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Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance Committee Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2019-20

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Session No. : 6

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB001

(Question Serial No. 3136)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Government established the Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Unit (GISOU) in May 2005 and has established the Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme ("Funding Scheme") to provide funding support to worthwhile community projects which aim at promoting equal opportunities on the ground of sexual orientation or gender identity, or seek to provide support services for the sexual minorities. In this connection, will the Bureau please advise on:

- (1) the existing establishment, staff cost and nature of work of the GISOU;
- (2) the GISOU's actual expenditure in the past year and estimated expenditure for this year;
- (3) the total amount of sponsorship granted to community organisations under the Funding Scheme in the past year, the details of the sponsored community projects, including the actual amount of sponsorship approved for each community organization;
- (4) whether it has taken note of the concern relayed by some community organisations that some organisations have been granted sponsorship under the Funding Scheme despite having made discriminatory remarks against people of different sexual orientations/gender identities in public, contravening the original intention of the Funding Scheme, and the reasons for granting sponsorship to these organisations;
- (5) the estimated total amount of sponsorship to be granted under the Funding Scheme in the coming year and whether considerations may be given to allocating resources to sponsored organisations to meet the salary expense for at least one full-time staff given that some community organisations have relayed that the amount of sponsorship is not enough to cover salary expenses for at least one full-time staff, making it difficult for them to take forward the sponsored activities;
- (6) the GISOU's expenses on posters, pamphlets, Announcements in the Public Interest (APIs) on television and radio as well as mobile publicity in relation to elimination

of discrimination against sexual minorities in the past year, including the promotion platforms (such as television, radio, light boxes at MTR stations and bus stops, newspaper advertisements, etc.), time slots (the months when the promotional messages were broadcast or published) and frequencies; and the manpower and resources involved in promotional work;

- (7) the manpower and production cost involved in the production of APIs on television in relation to elimination of discrimination against sexual minorities, whether the Government has evaluated the effectiveness of the relevant promotional items;
- (8) the estimated expenditure of the GISOU on promotional efforts in relation to elimination of discrimination against sexual minorities for the coming year;
- (9) set out in table form the number of enquiries and complaints received in the past year by the GISOU through the hotline which is set up for handling enquiries and complaints on issues relating to sexual orientation and gender identity, and advise on the number of cases being processed, followed up or have investigation completed, the number of confirmed cases of discrimination on the ground of gender identity or sexual orientation, the domains that the discrimination is said to have occurred (including workplace; education; provision of services and goods; premises; public services; religious sites; etc.) as well as the manpower and resources involved in manning of the hotline?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 14)

Reply:

On eliminating discrimination against people of different sexual orientations/gender identities, the Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Unit (GISOU) of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau carries out education and promotion programmes, and handles relevant enquiries and complaints. The establishment of the GISOU comprises 1 Executive Officer I and 1 Executive Officer II. In 2018-19, the revised estimate of expenditure of the GISOU is \$3.75 million, including \$1.22 million for staff costs and \$2.53 million for publicity and promotion expenses. In 2019-20, the estimated expenditure of the GISOU is \$3.62 million, including \$1.27 million for staff costs and \$2.35 million for publicity and promotion expenses.

2. In 2019-20, \$1.25 million is earmarked for the Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme, while the final amount of approved sponsorship will depend on the assessment result of the applications. In assessing funding applications, the Assessment Committee of the Funding Scheme adopts a set of criteria encompassing multiple factors, including the objectives, content and feasibility of the proposed activities; financial considerations; and the experience and management capability of the applicants etc. Only projects which tie in with the objective of the Funding Scheme will be considered for sponsorship. The sponsorship may be used to meet the cost of additional manpower recruited directly for the project on the condition that the sponsored amount covering the relevant staff cost shall not exceed 15% of the total budget of the project. With effect from 2018-19, successful applicants are provided with additional administrative overhead to defray indirect additional manpower cost and other administrative expenses incurred for the purpose of implementing the project.

3. In 2018-19, projects sponsored under the Funding Scheme are as follows:

Name of Applicant	Nature of Activities	Approved Sponsorship (\$)
Neighbourhood & Worker's Education Centre Limited	Workshops, outreach activities and production of short videos	27,048.00
Blessed Minority Christian Fellowship	Workshops	18,637.50
AIDS Concern	Workshops, seminars, online education, production of leaflets, publications and short videos	74,900.00
Association of World Citizens Hong Kong China	Workshops	7,539.00
Association of World Citizens Hong Kong China	Screening	13,135.50
Gay Harmony	Training for volunteers, workshops, production of leaflets, outreach activities and counselling services	60,753.00
Bravo Theatre	Drama performances	149,990.00
Down to Earth	Support group, workshops, sharing sessions and counselling services	128,177.50
Gender Empowerment	Support group and production of short videos	25,819.50
Post Gay Alliance	Support group, workshops and counselling services	75,160.00
H.K.S.K.H. Shatin Children & Youth Integrated Service Centre-Jockey Club Youth Express	Training for volunteers, workshops, production of short videos and screening	80,070.00
The Boys' & Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong Jockey Club South Kwai Chung Children and Youth Integrated Services Centre	Workshops and drama performances	123,282.50
Les Corner Empowerment Association	Production of publications	31,421.25
Project Touch, The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong	Workshops and production of short videos	54,360.00
Merit Minds Workshop	Drama performances	111,646.50
Nu Tong Xue She	Sharing sessions, seminars and production of short videos	39,375.00
GIA Theatre	Drama performances	124,630.00
Transgender Resource Center	Training for volunteers, production of publications and short videos	44,467.50
The Society for Truth and Light	Talks	17,325.00
	Total	1,207,737.75

4. During the period from April 2018 to March 2019, Announcements in the Public Interest which promote the message “Eliminate Discrimination, Embrace Inclusion - Equal opportunities for people of different sexual orientations and transgenders” were broadcast about 2 100 times on television and radio, and related promotional posters were displayed at places such as footbridges and subways, bus termini, lobbies of residential buildings, government premises and railway stations, etc. in districts. The promotional video launched in 2016 was broadcast more than 2.46 million times in the public transport network (including the display platform in railway stations, train compartments and ferries) and lift lobbies of commercial buildings, and about 2.27 million impressions were made on the Internet in addition to broadcasts in more than 200 government premises. The Code of Practice against Discrimination in Employment on the Ground of Sexual Orientation was advertised on 4 websites relevant to commerce and industry and recruitment as well as 6 publications of business chambers and federations.

5. The GISOU received a total of 23 enquiries in 2018-19, and no complaint on discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation or gender identity was received.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB002

(Question Serial No. 3137)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Government has indicated that it will continue to follow up on the recommendations put forward by the Advisory Group on Eliminating Discrimination against Sexual Minorities (the Advisory Group). In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee:

- (1) of the number of public and private sector organisations to which the Government had successfully promoted the Code of Practice against Discrimination in Employment on the Ground of Sexual Orientation (code of practice) in the past year and provide a list of organisations which have pledged to adopt the code of practice, the number of organisations which have newly adopted the code of practice; the estimated manpower and resources as well as expenditure for promoting the code of practice to public and private sector organisations in the coming year and the target number of organisations; the follow-up actions taken by the Government in case where an participating organisation is found to be in breach of the code of practice, or an employee of a participating organisation has lodged a complaint, and whether a mechanism will be put in place to punish the organisation in breach of the code of practice; and of the number of government agencies and departments which have participated and adopted the code of practice and the work to promote the code of practice among government agencies and departments;
- (2) of personnel of which specific fields were provided training and resources in the past year, and set out in table form the dates of and manpower involved in the training, the participating departments or organisations, the number of participants and the effectiveness; and in respect of providing training resources for medical and healthcare professionals to enhance their knowledge of and sensitivity towards sexual minorities as mentioned in the Policy Address, of the details of this programme and the target group of professionals for extending the training in future;
- (3) of the progress of work on implementing a charter on non-discrimination of sexual minorities in the past year, the details of the charter, including the domains (including workplace; education; provision of services and goods; premises; public

services; religions sites; etc.) which will be brought under its regulation, whether a mechanism will be put in place to punish those who contravene the charter, and if so, of the time the mechanism will be introduced; the estimated manpower and resources as well as expenditure for promoting the charter to public and private sector organisations in the coming year and the target number of organisations, and whether the organisations which have adopted the code of practice will automatically become the participating organisations of the charter;

- (4) in respect of the review and reinforcement of support services to address the specific needs of sexual minorities undertaken by the Government, of the progress of review in the past year, the service areas where support to the sexual minorities need to be reinforced (including services for victims of domestic violence, service of refuge centres, psychological support, support from front-line social worker, etc.), and which government departments (those providing support services to the sexual minorities) were communicated for enhancing and improving the quality of service;
- (5) in respect of the 24-hour hotline for supporting sexual minorities operated by the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals and subsidised by the Government launched in January last year to provide easily accessible support, counselling and referral services for sexual minorities, of the effectiveness of the hotline including the number of requests for assistance as well as the manpower and expenditures involved in providing follow-up and support services;
- (6) of the progress of work relating to the public consultation on legislating against discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity, the domains to be covered in the consultation, whether reference has been made to the legislation of different areas, the number of countries where reference has been made (in table form) and the time when the public consultation on legislating against discrimination is expected to be launched;
- (7) in respect of the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC)'s Study on Legislation against Discrimination on the Grounds of Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Intersex Status commissioned to the Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies of the Chinese University of Hong Kong and the study report released earlier, whether the Government has examined in detail the findings of the Study and maintained close communication with the EOC on the subject of prohibition of discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status; and
- (8) whether a new communication platform will be set up for community organisations to express further views on the elimination of discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity given that after the expiry of the terms of appointment of the Advisory Group, no platform has been provided for sexual minority groups to relay their views to and exchange views with the Government?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 15)

Reply:

The Government is committed to fostering the culture and values of inclusiveness, mutual respect and non-discrimination and promoting equal opportunities for people with different sexual orientations and transgenders. We have been actively taking forward the

strategies and measures recommended by the Advisory Group on Eliminating Discrimination against Sexual Minorities, which include enhancing publicity on non-discrimination of sexual minorities, reviewing support services, providing training for personnel in specific fields to raise their sensitivity towards sexual minorities, drawing up a charter on non-discrimination and conducting a further study on the experience of other jurisdictions in implementing anti-discrimination measures. The resources required for the above activities are absorbed in the recurrent expenditure of the Bureau; a separate breakdown of the expenditure is not available.

2. On the promotion of the Code of Practice against Discrimination in Employment on the Ground of Sexual Orientation (the Code), at present over 350 public and private organisations employing about 550 000 employees locally have pledged to adopt the Code. The list of organisations which agreed to be listed in the public domain has been uploaded on the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau's webpage (at http://www.cmab.gov.hk/doc/issues/Bilingual_List_of_Organisations.pdf). We will continue to encourage more public and private organisations to adopt the Code through various channels including talks, seminars, online publicity. The Code is of a voluntary nature; no information about any breach of it has been received.

3. We are drawing up a charter on non-discrimination of sexual minorities covering various domains (including provision of goods, facilities and services; disposal and management of premises; employment and education) for voluntary adoption by service providers with a view to enhancing acceptance towards sexual minorities. By pledging to adopt the charter, the organisations concerned should commit to adopting non-discrimination policies, i.e. no discrimination, harassment or vilification of employees, students, customers, buyers/tenants of premises on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity would be allowed. Upon completion of the drawing up of the charter, we will invite organisations which have adopted the Code to adopt the charter.

4. As some sexual minorities are unable to access information such as counselling and support services, a 24-hour hotline for sexual minorities, PRIDE Line, operated by the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals subsidised by the government was launched since early 2018 to provide prompt support, counselling and referral services for sexual minorities and their family members. Since its establishment early last year, the hotline has received over 2 900 calls. Support groups cum interest classes have also been regularly organised for sexual minorities, and nearly 40 sessions have been organised as at end of February 2019. For the provision of sensitivity training resources for personnel in specific fields, training resources to enhance the sensitivity of medical and healthcare personnel towards sexual minorities were introduced in December 2018. A briefing session was held in early 2019 for different medical and healthcare professional bodies (including Hospital Authority, Department of Health, boards and councils of relevant medical and healthcare professions and relevant faculties in tertiary institutions) to enhance their knowledge of and sensitivity towards sexual minorities and encourage the medical and healthcare professional bodies concerned to include the training resources as part of their regular pre-service or in-service training according to the needs of their profession. In addition to medical and healthcare personnel, training resources will also be prepared for social workers, human resources professionals and teachers.

5. We are conducting a further study on the experience of other jurisdictions in tackling discrimination through legislative and non-legislative measures. It covers jurisdictions

which have and have not adopted legislative measures and jurisdictions in different cultures including those in Asia. The study covers the following topics:

- (a) administrative measures adopted in other jurisdictions to tackle discrimination against the sexual minorities, and any empirical data on their implementation; and
- (b) legislative measures adopted in other jurisdictions to tackle discrimination against the sexual minorities, including empirical data on their implementation; definitions of “gender identity” and “sexual orientation” in the relevant legislation, and the threshold of evidence required to support claims; the evolving case law, in particular the scope and application of exemptions in anti-discrimination legislation, and the criteria adopted by courts in balancing the rights and freedoms involved; comparative analysis of the different approaches of formulating anti-discrimination laws; stakeholders’ views on the adequacy of protection and accessibility of remedies; the concerns of parties such as the legislature, enforcement authorities and stakeholder groups and the relevant discourse, etc.

We expect to complete the study in the first half of 2019. The findings will provide more information to facilitate more in-depth discussion in the community on the issue of whether legislation should be introduced to protect people of different sexual orientations and transgenders against discrimination.

6. We will continue to listen to stakeholders’ views on the relevant subjects expressed through different channels.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB003

(Question Serial No. 0327)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

It is stated in the Programme that in 2019-20, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) will set up a Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office and co-ordinate the work of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government in taking forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. In this regard, will the Government advise this Committee of the following:

- a) the staff establishment and estimated expenditure of the office;
- b) as the work on the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area is closely related to FSTB, CEDB and ITB, how will CMAB co-ordinate the efforts of relevant departments to take forward the Greater Bay Area Development?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kin-por (LegCo internal reference no.: 31)

Reply:

To take forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (the Greater Bay Area) more effectively, the Chief Executive (CE) announced in the Policy Address delivered in October 2018 that a high-level Steering Committee for the Development of the Greater Bay Area (Steering Committee) would be established, with her as the chairperson and its membership comprising all Secretaries of Department and Directors of Bureau. The Steering Committee will be responsible for the overall co-ordination of matters relating to the HKSAR's participation in the development of the Greater Bay Area. The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau will also set up a Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Office) and appoint a Commissioner for the Development of the Greater Bay Area to implement the relevant work. In 2019-20, the proposed Office will involve 19 additional posts, namely 1 officer at point six of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 officer at point two of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Administrative Officer, 1 Chief Executive Officer, 4 Executive Officers I, 1 Chief Information Officer, 1 Senior Information Officer, 1 Information Officer

and 7 supporting staff (from the Personal Secretary, Clerical Officer and Motor Driver grades). In 2019-20, the estimated expenditure of the Office is about \$38 million, of which about \$21 million is staff cost on civil service posts.

2. The Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Outline Development Plan) is a guiding framework covering a wide range of policy areas. CE's Steering Committee will thus undertake the overall co-ordination of the efforts of various policy bureaux/departments for the implementation of the Outline Development Plan. One of the duties of the proposed Office is to provide support for the Steering Committee.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB004****(Question Serial No. 2917)**

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In respect of the work on the Code on Access to Information (the Code), would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

- 1) For requests for information made under the Code and met in part by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB), please set out in table form (i) the information requested, (ii) the reasons for meeting the requests in part, and (iii) the approach adopted to handle the requests.

