

**Bills Committee on
Veterinary Surgeons Registration (Amendment) Bill 2014**

**Supplementary information requested by Members
at the meeting on 28 October 2014**

The Veterinary Surgeons Registration Ordinance (Cap. 529) (VSRO) aims to provide for the regulation of the practice of veterinary surgery, the registration of veterinary surgeons, the disciplinary control of the professional activities of registered veterinary surgeons and for matters related to such registration and disciplinary control so as to ensure a high standard of veterinary care in Hong Kong. The Veterinary Surgeons Board (VSB) is established under the Ordinance with a mission to safeguard the health and welfare of animals and interests of animal owners through the development and improvement of professional standards, regulation of ethical standards, registration of veterinary surgeons, and diligent exercise of disciplinary control of the professional activities of registered veterinary surgeons.

2. In accordance with the existing VSRO, members of VSB are hitherto all appointed by the Secretary for Food and Health. This notwithstanding, VSB has been operating independently as a regulatory body since its establishment in 1997, playing a pivotal role in regulating the veterinary profession and continuously promoting the professional standard of veterinary surgeons. With the proposed expansion of the membership and introduction of elected members, we believe the Board would continue to perform its functions and discharge its duties independently.

3. Some Members of the Bills Committee at the meeting on 28 October 2014 raised for discussion whether it would be appropriate to increase the proportion of lay members on the Board so as to better serve the public interest.

4. As noted above, VSB plays a pivotal role as a regulatory body setting the professional standards for the veterinary surgery profession, dealing with registration matters, devising measures to encourage the continued professional development of registered veterinary surgeons, as well as dealing with disciplinary matters of veterinary surgeons. It is therefore of utmost importance that the Board has sufficient representation of the veterinary profession in its composition and has sufficient

professional knowledge for the purpose of regulating the profession. In addition to members with veterinary professional background, lay members have been appointed to the Board to represent the interest of persons utilising veterinary services. We believe the operational experience of VSB in the past 17 years has demonstrated that, by and large, the current composition of the Board (with the ratio of veterinary and non-veterinary members pitched at 2:1) has been able to strike a reasonable balance in serving the overall public interest. Therefore, in reviewing the membership of the Board, the Government has proposed to maintain the proportion of veterinary to non-veterinary members on the Board (excluding the Chairperson) at 2:1 as is currently the case.

5. Besides, some Members of the Bills Committee raised for discussion the proportion of elected to non-elected members on the Board.

6. In the Bill, we have proposed to double the number of registered veterinary surgeons serving on the Board from 6 to 12, of whom the newly added 6 members are to be elected by members of the profession. We believe that the proposed addition would enhance the representativeness of the Board and encourage greater involvement of the veterinary profession in managing its own affairs while, at the same time, it would give the Board extra manpower that helps it to discharge its statutory functions and duties more effectively and efficiently.

Other supplementary information sought

7. At the meeting held on 28 October 2014, the Bills Committee had requested the Administration to provide supplementary information on a number of issues to facilitate further consideration by the Bills Committee. Our response is set out below.

Supplementary information sought	The Administration's response
(a) Members sought information showing the composition of (i) overseas regulatory bodies comparable to VSB and (ii) local and overseas regulatory bodies in	We have drawn reference from the existing practice of a number of overseas regulatory bodies for the veterinary profession as well as other local regulatory bodies in professions/industries other than the veterinary profession. Their composition is set out at <u>Annex A</u> for Members' reference. We have not looked up information related to overseas regulatory bodies outside the veterinary profession

Supplementary information sought	The Administration's response
<p>professions/industries other than the veterinary profession (such as the legal and accounting professions), including the ratio of appointed to elected members and the ratio of members of the profession to non-members of the profession.</p>	<p>since we believe that their relevance to our consideration of the subject matter is less direct.</p>
<p>(b) Members sought information on the background of lay members appointed to VSB since its establishment.</p>	<p>Annex B gives the background of members appointed to VSB in accordance with section 3(2)(c)¹ of VSRO since the establishment of VSB.</p>
<p>(c) From 2007 to 2011, VSB took on average 16 months to conclude an investigation of a complaint received. Members sought information on (i) the average length of time taken by VSB to handle a complaint from 2002 to 2006; (ii) the number of outstanding complaints up to the end of October 2014;</p>	<p>(i) From 2002 to 2006, VSB took on average 11 months to conclude its investigation of a complaint received.</p> <p>(ii) Since its establishment in 1997, VSB has received a total of 679 complaints. Among them, 73 are outstanding as at the end October 2014.</p> <p>(iii) The existing complaint handling procedures consist of the following steps:</p> <p>(a) Upon receipt of a complaint alleging a disciplinary offence, the Secretary to the</p>

