# **Legislative Council Panel on Constitutional Affairs**

#### **Voter Registration**

#### INTRODUCTION

This paper briefs Members on the key statistics relating to the 2014 Final Register ("FR") of electors and the checking measures taken in the 2014 voter registration ("VR") cycle, as well as the preparation for the 2015 VR cycle.

#### 2014 VOTER REGISTRATION CYCLE

2. For the 2014 VR cycle, the statutory deadlines for new registration and updating of registration particulars fell on 16 May and 29 June 2014 respectively. The Registration and Electoral Office ("REO") subsequently published the 2014 FR on 25 July. The key statistics are set out in the ensuing paragraphs.

# (I) Geographical Constituencies ("GCs")

Newly registered electors

- 3. About 3.5 million registered electors are contained in the 2014 FR of electors for GCs, representing a registration rate of 73.5%. Amongst these electors, about 77 000 are newly registered. About 41 000 electors have been deleted from the 2013 FR, of whom about 27 000 electors have passed away and about 14 000 electors have failed to update or confirm their residential addresses in response to the REO's inquiry process. The figure in the 2014 cycle represents a net increase of more than 36 000 electors when compared with the 2013 FR.
- 4. The registration rate in respect of the 2014 FR is comparable with the rates in 2013 (73.2%) and 2012 (73.6%). According to past experience, the overall registration rate in a non-election year is usually slightly lower than that in an election year. As 2015 is a District Council election year, it is expected that the registration rate in the 2015 VR cycle will rise.

### Registration rates of different age groups

5. In addition to the traditional publicity channels to encourage eligible persons to register as electors, the REO continued to disseminate the VR message to the public through social media to appeal to young people to register as electors. As a result of the publicity efforts over the years, the registration rate of eligible young people aged 18-30 has risen steadily from 50.7% in 2007 (District Council election year) to about 59.7% in the 2014 cycle. The average registration rate of electors of other age groups is over 75% and relatively stable. Further details of the age and sex profile of registered electors of different age groups by Legislative Council GCs and Districts in 2014 are set out in the tables at **Annex 1**.

# Updating of registration particulars

- 6. Similar to the case of new registration, usually fewer applications for updating registered particulars are received in a non-election year when compared to a cycle with a major election. In the 2014 cycle, the REO processed about 121 000 applications for updating registration particulars from electors. The figure is slightly higher than the number of updating cases of about 116 000 in 2013. As 2015 is an election year, we expect the number of cases of updating of registration particulars will increase.
- 7. To address registered electors failing to update their particulars after moving their residence, the REO will continue to strengthen its publicity efforts to encourage and remind registered electors to update their registration particulars in a timely manner in order to enhance the accuracy of the voter registers.

# (II) Functional Constituencies ("FCs")

#### Traditional FCs

8. For the 2014 FR for traditional FCs, the number of registered electors is about 232 700, of whom about 600 are newly registered. On the other hand, about 3 200 electors have changed to register under the District Council (second) FC and another about 2 700 electors have been deleted. The number of traditional FC electors in the 2014 FR represents a decrease of about 5 300 electors compared with the 2013 FR.

# District Council (second) FC

- 9. The number of registered electors of the District Council (second) FC in the 2014 FR is about 3.25 million, representing an increase by around 31 000 electors when compared with the 2013 FR. Among these 3.25 million electors, about 73 700 are newly registered electors, including about 1 100 GC electors in the 2013 FR, some 3 200 electors who have switched from other FCs and the remaining 69 400 electors who are newly registered GC electors. Separately, in the 2014 FR, there are also about 39 700 electors who have been deleted (mainly electors who have passed away or GC electors who have been deleted under the inquiry process), about 2 400 electors who have decided not to be registered as electors in District Council (second) FC again and some 200 electors switching to other FCs.
- 10. A table showing the distribution of registered electors by FCs (other than District Council (second) FC) in 2014 is at <u>Annex 2</u>. Other statistical information is available at the VR website (www.voterregistration.gov.hk).

# (III) Checking Measures

11. The Government attaches great importance to maintaining the integrity, fairness and openness of the electoral system, and adopts various measures to ensure a high degree of transparency, the integrity and accuracy of the VR system. To enhance the accuracy and completeness of the registration particulars of electors, the REO continued to implement checking measures in the 2014 cycle including verification checks on electors' registered residential addresses through cross-matching of data with the Housing Department, the Hong Kong Housing Society and the Home Affairs Department; checks on multiple electors or multiple surnames of electors registered with the same residential address; random sample checks on electors contained in the 2013 FR; checks on addresses with incomplete information, commercial addresses or suspected non-residential addresses; follow-up action on undelivered poll cards arising from the District Council by-elections in 2013 and 2014; checks on addresses in buildings already demolished or to be demolished; and sample checks on new applications for VR. number of GC electors covered by various measures is more or less the same as in the preceding cycle. After checking, the REO issued inquiry letters to about 24 000 electors according to the electoral laws and requested these electors to update or confirm their registered residential Subsequently, about 14 000 electors did not respond to the address.