Year

(i) Information requested for requests met in part	(ii) Reasons for meeting the requests in part	(iii) Approach adopted to handle the requests

- 2) For requests for information made under the Code and refused by the CMAB, please set out in table form (i) the information requested, (ii) the reasons for refusing the requests, and (iii) the approach adopted to handle the requests.

Year

(i) Information requested for refused requests	(ii) Reasons for refusing the requests	(iii) Approach adopted to handle the requests

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

During the period from January to September 2018, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) only refused 1 request for information under the Code on Access to Information (the Code).

2. On the refusal case mentioned above, the CMAB refused to provide the Third Report of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region for the United Nations Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review, which is “Information which will soon be published, or the disclosure of which would be premature in relation to a planned announcement or publication”, in accordance with paragraph 2.17 of the Code.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB005

(Question Serial No. 2943)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

It is reported that Hong Kong has participated in the drafting of the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area promulgated this year. Has the Government extensively consulted the general public, organisations and relevant parties on the Greater Bay Area Development from 2017 to 2019? If yes, please set out the details in the table below.

Date	Organisations/ parties consulted	Contents of consultation/ issues discussed

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (LegCo internal reference no.: 33)

Reply:

Maintaining communication with the industries, business associations, professional bodies and relevant stakeholders to gauge their views is one of the important routines of the bureaux/departments of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government. A separate breakdown of the information requested is not available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB006****(Question Serial No. 2947)**

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

According to Programme (2): Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, the Government will “set up a Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office and co-ordinate the work of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government in taking forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area”. Please inform this Committee of the following:

- 1) Please list in the following table the future work programmes, Mainland government departments involved, timetables and estimated expenditures.

Future work programme	Mainland government department involved	Timetable	Estimated expenditure

- 2) The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development Edward Yau mentioned on 8 November 2017 that “the Office will engage academic and research institutions, etc. to conduct theme-based researches and analyses on various key co-operation areas under the Bay Area Development”. In this connection, please list in the following table the details of research studies to be undertaken or already commissioned by the Office, including their titles, institutions commissioned and estimated expenditures.

Research study	Institution commissioned	Estimated expenditure

- 3) The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development Edward Yau mentioned on 8 November 2017 that “the Office will also proactively approach trade associations, professional bodies and relevant stakeholders, publicise and promote the opportunities for Hong Kong enterprises and talents to be brought about by the development of the Bay Area and gauge their views on implementation of the

Development Plan, so that the relevant measures can better meet the needs of the industries.” In this connection, please list in the following table the stakeholders that the Office plans to approach or has already approached, including their names and the issues involved.

Stakeholder	Issue

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau will set up a Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Office) in 2019-20. The work priorities of the Office for 2019-20 include the following: to carry out promotion and publicity work and disseminate information to deepen the understanding of the public and industries on the development of the Greater Bay Area; to co-ordinate with relevant central ministries/departments, the Guangdong Provincial Government and the Macao Special Administrative Region Government as well as the relevant bureaux/departments of the HKSAR Government; to formulate annual work priorities to take forward the development of the Greater Bay Area; and to maintain close liaison with business associations, professional bodies and relevant stakeholders to gauge their views on the effective implementation of the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Outline Development Plan). In 2019-20, the estimated expenditure of the Office is about \$38 million, of which about \$21 million is staff cost on civil service posts.

2. The Office will consider conducting thematic studies on specific topics in due course having regard to the needs of taking forward the development of the Greater Bay Area.

3. The bureaux/departments of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government will, under their respective policy areas, maintain close liaison with the industries, business associations, professional bodies and relevant stakeholders to gauge their views on the effective implementation of the Outline Development Plan, in order to ensure that the relevant measures can best meet the needs of various sectors of the community. The Office will work closely with the bureaux/departments in this respect. Maintaining communication with stakeholders to gauge their views is one of the important routines of the bureaux/departments of the HKSAR Government. A separate breakdown of the information requested is not available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB007

(Question Serial No. 0524)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The provision for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office in this financial year has substantially increased by \$40.2 million (28.9%) over the revised estimate of the last financial year. What are the new work objectives of the office in this year?

What are the ranks of the 20 posts newly created in the office?

What specific measures will the office take to ensure that the governments and people of the 9 Guangdong cities will respect Hong Kong's integrity, rule of law as well as our civilized system and lifestyle?

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

To take forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (the Greater Bay Area) more effectively, the Chief Executive (CE) announced in the Policy Address delivered in October 2018 that a high-level Steering Committee for the Development of the Greater Bay Area (Steering Committee) would be established, with her as the chairperson and its membership comprising all Secretaries of Department and Directors of Bureau. The Steering Committee will be responsible for the overall co-ordination of matters relating to HKSAR's participation in the development of the Greater Bay Area. The Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Outline Development Plan) promulgated on 18 February 2019 is a guiding framework covering a wide range of policy areas. CE's Steering Committee will thus undertake the overall co-ordination of the efforts of various policy bureaux/departments for the implementation of the Outline Development Plan. One of the duties of the proposed Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Office) is to provide support for the Steering Committee.

2. 19 out of the 20 additional posts under Programme (2) are created for the Office, which include 1 officer at point six of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 officer at point two of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Administrative Officer, 1 Chief Executive Officer, 4 Executive Officers I, 1 Chief Information Officer, 1 Senior Information Officer, 1 Information Officer and 7 supporting staff (from the Personal Secretary, Clerical Officer and Motor Driver grades). In 2019-20, the estimated expenditure of the Office is about \$38 million, of which about \$21 million is staff cost on civil service posts.

3. As the preamble to the Outline Development Plan points out, the development of the Greater Bay Area is not only a new attempt to break new ground in the country's pursuit of opening up on all fronts in a new era, but also a further step in taking forward the implementation of "one country, two systems". Fully and faithfully implementing the principle of "one country, two systems" under which "the people of Hong Kong govern Hong Kong" with a high degree of autonomy, as well as acting in strict adherence to the Constitution and the Basic Law, are the guiding ideology for the development of the Greater Bay Area. To act according to the law and respect the rule of law are also the basic principles of the Outline Development Plan. In taking forward the development of the Greater Bay Area, the HKSAR Government will proactively explore new development directions, expand fresh development space and give renewed development impetus for Hong Kong through our participation in the development of the Greater Bay Area under the principle of "one country, two systems".

4. Central leaders have time and again emphasised that in the process of taking forward the development of the Greater Bay Area, the principle of "one country, two systems", "people of Hong Kong governing Hong Kong" with a high degree of autonomy will be strictly adhered to. The development of the Greater Bay Area will enrich the practice of "one country, two systems" and is conducive to maintaining the long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong and Macao. It will not blur the boundary between the "two systems", weaken Hong Kong's status as a separate customs territory or lead to the assimilation of Hong Kong into the Mainland.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB008

(Question Serial No. 0527)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In engaging the business sector in promoting the protection and respect of personal data privacy, did the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD) take the initiative to investigate and examine the trade practices of the business sector (especially large enterprises) and propose improvement measures to the sector? What specific promotion measures will be taken by the PCPD to enhance the culture of respect of personal data privacy in the sector?

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

Under section 36 of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (PDPO), the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (Privacy Commissioner) may carry out an inspection of any personal data system used by an organisation (as a data user) for the purpose of making recommendations to the relevant organisation or its industry. Inspection reports in recent years cover various industries including private tutorial services, estate agents and travel agencies. In 2019, the Privacy Commissioner is planning to conduct inspection on the personal data systems relating to employment agencies. During October to November 2018, the Privacy Commissioner conducted examinations on 26 organisations of various industries (including insurance, finance, telecommunication, public utilities and transportation) on the implementation of their privacy management programmes to assess their accountability in personal data protection and capabilities of managing privacy risks in business operation. It is planned that similar action will be taken in 2019. In addition, checks or investigations will be conducted under the PDPO if the practices of an organisation are seemingly inconsistent with the PDPO, or there are reasonable grounds to believe that the practices may be a contravention of the PDPO. The Office of Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD) will give advice and propose improvement measures for the organisations in respect of the privacy issues identified after every inspection, examination, check or investigation.

2. As for measures to enhance the culture of respect of personal data privacy in the business sector, the publicity and education programmes of the PCPD in 2019-20 will focus on raising the awareness of organisations on personal data protection. The PCPD will provide professional training courses, conduct briefings on PDPO for business associations and relevant organisations and issue sector-specific guidelines to facilitate compliance with the requirements under the PDPO. Moreover, the PCPD has enhanced the information provided on its website for small-and-medium enterprises and different industries to raise their awareness of privacy issues. The PCPD will maintain communication with stakeholders in the industries and work with the industries in promoting the adoption best practices and data ethics.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB009

(Question Serial No. 0528)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In a newspaper column article published in November 2018, the Chairperson of the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) stated that the EOC is not an fully independent organisation as both its Chairperson and Board members are appointed by the Government and the EOC does not have the authority to appoint its members. Will the Bureau consider amending the appointment system? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) is an independent statutory body established under the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (SDO) (Cap. 480). It is responsible for implementing the four anti-discrimination ordinances in Hong Kong, namely the SDO, the Disability Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 487), the Family Status Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 527) and the Race Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 602). Pursuant to the SDO, the Chairperson and members of the EOC are appointed by the Chief Executive.

2. The EOC Chairperson is appointed through an open recruitment exercise conducted in a fair and impartial manner. A human resources consultant will analyse the candidates based on a set of objective criteria and a Selection Board will conduct interviews. Having thoroughly considered the candidates' qualifications and performance in various aspects, the Selection Board will recommend the most suitable candidate to the CE for appointment.

3. On the other hand, the membership of the EOC comprises persons whose expertise and background are relevant to the EOC's mandate. As with all appointments to Government's statutory and advisory bodies, the primary aim of the Government is to select the best candidates (the merit principle) in order to meet the requirements of the advisory and statutory bodies concerned. We will consider the candidates' ability, expertise, experience, integrity and commitment to community service, while taking into account the need to maintain a balanced composition. The EOC currently comprises members

representing a balanced mix of expertise and sectors, including women, persons with disability, ethnic minorities, employment, social services, legal, accounting, academics and education, etc.

4. The Government fully respects and supports the EOC's independent operation, and does not interfere with its daily operations.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB010

(Question Serial No. 2639)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau is responsible for taking forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. In this regard, would the Government advise this Committee:

1. of the actual and estimated expenditures for the publicity and promotion programmes of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development; and of the detailed items of expenditures; and
2. whether the Government knows the awareness level of Hong Kong people, especially young people on the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)

Reply:

Since August 2018, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government has launched a series of publicity efforts to increase understanding and interest in the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area) amongst various sectors of society. Such efforts include setting up a dedicated website on the Greater Bay Area, as well as producing pamphlets, television promotional clips and radio promotional soundtracks. They also target communication channels that are widely used by young people, such as social media and online platforms. The dedicated website on the Greater Bay Area will also update the policies of the Greater Bay Area cities and the work of the HKSAR Government on a regular basis, in order to help industries and the community understand and seize the opportunities afforded by the Greater Bay Area Development. The Symposium on the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Outline Development Plan) co-organised by the HKSAR Government, the People's Government of Guangdong Province and the Macao SAR Government was held on 21 February 2019 to introduce the contents of the Outline Development Plan and explore the development opportunities of the Greater Bay

Area. Around 800 guests, representing relevant central ministries and various sectors of Hong Kong, Guangdong and Macao, attended the symposium.

2. In 2019-20, the HKSAR Government will step up the relevant publicity work, such as increasing the frequency of screening Announcements of Public Interest on television and radio, promoting the dedicated website, social media pages and WeChat official account, etc. In addition to the above publicity channels, the Office has planned to produce promotional clips, publish publicity materials and organise exhibitions on the Greater Bay Area in the coming financial year. We hope that the publicity programme can help enhance public understanding on the Greater Bay Area Development and the Outline Development Plan, and encourage the community to seize the opportunities afforded by the Greater Bay Area Development.

3. On publicity and promotion, the actual expenditure in 2018-19 was about \$10.5 million, of which about \$2.7 million was incurred by the symposium. The estimated expenditure of the promotion and publicity programmes is about \$8 million in 2019-20.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB011

(Question Serial No. 2640)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

One of the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2019-20 under the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau is to set up a Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office and co-ordinate the work of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government in taking forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. What are the financial provision and staff establishment involved in setting up the office? What are the objectives and functions of the office? In particular, does the office has any plan to promote Hong Kong's financial service industry?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau will set up a Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Office) in 2019-20. The proposed Office will involve 19 additional posts, namely 1 officer at point six of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 officer at point two of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Administrative Officer, 1 Chief Executive Officer, 4 Executive Officers I, 1 Chief Information Officer, 1 Senior Information Officer, 1 Information Officer and 7 supporting staff (from the Personal Secretary, Clerical Officer and Motor Driver grades). In 2019-20, the estimated expenditure of the Office is about \$38 million, of which about \$21 million is staff cost on civil service posts.

2. The work priorities of the Office for 2019-20 include the following: to carry out promotion and publicity work and disseminate information to deepen the understanding of the public and industries on the development of the Greater Bay Area; to co-ordinate with relevant central ministries/departments, the Guangdong Provincial Government and the Macao Special Administrative Region Government as well as and the relevant bureaux/departments of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government; to formulate annual work priorities to take forward the development of the Greater Bay Area; and to maintain close liaison with business associations, professional bodies and relevant stakeholders to gauge their views on the effective implementation of the

Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Outline Development Plan).

3. Co-operation initiatives under individual policy areas to implement the Outline Development Plan fall within the purview of the relevant policy bureaux of the HKSAR Government. On financial services, the Outline Development Plan confirms and supports Hong Kong's status as an international financial centre, a global offshore Renminbi business hub, an international asset and risk management centre, and a platform for investment and financing serving the Belt and Road Initiative. The Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (FSTB) and the relevant financial regulators will liaise with the relevant Mainland authorities to implement the policy initiatives along the broad directions as set out in the Outline Development Plan and promote financial co-operation in the Greater Bay Area, especially those facilitation measures relating to people's livelihood. On this front, initial progress has been attained: since 2018, certain Hong Kong e-wallets operators have launched cross-boundary payment services on a pilot basis such that Hong Kong residents could make mobile payments to designated merchants in the Mainland. The operators are also planning to expand the scope of merchants accepting such payments. FSTB together with the relevant financial regulators will continue to explore measures to simplify bank account opening procedures in the Mainland for Hong Kong residents and meet the need for cross-boundary wealth management.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB012

(Question Serial No. 2641)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

One of the duties of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau is to promote public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law. In this regard, would the Government advise on the following:

1. What are the expenditures incurred on the promotion of the Basic Law in the past 3 years and the estimated expenditure in 2019-20?
2. How is the effectiveness of promotional programmes evaluated? What are the evaluation results in each of the past 3 years?
3. Has the Government assessed the effectiveness of the current evaluation method? If yes, what are the results of assessment; if no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher (LegCo internal reference no.: 21)

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) has been organising various types of activities through different means to enable the public to have a more comprehensive and thorough understanding of the “one country, two systems” principle, the Constitution and the Basic Law. The CMAB incurred about \$16 million in the financial year of 2016-17 for promoting the “one country, two systems” principle, the Constitution and the Basic Law. In 2017-18 and 2018-19, the actual expenditure for each of the financial year is about \$17 million. In 2019-20, the CMAB will set aside about \$17 million for organising various promotional activities via different means to enhance the public’s understanding of the “one country, two systems” principle, the Constitution and the Basic Law. Our promotion strategies include:

- (a) using electronic media, such as Internet and smart-phone applications, to promote widely to different strata of the society;

- (b) enhancing awareness and understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law by the general public and students through promotional activities at the district level, such as organising roving exhibitions and arranging mobile resource centre to pay visits to different districts and schools; and
- (c) providing sponsorship to non-government organisations or community organisations through the “Basic Law Promotion Activity Sponsorship Scheme” and “Basic Law Promotion Research Sponsorship Scheme” for staging various promotional and research activities on the Constitution and the Basic Law, such as seminars, quizzes and debate competitions, in order to reach a wider audience.