¹ Section 3(2)(c) of VSRO provides that the Board shall consist of, among others, 2 persons who, in the opinion of the Secretary for Food and Health, represent the interests of persons who utilise veterinary services.

Supplementary information sought	The Administration's response
<p>and (iii) how the handling of complaints could be expedited after the implementation of the relevant proposed measures under the Bill.</p>	<p>Board will submit it to a Preliminary Investigation Committee (PIC) which consists of two VSB members, one of whom shall be a medical practitioner or pharmacist who is entitled to practise his profession in Hong Kong; or a person who represents the interests of persons who utilise veterinary services (referred to hereinafter as a "lay member").</p> <p>(b) The PIC is to determine whether to make a recommendation to the Board for referring the complaint to an Inquiry Committee (IC) or whether the case should be dismissed.</p> <p>(c) If the Board refers the complaint to an IC, for that purpose, the Board may establish an IC of not less than 3 of its members, one of whom shall be a lay member. The IC is to determine whether or not the registered veterinary surgeon against whom the complaint is made has committed a disciplinary offence.</p> <p>Currently, VSB has established 3 PICs with its existing manpower. We propose to increase the number of Board members from 10 to 19. In future, assuming each VSB member would serve on one PIC at any one time, the Board will be able to establish up to 6 PICs simultaneously to process the complaints received.</p> <p>As a result, the waiting time for setting up PICs required and scheduling of PIC's meetings under step (a) above could be reduced.</p>

Supplementary information sought	The Administration's response
	<p>In addition, we have proposed in the Bill that a PIC may refer a complaint directly to an IC to conduct an inquiry with a view to streamlining the process. By removing step (b) above, the proposal in the Bill would facilitate the better utilisation of VSB's resources, and reduce the time and efforts required for related paperwork and other administrative matters.</p> <p>As regards the time required by the PIC or IC to conduct investigations, much would depend on the complexity of the issues which form the subject of the complaint.</p>
<p>(d) In connection with the handling of complaints and conduct of disciplinary proceedings under the relevant provisions (such as section 18) of VSRO, Members sought a comparison between the workflows involved before and after the implementation of the relevant proposed measures under the Bill.</p>	<p>Annex C compares the workflow for the handling of complaints and conduct of disciplinary proceedings of VSB under the existing arrangement and after the implementation of the Bill.</p>
<p>(e) Members sought information on the existing staffing strength of the VSB Secretariat and an assessment of the need for additional staffing</p>	<p>The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has been monitoring the manpower position of the VSB Secretariat. Additional resources are provided to enhance secretariat support to VSB as and when necessary. In 2012, an additional Senior Executive Officer and an additional Executive Officer II were provided to</p>

Supplementary information sought	The Administration's response
<p>support (including legal advisers) to cope with the anticipated increasing workload following the implementation of the relevant proposed measures under the Bill.</p>	<p>strengthen the secretariat support.</p> <p>At present, the VSB Secretariat, established within AFCD, has a headcount of 10, including the Secretary to the Board (pitched at the rank of Senior Executive Officer), 3 Assistant Secretaries (pitched at the rank of Executive Officers II), 3 Executive Assistants on part-time basis and 3 clerical staff.</p> <p>Separately, a Legal Adviser is appointed to the Board by the Secretary for Food and Health, in accordance with section 7 of VSRO.</p> <p>AFCD would endeavour to absorb additional workload, if any, arising from the implementation of the proposals set out under the Bill within its existing resources. If necessary and justified, we would seek additional resources to strengthen the secretariat and legal support to the VSB in accordance with the established resources allocation mechanism within the Government.</p>
<p>(f) In connection with the disciplinary proceedings conducted by VSB, Members sought information on the practices adopted by other local and overseas professional regulatory bodies for conducting such proceedings, including whether the registered veterinary surgeons being complained of may opt for an open or closed hearing and</p>	<p>Regarding the practice adopted by VSB for conducting disciplinary proceedings, Members may wish to note that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) according to section 20 of VSRO, an IC shall have the power to admit or exclude the public or any member of the public from the inquiry; and (b) any party to an inquiry may be represented by a solicitor or counsel in accordance with Rule 17(1) of the Rules of the Veterinary Surgeons Board (Disciplinary Proceedings). <p>We have hitherto conducted research on the relevant practices by other local professional regulatory</p>