REO's written inquiries. Their registration status was then removed and they were not included in the FR published on 25 July 2014.

#### 2015 VOTER REGISTRATION CYCLE

- On 10 July 2014, the Legislative Council passed the Electoral Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2014 which included advancing the deadline for VR application for GCs, FCs and Election Committee Subsectors by 14 calendar days, in order to provide ten more calendar days to the public for inspecting the provisional register and the omissions list and making claims and objections, and four more calendar days to the Revising Officer for arranging hearings for claims and objections. The new deadlines have already taken effect in the 2015 VR cycle. Thus, according to the relevant existing electoral laws, eligible persons who would like to register as electors but have yet to do so must submit their applications on or before 2 July 2015 so that their registration particulars can be included in the FR to be published in September 2015. As for registered electors, if there is any change in their registration particulars, such as residential address, they should report the change to the REO on or before 25 August 2015. start the next VR publicity exercise in May 2015. The main features will include encouraging eligible persons who have yet to register as electors (particularly eligible young people) to make registration, reminding electors to fulfil their civic responsibility to notify the REO of residential addresses change their and applicants/electors that they should provide accurate and true information An inter-departmental working group has been set up to coordinate the publicity exercise and the publicity plan is being reviewed and formulated.
- Separately, to facilitate the public to check whether they are registered as electors and whether their VR particulars are accurate, the REO has launched the Online Voter Information Enquiry System (OVIES) may log in the September Electors 2014. (www.voterinfo.gov.hk) any time to check whether they are registered as electors and their latest registration particulars including registered In order to promote OVIES, from addresses and constituencies. September to December 2014, a leaflet introducing this online system will be mailed to more than 2 million households along with water bills to encourage electors to make use of the new system. OVIES provides an extra, simple and convenient means for electors to check their registration particulars, and submit applications for change of particulars in a timely

manner where necessary, thereby enhancing the accuracy of voter registers. We shall consider further promoting the system when planning the publicity work of the 2015 VR campaign.

14. The REO will continue adopting the checking measures and implementing the inquiry process in the 2015 VR cycle to enhance the accuracy of particulars contained in the voter registers and ensure the integrity of the VR system. The REO will also continue reminding electors to fulfil their civic responsibility to update their registration particulars.

#### WAY FORWARD

15. We shall strengthen publicity efforts to encourage the public to register as electors and to update their registration particulars in a timely manner. The Administration will report the details of the 2015 VR campaign to this Panel early next year.

Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau Registration and Electoral Office October 2014