2. Under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (BLPSC) provides views and steer on the overall strategy and key aspects for promoting the Constitution and the Basic Law, and monitors, evaluates and reviews promotional programmes undertaken by government departments and non-governmental organisations. The CMAB provides secretariat support to the BLPSC. Five working groups (namely Working Groups on Local Community; Teachers and Students; Civil Servants; Industrial, Commercial and Professional Sectors; and Community Outside Hong Kong) are set up under the BLPSC and are assisted by the Home Affairs Bureau, Education Bureau, Civil Service Bureau, Trade and Industry Department and Information Services Department respectively in planning and organising various types of activities to promote the Constitution and the Basic Law on various fronts. The BLPSC and its working groups will review the format, content and effectiveness of promotional activities in relation to the Constitution and the Basic Law from time to time through evaluating their popularity based on the number and feedbacks of participants, and will give due regard to the development and trend of promotional media and information technology with a view to optimising our promotion strategy.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB013

(Question Serial No. 0358)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Under this programme, matters requiring special attention in 2019-20 include: the Mainland and Taiwan Offices will monitor and disseminate information to Hong Kong business sector on policies and regional development in the Mainland and Taiwan that have significant bearing on the business environment and opportunities to Hong Kong enterprises, and at the same time, promote the strengths of Hong Kong in the Mainland and Taiwan, strengthen economic and trade liaison with and enhance the investment promotion function in the Mainland, and foster economic and cultural exchanges with Taiwan. Would the Government advise this Committee of the substantive results of the work done in the past financial year and the expenditure involved? What are the specific work plans and estimated expenditure for the new financial year?

Asked by: Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan (LegCo internal reference no.: 41)

Reply:

The Mainland and Taiwan Offices (namely the Beijing Office and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan, and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan) proactively serve as important bridges between Hong Kong and the Mainland/Taiwan, including enhancing liaison and communication with counterparts in the areas under their coverage; representing and promoting Hong Kong's trade and commercial interests; encouraging and attracting investments to Hong Kong; promoting Hong Kong as a desirable platform to develop markets along the Belt and Road; promoting the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area development; and gathering relevant information on new laws and regulations, policies and significant regional development, and disseminating such information to the Hong Kong business sector through various channels.

2. In 2018-19, various activities were organised by the Mainland and Taiwan Offices to promote Hong Kong's advantages in the Mainland and Taiwan. The "2018 China-Tianjin Investment and Trade Fair & PECC International Trade and Investment Fair" held by the

Tianjin Liaison Unit under the Beijing Office was attended by about 30 000 participants. The “Seminar on Services Trade in Guangdong and Hong Kong and Launching Ceremony of the ‘2018 Directory of Hong Kong Service Enterprises in Guangdong’” held by the Guangdong ETO in Guangzhou was attended by about 200 participants. The “SmartHK 2018” held by the Shanghai ETO in Hangzhou was attended by 100 participants. “The Third Silk Road Expo Shaanxi – Hong Kong and Macao Technology Industry Innovation and Development Forum” held by the Chengdu ETO in Xi’an was attended by about 120 participants. The investment promotion roundtable entitled “Belt and Road, Together We Grow” by the Wuhan ETO in Wuhan attracted the attendance of around 30 enterprises. The “2018 Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic Co-operation Forum” organised by the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan was attended by over 250 professionals.

3. In 2019-20, the Mainland and Taiwan Offices will continue to promote Hong Kong through appropriate channels, including attending meetings, calling on counterparts; organising/participating in seminars, exhibitions and workshops; organising/participating in cultural exchange events; visiting enterprises with potential and interest in investing in Hong Kong; giving public speeches, media interviews and briefings; and issuing information circulars, newsletters, press releases etc. to business associations and members of the trade.

4. The Mainland and Taiwan Offices will also continue to work closely with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (TDC), which conducts thematic studies on the investment environment in the Mainland and Taiwan. The related reports are available online at TDC’s website, which are hyperlinked to the websites of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices for easy access by the business sector and the public.

5. In promoting inward investment, the Investment Promotion Units of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices, working together with Invest Hong Kong, will continue to liaise with potential Mainland and Taiwan enterprises in the areas that they cover; provide one-stop information and consultation services; assist the enterprises in making incoming visits; and facilitate Mainland and Taiwan enterprises to set up or expand their business operations in Hong Kong.

6. As both commercial relations and investment promotion activities aim to showcase and promote Hong Kong’s strengths, they complement each other. Promotion work conducted by the Investment Promotion Units also supports the Mainland and Taiwan Offices’ work on liaison and economic and trade affairs.

7. Invest Hong Kong has earmarked around \$8 million each in its revised estimated expenditure for 2018-19 and estimated expenditure for 2019-20 to promote investment in the Mainland and Taiwan through the Investment Promotion Units. The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau has set aside provision under Programme (3) for the Mainland and Taiwan Offices to enhance overall trade opportunities and promote the strengths of Hong Kong, which include investment promotion work. The provision earmarked in the Bureau’s revised estimated expenditure for 2018-19 and estimated expenditure for 2019-20 in this respect are \$270 million and \$290 million respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB014

(Question Serial No. 1302)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Under this Programme, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau is responsible for, amongst others, encouraging and attracting investments to Hong Kong, and promoting Hong Kong's many advantages as an investment and business hub in Asia. In this regard, would the Government advise this Committee of the work carried out to promote Hong Kong's advantages in investment and business and the expenditure involved in 2018-19; as well as the effectiveness of the work done? What are the specific work plan and the expenditure involved in the coming year? In view of the on-going Sino-US trade friction, would the Government step up promotion of Hong Kong's advantages in investment and business, especially to major export areas of Hong Kong (e.g. the US) to assure them that Hong Kong's advantages remained unchanged? If yes, what are the details and expenditure involved; if not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan (LegCo internal reference no.: 44)

Reply:

The Mainland and Taiwan Offices (namely the Beijing Office and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan, and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan) together with Invest Hong Kong proactively serve as important bridges between Hong Kong and the Mainland/Taiwan, including enhancing liaison and communication with counterparts in the areas under their coverage; representing and promoting Hong Kong's trade and commercial interests; encouraging and attracting investments to Hong Kong; promoting Hong Kong as a desirable platform to develop markets along the Belt and Road; promoting the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area development; and promoting Hong Kong's many advantages as an investment and business hub in Asia. The above areas of work complement each other in showcasing the positive image and attractions of Hong Kong in the Mainland and Taiwan.

2. In 2018-19, various activities were organised by the Mainland and Taiwan Offices to promote Hong Kong's advantages in the Mainland and Taiwan. The "2018 China-Tianjin Investment and Trade Fair & PECC International Trade and Investment Fair" held by the Tianjin Liaison Unit under the Beijing Office was attended by about 30 000 participants. The "Seminar on Services Trade in Guangdong and Hong Kong and Launching Ceremony of the '2018 Directory of Hong Kong Service Enterprises in Guangdong'" held by the Guangdong ETO in Guangzhou was attended by about 200 participants. The "SmartHK 2018" held by the Shanghai ETO in Hangzhou was attended by 100 participants. "The Third Silk Road Expo Shaanxi – Hong Kong and Macao Technology Industry Innovation and Development Forum" held by the Chengdu ETO in Xi'an was attended by about 120 participants. The investment promotion roundtable entitled "Belt and Road, Together We Grow" by the Wuhan ETO in Wuhan attracted the attendance of around 30 enterprises. The "2018 Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic Co-operation Forum" organised by the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan was attended by over 250 professionals.

3. In 2019-20, the Mainland and Taiwan Offices will continue to promote Hong Kong through appropriate channels, including attending meetings and calling on counterparts; organising/participating in seminars, exhibitions and workshops; organising/participating in public relations programmes and cultural exchange events; giving public speeches, media interviews and briefings; and issuing information circulars, newsletters, press releases etc. to business associations and members of the trade.

4. In promoting inward investment, the Investment Promotion Units of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices, working together with Invest Hong Kong, will continue to liaise with potential Mainland and Taiwan enterprises in the areas that they cover; provide one-stop information and consultation services; assist the enterprises in making incoming visits; and facilitate Mainland and Taiwan enterprises to set up or expand their business operations in Hong Kong.

5. As both commercial relations and investment promotion activities aim to showcase and promote Hong Kong's strengths, they complement each other. Promotion work conducted by the Investment Promotion Units also supports the Mainland and Taiwan Offices' work on liaison and economic and trade affairs.

6. In 2018, Invest Hong Kong completed 99 investment projects from the Mainland and 16 projects from Taiwan through the Investment Promotion Units in the Mainland and Taiwan. Invest Hong Kong has earmarked around \$8 million each in 2018-19 and 2019-20 to continue to promote investment in the Mainland and Taiwan through the Investment Promotion Units. As promoting investment is an integral part of the work of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices, the manpower and expenditure involved cannot be singled out and itemised.

7. The HKSAR Government will continue to adopt a multi-pronged approach to actively forge free trade agreements and investment agreements with our trading partners; extend the overseas network of ETOs; and capitalise on the opportunities brought by the Belt and Road Initiative as well as the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area to make active efforts to attract foreign investments to Hong Kong so as to increase the diversity of our economy.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB015

(Question Serial No. 3221)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Under this Programme, one of the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2019-20 is that the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau will set up a Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office and co-ordinate the work of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government in taking forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. Would the Government advise this Committee of the details of expenditure and work programmes of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office, including staff establishment, functions, fiscal expenditures, location of office as well as the objectives and timetable of work?

Asked by: Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan (LegCo internal reference no.: 52)

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau will set up a Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Office) in 2019-20. The proposed Office will involve 19 additional posts, namely 1 officer at point six of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 officer at point two of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Administrative Officer, 1 Chief Executive Officer, 4 Executive Officers I, 1 Chief Information Officer, 1 Senior Information Officer, 1 Information Officer and 7 supporting staff (from the Personal Secretary, Clerical Officer and Motor Driver grades). In 2019-20, the estimated expenditure of the Office is about \$38 million, of which about \$21 million is staff cost on civil service posts. The Office is located at the Central Government Offices of HKSAR in Admiralty, Hong Kong.

2. The work priorities of the Office for 2019-20 include the following: to carry out promotion and publicity work and disseminate information to deepen the understanding of the public and industries on the development of the Greater Bay Area; to co-ordinate with relevant central ministries/departments, the Guangdong Provincial Government and the Macao Special Administrative Region Government as well as the relevant bureaux/departments of the HKSAR Government; to formulate annual work priorities to

take forward the development of the Greater Bay Area; and to maintain close liaison with business associations, professional bodies and relevant stakeholders to gauge their views on the effective implementation of the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB016

(Question Serial No. 0703)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Under Programme (2), the actual financial provision for 2017-18 and revised provision for 2018-19 are \$116,900,000 and \$138,900,000 respectively. The estimated provision for 2019-20 is \$179,100,000, which is \$40.2 million (28.9%) higher than the revised estimate for 2018-19. As advised under Programme (2), this is mainly due to the increased provision for taking forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and other operating expenses. In addition, there will be an increase of 20 posts in 2019-20. In this regard, please advise of the following:

- (1) Please list out the expenditures of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office from 2017-18 to 2018-19:

	2017-18	2018-19	
Staff cost			
Recreational activities for staff			
Promotion and publicity expenses			
Air-conditioning, water and electricity charges			
Miscellaneous items			

- (2) What are the reasons for the 28.9% increase in the estimated provision for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office under the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau in 2019-20 over the revised estimate for 2018-19? Please explain in detail.
- (3) Regarding the 20 new posts to be created in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office in 2019-20, please set out their rank and work nature.

- (4) How much manpower resources in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office will be devoted to the implementation of the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area?

Asked by: Hon FAN Kwok-wai, Gary (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

In 2019-20, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau will set up a Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Office). No expenditure was incurred in 2017-18 and 2018-19 as the Office has not yet been established in the above-mentioned years. Nevertheless, since August 2018, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government has launched a series of publicity programmes to raise public awareness on and interest in the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area), including a dedicated website and fact sheet on the Greater Bay Area and Announcements of Public Interest etc. They also target channels more commonly used by young people such as social media and online platforms. The dedicated website will also update the policies of the Greater Bay Area cities and the work of the HKSAR Government on a regular basis, in order to help industries and the community understand and seize the opportunities afforded by the development of the Greater Bay Area. The Symposium on the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Outline Development Plan) co-organised by the HKSAR Government, the People's Government of Guangdong Province and the Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) Government was held on 21 February 2019 to introduce the contents of the Outline Development Plan and explore the development opportunities of the Greater Bay Area. Around 800 guests, representing relevant central ministries and various sectors of Hong Kong, Guangdong and Macao, attended the symposium. On publicity and promotion, the actual expenditure in 2018-19 was about \$10.5 million, of which about \$2.7 million was incurred by the symposium.

2. To take forward the development of the Greater Bay Area more effectively, the Chief Executive (CE) announced in the Policy Address delivered in October 2018 that a high-level Steering Committee for the Development of the Greater Bay Area (Steering Committee) would be established, with her as the chairperson and its membership comprising all Secretaries of Department and Directors of Bureau. The Steering Committee will be responsible for the overall co-ordination of matters relating to HKSAR's participation in the development of the Greater Bay Area. The Outline Development Plan promulgated on 18 February 2019 is a guiding framework covering a wide range of policy areas. CE's Steering Committee will thus undertake the overall co-ordination of the efforts of various policy bureaux/departments for the implementation of the Outline Development Plan. One of the duties of the proposed Office to be set up in 2019-20 is to provide support for the Steering Committee.

3. 19 out of the 20 additional posts under Programme (2) are created for the Office, which include 1 officer at point six of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 officer at point two of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Administrative Officer, 1 Chief Executive Officer, 4 Executive Officers I, 1 Chief Information Officer, 1 Senior Information Officer, 1 Information Officer and 7 supporting staff (from the Personal Secretary, Clerical Officer and Motor Driver grades). In 2019-20, the estimated expenditure of the Office is about \$38 million, of which about \$21 million is staff cost on civil service posts.

4. The work priorities of the Office for 2019-20 include the following: to carry out promotion and publicity work and disseminate information to deepen the understanding of the public and industries on the development of the Greater Bay Area; to co-ordinate with relevant central ministries/departments, the Guangdong Provincial Government and the Macao SAR Government as well as the relevant bureaux/departments of the HKSAR Government; and to formulate annual work priorities to take forward the development of the Greater Bay Area. The Office will maintain close liaison with Members of the Legislative Council, industries, business associations, professional bodies and relevant stakeholders to gauge their views on the effective implementation of the Outline Development Plan to ensure that the relevant measures can best meet the needs of various sectors of the community.

5. The estimated provision for 2019-20 is 28.9% higher than the revised estimate for 2018-19. This is mainly due to the staff costs on the 19 additional civil service posts.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB017

(Question Serial No. 2550)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In respect of the setting up of a Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office, would the Government advise this Committee of:

- (a) the estimated expenditure of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office for the coming year;
- (b) the staff establishment of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office;
- (c) the specific objectives and area of work of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office; and
- (d) whether indicators will be set for the work of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon HO Kai-ming (LegCo internal reference no.: 61)

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau will set up a Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Office) in 2019-20. The proposed Office will involve 19 additional posts, namely 1 officer at point six of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 officer at point two of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Administrative Officer, 1 Chief Executive Officer, 4 Executive Officers I, 1 Chief Information Officer, 1 Senior Information Officer, 1 Information Officer and 7 supporting staff (from the Personal Secretary, Clerical Officer and Motor Driver grades). In 2019-20, the estimated expenditure of the Office is about \$38 million, of which about \$21 million is staff cost on civil service posts.

