

**Bills Committee on  
Electoral Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2015**

**Follow up on issues raised at the  
Bills Committee meeting on 9 June 2015**

This paper sets out the Government's response to issues raised by individual Members and bodies at the Bills Committee meeting held on 9 June 2015.

**Requests from individual bodies for inclusion in functional constituencies**

2. Individual bodies mentioned at the meeting or in the written submissions that they have made requests to the Government earlier for inclusion in functional constituencies ("FCs"), but have not received substantive replies so far. The bodies also asked about the criteria adopted by the Government in considering such requests.

3. In keeping with the established practice, relevant bureaux and departments are consulted before each Legislative Council ("LegCo") general election to review whether the delineation of the electorate of the FCs under the Legislative Council Ordinance (Cap. 542) ("LCO") needs to be adjusted. Requests (e.g., from bodies for inclusion into or deletion from FCs, change of names of the bodies, etc.) received since the last review are also considered. We explained in detail to the Bills Committee that the proposals in the Electoral Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2015 are technical amendments and were drawn up after consultation with the relevant bureaux and departments and taking into consideration their comments. In line with past practice, after completion of the relevant legislative exercise, we will inform the relevant bodies of the outcome of their requests.

**FC voter registration of an association in the printing industry**

4. A Member mentioned that an association in the printing industry ("the Association") is restricted to be registered as an elector of the insurance FC, and considered that such restriction is not reasonable.

5. Section 25(3)(d) of the LCO stipulates that –

*“subject to paragraphs (ca) and (c), a person eligible to be registered as an elector for the agriculture and fisheries, the insurance or the transport functional constituency and who would, but for this paragraph, be eligible to be registered in another functional constituency of that person’s choice may be registered only for that functional constituency and not for that other functional constituency.”*

Since the Association is an association of underwriters approved by the Insurance Authority under the Insurance Companies Ordinance (Cap. 41) to carry on insurance business, according to the LCO it fulfils the eligibility to be registered as an elector of the insurance FC; in accordance with the aforementioned provision in the LCO, the Association can only be registered for the insurance FC and not for another FC.

#### **Other comments**

6. Some Members and bodies considered that the Government should enhance the composition of the FCs in accordance with the principle of gradual and orderly progress, and suggested that the Government set up working groups or platforms for the purpose. Besides, a Member suggested that the Government review the electorate of the FCs to increase the representativeness of the FCs.

7. These comments are not directly related to the Electoral Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2015. However, at an appropriate time in future, there will be opportunities for the Government to listen to views from LegCo Members in this regard.

**Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau  
June 2015**