2014 Final Register
Age and Sex Profile of Registered Electors by Legislative Council Constituencies

Age Range	Sex	Hong Kong Island	Kowloon West	Kowloon East	<b>New Territories West</b>	New Territories East	<b>Grand Total</b>
18-20	M	6,860	5,924	8,654	16,997	15,714	54,149
18-20	F	6,587	5,701	8,317	16,488	15,078	52,171
	18-20 Sub-total	13,447	11,625	16,971	33,485	30,792	106,320
21-25	M	17,075	13,928	20,856	42,048	38,432	132,339
21-23	F	16,743	13,295	19,849	38,941	36,128	124,956
	21-25 Sub-total	33,818	27,223	40,705	80,989	74,560	257,295
26-30	M	15,879	12,498	16,346	33,646	31,221	109,590
20-30	F	16,127	12,171	15,481	32,365	30,774	106,918
	26-30 Sub-total	32,006	24,669	31,827	66,011	61,995	216,508
31-35	M	19,274	14,824	18,371	38,392	35,206	126,067
31-33	F	19,464	14,666	17,186	36,536	34,199	122,051
	31-35 Sub-total	38,738	29,490	35,557	74,928	69,405	248,118
36-40	M	21,965	17,425	18,911	39,540	32,644	130,485
30-40	F	22,693	17,621	18,377	38,316	32,540	129,547
	36-40 Sub-total	44,658	35,046	37,288	77,856	65,184	260,032
41-45	M	23,388	18,819	20,385	38,604	31,511	132,707
41-45	F	26,499	19,768	22,237	42,925	36,554	147,983
	41-45 Sub-total	49,887	38,587	42,622	81,529	68,065	280,690
46.50	M	27,271	19,766	25,160	45,495	39,204	156,896
46-50	F	31,120	21,311	27,735	52,933	47,359	180,458
	46-50 Sub-total	58,391	41,077	52,895	98,428	86,563	337,354
£1 ££	M	34,561	23,321	32,124	61,537	55,508	207,051
51-55	F	37,998	24,360	33,126	63,555	61,526	220,565
	51-55 Sub-total	72,559	47,681	65,250	125,092	117,034	427,616
56.60	M	32,989	22,418	28,388	56,765	53,153	193,713
56-60	F	34,875	23,387	29,840	56,752	53,797	198,651
	56-60 Sub-total	67,864	45,805	58,228	113,517	106,950	392,364
61.65	M	29,121	20,169	23,267	44,631	40,387	157,575
61-65	F	29,931	20,338	24,818	42,331	37,611	155,029
	61-65 Sub-total	59,052	40,507	48,085	86,962	77,998	312,604
66.70	M	19,855	14,270	17,187	29,397	24,438	105,147
66-70	F	20,062	15,008	18,325	26,331	21,159	100,885
	66-70 Sub-total	39,917	29,278	35,512	55,728	45,597	206,032
71	M	43,826	37,281	47,663	55,019	42,678	226,467
71 or above	F	47,959	38,737	53,674	52,108	43,908	236,386
71	or above Sub-total	91,785	76,018	101,337	107,127	86,586	462,853
	M	292,064	220,643	277,312	502,071	440,096	1,732,186
Total	F	310,058	226,363	288,965	499,581	450,633	1,775,600
	Grand Total	602.122	447.006	566,277	1,001,652	890,729	3,507,786

