

**22 June 2018**  
**For discussion**

**Legislative Council**  
**Panel on Constitutional Affairs**

**2018 Voter Registration**

**Purpose**

This paper briefs Members on the key statistics relating to the 2018 Provisional Registers (“PR”) of electors, as well as the progress of checking measures and related work undertaken by the Registration and Electoral Office (“REO”) in the 2018 Voter Registration (“VR”) cycle.

**2018 Provisional Registers**

2. The REO publishes the PR, omissions lists<sup>1</sup> (“OL”) and final registers (“FR”) of electors each year to ensure that a highly transparent VR system is maintained. The 2018 PR and OL were published for public inspection on 1 June this year. During the period of public inspection from 1 June to 25 June this year, the public may lodge claims or objections against the entries on the PR and OL which will be determined by the Revising Officer by means of hearings. Taking into account the Revising Officer’s rulings, the REO will compile the 2018 FR to be published on or before 25 July this year. Key statistics of the 2018 PR are set out in the ensuing paragraphs.

**Geographical Constituencies**

Newly registered electors

3. There are about 3.81 million geographical constituency (“GC”) electors contained in the 2018 PR, representing a registration rate of 79.8%. The number of electors and registration rate this year reach the record high, with about 81 000 newly registered electors. On the other hand, about 73 000 electors have been included in the OL, of which

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<sup>1</sup> The omissions list contains electors who have passed away or electors who have failed to update or confirm their latest residential addresses in response to the REO’s inquiry letters.

about 27 000 are those who have passed away and about 46 000 who have failed to update or confirm their latest residential addresses in response to the REO's inquiry letters. There is a net increase of about 8 000 electors when compared with the 2017 FR.

#### Registration rates of different age groups

4. In launching the 2018 VR campaign, the REO continues to disseminate the VR messages to the public through social media in addition to the traditional publicity channels. In the 2018 PR, the registration rate among eligible young people aged 18-30 is 70.8%. The registration rates of electors of other age groups are on average over 80% and relatively stable. Details of the age and sex profile of electors by Legislative Council ("LegCo") GCs and District Council constituencies in 2018 are set out in the table at Annex 1.

#### Updating of registration particulars

5. In the 2018 VR cycle, the REO has handled a total of about 124 000 applications for updating registration particulars from registered electors. This figure is comparable to the approximate number of 120 000 per year recorded in 2013 and 2014 respectively, both of which being non-election years.

6. From 1 February this year onwards, existing electors applying for change of registered address are required to submit address proof at the same time, so as to facilitate verification by the REO of the accuracy of the electors' address information, thereby enhancing the accuracy of registration particulars. From 1 February this year to the statutory deadline for change of registration particulars on 2 April 2018, the REO received and handled about 11 400 applications for change of registered address. Of these applications, around 10 600 electors submitted address proof in accordance with the new requirement, and about 300 electors being authorised tenants of public rental housing under the Housing Department ("HD") or Hong Kong Housing Society ("HKHS") were exempted from the requirement of submitting address proof, upon the REO's data-matching with relevant departments or organisations. For electors who have not submitted address proof with their applications for change of registered address, the REO had, in accordance with the electoral laws, written to request them to provide address proof. Reminders were also sent through other channels according to the contact information provided by the electors (including

telephone and electronic mail) to urge them to submit the relevant documents. Eventually, applications for change of registered address from about 500 electors could not be processed further by the REO as these electors fail to submit address proof. Since the registered addresses of these electors might no longer be their only or principal residence, the REO will include such cases in the statutory inquiry process in the next VR cycle.

7. The REO will continue to strengthen its publicity efforts in future VR campaigns to appeal to electors to update their registration particulars in a timely manner and remind them of the requirement to submit address proof at the same time when applying for updating their registered addresses.

#### Progress in implementing checking measures

8. To maintain the credibility of the VR system and to enhance the accuracy of the information contained in the registers of electors, the REO continues to implement checking measures and carry out statutory inquiry process in the 2018 VR cycle. The checking measures include follow-up inquiries on undelivered poll cards of the 2018 LegCo By-election and other electoral documents; checks with the HD on the data of tenants whose tenancies have been terminated; checks on residential addresses with multiple electors or multiple surnames of electors; random sample checks on existing electors; checks on addresses with incomplete information, commercial or suspected non-residential addresses; and checks on addresses situated at buildings already demolished or vacant buildings to be demolished. After implementing or following up with the checking measures, the REO initiated the inquiry process in accordance with the relevant electoral law for about 57 300 electors because it had reasonable grounds to suspect that their registered addresses might no longer be their only or principal residence. From January to April this year, inquiry letters were issued to these electors requesting them to update or confirm their registered address. About 46 000 electors who did not respond to the inquiry process have been included in the OL.

