

**Legislative Council Panel on Economic Development
Meeting on 17 July 2018**

Follow-up on “Proposed Creation of one Supernumerary Post of Senior Principal Executive Officer in the Tourism Commission in support of Setting up the Travel Industry Authority”

Government’s Response

Purpose

At the meeting held on 17 July 2018, a Member enquired about the timetable of the major preparatory tasks to be undertaken by the incumbent of the proposed Senior Principal Executive Officer post to assist in the establishment and initial operation of the Travel Industry Authority (“TIA”). This paper sets out the Government’s response.

Preliminary Timetable

2. We expect, as stated in paragraph 10 of LC Paper No. CB(4)1370/17-18(03), that TIA will need about two years to complete all necessary preparations for taking over the trade regulatory and licensing functions from the Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong (“TIC”) and Travel Agents Registry (“TAR”) respectively for the full implementation of the new regulatory regime. A preliminary timetable is as follows –

Preparatory Task	Preliminary Timeframe
(a) To follow up the appointment exercise of the Chairperson and ordinary members of TIA	Fourth quarter of 2018 to first quarter of 2019
(b) To formulate the governance framework and work plans for TIA, establish relevant committees, and provide secretariat support to TIA and these committees to facilitate the execution of the work plans	Fourth quarter of 2018 onwards
(c) To formulate internal administrative, personnel, accounting, financial management, stores and procurement rules and procedures for TIA	First half of 2019

Preparatory Task	Preliminary Timeframe
(d) To arrange office accommodation for TIA, with tasks including procuring stores and equipment and establishing an information technology system to support the operation of TIA	First half of 2019 onwards
(e) To formulate the strategy, timetable and procedures on the recruitment of TIA's staff, as well as the remuneration packages of the staff	First half of 2019
(f) To conduct recruitment exercises for the Executive Director and other staff of TIA, and arrange staff training (including training on law enforcement)	Second half of 2019 onwards
(g) To make transitional arrangements, in co-ordination with relevant Government departments (including TAR and the Police), TIC, Travel Industry Compensation Fund ("TICF") Management Board, etc., which include formulating subsidiary legislation, rules and procedures related to licensing and regulation (including administrative measures formulated having regard to TIC's codes, directives and guidelines, as well as disciplinary and appeal procedures) under the new regulatory regime, transferring relevant records of licensed travel agents and accredited tourist guides and tour escorts to TIA, taking up TICF, establishing a Travel Industry Development Fund, etc.	Second half of 2019 onwards
(h) To conduct trade consultation and public education	Second half of 2020 onwards

Note: The above is for reference only. The exact timeframe will depend on the actual circumstances (including the timing of the Legislative Council's passage of the Travel Industry Bill).

**Tourism Commission
Commerce and Economic Development Bureau
August 2018**