Date : 22 November 2012

From : Clerk to Committee on Rules of Procedure

To : All Members of the Legislative Council

Committee on Rules of Procedure

**Consultation on the provision of oral question slots
at Council meetings**

The Committee on Rules of Procedure ("CRoP") would like to invite Members' view on the provision of slots for asking oral questions at Council meetings.

2. In the previous terms of LegCo, each Member were able to ask on average about three oral questions and eight written questions in a session. With the addition of 10 Members in the Fifth LegCo, if the number of questions as allowed for each meeting under the Rules of Procedure ("RoP") remains unchanged, the average number of oral questions a Member may be able to ask in a session will be reduced from about three to two while that of written question slots will be reduced from about eight to seven.

3. Members of the Fourth LegCo were consulted in August 2011 on the matter, and the majority of them (around 70%) were of the view that the average number of oral and written questions that a Member might be able to ask in a session should remain unchanged in the Fifth LegCo. CRoP of the Fourth LegCo had therefore proposed that for each Council meeting in the Fifth LegCo at which both oral questions and written questions may be asked:

- (a) the number of oral question slots be increased by one, i.e. from six to seven; and

- (b) the number of written question slots be increased by two, i.e. from 14 to 16.

4. Members of the Fourth LegCo were consulted on the proposal in February 2012, and the majority of them (around 85%) agreed to the proposal. The proposal was endorsed by the House Committee at its meeting on 25 May 2012. However, the motion to amend Rule 23(2) and (3) of RoP to implement the proposal in the Fifth LegCo had not been dealt with by the Council before the Fourth LegCo stood prorogued.

5. CRoP of the Fifth LegCo considered the matter on 13 November 2012. CRoP members are unanimous that the number of written question slots at a Council meeting should be increased from 14 to 16, but have divided views as to whether the number of oral question slots should be increased from six to seven. CRoP therefore considers that all Members should be consulted on the provision of oral question slots at Council meetings. In this connection, Members are invited to note that if the number of oral question slots at each Council meeting is maintained at six, the total number of oral question slots in a legislative session will be about 162. If the number of oral question slots at each Council meeting is increased to seven, the total number of oral question slots in a legislative session will be about 189.

6. Members are invited to complete and return the questionnaire at the **Appendix by 29 November 2012** to give their view on the provision of oral question slots at Council meetings.

(Ms Anita SIT)
Clerk to
Committee on Rules of Procedure

Encl.

Questionnaire
(to be returned by 29 November 2012)

To : Ms Anita SIT
Clerk to Committee on Rules of Procedure
Legislative Council

Fax No. : 3151 7052

Provision of oral question slots at Council meetings

Regarding the number of oral question slots at a Council meeting,
(please tick as appropriate)

- I consider that it should be maintained at **6**.
- I consider that it should be increased to **7**.
- I have the following comments: _____

(if the space is insufficient, please provide your comments in a separate sheet)

Signature : _____

Name of Member : _____

Name and tel. no. of contact person : _____

Date : _____