Supplementary information sought	The Administration's response
their right to legal representation.	bodies. The information available to us is set out in <u>Annex D</u> .

**Food and Health Bureau
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
November 2014**

Annex A

Part I: Composition of the Veterinary Surgeons Board of Hong Kong and other local professional regulatory bodies

(Position as at 31.10.2014)

Nos	Regulatory bodies	Total nos of members (including Chairperson)	Ratio of elected members to non-elected members (including Chairperson)	Ratio of members of the profession to non-members of the profession	
				Including Chairperson	Excluding Chairperson
1.	Veterinary Surgeons Board of Hong Kong	Existing 10 Proposed 19	Existing 0 : 10 Proposed 6 : 13 (1 : 2.2)	Existing 6 : 4 (1.5 : 1) Proposed 12 : 7 (1.7 : 1)	Existing 6 : 3 (2 : 1) Proposed 12 : 6 (2 : 1)
2.	Medical Council of Hong Kong	28	7 : 21 (1 : 3) <u>Note 1</u>	24 : 4 (6 : 1)	23 : 4 (5.8 : 1)
3.	Pharmacy and Poisons Board	12	0 : 12	6 : 6 (1 : 1)	6 : 5 (1.2 : 1)
4.	Dental Council of Hong Kong	12	0 : 12	9 : 3 (3 : 1)	8 : 3 (2.7 : 1)
5.	Chiropractors Council	10	0 : 10	5 : 5 (1 : 1)	4 : 5 (1 : 1.3)
6.	Architects Registration Board	11	0 : 11	10 : 1	9 : 1
7.	Engineers Registration Board	36 <u>Note 2</u>	0 : 36	36 : 0	35 : 0

¹ Among the 21 non-elected members, 7 registered medical practitioners, who are members of the Hong Kong Medical Association and nominated and elected by the Council members of the Association in accordance with those regulations or procedures of the Association, are counted as non-elected members.

² Engineers Registration Ordinance (Cap. 409) provides that the Engineers Registration Board shall consist of (i) a total of not less than 20 members appointed by the Council of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (HKIE); and (ii) may include 1 member appointed by the Chief Executive. The total number of Board members varies depending on the number of members appointed by HKIE Council.

Nos	Regulatory bodies	Total nos of members (including Chairperson)	Ratio of elected members to non-elected members (including Chairperson)	Ratio of members of the profession to non-members of the profession	
				Including Chairperson	Excluding Chairperson
8.	Social Workers Registration Board	15	8 : 7 (1.1 : 1)	12 : 3 (4 : 1) <small>Note 3</small>	11 : 3 (3.7 : 1)
9.	Council of Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants	23	14 : 9 (1.6 : 1)	19 : 4 (4.8 : 1)	18 : 4 (4.5 : 1)
10.	Council of The Law Society of Hong Kong	20	20 : 0	20 : 0	19 : 0
11.	Council of The Hong Kong Bar Association	25	25 : 0	25 : 0	24 : 0

³ Social Workers Registration Ordinance (Cap. 505) provides that a total of 15 members of the Social Workers Registration Board, (a) 8 shall be registered social workers elected by registered social workers; (b) 6 shall be persons appointed by the Chief Executive (CE) of whom not less than 3 shall be persons who are neither a registered social worker nor a public officer; and (c) 1 shall be the Director of Social Welfare or a representative of the Director. The ratio of members of the profession to non-members of the profession varies depending on whether the persons appointed by CE may be a registered social worker or not.