2. The work priorities of the Office for 2019-20 include the following: to carry out promotion and publicity work and disseminate information to deepen the understanding of the public and industries on the development of the Greater Bay Area; to co-ordinate with

relevant central ministries/departments, the Guangdong Provincial Government and the Macao Special Administrative Region Government as well as the relevant bureaux/departments of the HKSAR Government; to formulate annual work priorities to take forward the development of the Greater Bay Area; and to maintain close liaison with business associations, professional bodies and relevant stakeholders to gauge their views on the effective implementation of the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. Since the work of the Office cannot be quantified, we have not set any performance indicators in this respect.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB018

(Question Serial No. 2552)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

With the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and increasing exchanges between Hong Kong and the Mainland, many Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland request for assistance. In this regard, would the Government advise this Committee of:

- a) whether the Mainland Offices have received requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents involving in civil disputes (e.g. property transaction disputes) in the Mainland? If yes, what is the number of requests? Please provide the figures by the types of assistance requested; and
- b) the number of cases followed up on by the Mainland Offices?

Asked by: Hon HO Kai-ming (LegCo internal reference no.: 59)

Reply:

The Mainland Offices do not have the breakdown figures as requested in the question. In 2018, the Mainland Offices received a total of 218 requests for assistance (excluding general enquiries) which were not related to immigration and personal safety matters. Among them, 14 cases were originated from commercial disputes and 66 were related to property transactions in the Mainland. The Mainland Offices had followed up on and handled the above cases in the light of actual circumstances.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB019

(Question Serial No. 1085)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Financial Secretary announced in the 2019-20 Budget that a sum of \$111 million would be earmarked for the establishment of a Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office in the next 4 financial years. In this regard, would the Government advise this Committee of:

1. the timetable for the establishment of the office;
2. the details of staff establishment of the office;
3. the work priorities of the office after its establishment; and
4. given that an annual provision of nearly \$28 million is earmarked for the operation of the office, whether the Government will set targets and indicators to assess the performance of the office?

Asked by: Hon HO Kwan-yiu, Junius (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau will set up a Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Office) in 2019-20. The proposed Office will involve 19 additional posts, namely 1 officer at point six of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 officer at point two of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Administrative Officer, 1 Chief Executive Officer, 4 Executive Officers I, 1 Chief Information Officer, 1 Senior Information Officer, 1 Information Officer and 7 supporting staff (from the Personal Secretary, Clerical Officer and Motor Driver grades).

2. The work priorities of the Office for 2019-20 include the following: to carry out promotion and publicity work and disseminate information to deepen the understanding of the public and industries on the development of the Greater Bay Area; to co-ordinate with relevant central ministries/departments, the Guangdong Provincial Government and the

Macao Special Administrative Region Government as well as the relevant bureaux/departments of the HKSAR Government; to formulate annual work priorities to take forward the development of the Greater Bay Area; and to maintain close liaison with business associations, professional bodies and relevant stakeholders to gauge their views on the effective implementation of the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. Since the work of the Office cannot be quantified, we have not set any performance indicators in this respect.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB020

(Question Serial No. 1086)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

There is a need for the youth of Hong Kong to learn more about the situation of the Mainland, gain a new understanding of the relationship between “One Country” and “Two Systems” and forge a correct sense of nation and national identity. Will the Government intensify its efforts in encouraging literary and academic collaboration as well as producing and publishing related books in order to cultivate a sense of nation and national identity among the youth of Hong Kong?

Asked by: Hon HO Kwan-yiu, Junius (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

The Constitution of the People's Republic of China (the Constitution) and the Basic Law form the constitutional basis of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (the HKSAR). The HKSAR Government has the responsibility to encourage the general public to have a comprehensive understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law. We have all along placed equal emphasis on the concepts of “one country” and “two systems” and included the relationship between the Constitution and the Basic Law in our Basic Law publicity and promotional activities.

2. The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) organises various types of activities through different means to enable the public to have a more comprehensive and thorough understanding of the “one country, two systems” principle, the Constitution and the Basic Law. In 2019-20, the CMAB will set aside about \$17 million for organising various types of activities through different means to enhance the public's understanding of the “one country, two systems” principle, the Constitution and the Basic Law. Our promotion strategies include:

- (a) using electronic media, such as Internet and smart-phone applications, to promote widely to different strata of the society;

- (b) enhancing awareness and understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law by the general public and students through promotional activities at the district level, such as organising roving exhibitions and arranging mobile resource centre to pay visits to different districts and schools; and
- (c) providing sponsorship to non-government organisations or community organisations through the “Basic Law Promotion Activity Sponsorship Scheme” and “Basic Law Promotion Research Sponsorship Scheme” for staging various promotional and research activities on the Constitution and the Basic Law, such as seminars, quizzes and debate competitions, in order to reach a wider audience. Activities relating to creative writing were sponsored in the past.

3. Under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (BLPSC) provides views and steer on the overall strategy and key aspects for promoting the Constitution and the Basic Law. The CMAB provides secretariat support to the BLPSC. Five working groups (namely Working Groups on Local Community; Teachers and Students; Civil Servants; Industrial, Commercial and Professional Sectors; and Community Outside Hong Kong) are set up under the BLPSC and are assisted by the Home Affairs Bureau, Education Bureau, Civil Service Bureau, Trade and Industry Department and Information Services Department respectively in planning and organising various types of activities to promote the Constitution and the Basic Law on various fronts.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB021

(Question Serial No. 1087)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

One of the main functions of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau is to promote public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law. Promoting a correct understanding of the Basic Law among the public and the full implementation of the Basic Law by the Government could help maintain the stability of our political regime and facilitate the effective governance of the Hong Kong Government, and are therefore very crucial to sustaining the social stability and development of Hong Kong. The Basic Law, which safeguards the fundamental rights and freedoms of the public, should be understood by its legislative intent rather than simply by rote learning. However, some quarters in Hong Kong community fail to grasp the true meaning of the Basic Law. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. In the 2019-20 financial year, will there be any expenditure and estimated expenditure for promoting the Basic Law or the National Constitution at the community level? If so, what are the content of and expenditure for the promotional programmes? If not, what are the reasons?
2. Is there any plan for the Government to strengthen promotion of the Basic Law among the public, in particular young people? If so, what are the content of and expenditure for such work? If not, will the Government step up efforts on this front in the future?

Asked by: Hon HO Kwan-yiu, Junius (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

The Constitution of the People's Republic of China (the Constitution) and the Basic Law form the constitutional basis of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (the HKSAR). The HKSAR Government has the responsibility to encourage the general public to have a comprehensive understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law. We have all along placed equal emphasis on the concepts of "one country" and "two systems" and

included the relationship between the Constitution and the Basic Law in our Basic Law publicity and promotional activities.

2. In 2019-20, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) will set aside about \$17 million for enabling the public to have a more comprehensive and thorough understanding of the Constitution, the Basic Law and the “one country, two systems” principle by organising various types of activities through different means. The strategies to promote the Constitution and the Basic Law include:

- (a) using electronic media, such as Internet and smart-phone applications, to promote widely to different strata of the society;
- (b) enhancing awareness and understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law by the general public and students through promotional activities at the district level, such as organising roving exhibitions and arranging mobile resource centre to pay visits to different districts and schools; and
- (c) providing sponsorship to non-government organisations or community organisations through the “Basic Law Promotion Activity Sponsorship Scheme” and “Basic Law Promotion Research Sponsorship Scheme” for staging various promotional and research activities on the Constitution and the Basic Law, such as seminars, quizzes and debate competitions, in order to reach a wider audience.

3. Under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (BLPSC) provides views and steer on the overall strategy and key aspects for promoting the Constitution and the Basic Law. The CMAB provides secretariat support to the BLPSC. Five working groups (namely Working Groups on Local Community; Teachers and Students; Civil Servants; Industrial, Commercial and Professional Sectors; and Community Outside Hong Kong) are set up under the BLPSC and are assisted by the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB), Education Bureau, Civil Service Bureau, Trade and Industry Department and Information Services Department respectively in planning and organising various types of activities to promote the Constitution and the Basic Law on various fronts. For example, quizzes and talks were organised by the HAB in collaboration with the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education and the BLPSC’s Working Group on Local Community to promote the Constitution and the Basic Law to the general public, especially young people.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB022

(Question Serial No. 1089)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In recent years, the Mainland Offices have liaised closely with organisations of Hong Kong residents, business associations, enterprises and student groups in the Mainland from time to time to better understand the situations of Hong Kong residents working, studying and living in the Mainland. In this regard, would the Government advise this Committee as to whether:

1. additional resources will be deployed to provide assistance to Hong Kong residents living in the Mainland (including Hong Kong students in the Mainland);
2. measures will be taken or resources will be allocated to cater for the essential needs of Hong Kong residents living in the Mainland, including policy support as well as legal, medical and housing needs;
3. the specific work programmes implemented by the Mainland Offices in the past and their effectiveness; and
4. in respect of (3) above, the manpower and expenditure of the Mainland Offices involved in the past 3 years; and the work programmes and estimated expenditure for the coming year?

Asked by: Hon HO Kwan-yiu, Junius (LegCo internal reference no.: 10)

Reply:

To support Hong Kong residents in the Mainland, the Mainland Offices collect and update from time to time practical information on medical care, education and legal services etc. and disseminate such information through production of information booklets and the offices' websites to assist Hong Kong residents to adapt to living in the area. The Mainland Offices have published booklets on living in Beijing, Tianjin, Shenyang, Guangdong, Shanghai, Hangzhou, Shandong, Chengdu, Chongqing, Xi'an, Guiyang, Wuhan, Changsha and Zhengzhou. The Mainland Offices also liaise closely with organisations of Hong Kong residents, business associations, enterprises and student groups

from time to time to better understand the situations of Hong Kong residents working, studying and living in the Mainland, and to provide appropriate assistance when necessary. Examples of such assistance include organising events for Hong Kong residents there for sharing of experiences of living in the Mainland, providing information on further studies and job opportunities for Hong Kong students, and holding career talks jointly with organisations of Hong Kong residents to address the needs of Hong Kong students. In 2019-20, the Mainland Offices will continue with the above work.

2. Immigration Divisions are currently set up under the 5 Mainland Offices (namely the Beijing Office (BJO) and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan) to provide practical assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland.

3. In addition, the Mainland Offices also relay the views or requests of Hong Kong residents in the Mainland to the relevant Mainland authorities for follow-up. The Guangdong ETO has commissioned an organisation to provide free legal advisory service to Hong Kong residents in need through a telephone hotline or by arranging Mainland duty lawyers to meet the assistance seekers to provide preliminary advice on Mainland-related legal matters.

4. Since August 2017, the relevant central authorities have announced a number of policy measures to facilitate Hong Kong residents studying, working and living in the Mainland. The measures include specifying in clear terms that to protect the rights and interests of Hong Kong and Macao students, Mainland higher education institutions must accord equal treatment to Hong Kong and Macao students in admission, nurture, management and supporting services; allowing Hong Kong and Macao residents working in the Mainland to join the Housing Provident Fund; removing the requirement for Hong Kong and Macao residents working in the Mainland to apply for employment permits; and installing automatic ticket vending and issuing machines to read and verify Home Visit Re-entry Permits at train stations. The Regulations for Application of Residence Permit for Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Residents, as announced by the Central Government, have been implemented since 1 September 2018. Hong Kong residents living in the Mainland who meet the relevant criteria can apply for residence permits. A residence permit holder is entitled to enjoy, in accordance with the law, a series of rights, basic public services and facilitation measures in the place where he or she is residing, covering areas relating to daily living including employment, education, medical care, travel, financial services and so on. The measure has catered for the needs of Hong Kong residents and provided them with more opportunities to participate in the country's development.

5. In 2019-20, the Mainland Offices will continue to disseminate information in relation to the facilitation measures through various channels such as websites, WeChat public accounts, emails and gatherings of Hong Kong people. Meanwhile, the Mainland Offices have been actively reflecting the views of Hong Kong people through day-to-day liaison with the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council and the relevant Mainland authorities. The aim is to strive for the provision of more facilitation for Hong Kong people studying, working and living in the Mainland and to promote the smooth implementation of the measures at the local level, thereby enabling Hong Kong people to capitalise on the opportunities brought about by the development of the country.

6. The actual expenditures of the Mainland Offices (namely the BJO and the ETOs in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan) in 2016-17 and 2017-18, and the revised estimated expenditure for 2018-19 are set out in the table below:

Office	Actual expenditure in 2016-17 (\$ million)	Actual expenditure in 2017-18 (\$ million)	Revised estimated expenditure for 2018-19 (\$ million)
BJO	78.00	89.40	80.17
Guangdong ETO	55.65	67.19	65.18
Shanghai ETO	46.46	61.00	55.79
Chengdu ETO	39.71	51.35	43.97
Wuhan ETO	34.63	48.02	47.22

7. The staff establishment of the Mainland Offices in 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 is set out in the table below:

Office	Staff establishment in 2016-17	Staff establishment in 2017-18	Staff establishment in 2018-19
BJO	21	22	22
Guangdong ETO	16	18	18
Shanghai ETO	14	15	15
Chengdu ETO	12	13	13
Wuhan ETO	10	13	13

8. In 2019-20, the estimated expenditures of the BJO, Guangdong ETO, Shanghai ETO, Chengdu ETO and Wuhan ETO are \$85.21 million, \$67.75 million, \$66.82 million, \$46 million and \$51.34 million respectively. The Mainland Offices will continue to make use of existing resources to take forward the above work. As the work of the Mainland Offices in providing support to Hong Kong people and enterprises in the Mainland is an integral part of their roles and functions, the estimated expenditure and manpower involved cannot be singled out and itemised.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB023

(Question Serial No. 0906)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In its report submitted to the Government in 2015, the Advisory Group on Eliminating Discrimination against Sexual Minorities recommended that information should be provided for conducting a consultation on both legislative proposals and administrative measures to eliminate discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity. The Government has undertaken to follow up on the recommendations put forward by the Advisory Group. In this regard, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

- (1) In respect of the consultation exercises on the elimination of discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity since 2015, set out in table form the date, format, the participating government representatives and the participating stakeholders in terms of organisation and number; and
- (2) In reply no. CMAB002 of the Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2018-19, it is stated that the Government is conducting a further study on the experience of other jurisdictions in tackling discrimination through legislative and non-legislative measures, and will examine the findings of the study and map out a plan for the next stage of work. What is the current progress of the relevant study and work?

Asked by: Hon IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina (LegCo internal reference no.: 14)

Reply:

The Government is committed to fostering the culture and values of inclusiveness, mutual respect and non-discrimination and promoting equal opportunities for people of different sexual orientations and transgenders. We have been actively taking forward the strategies and measures recommended by the Advisory Group on Eliminating Discrimination against Sexual Minorities since it submitted a report to the Government in December 2015. During the process, we have maintained close dialogue with relevant stakeholders and organisations to listen to their views. For example, in respect of support services, the subject Principal Assistant Secretary and relevant staff of this Bureau met and exchanged views with sexual minority users of support services and organisations with

experience in delivering those services (e.g. Tung Wah Group of Hospitals (TWGHs), the Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong and AIDS Concern) in 2016 and 2017. Since early 2018, a 24-hour hotline for supporting sexual minorities operated by the TWGHs and subsidised by the Government was launched. Moreover, to provide sensitivity training resources for personnel in specific fields (including medical and healthcare professionals, social workers, human resources professionals and teachers), the subject Principal Assistant Secretary and relevant staff of this Bureau, together with a clinical psychologist of Social Welfare Department who is the drafter of training resources, have met with training providers (including professional bodies such as Hospital Authority, the Hong Kong Council of Social Service and Hong Kong Institute of Human Resource Management, as well as tertiary institutions such as Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine of the University of Hong Kong, the Education University of Hong Kong, etc.) during the drafting stage of training resources to collect their views on the content. A briefing session on the training resources to enhance sensitivity of medical and healthcare professional towards sexual minorities was held in early 2019 for different medical and healthcare professional bodies (including Hospital Authority, Department of Health, boards and councils of relevant medical and healthcare professions and relevant faculties in tertiary institutions). In September and November 2018, the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs and relevant staff had respectively met with representatives from sexual minority groups (including BigLove Alliance, Nutong Xueshe, Rainbow of Hong Kong, Women Coalition of HKSAR, Transgender Resource Center and Gender Empowerment, etc.) as well as family value and religious groups (including Hong Kong Catholic Ad Hoc Committee on Sexual Plurality Culture, the Society for Truth and Light, Post Gay Alliance, Parents for the Family Association, Family School Sexual Orientation Discrimination Ordinance Concern Group and Philosophy of Law Society) to listen to their views on elimination of discrimination against the sexual minorities and the training resources.

