

Panel on Constitutional Affairs

Follow up on issues raised at the meeting held on 19 October 2015

At the meeting of the Panel on Constitutional Affairs held on 19 October 2015, Members discussed the review on the subsidy rate of the financial assistance for candidates and the election expenses limits (“EELs”) for the 2016 Legislative Council (“LegCo”) election, and requested the Government to provide supplementary information on the subsidy received by candidates in the past LegCo elections. This paper sets out the relevant information for Members’ reference.

2. Under the current financial assistance scheme, the subsidy payable to a candidate or a list of candidates (“candidate list”) of LegCo election eligible for financial assistance would be the lowest of the following three amounts—

- (a) the amount obtained by multiplying the subsidy rate (currently \$12) by the total number of valid votes cast for the candidate or candidate list (if the election is contested), or 50% of the number of registered electors for the constituency concerned (if the election is uncontested);
- (b) 50% of the EEL applicable to the constituency concerned; and
- (c) the declared election expenses of the candidate or candidate list.

3. A Member asked about the percentage of geographical constituency (“GC”) lists of candidates who obtained financial assistance in the past LegCo elections under the respective categories in paragraph 2(a), (b) or (c) above. The arrangement for calculating the amount of subsidy payable set out in paragraph 2 above has been implemented starting from the 2012 LegCo general election¹. In the 2012 LegCo GC election, all candidate lists which were eligible for financial assistance received subsidy based on the calculation in paragraph 2(a) above (i.e., multiplying the subsidy rate by the total number of valid votes cast for the candidate list).

¹ When the financial assistance scheme was first introduced in 2004, financial assistance payable to candidates or candidate lists was calculated by multiplying the number of valid votes obtained by candidates or candidate lists by the subsidy rate, subject to not exceeding 50% of the declared election expenses of the candidates or candidate lists.

4. Besides, a Member requested the Government to provide information on the subsidy received by GC candidate lists as a percentage of their declared election expenses in the 2012 LegCo general election. The relevant information is set out at **Annex**.

Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
November 2015

Annex

2012 Legislative Council General Election
Subsidy received by geographical constituency lists of candidates
as a percentage of their declared election expenses

Subsidy received by lists of candidates as a percentage of their declared election expenses	Number of lists of candidates eligible for financial assistance	Percentage of total number of lists of candidates eligible for financial assistance
<=10%	0	0%
>10% but <=20%	8	17.39%
>20% but <=30%	10	21.74%
>30% but <=40%	11	23.91%
>40% but <=50%	12	26.09%
>50% but <=60%	4	8.70%
>60% but <=70%	1	2.17%
>70% but <=80%	0	0%
>80% but <=90%	0	0%
>90% but <=100%	0	0%