

Information Paper

Legislative Council Panel on Security

Proposed Revision of Fees and Charges under the purview of the Immigration Department

Purpose

This paper briefs Members on the proposals to revise a number of fees and charges for services provided by the Immigration Department (ImmD).

Background

2. It is the Government's established policy that fees for services charged by the Government should be set at levels adequate to recover the full cost of providing the goods or services. The Government has also established guidelines for fee increases such that fees that are recovering at a rate below the full-cost level would be gradually and steadily brought up to the full-cost recovery level as follows –

- (a) to achieve full-cost recovery within seven years for those fees with an existing cost recovery rate of less than 40%, through an increase of 20%;
- (b) to achieve full-cost recovery within three to seven years for those fees with an existing cost recovery rate of between 40% and 70%, through an increase of 15%; and
- (c) to achieve full-cost recovery within one to three years for those fees with an existing cost recovery rate of over 70%, through an increase of 10% (or lower).

3. Based on the outcome of the latest costing review and with reference to the Government guidelines set out in paragraph 2 above, we propose adjusting 26 fees under the purview of ImmD – one fee under the

Immigration Ordinance (Cap. 115), 15 fees under the Immigration Regulations (Cap. 115A), four fees under the Registration of Persons Regulations (Cap. 177A), three fees under the Marriage Ordinance (Cap. 181), two fees under the Chinese Nationality (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance (Cap. 540) and one fee pegged to the Immigration Regulations. On top of these, we also propose removing one obsolete fee from the Immigration Regulations.

4. Details of the fee revision proposals are at [Annex](#). The proposals have little impact on the daily life of most people and only very limited impact on general business activities.

Financial Implications

5. If the proposed revisions are implemented, there will be an increase of about \$27.15 million in revenue a year.

Efficiency Initiative

6. ImmD regularly reviews their day-to-day management and procedures with a view to controlling the cost of their services through implementing efficiency initiatives and streamlining procedures. Efficiency savings from these efforts have been factored into the calculation of the fees to be charged by ImmD for the provision of their services.

Way Forward

7. Subject to Members' views, if any, on our fee revision proposals, we shall proceed with the necessary amendments to the legislation mentioned in paragraph 3 above to implement the proposed revisions. The revised fees are expected to be implemented by March 2015.

Security Bureau
Immigration Department
May 2014

Annex

Fee revision proposals under the purview of the Immigration Department

Item no.	Description of Fee	Last revision	Existing fee level (\$)	Cost recovery at 2014-15 price level	Proposed fee level (\$)	Proposed amount of increase (\$) (proposed percentage increase)	Cost recovery level after the proposed increase
	1. <u>Visa Control</u> ¹						
1	1.1 Ordinary Visa	Jun 2006	\$160	22%	\$190	\$30 (19%)	26%
2	1.2 Transit Visa	Jun 2006	\$84	22%	\$100	\$16 (19%)	27%
3	1.3 Entry permit for 2 entries and valid for 2 months issued by electronic means (iPermit)	Mar 2002	\$50	Item proposed to be deleted ²			
4	1.4 Entry permit valid for 1 entry	Jun 2006	\$160	22%	\$190	\$30 (19%)	26%
5	1.5 Entry permit for multiple entries and valid for 1 year	Jun 2006	\$325	22%	\$390	\$65 (20%)	27%
6	1.6 Entry permit for multiple entries and valid for 3 years	Jun 2006	\$650	22%	\$780	\$130 (20%)	27%
7	1.7 Change of conditions of stay or extension of limit of stay	Jun 2006	\$160	22%	\$190	\$30 (19%)	26%
	2. <u>Travel Documents</u>						
8	2.1 Seaman's identity book (whether of full or restricted validity)	Jun 2006	\$215	38%	\$260	\$45 (21%)	46%
9	2.2 Endorsement to a travel document for which no specific fee is provided	Jun 2006	\$165	38%	\$200	\$35 (21%)	46%
10	2.3 Service charge for supplying, on application, a copy of any document, or for making or forwarding, or both, a request or recommendation to any authority of a foreign state, for consular or nationality registration	Jun 2006	\$180	38%	\$215	\$35 (19%)	45%

¹ Two other fees concerning visitors' permits for residents of Macau for multiple visits and single visits, were agreed to be deleted in the last fee revision exercise in 2005. The necessary legislative amendments will be included in the current legislative exercise.