2. We are conducting a further study on the experience of other jurisdictions in tackling discrimination through legislative and administrative measures. The study covers the following topics:

- (a) administrative measures adopted in other jurisdictions to tackle discrimination against the sexual minorities, and any empirical data on their implementation; and
- (b) legislative measures adopted in other jurisdictions to tackle discrimination against the sexual minorities, including empirical data on their implementation; definitions of "gender identity" and "sexual orientation" in the relevant legislation, and the threshold of evidence required to support claims; the evolving case law, in particular the scope and application of exemptions in anti-discrimination legislation, and the criteria adopted by courts in balancing the rights and freedoms involved; comparative analysis of the different approaches of formulating anti-discrimination laws; stakeholders' views on the adequacy of protection and accessibility of remedies; the concerns of parties such as the legislature, enforcement authorities and stakeholder groups and the relevant discourse, etc.

We expect to complete the study in the first half of 2019. The findings will provide more information to facilitate more in-depth discussion in the community on issue of whether legislation should be introduced to protect people of different sexual orientations and transgenders against discrimination.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB024

(Question Serial No. 0907)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In respect of the complaints about discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity, please list in table form the number of cases received, handled and conciliated by and of cases where investigation was initiated by the Equal Opportunities Commission in the past 3 years.

	2016	2017	2018
Complaint investigation			
Complaints received			
Complaints handled			
Active cases at year end			
Complaints taken to court			
Self-initiated investigation			
Cases processed			
Cases resolved			
Cases taken to court			
Conciliation and settlement			
Complaints conciliated			
Complaints successfully conciliated after proceeding to conciliation stage (%)			

Asked by: Hon IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina (LegCo internal reference no.: 15)

Reply:

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) enforces the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 480), Disability Discrimination Ordinance (DDO) (Cap. 487), Family Status Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 527) and Race Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 602); and as provided under these ordinances, carries out publicity and public education programmes and enforcement work. The handling of discrimination against sexual orientation falls outside the scope of the EOC's statutory responsibilities.

2. The EOC currently handles enquiries and complaints related to discrimination on the ground of gender identity of a person under the DDO. In the past 3 years, the numbers of cases received, handled and conciliated by the EOC are set out below:

	2016	2017	2018
Complaint investigation			
Complaints received	3	2	10
Complaints handled	6	2	10
Active cases at year end	0	0	2
Complaints taken to court	0	0	0
Self-initiated investigation			
Cases received	0	0	0
Cases processed	0	0	0
Cases resolved	0	0	0
Cases taken to court	0	0	0
Conciliation and settlement			
Complaints conciliated	4	0	1
Complaints successfully conciliated after proceeding to conciliation stage (%)	3 (75%)	0	1 (100%)

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB025

(Question Serial No. 2486)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

- (a) With regard to attending the United Nations hearing on reports submitted by Hong Kong, what were the conventions involved; the number, department and rank of delegation members each time; and the expenditures involved in the past 5 years?
- (b) How many delegation members attended the review hearing conducted by the Universal Periodic Review Working Group of the United Nations in November 2018 on the third report submitted by China (covering Hong Kong)? What were the departments and ranks of the members and the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wing-hang, Dennis (LegCo internal reference no.: 47)

Reply:

The number, relevant department and position of the members of the HKSAR delegation attending the hearing on reports under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) and International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), as well as the meeting of the Working Group on Universal Periodic Review (UPR) under the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) and the UNHRC's plenary session between 2014-15 and 2018-19, and the expenditure involved are set out below:

Hearing	Number and position of delegation members	Flight ticket expenditure (\$) (A)	Hotel accommodation expenditure (\$) (B)	Total expenditure (\$) ^{note} (A)+(B)
ICESCR	7 officers			

(May 2014)	<p><u>Expenses for the following 3 officers were met by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Under Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs; - Senior Government Counsel, Department of Justice (DOJ); and - Assistant Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs <p><u>Expenses for the following 4 officers were met by the respective bureau/department</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Principal Assistant Secretary for Security; - Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare; - Assistant Commissioner for Labour; and - Principal Education Officer, Education Bureau 	146,100	10,600	156,700
CAT (November 2015)	<p>7 officers</p> <p><u>Expenses for the following 3 officers were met by CMAB</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Senior Assistant Solicitor General, DOJ; - Senior Government Counsel, DOJ; and - Principal Assistant Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs <p><u>Expenses for the following 4 officers were met by the respective bureau/department</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Permanent Secretary for 	149,850	15,691	165,541

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security; - Principal Assistant Secretary for Security; - Assistant Secretary for Security; and - Chief Superintendent, Hong Kong Police Force 			
ICERD (August 2018)	<p>7 officers</p> <p><u>Expenses for the following 4 officers were met by CMAB</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Under Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs; - Principal Assistant Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs; - Senior Government Counsel, DOJ; and - Assistant Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs <p><u>Expenses for the following 3 officers were met by the respective bureau/department</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Principal Assistant Secretary for Security; - Principal Assistant Secretary for Education; and - Assistant Commissioner for Labour 	144,600	49,803	194,403

<p>UPR under the UNHRC (November 2018)</p>	<p>9 officers</p> <p><u>Expenses for the following 4 officers were met by CMAB</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Under Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs; - Principal Assistant Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs; - Senior Assistant Solicitor General, DOJ; and - Assistant Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs <p><u>Expenses for the following 5 officers were met by the respective bureau/department</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chief Secretary for Administration (CS) - Assistant Commissioner for Labour; - 2 Principal Assistant Secretaries for Security; and - Administrative Assistant to CS 	<p>135,000</p>	<p>46,199</p>	<p>181,199</p>
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UNHRC's plenary session (March 2019)	4 officers <u>Expenses for the following 2 officers were met by CMAB</u> - Under Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs; and - Assistant Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs <u>Expenses for the following 2 officers were met by the respective bureau/department</u> - CS; and - Administrative Assistant to CS	93,000 (estimate)	4,716 (estimate)	97,716 (estimate)
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- Note: (1) The above expenditure excludes overseas subsistence allowance provided to members, communication expenses, etc.
- (2) The arrangement of air passages and hotel accommodation were provided to officers concerned in accordance with the relevant Civil Service Regulations and guidelines.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB026

(Question Serial No. 2487)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In November 2017, the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) hired a Chief Project Manager for six months to conduct a review of the EOC's complaint handling and legal assistance services. After 16 months, the Chief Project Manager will leave the EOC in mid-March 2019, but the review is still ongoing and the Chief Project Manager's report has not yet been made available to the public. In this connection, please provide the following information:

- (a) What was the original completion date for the review?
- (b) What is the progress with the review and the total expenditure for hiring the Chief Project Manager as well as other expenses?
- (c) What are the reasons for the delay in completing the review and to hire the Chief Project Manager continuously for over 16 months, particularly when the EOC has also enlisted the help of a law professor to review its complaint handling and legal assistance services on an unpaid basis?
- (d) When would the Chief Project Manager's report be made publicly available?
- (e) What would be the projected cost for conducting a public consultation exercise on the review and when would this consultation be held?
- (f) What is the new completion date for the review, and what is the projected cost in publicising the new complaint handling and legal assistance services to the public?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wing-hang, Dennis (LegCo internal reference no.: 48)

Reply:

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) regularly reviews its performance, including its operational procedures, with a view to maintaining and enhancing the quality

of its services. In light of the views from members of the Legislative Council, non-governmental organisations and members of the public, the EOC has embarked on a comprehensive review of its complaint-handling functions. The review aims to examine the entire process of complaint-handling and provision of legal assistance, i.e. from the initial handling of the complaint to bringing the case to Court. The purposes are to assess whether the current process is the most efficient and effective in fulfilling the EOC's statutory role and functions, while ensuring fairness and consistency in the performance of its duties, and to identify possible enhancement measures.

2. The review is being undertaken by a Chief Project Manager and overseen by the EOC Board. The EOC has also invited a former High Court Judge to provide advice to the review board on an independent and pro-bono basis. The EOC will carefully study the findings and recommendations of the review, as well as the financial and staffing implications involved. The recommendations will then be submitted to the EOC Board for endorsement.

3. As far as we understand, the above work is still underway. If the EOC requests for support upon completion of the relevant work, the Government will give careful consideration to it.

4. According to the information provided by the EOC, the major expenditure involved in the review of complaint-handling process is the emolument of the Chief Project Manager. The staff costs of the post in 2017-18 and 2018-19 were \$780,000 and \$2.01 million respectively, making up a total of \$2.79 million. Other related expenses of this review (including administrative support and publicity costs etc.) were absorbed in the recurrent operating expenditures of the EOC.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB027****(Question Serial No. 2488)**

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please set out the number of complaints received in the past 5 years, and the outcome of complaints in each of the 5 years by the following categories:

1. no investigation conducted;
2. investigation discontinued;
3. successfully conciliated before investigation;
4. successfully conciliated after investigation;
5. not successfully conciliated after investigation; and
6. withdrawal by complainants.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wing-hang, Dennis (LegCo internal reference no.: 49)

Reply:

According to the information provided by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), the numbers of complaints lodged under the 4 anti-discrimination ordinances and received by the EOC in the past 5 years (2014 to 2018) are set out below:

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Complaints received	528	460	573	501	971

2. The numbers of complaint cases concluded by the EOC in the past 5 years (2014 to 2018) are set out below:

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Complaints where no investigation is conducted	216	188	91	108	483
Complaints where investigation discontinued	129	94	277	112	151
Complaints successfully conciliated before investigation	129	88	124	128	120
Complaints successfully conciliated after investigation	23	24	24	31	12
Complaints not successfully conciliated	57	56	61	74	68
Total:	554	450	577	453	834

3. Among the cases where investigation was discontinued, the number of complaints withdrawn by complainants is set out below:

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Complaints withdrawn by complainants	52	73	41	38	128

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB028

(Question Serial No. 2511)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In respect of PRIDE Line, please set out in table form the following figures since the introduction of service:

1. the monthly call number ;
2. the aim of calls (included but not limited to request for assistance, expression of feelings and enquires etc.);
3. the number of referrals to social welfare organisations;
4. the number of referrals to social workers;
5. the number of referrals to the Police;
6. the number of referrals to the hospitals; and
7. the classification of sexual orientations of callers (gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex).

On the operation of PRIDE Line, please advise the term of year and total sum of contract granted.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wing-hang, Dennis (LegCo internal reference no.: 93)

Reply:

The Government started to subsidise PRIDE Line, a 24-hour hotline for supporting sexual minorities operated by the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals, in early 2018. The hotline is manned by registered social workers with relevant experience and provides prompt support, counselling and referral services for sexual minorities and their family members with a view to relieving the difficulties and stress they face in everyday life.

2. The statistics of PRIDE Line are compiled on a quarterly basis. As at the last full quarter (the fourth quarter of 2018), PRIDE Line has received a total of 2 420 calls, the details of which are set out below:

Quarter	Number of calls
First quarter of 2018 (January to March)	453
Second quarter of 2018 (April to June)	688
Third quarter of 2018 (July to September)	483
Fourth quarter of 2018 (October to December)	796

3. The aims of the 2 420 calls are classified as follows:

Aim of calls*	Number of calls
Enquiry on sexual orientation of callers and related issues	1 429
Enquiry on gender identity of callers and related issues	929
Enquiry on sexual orientation or gender identity of relatives and friends	61
Enquiry on social services available	62
Others	35

* Remark: a caller may enquire more than 1 issue

4. Most of the callers of PRIDE Line are sexual minorities. Among the total number of calls, 912 and 7 callers claimed to be transgenders and intersex respectively. The sexual orientations of callers of PRIDE Line are as follows:

Sexual orientation	Number of calls
Homosexual	1 476
Bisexual	123
Heterosexual	278
Others (including unclassified and unwilling to disclose etc.)	543

5. As at the end of the last full quarter (the fourth quarter of 2018), PRIDE Line has referred 15 cases to other social welfare organisations. No referral to the Police or hospitals has been made so far.

6. The Funding and Service Agreement of PRIDE Line has a term of 3 years. About \$1.8 million is earmarked for the service every year.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB029

(Question Serial No. 2512)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
Programme: Not Specified
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

There is a strong emphasis on “advocating education and employment opportunities and access to services for Ethnic Minorities” in the financial budget.

The best defense against social exclusion is having a job, and the best approach to get employed is to have education, with the right training and knowledge. But there are young people who are not involved in any education, training or employment. While most young people enjoy a smooth transition from school to work, often passing through HKDSEs/IB and University, a large minority lack support or guidance, and clear pathways to take them along the way to jobs and career advancement opportunities.

In what direction and manner will the advocacy be executed in? And how much budget will be allocated to this particular matter?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wing-hang, Dennis (LegCo internal reference no.: 76)

Reply:

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) implements the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 480), Disability Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 487), Family Status Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 527) and Race Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 602) (RDO); and carries out respective publicity and education programmes and enforcement work under these Ordinances. According to the information provided by the EOC, its expenditure on publicity and public education (including staff costs) for 2019-20 is estimated to be \$27.45 million, about 25% of the aforementioned expenditure is used for publicity and education efforts on the elimination of race discrimination. One-off funding of \$3 million was provided to the EOC in 2017-18 for enhancing the promotion of equal opportunities of ethnic minorities (EM).

2. The EOC is highly concerned with the systemic barriers faced by EMs in pursuing education and employment. Based on the information provided by the EOC, the EOC advocates the rights of EMs to education and employment through the following efforts:

- (a) on education, the EOC initiated a Study on Education and Career Pathways of Ethnic Minority Youth in Hong Kong in 2018 with a view to putting forward recommendations to the Government and producing practical guides for EM youth. A Working Group on Education for EMs was also set up in 2018 to conduct a systemic study on the current position of Chinese language learning by EM students, and to collate the opinions of major stakeholders with a view to submitting comprehensive recommendations to the Government. To promote fair admission policies in schools, especially in the stage of pre-school education, the EOC has published simple guides and organised training programmes for teaching staff, parents and students in schools; and

- (b) on employment, the EOC has published the Racial Diversity and Inclusion Charter for Employers in order to, in particular, encourage and assist employers to provide internship programmes for EM youth in an effort to widen their career prospects. Sharing sessions with business executives have also been held to promote employment opportunities for EMs, especially targeting EM human resources born and bred and/or educated in Hong Kong.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB030

(Question Serial No. 2513)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
Programme: Not specified
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

There is a 40.3% increase in the financial provision toward the rights of individuals.

How much budget is allocated towards the promotion of equal opportunities on the grounds of gender, family status, race and sexual orientation respectively?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wing-hang, Dennis (LegCo internal reference no.: 79)

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau increases the community's awareness of, respect for and protection of the rights of the individual through public education and public engagement, and promotes elimination of discrimination and equal opportunities under Programme (4): Rights of the Individual and Programme (5): Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data respectively.

2. Under Programme (4), this Bureau has set aside an estimated expenditure of \$34.80 million. Relevant initiatives include improving the Administrative Guidelines on Promotion of Racial Equality for application to all government bureaux and departments as well as related organisations, and continuing to promote equal opportunities for people with different sexual orientations and transgender persons by sponsoring worthwhile community projects through the Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme and organising various publicity and promotion programmes etc. As taking forward the policies and activities is an integral part of our daily work, this Bureau is unable to provide detail breakdown of expenditure for the work involved.