Part II: Composition of overseas regulatory bodies for the veterinary profession

(Position as at 31.10.2014)

Nos	Regulatory bodies	Total nos of members (including Chairperson)	Ratio of elected members to non-elected members (including Chairperson)	Ratio of members of the profession to non-members of the profession	
				Including Chairperson	Excluding Chairperson
1.	Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons Council, United Kingdom	42	24 : 18 (1.3 : 1)	35 : 7 (5 : 1) <u>Note 4</u>	34 : 7 (4.9 : 1)
2.	Veterinary Surgeons Board of Queensland, Australia	6	2 : 4 (1 : 2)	5 : 1	4 : 1
3.	Veterinary Surgeons' Board of Western Australia	5	2 : 3 (1 : 1.5)	4 : 1 <u>Note 5</u>	3 : 1
4.	Veterinary Board of the Northern Territory, Australia	5	2 : 3 (1 : 1.5)	4 : 1 <u>Note 6</u>	3 : 1

⁴ The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons Council, United Kingdom consists of (a) 24 elected members who are veterinary surgeons; (b) 2 members nominated respectively by 7 universities with a veterinary school; and (c) 4 members appointed by the Privy Council. The ratio of members of the profession to non-members of the profession varies depending on the nomination of the universities and appointment of the Privy Council.

⁵ The Veterinary Surgeons' Board of Western Australia consists of (a) the Chief of Division, Animal Health Division, in the Department of Agriculture; (b) 2 elected registered veterinary surgeons; (c) 1 registered veterinary surgeon nominated by the Australian Veterinary Association; and (d) 1 person nominated by the Minister of Agriculture. The ratio of members of the profession to non-members of the profession varies depending on the profession of the post holder of the Chief of Animal Health Division and the nomination of the Minister of Agriculture.

⁶ The Veterinary Board of the Northern Territory, Australia consists of (a) the Chief Inspector who is a registered vet surgeon; (b) 2 registered veterinarians elected by registered veterinarians; (c) 2 persons appointed by the Minister, 1 of whom is not and never has been a registered veterinarian and the other may be, but need not be, a registered veterinarian. The ratio of members of the profession to non-members of the profession varies depending on the appointment of the Minister.

Nos	Regulatory bodies	Total nos of members (including Chairperson)	Ratio of elected members to non-elected members (including Chairperson)	Ratio of members of the profession to non-members of the profession	
				Including Chairperson	Excluding Chairperson
5.	Veterinary Surgeons Board of the Australian Capital Territory, Australia	7	4 : 3 (1.3 : 1)	6 : 1 <u>Note 7</u>	5 : 1
6.	Veterinary Surgeons Board of South Australia, Australia	7	0 : 7	4 : 3 (1.3 : 1)	4 : 2 (2 : 1)
7.	Veterinary Practitioners Board of New South Wales	8	0 : 8	6 : 2 (3 : 1)	5 : 2 (2.5 : 1)
8.	Veterinary Practitioners Registration Board of Victoria, Australia	9	0 : 9	6 : 3 (2 : 1)	5 : 3 (1.7 : 1)
9.	Veterinary Council of New Zealand	7	3 : 4 (1 : 1.3)	5 : 2 (2.5 : 1) <u>Note 8</u>	4 : 2 (2 : 1)

⁷ The Veterinary Surgeons Board of the Australian Capital Territory, Australia consists of (i) the president, (ii) 3 elected members (who must be veterinary surgeons) and (iii) 3 appointed members, 1 of whom is a community representative. The ratio of members of the profession to non-members of the profession varies depending on the profession of the appointed members.

⁸ The Veterinary Council of New Zealand consists of (a) 3 elected veterinarians; (b) 2 lay people appointed by the Minister for Primary Industries; (c) 1 veterinarian appointed by the Minister; and (d) the Academic Programme Director of the Faculty of Veterinary Science at Massey University. The ratio of members of the profession to non-members of the profession varies depending on the profession of the post holder at (d).

