

**Bills Committee on  
Electoral Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2014**

**Follow up on issues raised at the  
Bills Committee meeting on 26 May 2014**

This paper sets out the Administration's response to issues raised by Members at the Bills Committee meeting on 26 May 2014.

**Proposal to categorise entries in the omissions list ("OL") by reason for omission**

2. A Member suggested categorising the entries on the OL by reasons for their omission, i.e. (i) electors for whom the Electoral Registration Officer ("ERO") is satisfied on reasonable grounds that they have ceased to be eligible for registration, and (ii) electors who have voluntarily requested the ERO to remove them from the voter register.

3. The purpose of preparing and making available an OL for public inspection along with the provisional register is to facilitate the public, especially the concerned electors themselves, to easily check the electors who are on the existing final register ("FR") but will be omitted from the next FR. The OL serves as a one-stop collection of such electors, and the names of such electors are arranged so that Chinese entries come first in the order of the number of strokes of the Chinese characters of their respective surnames followed by English entries in alphabetical order, in line with the purpose of facilitating easy checking.

4. In response to Members' comments at the Bills Committee meeting held on 14 May 2014, we will change the Chinese title of OL

from “遭剔除者名單” to “取消登記名單” to better reflect the nature of the OL, i.e. that it consists of electors who are omitted for both reasons set out in paragraph 2 above.

5. To best serve the intended purpose of the OL and to keep the publication arrangements simple for electors and the public to understand, we consider it appropriate to keep the existing arrangement of listing first the Chinese entries in the order of the number of strokes of the Chinese characters of their respective surnames and then English entries in alphabetical order in a single OL, instead of categorising electors by reasons for their omission.

#### **Number of electors involved in VR claim and objection cases in the past three years**

6. As requested by a Member, the total number of electors involved in VR claim and objection cases handled by the Registration and Electoral Office in the past three years (i.e., 2011 to 2013), with breakdown by whether the claim or objection was successful, are shown in **Annex**.

#### **Removal of the requirement for prior notice of appointment of polling and counting agents**

7. Some Members have expressed that they appreciated the Administration’s good intention behind the proposed removal of the requirement for prior notice of appointment of polling and counting agents, but were concerned about the potential confusion and extra administrative burden on the Presiding Officer (“PRO”) of a

polling/counting station arising from the proposal, the risk of a person impersonating an agent, and the possible impact on the order of the polling or counting stations.

8. As explained at the Bills Committee meeting on 26 May 2014, the proposed amendment seeks to simplify the procedural requirements and facilitate candidates' work during the election campaign, and the administrative burden on the part of the PRO has been assessed to be manageable. Moreover, as per existing procedures, the identity of polling and counting agents will be verified by the PRO by inspecting the agent's ID card against the notice of appointment, and the agents are required to strictly observe the same behavioral rules for all visitors to the polling/counting stations. The Administration therefore remains of the view that the proposed amendments will not create undue risks to the smooth operation and integrity of elections. That said, the Administration appreciates Members' emphasis that prudence should be observed in electoral arrangements, and is prepared to withdraw the proposed changes regarding the notices of appointment and revocation of appointment of polling and counting agents by way of Committee Stage Amendments.

**Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau**

**Registration and Electoral Office**

May 2014

**Annex**

**Breakdown of number of electors involved in claim and objection cases handled by the Registration and Electoral Office in 2011, 2012 and 2013**

	<b>2011<sup>Note 1</sup></b>	<b>2012<sup>Note 2</sup></b>	<b>2013</b>
(1) Number of electors in claim cases	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>
<i>(a) Number of electors with claims allowed</i>	<b>-</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>
<i>(b) Number of electors with claims disallowed</i>	<b>-</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
(2) Number of electors in objection cases	<b>86</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<i>(a) Number of electors with objections allowed</i>	<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>
<i>(b) Number of electors with objections disallowed</i>	<b>75</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total number of electors involved</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>

Notes

1. District Council Election was held in 2011.
2. Legislative Council Election was held in 2012.