3. Under Programme (5), this Bureau has set aside provision for the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) to implement within its statutory framework the Sex Discrimination Ordinance, Disability Discrimination Ordinance, Family Status Discrimination Ordinance and Race Discrimination Ordinance, and to carry out promotion and education programmes. The estimate in this respect in 2019-20 is \$114.5 million.

On EOC's promotion and public education work, the estimated expenditure in 2019-20 is \$27.45 million, of which the portion allocated for promotion and education work for the elimination of discrimination on the grounds of sex, family status and race takes up about 25% each.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB031

(Question Serial No. 2514)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
Programme: Not specified
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Alongside with promoting the rights of children, will there be budget allocation towards developing the capacities of children and youth, especially those residing in poverty-ridden communities? Please list out:

- 1) The overall budget allocation
- 2) The measures to be taken
- 3) Key performance indicators

Will the Commission on Children be involved in continuing to promote the rights of children? If yes, how much budget is allocated to the Commission on Children alone to carry out these works? If yes, please list out the overall budget allocation for the Commission on Children.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wing-hang, Dennis (LegCo internal reference no.: 81)

Reply:

The Government is committed to promoting public awareness of and respect for the rights of children as enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (the Convention), which includes continuing to promote children's rights through the Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme (the Funding Scheme). The objective of the Funding Scheme is to encourage and enable community organisations to take up educational projects for raising public awareness and understanding of children's rights enshrined in the Convention. To evaluate the performance of the sponsored organisations, they are requested to fill in a questionnaire to assess whether the participants have a greater awareness of or respect for the rights of children after taking part in the relevant projects.

2. The Children's Rights Forum is also held on a regular basis to provide a platform for exchanging views on matters concerning children's rights among NGOs, children's representatives and the Government. In the coming financial year, the Government will

continue to promote children's rights through implementing the Funding Scheme and organising the Children's Rights Forum. The estimated expenditure for these efforts is about \$1.1 million (excluding staff costs).

3. Besides, as advised by the Labour and Welfare Bureau, the Commission on Children (the Commission) established in June 2018 focuses on addressing children's issues as they grow. The terms of reference of the Commission include promoting and promulgating children's rights as articulated in the Convention. Starting from 2019-20, a recurrent funding of \$30 million will be provided to the Commission each year under Head 141 for implementing concrete measures to safeguard children's rights and well-being.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB032

(Question Serial No. 2515)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

There is currently only limited information available on the earnings and employment prospects of disabled people (I'd like to call it "differently able" instead of "disabled") compared with those of non-disabled people in Hong Kong. There is also little analysis of the reasons why disabled people have much higher rates of unemployment compared with other groups.

- 1) How much budget will be allocated to advocacy regarding advocating education and employment opportunities and access to services for people with disabilities?
- 2) Is there a budget allocation on advertising the inclusion and embracing of people with disability? A way to embrace our differences and celebrate diversity.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wing-hang, Dennis (LegCo internal reference no.: 83)

Reply:

Promoting the rights of, and advocating equal opportunities in education and employment and equal access to public services for, persons with disabilities is one of the priority areas of work of the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC). Based on the information provided by the EOC, its expenditure on publicity and public education (including staff costs) for 2019-20 is estimated to be \$27.45 million, about 25% of which is used for publicity and education efforts on the elimination of discrimination against disability.

2. In 2019-20, the EOC will continue to organise a series of activities to promote equal opportunities in education and employment and equal access to public services for persons with disabilities. In particular, the EOC launched a one-year radio publicity campaign entitled "Embracing Social Inclusion Project" in collaboration with Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK)'s Radio 1 in December 2018, to promote equal opportunities for persons with disabilities and promote awareness and understanding of the general public in relation

to the Disability Discrimination Ordinance (Cap.487). Promotional programmes in the form of radio dramas, quizzes, in-depth interviews, radio publicity segments and public events etc. will be produced and broadcast in 3 different RTHK's Radio 1 programmes, namely "Care for Disabled", "Yes We Can" and "Happy Daily" to promote the message of integration of persons with disabilities in the community. A total of 20 rehabilitation agencies have agreed to serve as supporting organisations of the campaign to assist with the publicity efforts. Their representatives will also share their views on equal opportunities in education and employment and equal access to public services for persons with disabilities as well as issues relating to rehabilitation in the above radio programmes. The EOC has also planned to co-organise a large-scale outdoor event with RTHK Radio 1 in November 2019 to promote the message of integration of persons with disabilities as well as pluralistic inclusion values in the community.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB033

(Question Serial No. 0006)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

According to the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2019-20, the Bureau will set up a Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office and co-ordinate the work of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government in taking forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. In this regard, will the Government advise of the following:

1. Will an office be set up and staff be recruited in Hong Kong? What are the estimated expenditure involved?
2. Will offices be set up and staff be recruited in Mainland cities? What are the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 35)

Reply:

To take forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (the Greater Bay Area) more effectively, the Chief Executive announced in the Policy Address delivered in October 2018 that a high-level Steering Committee for the Development of the Greater Bay Area would be established, with her as the chairperson and its membership comprising all Secretaries of Department and Directors of Bureau. The Steering Committee will be responsible for the overall co-ordination of matters relating to the HKSAR's participation in the development of the Greater Bay Area. The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau will also set up a Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Office) and appoint a Commissioner for the Development of the Greater Bay Area to implement the relevant work. In 2019-20, the proposed Office will involve 19 additional posts, namely 1 officer at point six of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 officer at point two of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Administrative Officer, 1 Chief Executive Officer, 4 Executive Officers I, 1 Chief Information Officer, 1 Senior Information Officer, 1 Information Officer and 7 supporting staff (from the Personal Secretary, Clerical Officer and Motor Driver grades). In

2019-20, the estimated expenditure of the Office is about \$38 million, of which about \$21 million is staff cost on civil service posts.

2. This Bureau will also take forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area with the assistance of Mainland Offices of the HKSAR Government. As the work in this respect is an integral part of the duties and functions of the officers concerned at the Mainland Offices, the manpower and provision required cannot be separately singled out and itemised.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB034

(Question Serial No. 1414)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau is responsible for, amongst others, promoting public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law, and ensuring the development of the electoral systems in accordance with relevant provisions of the Basic Law. In 2019-20, what plan does the Bureau have to promote the Basic Law? Will additional resources be set aside for enhancing public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law?

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

In 2019-20, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) will set aside about \$17 million for enabling the public to have a more comprehensive and thorough understanding of the Constitution, the Basic Law and the “one country, two systems” principle by organising various types of activities through different means. The strategies to promote the Constitution and the Basic Law include:

- (a) using electronic media, such as Internet and smart-phone applications, to promote widely to different strata of the society;
- (b) enhancing awareness and understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law by the general public and students through promotional activities at the district level, such as organising roving exhibitions and arranging mobile resource centre to pay visits to different districts and schools; and
- (c) providing sponsorship to non-government organisations or community organisations through the “Basic Law Promotion Activity Sponsorship Scheme” and “Basic Law Promotion Research Sponsorship Scheme” for staging various promotional and research activities on the Constitution and the Basic Law, such as seminars, quizzes and debate competitions, in order to reach a wider audience.

2. Under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (BLPSC) provides views and steer on the overall strategy and key aspects for promoting the Constitution and the Basic Law. The CMAB provides secretariat support to the BLPSC. Five working groups (namely Working Groups on Local Community; Teachers and Students; Civil Servants; Industrial, Commercial and Professional Sectors; and Community Outside Hong Kong) are set up under the BLPSC and are assisted by the Home Affairs Bureau, Education Bureau, Civil Service Bureau, Trade and Industry Department and Information Services Department respectively in planning and organising various types of activities to promote the Constitution and the Basic Law on various fronts.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB035

(Question Serial No. 0765)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In respect of the public consultation and publicity of the National Anthem Bill, please advise this Committee of:

- (1) the number and nature of enquiries on the national anthem received in the past 3 years;
- (2) the expenditure involved in issuing Announcements in the Public Interests (APIs) to promote the background of the national anthem and the etiquette to be observed during the performance and singing of the national anthem; and
- (3) the additional staff, work nature and expenditure required after the Bill is passed?

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

(1) Between 1 January 2016 and 28 February 2019, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) received a total of 31 enquiries about the national anthem, mainly on the progress of the local legislation of the National Anthem Law of the People's Republic of China or giving views on the contents of the local legislation.

(2) & (3) CMAB will conduct promotion work in respect of the National Anthem Bill in due course, e.g. Announcements in the Public Interests (APIs) and promotional leaflets will be issued to promote the background of the national anthem as well as the etiquette to be observed when the national anthem is performed or played. The production of APIs is underway and the publicity cost will be absorbed within CMAB's existing resources.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB036

(Question Serial No. 3294)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area identifies Hong Kong, Macau, Guangzhou and Shenzhen as the 4 core cities as well as core engines for driving regional development. It is also pointed out in the Budget that the Government will seize the opportunity and make dedicated efforts to promote development in the Greater Bay Area to enhance its global competitiveness. In this regard, would the Government advise this Committee of:

1. the amount of resources and manpower to be allocated for participating into and taking forward the Greater Bay Area Development; and
2. whether a dedicated office will be set up to co-ordinate the development efforts?

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 51)

Reply:

To take forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area) more effectively, the Chief Executive (CE) announced in the Policy Address delivered in October 2018 that a high-level Steering Committee for the Development of the Greater Bay Area (Steering Committee) would be established, with her as the chairperson and its membership comprising all Secretaries of Department and Directors of Bureau. The Steering Committee will be responsible for the overall co-ordination of matters relating to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region's participation in the development of the Greater Bay Area. The Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Outline Development Plan) is a guiding framework covering a wide range of policy areas. CE's Steering Committee will thus undertake the overall co-ordination of the efforts of various policy bureaux/departments for the implementation of the Outline Development Plan. One of the duties of the Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Office) to be set up under the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau in 2019-20 is to provide support for the Steering Committee. The proposed Office will involve 19 additional posts, namely 1 officer at point six of the

Directorate Pay Scale, 1 officer at point two of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Administrative Officer, 1 Chief Executive Officer, 4 Executive Officers I, 1 Chief Information Officer, 1 Senior Information Officer, 1 Information Officer and 7 supporting staff (from the Personal Secretary, Clerical Officer and Motor Driver grades). In 2019-20, the estimated expenditure of the Office is about \$38 million, of which about \$21 million is staff cost on civil service posts.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB037

(Question Serial No. 0183)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The number of complaints in 2019 is estimated at 1 050 cases, which is higher than the actual number in 2018. In the regard, will the Government increase resource and manpower to cope with the additional workload? If yes, what are the details; if not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEE Kok-long, Joseph (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)

Reply:

According to the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), in order to cope with the increase in complaints, an additional staff member has been employed in the third quarter of 2018 to handle investigation of complaint cases. The EOC will closely monitor the increase in workload and, where resources permit, deploy or increase manpower to handle investigation work in the light of actual need, and will continue to study how to shorten the time required for investigation.

2. Each year, the Government provides a subvention in the form of a lump sum allocation to the EOC. The EOC draws up its estimates of operating expenditures under the principles of prudent fiscal management and efficient and economical use of resources. The subvention covers expenditures on manpower and salaries, office accommodation expenses, and expenditures for implementing the anti-discrimination ordinances, etc. We will continue to work with the EOC to ensure that it has adequate resources to discharge its functions and duties.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB038

(Question Serial No. 1310)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The HKSAR Government has made active efforts to seek to have national treatment accorded in various aspects to Hong Kong people working and living in the Mainland so as to attract more Hong Kong people to participate in the development of the country. For better planning and formulation of appropriate policy for this purpose, the HKSAR Government must obtain accurate statistics on the relevant areas. In this regards, would the Government advise this Committee of:

- (1) the number of Hong Kong residents who work, get married or have settled in the Mainland in the past 5 years, and a breakdown of each category of residents by age, sex and the Mainland province and county they live;
- (2) the number of Hong Kong residents who travel to the Mainland for work every day and a breakdown by their age, sex and the Mainland province and county they work; and
- (3) the number of Hong Kong residents who have settled in the Mainland and travel to Hong Kong for work every day, and a breakdown by their age, sex and the Mainland province and county they live?

If the above statistics are not available, would the Bureau consider conducting researches to collect the information? If yes, what are the details; if no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 51)

Reply:

Currently, the Government does not have comprehensive statistical information on Hong Kong people residing or working in the Mainland. Nevertheless, the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) has been making use of the movement records of Hong Kong permanent residents to compile and release the estimation of "Hong Kong residents usually staying in the Guangdong Province" since 2016. These residents refer to Hong Kong

permanent residents who have stayed in the Guangdong Province for 6 months and above cumulatively during the 6 months before and after the reference time-point. Since C&SD assumes that Hong Kong permanent residents departing from Hong Kong via land control points and the China Ferry Terminal are travelling to the Guangdong Province, the estimation concerned cannot differentiate those who then travel to other areas in the Mainland or outside the Mainland. Besides, their purposes of stay (e.g. for work, marriage or settlement) in the Guangdong Province could not be ascertained in the estimation. The relevant statistics for 2014 to 2017 by sex and age group are set out in the Annex. The corresponding figures for 2018 are not yet available.

2. As for the figures on Hong Kong residents getting married in the Mainland, the C&SD has provided the following information. Hong Kong residents may apply for a Certificate of Absence of Marriage Record (CAMR) for the purpose of getting married in the Mainland. Although applicants issued with CAMR may not eventually get married, or settle in the Mainland after marriage, the figures can serve as a rough indicator of cross-boundary marriage statistics. The figures for 2014 to 2017 are set out in the table below. The corresponding figure for 2018 is not yet available.

Year	Number of applicants issued with CAMR (claimed to be used for the purpose of getting married in the Mainland)
2014	5 632
2015	5 337
2016	5 559
2017	5 267

3. Separately, the Regulations for Application of Residence Permit for Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Residents (the Regulations), as announced by the Central Government, have been implemented since 1 September 2018. Hong Kong residents living in the Mainland who meet the relevant criteria can apply for residence permits. According to the Regulations, Hong Kong and Macao residents who have lived in the Mainland for more than 6 months and are able to show proof of either a legitimate and stable job, a legitimate and stable residence, or ongoing school attendance can apply for residence permits voluntarily. Although the application is made on a voluntary basis, the number of applicants can serve as a rough indicator of the number of Hong Kong residents living in the Mainland. According to the information provided by the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council, more than 120 000 Hong Kong residents applied for residence permits as at early March 2019.

4. The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region will consider collecting other relevant figures on specific topics in due course having regard to its operational needs.

Statistics on Hong Kong residents usually staying in the Guangdong Province by sex and age group, 2014 to 2017

Reference time-point	Sex	Age group					Total
		0-14	15-24	24-44	45-64	65+	
End-2014	Male	117 300	12 200	45 200	99 100	45 900	319 700
	Female	95 600	9 500	24 100	35 500	26 500	191 300
	Both sexes	212 900	21 700	69 400	134 600	72 400	511 000
End-2015	Male	119 000	12 500	43 300	96 300	47 500	318 600
	Female	96 900	10 000	25 000	37 100	27 200	196 200
	Both sexes	215 900	22 500	68 300	133 400	74 700	514 800
End-2016	Male	119 800	13 200	42 500	94 700	48 700	318 800
	Female	97 800	10 700	27 100	39 800	28 000	203 400
	Both sexes	217 500	23 900	69 600	134 500	76 600	522 100
End-2017	Male	117 500	13 800	42 600	93 100	50 200	317 200
	Female	96 200	11 500	28 800	42 900	28 900	208 300
	Both sexes	213 700	25 400	71 400	136 000	79 100	525 500

Notes: For a specific reference time-point, the figures above refer to the number of Hong Kong permanent residents who have stayed in the Guangdong Province for 6 months and above during the one-year period from 6 months before the reference time-point to 6 months after the reference time-point.