Nos	Regulatory bodies	Total nos of members (including Chairperson)	Ratio of elected members to non-elected members (including Chairperson)	Ratio of members of the profession to non-members of the profession	
				Including Chairperson	Excluding Chairperson
10.	California Veterinary Medical Board, United States	8	0 : 8	4 : 4 (1 : 1)	3 : 4 (1 : 1.3)
11.	Montana Board of Veterinary Medicine, United States	6	0 : 6	5 : 1	4 : 1
12.	North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board, United States	8	0 : 8	6 : 2 (3 : 1)	5 : 2 (2.5 : 1)

Annex B

Information on the background of the members appointed to the Veterinary Surgeon Board in accordance with section 3(2)(c)¹ of Veterinary Surgeon Registration Ordinance (Cap. 529) since its establishment in 1997

Term of office	Background
September 2009 to present	One member being a barrister-at-law, a school principal, a member of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and a pet owner
September 2008 to present	One member being an Associate Professor at a local university and a pet owner
September 2003 to September 2009	One member being a barrister-at-law, the Chairman of the Obedience Committee of the Hong Kong Kennel Club and the Chairman of the Animal Welfare Advisory Group
September 2003 to August 2008	One member being the General Secretary of an opinion society on current affairs and a former Executive Committee Member of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
September 1997 to September 2003	One member being the managing director of a feed company and the Chairman of the World's Poultry Science Association (Hong Kong Branch)
September 1997 to September 2003	One member being the Chairman of an accountant firm and a Council Member of the Hong Kong Racehorse Owners Association

¹ Section 3(2)(c) of the Ordinance provides that the Board shall consist of, among others, 2 persons who, in the opinion of the Secretary for Food and Health, represent the interests of persons who utilise veterinary services.

Annex C

The workflow of the handling of complaints and conduct of disciplinary proceedings of the Veterinary Surgeons Board under the existing arrangement and after the implementation of the Veterinary Surgeons Registration (Amendment) Bill 2014

Existing workflow	Workflow after implementation of the Bill
<p>1. Complainant lodges a complaint alleging a disciplinary offence (a complaint).</p>	<p>1. Complainant lodges a complaint alleging a disciplinary offence.</p>
<p>2. Upon receipt of a complaint, the Secretary to the Board (the Secretary) shall submit it to 2 members of the Board appointed for the purpose, one of whom shall be a medical practitioner or pharmacist who is entitled to practice his profession in Hong Kong or a person represents the interests of persons who utilise veterinary services.</p> <p>These 2 members constitute a Preliminary Investigation Committee (PIC) to determine whether to make a recommendation to the Board for referring the complaint to an Inquiry Committee (IC) or whether the case should be dismissed.</p> <p>The Board may establish one or more than one PIC to consider multiple complaints received.</p>	<p>2. Upon receipt of a complaint, the Secretary must submit it to a PIC.</p> <p>The Board should establish a PIC to consider whether the complaint should be referred to an IC. A PIC consists of (a) 3 members of the Board, of whom 2 members must be registered veterinary surgeons and 1 member must either be a lay person who represents the interests of persons utilising veterinary services (lay person), or a medical and health professional; or (b) 2 members of the Board and 1 assessor, where 2 persons must be registered veterinary surgeons; and 1 person must either be a lay person, or a medical and health professional.</p> <p>The Board may establish one or more than one PIC to consider multiple complaints received.</p>