² The iPermit Scheme for Taiwan visitors was terminated on 1 March 2014 due to reduced demand.

Item no.	Description of Fee	Last revision	Existing fee level (\$)	Cost recovery at 2014-15 price level	Proposed fee level (\$)	Proposed amount of increase (\$) (proposed percentage increase)	Cost recovery level after the proposed increase
	or for the issue or renewal of a passport or other travel document or of a document of identity or for the grant of a visa or entry permit						
	3. <u>Nationality</u>						
11	3.1 Application for naturalization as a Chinese national – on application	Jun 2006	\$1,570	89%	\$1,730	\$160 (10%)	98%
12	3.2 Application for naturalization as a Chinese national – on demand for a certificate	Jun 2006	\$1,570	89%	\$1,730	\$160 (10%)	98%
	4. <u>Identity Card and Related Items</u>						
13	4.1 Lost or destroyed identity card replaced under regulation 13 of the Registration of Persons Regulations	Jun 2006	\$335	83%	\$370	\$35 (10%)	91%
14	4.2 Damaged or defaced identity card replaced under regulation 13 of the Registration of Persons Regulations	Jun 2006	\$335	83%	\$370	\$35 (10%)	91%
15	4.3 Identity card requiring alteration replaced under regulation 14(1)(a) of the Registration of Persons Regulations	Jun 2006	\$420	84%	\$460	\$40 (10%)	92%
16	4.4 Certificate or a certified copy furnished under section 10 of the Registration of Persons Ordinance	Jun 2006	\$385	82%	\$425	\$40 (10%)	91%
	5. <u>Births, Deaths and Marriages</u>						
17	5.1 Processing application for appointment as civil celebrant or for renewal of such appointment	Mar 2006	\$650	79%	\$715	\$65 (10%)	86%
18	5.2 Appointment as civil celebrant	Mar 2006	\$350	56%	\$405	\$55 (16%)	65%
19	5.3 Renewal of appointment as civil celebrant	Mar 2006	\$350	56%	\$405	\$55 (16%)	65%
	6. <u>Miscellaneous Items</u>						
20	6.1 Travel pass valid for not more than 3 years	Jun 2006	\$575	64%	\$660	\$85	73%

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						(15%)	
21	6.2 APEC business travel card valid for a period of not more than 5 years	Apr 2001	\$427	69%	\$490	\$63 (15%)	79%
22	6.3 Replacement of APEC business travel card for the remainder of its validity period	Jun 2006	\$165	62%	\$190	\$25 (15%)	71%
23	6.4 Additional fee for delivering a seaman's identity book or a document of identity to a place outside Hong Kong by express despatch service – Asia-Pacific	Jun 2006	\$125	64%	\$145	\$20 (16%)	74%
24	6.5 Additional fee for delivering a seaman's identity book or a document of identity to a place outside Hong Kong by express despatch service – North America and Europe	Jun 2006	\$180	73%	\$200	\$20 (11%)	82%
25	6.6 Additional fee for delivering a seaman's identity book or a document of identity to a place outside Hong Kong by express despatch service – Other places	Jun 2006	\$250	69%	\$290	\$40 (16%)	80%
26	6.7 Detention quarter charge ³	Jun 1997	\$435	80%	\$480	\$45 (10%)	88%
27	6.8 Fax transmission of document (formerly called standard telex fee) ⁴	Jun 2006	\$180	N/A	\$215	\$35 (19%)	N/A

³ This is an administrative fee and does not require legislative amendments in order to be revised.

⁴ This fee item is pegged to item no. 10. It is an administrative fee and does not require legislative amendments in order to be revised.