

**Government's Response to
the Matter raised at the Meeting of the Bills Committee on
Travel Industry Bill held on 24 November 2017**

Purpose

This paper sets out the Government's response to the request raised at the Bills Committee on Travel Industry Bill (the Bill) held on 24 November 2017 for a breakdown of the composition of trade members in the Travel Industry Authority (TIA) by business nature.

Composition of TIA

2. As we mentioned in the paper (LC Paper No. CB(4)257/17-18(02)) submitted to the Committee and at the meeting, as regards the composition of TIA's trade members, the Government will appoint not more than three individuals who are engaged in carrying on outbound travel agent business, not more than three individuals who are engaged in carrying on inbound travel agent business, not more than three representatives of the Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong, and not more than four tourist guides or tour escorts. As regards the composition of TIA's non-trade members, the Government will appoint individuals who have knowledge in law, accountancy, insurance, education, consumer affairs or general administration, or professional or occupational experience. We will make amendments to the Bill accordingly.

3. Clause 4 of the Bill clearly states the definition of carrying on travel agent business, of which clauses 4(1)(a)(i) and (ii) specify outbound travel agent business activities and clauses 4(1)(a)(iii) to (v) specify inbound travel agent business activities. Furthermore, clauses 38 and 39 of the Bill clearly state the definitions of working as a tourist guide and as a tour escort respectively. As we pointed out at the meeting, the Chief Executive will appoint suitable individuals to be members of TIA based on the composition of TIA referred to in paragraph 2 above as well as the aforementioned definitions in the Bill.

4. On the appointment of individuals who are engaged in carrying on outbound or inbound travel agent business, the Government considers it unnecessary to further prescribe the business nature or scale for each of the individuals concerned. The proposed arrangement referred to in paragraph 2 above is desirable and practicable to enable TIA to recruit operators of different business nature and scale as well as frontline practitioners as its members.