Existing workflow	Workflow after implementation of the Bill
<p>3. The PIC may cause to be made further investigations or further clarification from the registered veterinary surgeon being complained of with regard to the complaint being considered by the PIC, and obtain additional advice or assistance from experts if it considers necessary.</p>	<p>3. The PIC may request the complainant, the registered veterinary surgeon being complained of and/or any other person whom the committee considers appropriate to provide information to facilitate the committee's consideration of the complaint.</p>
<p>4. The PIC shall determine whether or not the complaint should be referred to the Board.</p> <p>Where the PIC concludes that the complaint should not be referred to the Board, the PIC should advise the Secretary who shall notify the complainant.</p>	<p>4. The PIC shall consider whether the complaint should be referred to an IC.</p> <p>If the PIC decides not to refer the complaint to an IC, the Secretary must, as soon as practicable, notify the complainant of the decision.</p>
<p>5. The Board may refer the complaint to an IC for decision.</p>	
<p>6. If the Board refers the complaint to an IC, for that purpose the Board may establish an IC of not less than 3 of its members, one of whom shall be a medical practitioner or pharmacist who is entitled to practice his profession in Hong Kong or a person represents the interests of persons who utilise veterinary services, to determine whether or not the registered veterinary surgeon against whom the complaint is made has committed a disciplinary offence.</p>	<p>5. If the PIC refers the complaint to an IC, the Board shall establish an IC to consider the complaint and determine whether a registered veterinary surgeon who is the subject of the complaint has committed a disciplinary offence.</p> <p>The IC is to consist of (a) 3 members of the Board, of whom 2 members must be registered veterinary surgeons; and 1 member must either be a lay person or a medical and health professional; or</p>

Existing workflow	Workflow after implementation of the Bill
	<p>(b) 2 members of the Board and 1 assessor, of whom 2 persons must be registered veterinary surgeons; and 1 person must either be a lay person or a medical and health professional.</p> <p>The Board may establish one or more than one IC to conduct inquiries.</p>
<p>7. The IC may proceed to conduct a hearing to hear evidence of the complaint and decide whether the registered veterinary surgeon being complained of has committed a disciplinary offence.</p>	<p>6. The IC may proceed to conduct a hearing to hear evidence of the complaint and decide whether the registered veterinary surgeon being complained of has committed a disciplinary offence.</p>
<p>8. Where the IC finds that a registered veterinary surgeon has committed a disciplinary offence, it may make any one or more of the disciplinary orders in accordance with section 19 of the Veterinary Surgeons Registration Ordinance (Cap. 529) (VSRO).</p> <p>The Board shall notify the complainant of the action taken by it and, where it has referred the matter to an IC, shall notify the complainant of the results.</p>	<p>7. Where the IC finds that a registered veterinary surgeon has committed a disciplinary offence, it may make any one or more of the disciplinary orders in accordance with section 19 of VSRO.</p> <p>The Board must notify the complainant of the action taken by it and, where it has referred the matter to an IC, must notify the complainant of the results.</p>

Annex D

**Information on the practices adopted by the Veterinary Surgeons Board
and other local professional regulatory bodies
for conducting disciplinary proceedings**

Professional regulatory bodies	Whether the member of the profession being complained of may opt for an open or closed hearing	Right to legal representation in disciplinary proceedings
1. Veterinary Surgeons Board of Hong Kong	<p>An inquiry committee shall have the power to admit or exclude the public or any member of the public from the inquiry.</p> <p><i>[c.f. Section 20, Veterinary Surgeons Registration Ordinance (Cap. 529)]</i></p>	<p>Any party to an inquiry may be represented by a solicitor or counsel.</p> <p><i>[c.f. Rule 17, Rules of the Veterinary Surgeons Board (Disciplinary Proceedings)]</i></p>
2. Medical Council of Hong Kong	<p>The Council shall have the powers to admit or exclude the public or any member of the public from the inquiry and to admit or exclude the press from the inquiry.</p> <p>A hearing by the Health Committee shall be held in private.</p> <p><i>[c.f. Section 22, Medical Registration Ordinance (Cap. 161)]</i></p>	<p>The complainant in any inquiry under section 21 of Medical Registration Ordinance (Cap. 161) and the person whose conduct is the subject of such inquiry shall be entitled to be represented by counsel or by a solicitor throughout the inquiry.</p> <p><i>[c.f. Section 24, Cap. 161]</i></p>
3. Pharmacy and Poisons Board	<p>The Disciplinary Committee may, subject to any appeal, cause its decision in any inquiry to be published in the Gazette, with or without an account of the proceedings.</p>	<p>A party to an inquiry may be represented by a solicitor or by a solicitor and counsel.</p> <p><i>[c.f. Regulation 3, Pharmacists (Disciplinary Procedure) Regulations (Cap. 138E)]</i></p>