Figures may not add up to total due to rounding.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB039

(Question Serial No. 1311)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Standing Committee of the National People's Congress adopted the decision to add the National Anthem Law to Annex III of the Basic Law of Hong Kong and Macao in November 2017, and the Legislative Council is scrutinising the National Anthem Bill. In this regard, would the Government advise this Committee of (1) the plan to promote among the public how to respect the national anthem and the expenditure involved; (2) the plan to promote the National Anthem Law among primary and secondary school students and the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 52)

Reply:

To complement the local legislation of the National Anthem Law, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau will issue Announcements in the Public Interests (APIs) and promotional leaflets in due course to promote the background of the national anthem as well as the etiquette to be observed when the national anthem is performed or played in due course using existing resources.

2. With respect to primary and secondary education, it is an inherent responsibility of school education to enable students to learn and respect the national anthem as well as to cultivate in them a sense of national identity. The learning contents of the national anthem have already been incorporated into subject curricula (such as General Studies at the primary level and Music at primary and secondary levels) and in Moral, Civic and National Education. The Education Bureau (EDB) has all along been providing support measures (e.g. arranging learning activities for students, providing professional development programmes for school heads and teachers and developing learning and teaching resources etc.) to meet the needs of curriculum development of different subjects/themes. The relevant expenditure is absorbed by the recurrent expenditure of the EDB. Subsequent to the passage of the National Anthem Bill, the Secretary for Education will provide directions to primary and secondary schools accordingly. To support the implementation of the National Anthem Bill, the EDB will supplement and update the learning and teaching

resources in a timely manner to assist the learning and teaching of the National Anthem in primary and secondary schools. As curriculum development is an integral part of day-to-day work of the EDB, the reservation of additional expenditure is not required.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB040

(Question Serial No. 1314)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. In respect of providing practical assistance and support to Hong Kong residents in the Mainland, what is the specific work involved? Please provide information on the activities or projects undertaken by the Mainland Offices and the number of people served etc. in the past 3 years.
2. What are the number and nature of requests for assistance by Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland handled by the Mainland Offices?
3. The Guangdong Economic and Trade Office has commissioned an organisation to provide free legal advisory service to Hong Kong residents in need. How many requests for free legal advisory service were received in the past 3 years?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

To support Hong Kong residents in the Mainland, the Mainland Offices collect and update from time to time practical information on medical care, education and legal services etc. and disseminate such information through production of information booklets and the offices' websites to assist Hong Kong residents to adapt to living in the area. The Mainland Offices have published booklets on living in Beijing, Tianjin, Shenyang, Guangdong, Shanghai, Hangzhou, Shandong, Chengdu, Chongqing, Xi'an, Guiyang, Wuhan, Changsha and Zhengzhou. The Mainland Offices also liaise closely with organisations of Hong Kong residents, business associations, enterprises and student groups from time to time to better understand the situations of Hong Kong residents working, studying and living in the Mainland, and to provide appropriate assistance when necessary. Examples of such assistance include organising events for Hong Kong residents there for sharing of experiences of living in the Mainland, providing information on further studies and job opportunities for Hong Kong students, and holding career talks jointly with organisations of Hong Kong residents to address the needs of Hong Kong students. The Mainland Offices also relay the views or requests of Hong Kong residents in the Mainland

to the relevant Mainland authorities for follow-up. In 2019-20, the Mainland Offices will continue with the above work.

2. Immigration Divisions are currently set up under 5 Mainland Offices of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (namely the Beijing Office and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan) to provide practical assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. In 2016, 2017 and 2018, a total of 319, 415 and 375 requests for assistance were received respectively from Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. The requests were related to loss of travel documents or money; or persons involved in accidents, injuries or other incidents. The Immigration Divisions had rendered practical assistance in the light of actual circumstances.

3. The Guangdong ETO has commissioned an organisation to provide free legal advisory service to Hong Kong residents in need through a telephone hotline or by arranging Mainland duty lawyers to meet the assistance seekers to provide preliminary advice on Mainland-related legal matters. In 2016, 2017 and 2018, 1 993, 2 389 and 2 203 requests for free legal advisory service were received respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB041

(Question Serial No. 1321)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The HKSAR Government has made active efforts to seek to have national treatment accorded to Hong Kong people in various aspects. To facilitate the implementation of national treatment to Hong Kong people in the Mainland, it is necessary for the HKSAR Government to put in place follow-up and support measures on areas including the portability of welfare benefits, mandatory provident fund, social insurance, as well as complementary measures to tie in with retirement care. What are the details of the work plan in this aspect and the manpower and expenditures involved for 2019-20?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 49)

Reply:

Since August 2017, the relevant central authorities have announced a number of policy measures to facilitate Hong Kong residents studying, working and living in the Mainland. The measures include specifying in clear terms that to protect the rights and interests of Hong Kong and Macao students, Mainland higher education institutions must accord equal treatment to Hong Kong and Macao students in admission, nurture, management and supporting services; allowing the people of Hong Kong and Macao working in the Mainland to join the Housing Provident Fund; removing the requirement for Hong Kong and Macao residents working in the Mainland to apply for employment permits; and installing automatic ticket vending and issuing machines to read and verify Home Visit Re-entry Permits at train stations.

2. The Regulations for Application of Residence Permit for Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Residents, as announced by the Central Government, have been implemented since 1 September 2018. Hong Kong residents living in the Mainland who meet the relevant criteria can apply for residence permits. A residence permit holder is entitled to enjoy, in accordance with the law, a series of rights, basic public services and facilitation measures in the place where he or she is residing, covering areas relating to daily living including employment, education, medical care, travel, financial services and so on. The measure

has catered for the needs of Hong Kong residents and provided them with more opportunities to participate in the country's development.

3. In addition, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security issued the Interim Measures on the Participation in Social Insurance by Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Residents in the Mainland (Consultation Draft) in October 2018 to seek comments from the public. It is proposed that Hong Kong residents working, living and studying in the Mainland can join the social insurance scheme of the Mainland and enjoy the related benefits in accordance with the law. Since the promulgation of the Consultation Draft by the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security, the Mainland Offices have collected the views of Hong Kong people and enterprises in their service areas through different channels and reflected them to the relevant Mainland authorities. The Mainland Offices will keep a close watch on the arrangements relating to Hong Kong residents' participation in the social insurance scheme of the Mainland.

4. In 2019-20, the Mainland Offices will continue to disseminate information in relation to the facilitation measures through various channels such as websites, WeChat public accounts, emails and gatherings of Hong Kong people. Meanwhile, the Mainland Offices have been actively reflecting the views of Hong Kong people through day-to-day liaison with the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council and the relevant Mainland authorities. The aim is to strive for the provision of more facilitation for Hong Kong people studying, working and living in the Mainland and to promote the smooth implementation of the measures at the local level, thereby enabling Hong Kong people to capitalise on the opportunities brought about by the development of the country.

5. As the work of the Mainland Offices in promoting the introduction and implementation of facilitation measures by relevant Mainland authorities for Hong Kong people studying, working and living in the Mainland is an integral part of their roles and functions, the estimated expenditure involved cannot be singled out and itemised.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB042

(Question Serial No. 1322)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration provides the necessary steer on the overall programme and strategy for promoting the Basic Law, and provides an organisational focus for coordinating the efforts of various parties concerned, both in the Government and in the community. In this regard, would the Government advise this Committee on the following: (1) What are the expenditures incurred on the promotion of the Basic Law in the past 3 years; (2) How is the effectiveness of promotional programmes evaluated; (3) What are the evaluation results in each of the past 3 years; (4) Has the Government assessed the effectiveness of the current evaluation method? If yes, what are the results of assessment; if no, what are the reasons; (5) Would the Government strengthen promotion of the relationship between the Constitution of our country and the Basic Law? If yes, what are the details; if no, what are the reasons; and (6) To address the advocacy for an “independent Hong Kong”, would the Government study how to resist the spread of the advocacy at all levels? If yes, what are the details; if no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 50)

Reply:

The Constitution of the People's Republic of China (the Constitution) and the Basic Law form the constitutional basis of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (the HKSAR). The HKSAR Government has the responsibility to encourage the general public to have a comprehensive understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law. We have all along placed equal emphasis on the concepts of “one country” and “two systems” and included the relationship between the Constitution and the Basic Law in our Basic Law publicity and promotional activities.

2. The Preamble of the Basic Law clearly states that Hong Kong has been part of the territory of China since ancient times. Article 1 of the Basic Law points out that the HKSAR is an inalienable part of the People's Republic of China. Article 12 of the Basic Law also states that the HKSAR shall be a local administrative region of the People's

Republic of China, which shall enjoy a high degree of autonomy and come directly under the Central People's Government. These provisions have made clear that Hong Kong has all along been an inalienable part of China.

3. The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) has been organising various types of activities through different means to enable the public to have a more comprehensive and thorough understanding of the “one country, two systems” principle, the Constitution and the Basic Law. In this respect, an actual expenditure of about \$16 million was incurred in the financial year of 2016-17. In 2017-18 and 2018-19, the relevant provision for each of the financial year is \$17 million.

4. Under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (BLPSC) provides views and steer on the overall strategy and key aspects for promoting the Constitution and the Basic Law, and monitors, evaluates and reviews promotional programmes undertaken by government departments and non-governmental organisations. The CMAB provides secretariat support to the BLPSC. Five working groups (namely Working Groups on Local Community; Teachers and Students; Civil Servants; Industrial, Commercial and Professional Sectors; and Community Outside Hong Kong) are set up under the BLPSC and are assisted by the Home Affairs Bureau, Education Bureau, Civil Service Bureau, Trade and Industry Department and Information Services Department respectively in planning and organising various types of activities to promote the Constitution and the Basic Law on various fronts. The BLPSC and its working groups will review the format, content and effectiveness of promotional activities in relation to the Constitution and the Basic Law from time to time through evaluating their popularity based on the number and feedbacks of participants, and will give due regard to the development and trend of promotional media and information technology with a view to optimising our promotion strategy.

5. In 2019-20, the CMAB will set aside about \$17 million for organising various promotional activities via different means to enhance the public’s understanding of the “one country, two systems” principle, the Constitution and the Basic Law, and to enable them to correctly understand the relationship between the Constitution and the Basic Law. This Bureau has not specifically earmarked dedicated provision for the subject of “independent Hong Kong”.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB043

(Question Serial No. 1331)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

One of the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2019-20 is to set up a Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office and co-ordinate the work of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government in taking forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. What are the setting-up date, establishment, operating expenses and specific work plan of the office?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 35)

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau will set up a Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Office) in 2019-20. The proposed Office will involve 19 additional posts, namely 1 officer at point six of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 officer at point two of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Administrative Officer, 1 Chief Executive Officer, 4 Executive Officers I, 1 Chief Information Officer, 1 Senior Information Officer, 1 Information Officer and 7 supporting staff (from the Personal Secretary, Clerical Officer and Motor Driver grades). In 2019-20, the estimated expenditure of the Office is about \$38 million, of which about \$21 million is staff cost on civil service posts.

2. The work priorities of the Office for 2019-20 include the following: to carry out promotion and publicity work and disseminate information to deepen the understanding of the public and industries on the development of the Greater Bay Area; to co-ordinate with relevant central ministries/departments, the Guangdong Provincial Government and the Macao Special Administrative Region Government as well as the relevant bureaux/departments of the HKSAR Government; to formulate annual work priorities to take forward the development of the Greater Bay Area; and to maintain close liaison with business associations, professional bodies and relevant stakeholders to gauge their views on the effective implementation of the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB044****(Question Serial No. 1334)**

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

What are the number of marriage, divorce and separation cases involving Hong Kong residents in the Mainland in the past 3 years? In respect of the above, what are the number of cases where assistance is provided to Hong Kong people?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 41)

Reply:

We have consulted the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) on the number of cross-boundary marriages. Hong Kong residents may apply for a Certificate of Absence of Marriage Record (CAMR) for the purpose of getting married in the Mainland. Although applicants who are issued with CAMR may not eventually get married, the figures could serve as a rough indicator of cross-boundary marriage statistics. The figures for 2016 and 2017 are set out in the table below, and the corresponding figure for 2018 is not yet available.

Year	Number of applicants issued with CAMR (claimed to be used for the purpose of getting married in the Mainland)
2016	5 559
2017	5 267

The C&SD does not have the figures on divorce or separation cases involving Hong Kong residents in the Mainland.

2. Immigration Divisions are currently set up under 5 Mainland Offices of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (namely the Beijing Office and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETO) in Guangdong, Chengdu, Shanghai and Wuhan) to relay the views or requests of Hong Kong residents in the Mainland to the relevant Mainland authorities for follow-up. 1 new case relating to marriage, divorce and

separation of Hong Kong residents in the Mainland was recorded each in 2016, 2017 and 2018.

3. The Guangdong ETO has commissioned an organisation to provide free legal advisory service to Hong Kong residents in need through a telephone hotline or by arranging Mainland duty lawyers to meet the assistance seekers to provide preliminary advice on Mainland-related legal matters. We do not have the breakdown of the requests of assistance according to the classification as mentioned in the question. For requests of assistance relating to children and marriage, the number of cases for 2016, 2017 and 2018 are 97, 83 and 104 respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB045

(Question Serial No. 1335)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In respect of children's rights education, what work programmes were undertaken to prevent child abuse and sex abuse on children in the past 3 years? (Please provide information on details of work, number of participants and expenditure involved)

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 42)

Reply:

The Government is committed to promoting public awareness of and respect for the rights of children as enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (the Convention), which includes continuing to promote children's rights through the Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme (the Funding Scheme). The objective of the Funding Scheme is to encourage and enable community organisations to take up educational projects for raising public awareness and understanding of children's rights enshrined in the Convention.

2. The Convention covers the rights of children in many aspects. In particular, Article 19 states that "to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child". However, this Bureau does not keep breakdown statistics on the sponsored projects by children's right or article of Convention.

3. The expenditures on promoting children's rights (excluding manpower cost) and the total number of participants of the sponsored projects in the past 3 years are set out in the table below:

Financial year	Expenditure on promoting children's rights (\$ million)	Total number of participants of sponsored projects
2016-17	1.055	About 42 100
2017-18	1.125	About 47 900
2018-19	1.201 (revised estimate)	About 47 000

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB046****(Question Serial No. 1336)**Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs BureauSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal DataControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (TANG Yun-kwong)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

In respect of the promotion campaigns carried out in the past 3 years and to be carried out in this financial year by the Equal Opportunities Commission, please provide information on the right concerned, number/expected number of participants and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 43)Reply:

Major promotional projects carried out by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) in the past 3 years include:

	Description	Number of participants	Expenditure
“Community Participation Funding Programme on Equal Opportunities”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implemented twice a year • To sponsor activities held by 35 to 40 non-profit making organisations every year to promote equal opportunities 	About 20 000 persons participate in the sponsored activities per year	About \$1.6 million per year
Radio Hong Kong (RTHK)'s Radio 2 campaign entitled “Equal Opportunities Diversity Project”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A one-year programme broadcast every year • Including in-depth interviews and radio segments every week to promote equal opportunities 	Reach an audience of over 1 million per year	About \$500,000 per year

<p>“International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Held annually • Public education activities to eliminate racial discrimination 	<p>About 300 to 400 persons participate in the activities every year, and an estimated audience of over 5 000 listened to the programme through recorded broadcasts and archive records on the Internet</p>	<p>Expenditure absorbed in the radio campaign “Equal Opportunities Diversity Project”</p>
<p>Kick-off event of the “Racial Diversity and Inclusion Charter for Employers”</p>	<p>The “Racial Diversity and Inclusion Charter for Employers” drawn up by the EOC aims at providing employers with guidelines to develop racially inclusive work environment. 11 enterprises signed the Charter at the kick-off event (held on 6 December 2018). A full-page supplement was published on Ming Pao and Hong Kong Economic Journal while a half-page advertisement was published on the South China Morning Post to publicise the Charter.</p>	<p>About 200 guests attended the kick-off event, and an estimate of over 200 000 readers learned about the Charter through the newspaper supplement.</p>	<p>About \$150,000</p>
<p>“Conference on Equality in the Asia Pacific 2018: Progress and Challenges”</p>	<p>Held on 20 and 21 September 2018 to examine the progress on equality in the Asia-Pacific region</p>	<p>Over 270 guests from Hong Kong and the Asia-Pacific region attended the conference</p>	<p>About \$300,000</p>
<p>RTHK’s Radio 1 campaign entitled “Employment Equality Project”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A one-year programme broadcast in 2018/2019 • Including a weekly radio drama entitled “Life without Barriers”, essay competition, in-depth interviews with employers of persons with disabilities, and production of short videos for uploading onto Facebook page and EOC’s YouTube channel 	<p>Reach an audience of over 1 million in a year</p>	<p>About \$500,000</p>
<p>Public education activities for the</p>	<p>Public education activities to eliminate discrimination against</p>	<p>About 300 persons</p>	<p>Expenditures absorbed in</p>

“Employment Equality Project”	persons with disabilities	participated in the activities, and an estimated audience of over 5 000 listened to the programme through recorded broadcasts and archive records on the Internet	RTHK’s Radio 1 campaign “Employment Equality Project”
Story-telling workshop and competition of the “Tally & Friends” programme	Public education activities to promote equal opportunities	About 300 primary and secondary school students	About \$50,000

2. Moreover, the EOC organised 1 017, 1 021 and 1 096 roving drama performances, talks, seminars and training activities in 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively, which attracted an attendance of over 120 000 every year. Among the participants, about 70 000 were primary and secondary school students and 50 000 were employers and employees.