9. In carrying out the checking process, the REO contacted the electors concerned by telephone, mobile phone short message service, electronic mail or fax based on the contact information (if any) they provided, and reminded them to update or confirm their registered addresses. Moreover, on 31 May this year, the REO issued reminding letters to those electors included in the OL, to remind them to reinstate

their VR by taking appropriate remedial action by 25 June, including lodging a claim or confirming/updating their registered addresses. Upon approval by the Revising Officer, their names and residential addresses will be included in the 2018 FR. To strengthen the reminding effect, the envelope of the reminding letters issued by the REO was beige in colour and stamped with a red reminding message, “Immediate action required. Your voting right is at stake”.

10. Members of the public can verify their registration status and check the accuracy of their own registration particulars, including registered address and respective constituencies, at any time by logging into the REO’s Online Voter Information Enquiry System ([www.voterinfo.gov.hk](http://www.voterinfo.gov.hk)) or calling the REO’s hotline (2891 1001).

## **Functional Constituencies**

### Traditional functional constituencies

11. The number of registered electors for traditional functional constituencies (“FCs”) in the 2018 PR is about 230 600, of which about 1 500 are newly registered electors and some 4 700 are electors who have changed to register under the District Council (Second) FC, most of whom being switched to the District Council (Second) FC as they were no longer eligible to register under traditional FCs. On the other hand, about 3 100 electors are included in the OL. As such, the number of traditional FC electors in the 2018 PR represents a decrease of about 6 300 compared with the 2017 FR.

### District Council (Second) FC

12. The number of electors under the District Council (Second) FC in the 2018 PR is about 3.52 million, representing an increase of around 15 900 when compared with the 2017 FR. Of these 3.52 million electors, about 80 400 are newly registered GC electors, about 1 400 are GC electors who have applied for registration as electors in the District Council (Second) FC and around 4 700 are electors who have switched from other FCs. Meanwhile, in the 2018 PR, about 70 000 electors belonged to this constituency are included in the OL, and some 600 electors switching to other FCs.

13. Currently, about 75 300 GC electors who have not registered in traditional FCs choose not to register under the District Council (Second) FC. Before the end of this year, the REO will write to appeal

to those electors who have not yet registered under the District Council (Second) FC to be so registered.

14. A table showing the distribution of electors by FCs (other than the District Council (Second) FC) in 2018 is at **Annex 2**.

### **The Next Steps**

15. In the following VR cycle, the REO will continue to implement the checking measures and carry out the statutory inquiry process mentioned in paragraph 8 above. As the 2019 VR cycle falls within an election year, the REO will conduct a full-scale checking with the HD and HKHS regarding the electors with registered addresses in public housing units, in order to improve the accuracy of registration particulars. Moreover, similar to the arrangements in previous election years, the REO will collaborate with other government departments in launching a large-scale 2019 VR campaign to, through various publicity channels, encourage more eligible people to register as electors, and at the same time remind electors to update their residential address or other registration particulars.

**Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau  
Registration and Electoral Office  
June 2018**



**Distribution of Electors by Traditional Functional Constituencies  
in the 2018 Provisional Register**

Name of Functional Constituencies		No. of Electors		
		Bodies	Individuals	Total
		(i)	(ii)	(i)+(ii)
1	Heung Yee Kuk	-	148	148
2	Agriculture and Fisheries	154	-	154
3	Insurance	127	-	127
4	Transport	193	-	193
5	Education	-	85,594	85,594
6	Legal	-	6,714	6,714
7	Accountancy	-	25,692	25,692
8	Medical	-	11,386	11,386
9	Health Services	-	36,681	36,681
10	Engineering	-	9,442	9,442
11	Architectural, Surveying, Planning and Landscape	-	7,774	7,774
12	Labour	671	-	671
13	Social Welfare	-	13,765	13,765
14	Real Estate and Construction	478	194	672
15	Tourism	1,350	-	1,350
16	Commercial (First)	1,007	-	1,007
17	Commercial (Second)	607	778	1,385
18	Industrial (First)	486	0	486
19	Industrial (Second)	701	-	701
20	Finance	122	-	122
21	Financial Services	634	-	634
22	Sports, Performing Arts, Culture and Publication	2,522	399	2,921
23	Import and Export	841	500	1,341
24	Textiles and Garment	1,860	58	1,918
25	Wholesale and Retail	1,794	4,723	6,517
26	Information Technology	383	7,692	8,075
27	Catering	944	3,733	4,677
28	District Council (First)	-	430	430
	<b>Total</b>	<b>14,874</b>	<b>215,703</b>	<b>230,577</b>