Professional regulatory bodies	Whether the member of the profession being complained of may opt for an open or closed hearing	Right to legal representation in disciplinary proceedings
	<i>[c.f. Section 16 of Pharmacy and Poisons Ordinance (Cap. 138)]</i>	
4. Dental Council of Hong Kong	The Council shall have the powers to admit or exclude the public or any member of the public from the inquiry and to admit or exclude the press from the inquiry. <i>[c.f. Section 19, Dentists Registration Ordinance (Cap. 156)]</i>	The complainant in any inquiry and the person whose conduct is the subject of such inquiry shall be entitled to be represented by counsel or a solicitor throughout the inquiry. <i>[c.f. Section 21, Cap. 156]</i>
5. Chiropractors Council	An inquiry committee shall have power to admit or exclude the public or any member of the public from the inquiry and to admit or exclude the media from the inquiry. <i>[c.f. Section 19, Chiropractors Registration Ordinance (Cap. 428)]</i>	A party to an inquiry may be represented by a legal representative. <i>[c.f. Section 24, Chiropractors (Registration and Disciplinary Procedure) Rules (Cap. 428B)]</i>
6. Architects Registration Board	An inquiry committee shall have power to admit or exclude the public or any member of the public from the inquiry and to admit or exclude the press from the inquiry. <i>[c.f. Section 25, Architects Registration Ordinance (Cap. 408)]</i>	Not specified under Cap. 408.

Professional regulatory bodies	Whether the member of the profession being complained of may opt for an open or closed hearing	Right to legal representation in disciplinary proceedings
7. Engineers Registration Board	<p>An inquiry committee shall have power to admit or exclude the public or any member of the public from the inquiry and to admit or exclude the press from the inquiry.</p> <p><i>[c.f. Section 24, Engineers Registration Ordinance (Cap. 409)]</i></p>	Not specified under Cap. 409.
8. Social Workers Registration Board	<p>A disciplinary committee shall have power to admit or exclude the public or any member of the public from the inquiry and to admit or exclude the press from the inquiry.</p> <p><i>[c.f. Section 29, Social Workers Registration Ordinance (Cap. 505)]</i></p>	<p>The registered social worker referred to in subsection (5) (i.e. in respect of whom the complaint is made) shall be entitled to legal representation.</p> <p><i>[c.f. Section 27, Cap. 505]</i></p>
9. Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants	<p>Every hearing of the Disciplinary Committee shall be held in public unless the Disciplinary Committee –</p> <p>(a) on its own motion; or</p> <p>(b) on the application of (i) the complainant; or (ii) the certified public accountant against whom the complaint is made, determines that in the interests of justice a hearing or any part thereof shall not be held in public in which case it may hold the hearing or the part thereof (as the case may be) in private.</p>	<p>A certified public accountant whose conduct is the subject of such proceedings shall be entitled to be represented by counsel or a solicitor, or, with the approval of the Disciplinary Committee, by some other person appointed by the certified public accountant to represent him throughout the proceedings.</p> <p><i>[c.f. Section 37, Cap. 50]</i></p>

Professional regulatory bodies	Whether the member of the profession being complained of may opt for an open or closed hearing	Right to legal representation in disciplinary proceedings
	<i>[c.f. Section 36, Professional Accountants Ordinance (Cap. 50)]</i>	
10. The Law Society of Hong Kong	<p>The Tribunal shall sit in camera in the places and at the times it directs.</p> <p><i>[c.f. Section 9B, Legal Practitioners Ordinance (Cap. 159)]</i></p>	<p>Any party to an application or investigation may be represented by solicitor or counsel.</p> <p><i>[c.f. Rule 12, Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal Proceedings Rules (Cap. 159C)]</i></p>
11. The Hong Kong Bar Association	<p>A Barristers Disciplinary Tribunal is required to hold its proceedings in camera, except when the barrister whose conduct is being inquired into requests that the proceedings be open to the public.</p> <p><i>[c.f. Section 35B, Cap. 159]</i></p>	<p>The parties may appear at an inquiry by solicitor or counsel.</p> <p><i>[c.f. Section 11, Barristers Disciplinary Tribunal Proceedings Rules (Cap. 159P)]</i></p>