

立法會 *Legislative Council*

LC Paper No. CB(4)216/14-15(03)

Ref : CB4/SC/13

Select Committee to Inquire into the Background of and Reasons for the Delay of the Construction of the Hong Kong section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link

Proposed work plan

Purpose

This paper invites members to consider the proposed work plan for the Select Committee to Inquire into the Background of and Reasons for the Delay of the Construction of the Hong Kong section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link ("the Select Committee").

Background

2. The work plan of the Select Committee is formulated with reference to the actual time spent by the six previous Select Committees at different stages of work (**Appendix**) and the proposed major areas of study of the Select Committee (LC Paper No. CB(4)216/14-15(02)). Members may wish to conduct work in three main stages listed below.

Work plan

Stage I - Preparatory work

3. The main activities during this stage are -
- (a) to draw up and determine the practice and procedure for the Select Committee;
 - (b) to work out and decide on the areas of study;

- (c) to decide on the information to be obtained from the relevant parties and analyze the relevant information; and
- (d) to identify the witnesses to be invited, decide on the order of the witnesses and the main areas of evidence to be obtained.

Stage II - Obtaining and deliberation on evidence from witnesses

4. The main activities during this stage are to obtain evidence from witnesses in respect of the areas of study and to consider the evidence obtained. The duration of this stage may vary depending on the areas of study, the number of witnesses invited and the complexity of the issues involved.

Stage III - Preparation, discussion and finalization of the report

5. The main activities during this stage are -
- (a) to deliberate on the evidence obtained;
 - (b) to discuss the approach in drafting the report;
 - (c) to prepare the draft report;
 - (d) to seek the comments of any person(s)/organization(s) against whom adverse comments are intended to be made on the relevant parts of the draft report; and
 - (e) to finalize the report.
6. It is proposed that the Select Committee will proceed as follows -
- (a) **from mid December 2014 to mid February 2015 (2 months)** - to hold meetings for preparatory work;
 - (b) **from mid February to mid November 2015 (9 months)** - to conduct hearings to receive evidence from witnesses; and
 - (c) **from mid November 2015 to mid April 2016 (5 months)** - depending on the progress of (b), to prepare the report, hold internal deliberations to discuss the draft report, and finalize the report with a view to tabling the report at a Council meeting in April 2016.

Pre-hearing and post-hearing meetings

7. A pre-hearing and a post-hearing closed meeting, each lasting for 30 minutes, will be held for each hearing.

Advice sought

8. Members are invited to give views on the proposed work plan set out in paragraphs 3 to 6.

Council Business Division 4
Legislative Council Secretariat
3 December 2014

Summary of the actual time spent by previous select committees at different stages of work