2014 Final Register
Age and Sex Profile of Registered Electors by Districts

	HK Island				Kowloon West				Kowloon East		New Territories West				New Territories East										
Age Range	Sex	Central & Western	Wan Chai	Eastern	Southern	Total	Yau Tsim Mong	Sham Shui Po	Kowloon	Total	Wong Tai Sin	Kwun Tong	Total	Tsuen Wan	Tuen Mun	Yuen	Kwai Tsing	Islands	Total	North	Tai Po	Sai Kung	Sha Tin	Total	Grand Total
	M	1,131	486	3,692	1,551	6,860	1,408	2,380	2,136	5,924	3,592	5,062	8,654	2,188	4,050	Long 5,632	4,006	1,121	16,997	3,218	2,814	3,816	5,866	15,714	54,149
18-20	F	974	477	3,529	1,607	6,587	1.291	2,266	2,144	5,701	3,551	4.766	8,317	2.067	3,872	5,576	3,913	1.060	16,488	3,157	2,686	3,556	5,679	15,078	52,171
18-20	Sub-total	2,105	963	7,221	3,158	13,447	2,699	4,646	4,280	11,625	7,143	9,828	16,971	4,255	7,922	11,208	7,919	2,181	33,485	6,375	5,500	7,372	11,545	30,792	106,320
21.25	M	2,776	1,221	8,992	4,086	17,075	3,279	5,562	5,087	13,928	8,770	12,086	20,856	4,793	10,978	13,969	9,806	2,502	42,048	8,151	7,782	8,930	13,569	38,432	132,339
21-25	F	2,648	1,220	8,770	4,105	16,743	3,121	5,398	4,776	13,295	8,399	11,450	19,849	4,448	9,826	12,959	9,374	2,334	38,941	7,620	7,236	8,515	12,757	36,128	124,956
21-25	Sub-total	5,424	2,441	17,762	8,191	33,818	6,400	10,960	9,863	27,223	17,169	23,536	40,705	9,241	20,804	26,928	19,180	4,836	80,989	15,771	15,018	17,445	26,326	74,560	257,295
26-30	M	2,638	1,191	8,127	3,923	15,879	3,067	5,055	4,376	12,498	6,772	9,574	16,346	3,809	9,090	10,324	8,624	1,799	33,646	6,244	6,435	7,203	11,339	31,221	109,590
20-30	F	2,747	1,196	8,236	3,948	16,127	3,016	4,770	4,385	12,171	6,487	8,994	15,481	3,707	8,770	9,703	8,479	1,706	32,365	6,063	6,260	7,100	11,351	30,774	106,918
26-30	Sub-total	5,385	2,387	16,363	7,871	32,006	6,083	9,825	8,761	24,669	13,259	18,568	31,827	7,516	17,860	20,027	17,103	3,505	66,011	12,307	12,695	14,303	22,690	61,995	216,508
31-35	M	3,225	1,558	9,867	4,624	19,274	4,079	5,508	5,237	14,824	7,350	11,021	18,371	4,928	11,420	10,774	9,313	1,957	38,392	6,480	6,791	7,517	14,418	35,206	126,067
	F	3,389	1,682	9,850	4,543	19,464	3,916	5,406	5,344	14,666	6,993	10,193	17,186	5,073	10,513	10,045	8,974	1,931	36,536	6,002	6,562	7,606	14,029	34,199	122,051
31-35	1	6,614	3,240	19,717	9,167	38,738	7,995	10,914	10,581	29,490	14,343	21,214	35,557	10,001	21,933	20,819	18,287	3,888	74,928	12,482	13,353	15,123	28,447	69,405	248,118
36-40	M	3,907	2,031	11,239	4,788	21,965	5,133	5,791	6,501	17,425	7,440	11,471	18,911	6,036	10,439	10,672	10,189	2,204	39,540	4,729	5,108	8,874	13,933	32,644	130,485
	F	4,198	2,221	11,481	4,793	22,693	5,052	5,924	6,645	17,621	7,258	11,119	18,377	6,336	9,462	10,608	9,464	2,446	38,316	4,775	4,818	9,636	13,311	32,540	129,547
36-40	Sub-total	8,105	4,252	22,720	9,581	44,658	10,185	11,715	13,146	35,046	14,698	22,590	37,288	12,372	19,901	21,280	19,653	4,650	77,856	9,504	9,926	18,510	27,244	65,184	260,032
41-45	M	4,068	2,328	11,823	5,169	23,388	5,454	6,004	7,361	18,819	8,101	12,284	20,385	6,374	7,867	10,867	10,910	2,586	38,604	5,037	4,524	10,275	11,675	31,511	132,707
	F	4,794	2,577	13,334	5,794	26,499	5,431	6,660	7,677	19,768	9,088	13,149	22,237	6,838	9,017	12,755	10,897	3,418	42,925	6,211	5,230	11,616	13,497	36,554	147,983
41-45	1	8,862	4,905	25,157	10,963	49,887	10,885	12,664	15,038	38,587	17,189	25,433	42,622	13,212	16,884	23,622	21,807	6,004	81,529	11,248	9,754	21,891	25,172	68,065	280,690
46-50	M	4,670	2,556	13,498	6,547	27,271	5,259	6,877	7,630	19,766	10,787	14,373	25,160	6,774	10,477	13,628	11,220	3,396	45,495	7,338	6,109	11,646	14,111	39,204	156,896
46 50	Sub-total	5,278	2,834	15,636	7,372	31,120	5,417	7,545	8,349	21,311	11,950	15,785	27,735	7,814	12,997	16,040	12,224	3,858	52,933	8,996	8,278	12,954	17,131	47,359	180,458
40-30		9,948	5,390	29,134	13,919	58,391 34,561	10,676	14,422	15,979	41,077	22,737	30,158	52,895	14,588	23,474	29,668	23,444	7,254	98,428 61,537	16,334	14,387	24,600	31,242	86,563 55,508	337,354
51-55	M	5,850 6,262	2,936 3,288	17,555 19,473	8,220 8,975	37,998	5,620 5,791	8,788 9,251	8,913 9,318	23,321 24,360	14,517 14,834	17,607 18,292	32,124 33,126	8,435 8,425	15,676 17,753	19,106 18,246	14,175 15,049	4,145 4,082	63,555	10,700 11,483	10,555 12,438	14,214 14,771	20,039 22,834	61,526	207,051
51-55	Sub-total	12,112	6,224	37,028	17,195	72,559	11.411	18.039	18.231	47,681	29,351	35,899	65,250	16.860	33,429	37,352	29,224	8,227	125,092	22,183	22,993	28,985	42,873	117.034	220,565 427,616
3. 33.	M	5,660	3,027	16,608	7,694	32,989	5,249	9,014	8,155	22,418	12,401	15,987	28,388	7,060	15,836	16,598	13,469	3,802	56,765	10,162	10,705	12,317	19,969	53,153	193,713
56-60	F	5,903	3,172	17,635	8,165	34,875	5,382	9,283	8,722	23,387	12,820	17,020	29,840	7,237	17,205	14,462	14,442	3,406	56,752	9,652	11,004	11,614	21,527	53,797	198,651
56-60	Sub-total	11,563	6,199	34,243	15,859	67,864	10,631	18,297	16,877	45,805	25,221	33,007	58,228	14,297	33,041	31,060	27,911	7,208	113,517	19,814	21,709	23,931	41,496	106,950	392,364
	М	5,047	2,940	14,709	6,425	29,121	5,008	7,742	7,419	20,169	9,476	13,791	23,267	5,581	13,406	11,204	11,431	3,009	44,631	7,277	7,783	8,728	16,599	40,387	157,575
61-65	F	4,903	3,053	15,485	6,490	29,931	4,929	7,283	8,126	20,338	9,812	15,006	24,818	5,687	12,765	9,283	12,185	2,411	42,331	5,755	6,751	8,072	17,033	37,611	155,029
61-65	Sub-total	9,950	5,993	30,194	12,915	59,052	9,937	15,025	15,545	40,507	19,288	28,797	48,085	11,268	26,171	20,487	23,616	5,420	86,962	13,032	14,534	16,800	33,632	77,998	312,604
	M	3,289	2,079	10,231	4,256	19,855	3,537	5,058	5,675	14,270	6,628	10,559	17,187	4,029	8,062	6,784	8,710	1,812	29,397	3,975	4,268	5,488	10,707	24,438	105,147
66-70	F	3,157	2,078	10,372	4,455	20,062	3,613	5,125	6,270	15,008	7,076	11,249	18,325	4,137	6,061	5,105	9,608	1,420	26,331	3,049	3,339	4,975	9,796	21,159	100,885
66-70	Sub-total	6,446	4,157	20,603	8,711	39,917	7,150	10,183	11,945	29,278	13,704	21,808	35,512	8,166	14,123	11,889	18,318	3,232	55,728	7,024	7,607	10,463	20,503	45,597	206,032
71	M	6,931	4,918	22,157	9,820	43,826	8,834	14,432	14,015	37,281	18,996	28,667	47,663	8,304	11,793	12,074	19,550	3,298	55,019	7,614	7,242	9,275	18,547	42,678	226,467
71 or above	F	7,011	5,189	24,737	11,022	47,959	8,640	15,021	15,076	38,737	24,020	29,654	53,674	7,967	10,568	11,448	18,836	3,289	52,108	8,313	7,700	9,640	18,255	43,908	236,386
71 or above 3	Sub-total	13,942	10,107	46,894	20,842	91,785	17,474	29,453	29,091	76,018	43,016	58,321	101,337	16,271	22,361	23,522	38,386	6,587	107,127	15,927	14,942	18,915	36,802	86,586	462,853
Total	M	49,192	27,271	148,498	67,103	292,064	55,927	82,211	82,505	220,643	114,830	162,482	277,312	68,311	129,094	141,632	131,403	31,631	502,071	80,925	80,116	108,283	170,772	440,096	1,732,186
1 Otal	F	51,264	28,987	158,538	71,269	310,058	55,599	83,932	86,832	226,363	122,288	166,677	288,965	69,736	128,809	136,230	133,445	31,361	499,581	81,076	82,302	110,055	177,200	450,633	1,775,600
Gra	nd Total	100,456	56,258	307,036	138,372	602,122	111,526	166,143	169,337	447,006	237,118	329,159	566,277	138,047	257,903	277,862	264,848	62,992	1,001,652	162,001	162,418	218,338	347,972	890,729	3,507,786

