

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)424/17-18(08)

Ref : CB2/PL/SE

Panel on Security

**Background brief prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat
for the meeting on 5 December 2017**

**Proposal to turn a supernumerary post of Administrative Officer Staff
Grade C in the Narcotics Division into a permanent post**

Purpose

This paper provides background information and summarizes relevant past discussions of the Panel on Security ("the Panel") on the Administration's proposal to turn a supernumerary post of Administrative Officer Staff Grade C ("AOSGC") in the Narcotics Division ("ND") of the Security Bureau into a permanent post.

Background

2. Headed by the Commissioner for Narcotics ("C for N"), ND is tasked with coordinating anti-drug policies and measures across the public sector, non-governmental organizations ("NGOs") and the community. ND also assists in the fight against money laundering and terrorist financing.

3. C for N is ranked at the Administrative Officer Staff Grade B (D3) level and is supported by two posts of AOSGC. One of them, designated as Principal Assistant Secretary (Narcotics) 1 ("PAS(N)1"), is a post first created on a supernumerary basis in February 2009 and subsequently made permanent in February 2012. The other one, designated as Principal Assistant Secretary (Narcotics) 2 ("PAS(N)2"), is a supernumerary post created on 17 February 2010 for three years up to 16 February 2013. The Finance Committee approved on 11 January 2013 the retention of the PAS(N)2 post for two years to 16 February 2015 to provide C for N with the continuous support for the anti-drug work, particularly in respect of the treatment and rehabilitation ("T&R") services as well as drug testing policies and programme. The

Finance Committee further approved on 20 March 2015 the retention of the supernumerary PAS(N)2 post for three years up to 16 February 2018.

Members' deliberations

4. The Administration's proposal to create and subsequently extend the supernumerary post of PAS(N)2 in ND had been discussed at previous meetings of the Panel. The deliberations are summarized in the following paragraphs.

Responsibilities of ND and main duties of PAS(N)2

5. Members noted that the holder of the PAS(N)2 post was primarily responsible for the policy and programmes concerning T&R matters, including the coordination of measures concerning the enhancement to and re-engineering of T&R services having regard to the changing circumstances of the drug scene; helping drug T&R centres in Hong Kong to meet the statutory licensing requirements; and formulating policy and programmes relating to drug testing.

6. Some members considered that more resources should be allocated to frontline anti-drug work, instead of merely providing additional directorate support for ND. According to the Administration, the comprehensive anti-drug programme would include initiatives to enhance the provision of support services, and additional resources would be allocated for the purpose. The evolving drug scene continued to present new challenges to T&R services over the years. As opposed to the predominance of opiate drugs in the past, the growing prevalence of psychotropic substance in the past decade, the younger drug abusing population, as well as the much longer drug history of newly identified drug abusers together contributed to worrying signs of deterioration in the health situation of drug abusers in their young adulthood. There was a need for strengthening cross-sector collaboration in T&R services, and for better coordination among various service modes (e.g. community-based counselling services and the residential treatment services). As the central coordinator, ND had to spearhead efforts across government bureaux/departments, the public sector (e.g. the Hospital Authority) and NGOs to enhance cross-sector collaboration, promote innovative ideas in T&R programmes, and monitor and evaluate their effectiveness. In the provision of downstream support services, the majority of the manpower resources lay with different NGOs and the relevant departments. ND collaborated with the Home Affairs Department in providing resources and enabling the provision of services for the youth in need in various districts.

Whether the post of PAS(N)2 should be made permanent

7. When the Panel was consulted on the Administration's proposal to further extend the supernumerary post of PAS(N)2 for three years in November 2014, some members expressed concern as to whether the post should be made permanent given its major duties including T&R services and drug testing programmes involved on-going tasks. Some members were of the view that the Administration should not repeatedly extend the supernumerary post. Instead, it should review the organization structure of ND and separately consider the need for establishing a permanent post, if necessary.

8. The Administration advised that it constantly reviewed the workload of ND as well as the duties of the two PASs. Both PASs had tasks in hand to be discharged, with specific timelines, such as taking forward the legislative exercise for establishing a system to implement recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force, formulation of the Three Year Plan on Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Services in Hong Kong (2015-2017), preparation for a second stage public consultation exercise on RESCUE Drug Testing Scheme and overseeing an evaluation research of the Healthy School Programme scheduled for the 2015-2016 school year.

9. The Administration will consult the Panel on its proposal to turn a supernumerary post of AOSGC in ND of the Security Bureau into a permanent post at the meeting on 5 December 2017.

Relevant papers

10. A list of the relevant papers on the Legislative Council website is in the **Appendix**.

Appendix

Relevant papers on the proposal to turn a supernumerary post of Administrative Officer Staff Grade C in the Narcotics Division into a permanent post

Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
Panel on Security	2.12.2008 (Item IV)	Agenda Minutes
Establishment Subcommittee of the Finance Committee	14.1.2009 (Item No. EC(2008-09)14)	Agenda Minutes
Finance Committee	13.2.2009 (Item No. FCR(2008-09)60)	Agenda Minutes
Panel on Security	3.11.2009 (Item IV)	Agenda Minutes
Establishment Subcommittee of the Finance Committee	9.12.2009 (Item No. EC(2009-10)11)	Agenda Minutes
Finance Committee	22.1.2010 (Item No. FCR(2009-10)46)	Agenda Minutes
Panel on Security	7.11.2011 (Item VI)	Agenda Minutes
Establishment Subcommittee of the Finance Committee	7.12.2011 (Item No. EC(2011-12)11)	Agenda Minutes
Finance Committee	6.1.2012 (Item No. FCR(2011-12)62)	Agenda Minutes
Panel on Security	6.11.2012 (Item VI)	Agenda Minutes
Establishment Subcommittee of the Finance Committee	5.12.2012 (Item No. EC(2012-13)11)	Agenda Minutes

Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
Finance Committee	11.1.2013 (Item No. FCR(2012-13)63)	Agenda Minutes
Panel on Security	4.11.2014 (Item V)	Agenda Minutes
Establishment Subcommittee of the Finance Committee	23.1.2015 (Item No. EC(2014-15)14)	Agenda Minutes
Establishment Subcommittee of the Finance Committee	28.1.2015 (Item No. EC(2014-15)14)	Agenda Minutes
Finance Committee	20.3.2015 (Item No. FCR(2014-15)56)	Agenda Minutes

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
29 November 2017