Stages	Select committees	Select Committee to inquire into matters relating to the opening of the new airport at Chek Lap Kok	Select Committee on Building Problems of Public Housing Units	Select Committee to inquire into the handling of the SARS outbreak by the Government and the Hospital Authority	Select Committee to Inquire into Matters Relating to the Post-service Work of Mr LEUNG Chin-man	Select Committee to Study Mr LEUNG Chun-ying's Involvement as a Member of the Jury in the West Kowloon Reclamation Concept Plan Competition and Related Issues	Select Committee to Inquire into Matters Relating to Mr Timothy TONG's Duty Visits, Entertainment, and Bestowing and Receipt of Gifts during his Tenure as Commissioner of the Independent Commission Against Corruption
<p>I. Preparatory work before hearings, mainly for the following purposes :</p> <p>(a) drawing up the practice and procedure;</p> <p>(b) identifying the witnesses to be summoned to give evidence based on the information obtained from relevant bodies;</p> <p>(c) deciding on the order of witnesses to be summoned; and</p> <p>(d) discussing the procedure for handling confidential documents.</p>	<p>Between its first meeting on 30 July 1998 and its first hearing on 21 September 1998, the Select Committee held five meetings to conduct preparatory work.</p> <p>(about 8 weeks)</p>	<p>Between its first meeting on 22 February 2001 and its first hearing on 22 April 2001, the Select Committee held eight meetings to conduct preparatory work.</p> <p>(about 8 weeks)</p>	<p>Between its first meeting on 5 November 2003 and its first hearing on 13 December 2003, the Select Committee held nine meetings to conduct preparatory work.</p> <p>(about 6 weeks)</p>	<p>Between its first meeting on 18 December 2008 and its first hearing on 17 March 2009, the Select Committee held nine meetings to conduct preparatory work.</p> <p>(about 13 weeks)</p>	<p>Between its first meeting on 10 March 2012 and its first hearing on 17 March 2012, the Select Committee held one meeting to conduct preparatory work.</p> <p>(about 1 week)</p>	<p>Between its first meeting on 16 July 2013 and its first hearing on 25 January 2014, the Select Committee held three meetings to conduct preparatory work.</p> <p>(about 6 months, inclusive recess between 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 legislative sessions)</p>	
<p>II. Conducting hearings - A hearing normally lasts for two to four hours. Select Committees may take evidence from more than one witness at a hearing and some witnesses may be requested to appear more than once before a Select Committee to give evidence.</p>	<p>Between 21 September and 19 December 1998, the Select Committee held a total of 31 public hearings at which 27 witnesses were summoned to give evidence.</p> <p>(about 3 months)</p>	<p>Between 21 April 2001 and 10 December 2002, the Select Committee held a total of 70 hearings at which 85 witnesses were summonsed to give evidence.</p> <p>(about 19.5 months)</p>	<p>Between 13 December 2003 and 24 April 2004, the Select Committee held a total of 30 public hearings at which 73 witnesses were summonsed to give evidence.</p> <p>(about 4.5 months)</p>	<p>Between 17 March 2009 and 17 November 2009, the Select Committee held a total of 23 public hearings at which 24 witnesses were summonsed to give evidence.</p> <p>(about 8 months)</p>	<p>Between 17 March and 21 April 2012, the Select Committee held a total of six hearings at which 17 witnesses were summonsed to give evidence.</p> <p>(about 1 month)</p>	<p>Between 25 January and 1 March 2014, the Select Committee held a total of two hearings and received evidence from four witnesses.</p> <p>(about 5 weeks)</p>	

Select committees Stages	Select Committee to inquire into matters relating to the opening of the new airport at Chek Lap Kok	Select Committee on Building Problems of Public Housing Units	Select Committee to inquire into the handling of the SARS outbreak by the Government and the Hospital Authority	Select Committee to Inquire into Matters Relating to the Post-service Work of Mr LEUNG Chin-man	Select Committee to Study Mr LEUNG Chun-ying's Involvement as a Member of the Jury in the West Kowloon Reclamation Concept Plan Competition and Related Issues	Select Committee to Inquire into Matters Relating to Mr Timothy TONG's Duty Visits, Entertainment, and Bestowing and Receipt of Gifts during his Tenure as Commissioner of the Independent Commission Against Corruption
III. Consideration and discussion of draft report	After its last hearing on 19 December 1998, the Select Committee took six weeks to consider and discuss its report before it was tabled at the Council meeting on 27 January 1999. (about 6 weeks)	The Select Committee took six weeks to consider and discuss its first report before it was tabled at the Council meeting on 22 January 2003. It submitted the second report to the Council in May 2004. (about 6 weeks)	The Select Committee held 53 internal meetings between 9 December 2003 and 23 June 2004 to deliberate on the evidence and information obtained, and to discuss and finalize its report before it was tabled at the Council meeting on 7 July 2004. (The last hearing was held on 24 April 2004. There were about 9 weeks between the last hearing and the tabling of the report at the Council.)	The Select Committee held 81 meetings to discuss the evidence obtained and deliberate on the report before it was tabled at the Council meeting on 8 December 2010 (about 12 months)	The Select Committee held 10 meetings to deliberate on the evidence and information obtained, and to discuss and finalize its report before it was tabled at the Council meeting on 27 June 2012. (about 2 months)	The Select Committee held seven meetings to deliberate on the evidence and information obtained, and to discuss and finalize its report before it was tabled at the Council meeting on 9 July 2014. (about 4 months)
Total amount of time spent	(about 6 months)	(about 3 years and 3 months)	(about 8 months)	(about 2 years)	(about 3 months)	(about 1 year)