# 2014 Final Register for Functional Constituencies -Breakdown of Number of Electors (other than the District Council (Second) Functional Constituency)

		Number of registered electors							
	<b>Functional Constituency</b>	Bodies (i)	Individuals (ii)	Total (i)+(ii)					
1	Heung Yee Kuk		146	146					
2	Agriculture and Fisheries	158		158					
3	Insurance	129		129					
4	Transport	200		200					
5	Education		89,704	89,704					
6	Legal		6,440	6,440					
7	Accountancy		25,092	25,092					
8	Medical		10,764	10,764					
9	Health Services		37,007	37,007					
10	Engineering		9,078	9,078					
11	Architectural, Surveying and Planning		6,804	6,804					
12	Labour	644		644					
13	Social Welfare		13,709	13,709					
14	Real Estate and Construction	484	233	717					
15	Tourism	1,313		1,313					
16	Commercial (first)	884		884					
17	Commercial (second)	627	984	1,611					
18	Industrial (first)	545	0	545					
19	Industrial (second)	774		774					
20	Finance	124		124					
21	Financial Services	573		573					
22	Sports, Performing Arts, Culture and Publication	2,249	305	2,554					
23	Import and Export	809	568	1,377					
24	Textiles and Garment	2,774	55	2,829					
25	Wholesale and Retail	1,778	5,200	6,978					
26	Information Technology	363	5,458	5,821					
27	Catering	790	5,501	6,291					
28	District Council (first)		411	411					
	TOTAL	15,218	217,459	232,677					