3. In 2019-20, the EOC will continue to organise promotional projects similar to those listed in the table above. They include “Community Participation Funding Programme on Equal Opportunities”, public education activities for the “International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination”, radio publicity campaign entitled “Embracing Social Inclusion Project” and an outdoor event, roving drama performance in schools, promotional activities for the “Racial Diversity and Inclusion Charter for Employers”, promotional activities for the children book series entitled “Tally & Friends”, as well as seminars and trainings for employers, employees, education institutions, non-government organisations and community organisations etc.

4. Based on the information provided by the EOC, its expenditure on publicity and public education (including staff costs) in 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 were \$21.55 million, \$25.30 million and \$26.16 million respectively, and the estimated expenditure for 2019-20 is \$27.45 million. Most of the expenditure on publicity and public education is used on the major promotional projects mentioned above. The above activities are largely themed on promoting the 4 anti-discrimination ordinances and the concept of equal opportunities for all. Of the aforementioned expenditure, the publicity and education efforts on elimination of discrimination on the grounds of sex, disability, family status and race take up about 25% each.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB047****(Question Serial No. 1337)**

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In respect of the complaints received, investigation initiated and complaints conciliated by the Equal Opportunities Commission in the past 3 years, please provide information on the right concerned, number of staff handling the cases and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 44)

Reply:

The Complaint Services Division (CSD) of the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) handles enquiries and complaints made under the anti-discrimination ordinances. According to the information provided by the EOC, an officer-rank post was created in the CSD in November 2018. Currently, there are 27 staff in CSD's establishment, including 1 Director, 22 staff at the officer rank and 4 clerical and supporting staff. In the past 3 years, the expenditures on emoluments of the staff responsible for handling the cases are \$22.54 million (2016-17), \$21.79 million (2017-18) and \$19.78 million (2018-19). The main reason for decrease in expenditure is vacancy of posts in CSD.

2. The numbers of complaints received, investigation initiated and conciliation attempted by the EOC in the past 3 years are set out below:

	2016	2017	2018
Complaint investigation			
Complaints received	573	501	971
- Sex Discrimination Ordinance	178	182	314
- Disability Discrimination Ordinance	182	236	539
- Family Status Discrimination Ordinance	11	18	49
- Race Discrimination Ordinance	202	65	69

Self-initiated investigation			
Cases received	28	43	48
- Sex Discrimination Ordinance	6	8	6
- Disability Discrimination Ordinance	21	31	31
- Family Status Discrimination Ordinance	0	1	2
- Race Discrimination Ordinance	1	3	9
Conciliation			
Conciliation attempted	209	233	200
- Sex Discrimination Ordinance	100	101	90
- Disability Discrimination Ordinance	92	117	100
- Family Status Discrimination Ordinance	6	7	5
- Race Discrimination Ordinance	11	8	5

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB048

(Question Serial No. 1847)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

It is mentioned in the Budget Speech that “the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Development Plan), promulgated last week, is a milestone setting out the development directions for the Greater Bay Area up to 2035. The Development Plan identifies Hong Kong, Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Macao as the four core cities as well as core engines for regional development. Hong Kong, positioned as international financial, transportation and trade centres as well as an international aviation hub in the Greater Bay Area, will strengthen its roles as a global offshore Renminbi business hub and an international asset and risk management centre; and will devote great efforts to develop I&T industries as well as international legal and dispute resolution services. With all these advantages, we will seize the opportunity and make dedicated efforts to promote development in the Greater Bay Area to enhance its global competitiveness.” In this connection, will the Government advise on the following:

1. Given that the Development Plan has now been promulgated, when will the Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Office) be set up for operation, and what are the work plans and objectives of the Office?
2. What is the role of the Office in the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area which straddles across a number of policy bureaux and requires the collaboration among them?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Che-cheung (LegCo internal reference no.: 42)

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau will set up a Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Office) in 2019-20. The work priorities of the Office for 2019-20 include the following: to carry out promotion and publicity work and disseminate information to deepen the understanding of the public and industries on the development of the Greater Bay Area; to co-ordinate with relevant central ministries/departments, the Guangdong Provincial Government and the Macao Special

Administrative Region Government as well as the relevant bureaux/departments of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government; to formulate annual work priorities to take forward the development of the Greater Bay Area; and to maintain close liaison with business associations, professional bodies and relevant stakeholders to gauge their views on the effective implementation of the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Outline Development Plan). Since the work of the Office cannot be quantified, we have not set any performance indicators in this respect.

2. To take forward the development of the Greater Bay Area more effectively, the Chief Executive (CE) announced in the Policy Address delivered in October 2018 that a high-level Steering Committee for the Development of the Greater Bay Area (Steering Committee) would be established, with her as the chairperson and its membership comprising all Secretaries of Department and Directors of Bureau. The Steering Committee will be responsible for the overall co-ordination of matters relating to HKSAR's participation in the development of the Greater Bay Area. The Outline Development Plan is a guiding framework covering a wide range of policy areas. CE's Steering Committee will thus undertake the overall co-ordination of the efforts of various policy bureaux/departments for the implementation of the Outline Development Plan. One of the duties of the proposed Office is to provide support for the Steering Committee.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB049

(Question Serial No. 1865)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In respect of the operation of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office, would the Government provide the following information:

The staff establishment and the expenditure of the office in 2019-20; and

The work plan of the office in the coming year. Please provide information on the specific work programmes, nature and location of activities to be organised.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 111)

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau will set up a Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Office) in 2019-20. The proposed Office will involve 19 additional posts, namely 1 officer at point six of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 officer at point two of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Administrative Officer, 1 Chief Executive Officer, 4 Executive Officers I, 1 Chief Information Officer, 1 Senior Information Officer, 1 Information Officer and 7 supporting staff (from the Personal Secretary, Clerical Officer and Motor Driver grades). In 2019-20, the estimated expenditure of the Office is about \$38 million, of which about \$21 million is staff cost on civil service posts.

2. The work priorities of the Office for 2019-20 include the following: to carry out promotion and publicity work and disseminate information to deepen the understanding of the public and industries on the development of the Greater Bay Area; to co-ordinate with relevant central ministries/departments, the Guangdong Provincial Government and the Macao Special Administrative Region Government as well as the relevant bureaux/departments of the HKSAR Government; to formulate annual work priorities to take forward the development of the Greater Bay Area; and to maintain close liaison with business associations, professional bodies and relevant stakeholders to gauge their views on the effective implementation of the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB050

(Question Serial No. 1556)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Chief Executive mentioned in December last year that the Government would conduct internal research to review whether there were needs to rationalise the laws concerning elections at various levels. What is the progress of the research? Will the Government consider making amendments to the laws concerning elections at various levels so that both politicians and the Returning Officers could have a clearer understanding of what it means by upholding the Basic Law and pledging allegiance to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China? As it is estimated that nearly a thousand candidates will be running for the District Council election this year, will the Government allocate additional manpower and resources to the Registration and Electoral Office?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

In accordance with the relevant electoral law and regulations, whether or not a candidate's nomination is valid is determined by the Returning Officer according to the legal requirements and relevant procedures. The Government will, in accordance with the Basic Law and the relevant interpretation by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, and with reference to the Court's rulings of the relevant election petitions, carefully examine the local legislation to see if there is a need to straighten it out and consider how to make appropriate adjustments.

2. The estimated expenditure of the Registration and Electoral Office in 2019-20 is about \$796 million, of which about \$426 million is the expenditure for the preparation and conduct of the 2019 District Council Ordinary Election.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB051

(Question Serial No. 1567)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In respect of the administrative measures to eliminate discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity and transgender status, would the Government advise this Committee of:

1. the number of organisations which have adopted the Code of Practice against Discrimination in Employment on the Ground of Sexual Orientation (Code of Practice) and their employees, and the number of new organisations in each of the past 3 years (please provide a breakdown by public and private organisations and private enterprise);
2. the updated progress of drawing up a charter on non-discrimination of sexual minorities and conducting a study on the experience of other jurisdictions in tackling discrimination through legislative and administrative measures; and
3. the amount of resources allocated in the past 3 years and to be allocated in the coming year to the support services for the sexual minorities; and the performance of the 24-hour hotline for supporting sexual minorities operated by the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals (TWGHs) under government subsidy?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 14)

Reply:

With a view to encouraging employers to provide equal opportunities for people of different sexual orientations, we actively appeal for employers' adoption of the Code of Practice against Discrimination in Employment on the Ground of Sexual Orientation (the Code). At present, more than 350 public and private organisations employing about 550 000 employees locally have pledged to adopt the Code. The list of organisations which have pledged to adopt the Code and agreed to be listed in the public domain in the past 3 years has been uploaded on the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau's webpage (at <http://www.cmab.gov.hk/doc/issues/Bilingual List of Organisations.pdf>). The

total number of organisations which have pledged to adopt the Code in the past 3 years is set out below:

Financial year	Number of organisations (compared with the previous year)		
	Public organisation	Non-governmental organisation	Private enterprise
2016-17	16 (+0)	36 (+6)	139 (+6)
2017-18	21 (+5)	41 (+5)	276 (+137)
2018-19	21 (+0)	51 (+10)	281 (+5)

We will continue to encourage more organisations to adopt the Code through various channels such as talks, seminars and online publicity.

2. We are drawing up a charter on non-discrimination of sexual minorities covering various domains (including provision of goods, facilities and services; disposal and management of premises; employment and education) for voluntary adoption by service providers with a view to enhancing acceptance towards sexual minorities. We are also conducting a further study on the experience of other jurisdictions in tackling discrimination through legislative and administrative measures. The study covers the following topics:

- (a) administrative measures adopted in other jurisdictions to tackle discrimination against the sexual minorities, and any empirical data on their implementation; and
- (b) legislative measures adopted in other jurisdictions to tackle discrimination against the sexual minorities, including empirical data on their implementation; definitions of “gender identity” and “sexual orientation” in the relevant legislation, and the threshold of evidence required to support claims; the evolving case law, in particular the scope and application of exemptions in anti-discrimination legislation, and the criteria adopted by courts in balancing the rights and freedoms involved; comparative analysis of the different approaches of formulating anti-discrimination laws; stakeholders’ views on the adequacy of protection and accessibility of remedies; the concerns of parties such as the legislature, enforcement authorities and stakeholder groups and the relevant discourse, etc.

We expect to complete the study in the first half of this year. The findings will provide more information to facilitate more in-depth discussion in the community on the issue of whether legislation should be introduced to protect people of different sexual orientations and transgenders against discrimination.

3. We have been providing funding support to worthwhile community projects through the Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme to promote equal opportunities for people of different sexual orientations and transgenders, or provide support services for the sexual minorities. A 24-hour hotline for supporting sexual minorities operated by the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals (TWGHs) subsidised by the government was launched since early 2018 to provide instant support, counselling and referral services for

sexual minorities and their family members to relieve the stress and difficulties they face in everyday life. Since its establishment early last year, the hotline has received over 2 900 calls. Support groups cum interest classes have also been regularly organised for sexual minorities, and nearly 40 sessions have been organised as at end February 2019. The resources allocated to the above support services in the financial years of 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 are \$775,100, \$842,800 and \$2,950,000 (revised estimate) respectively, and a provision of \$3,250,000 has been earmarked for the above services in the financial year of 2019-20.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB052

(Question Serial No. 1568)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

With increasing exchanges between Guangdong and Hong Kong/Macao, more and more Hong Kong residents are now living in the Mainland. In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee as to whether:

1. it has kept statistics on the number of Hong Kong residents living in the Mainland (please give a breakdown by province); if the statistics are not available, what are the reasons and will the Government compile the statistics as early as possible?
2. measures are available to cater for the essential needs of Hong Kong residents living in the Mainland, including policy support as well as legal, medical, housing and elderly service needs; and new measures will be introduced in the coming year to deploy more resources to assist Hong Kong residents living in the Mainland (including Hong Kong students in the Mainland)?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 15)

Reply:

Currently, the Government does not have comprehensive statistical information on Hong Kong people residing or working in the Mainland. Nevertheless, the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) has been making use of the movement records of Hong Kong permanent residents to compile and release the estimation of "Hong Kong residents usually staying in the Guangdong Province" since 2016. These residents refer to Hong Kong permanent residents who have stayed in the Guangdong Province for 6 months and above cumulatively during the 6 months before and after the reference time-point. As at end-2017, the estimated number of such persons was around 530 000. The corresponding figure for 2018 is not yet available. Since C&SD assumes that Hong Kong permanent residents departing from Hong Kong via land control points and the China Ferry Terminal are travelling to the Guangdong Province, the estimation concerned cannot differentiate those who then travel to other areas in the Mainland or outside the Mainland. Besides,

their purposes of stay (e.g. for work or settlement) in the Guangdong Province could not be ascertained in the estimation.

2. Separately, the Regulations for Application of Residence Permit for Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Residents (the Regulations), as announced by the Central Government, have been implemented since 1 September 2018. Hong Kong residents living in the Mainland who meet the relevant criteria can apply for residence permits. According to the Regulations, Hong Kong and Macao residents who have lived in the Mainland for more than 6 months and are able to show proof of either a legitimate and stable job, a legitimate and stable residence, or ongoing school attendance can apply for residence permits voluntarily. Although the application is made on a voluntary basis, the number of applicants can serve as a rough indicator of the number of Hong Kong residents living in the Mainland. According to the information provided by the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office (HKMAO) of the State Council, more than 120 000 Hong Kong residents applied for residence permits as at early March 2019.

3. To support Hong Kong residents in the Mainland, the Mainland Offices collect and update from time to time practical information on medical care, education and legal services etc. and disseminate such information through production of information booklets and the offices' websites to assist Hong Kong residents to adapt to living in the area. The Mainland Offices have published booklets on living in Beijing, Tianjin, Shenyang, Guangdong, Shanghai, Hangzhou, Shandong, Chengdu, Chongqing, Xi'an, Guiyang, Wuhan, Changsha and Zhengzhou. The Mainland Offices also liaise closely with organisations of Hong Kong residents, business associations, enterprises and student groups from time to time to better understand the situations of Hong Kong residents working, studying and living in the Mainland, and to provide appropriate assistance when necessary. Examples of such assistance include organising events for Hong Kong residents there for sharing of experiences of living in the Mainland, providing information on further studies and job opportunities for Hong Kong students, and holding career talks jointly with organisations of Hong Kong residents to address the needs of Hong Kong students. In 2019-20, the Mainland Offices will continue with the above work.

4. Immigration Divisions are currently set up under the 5 Mainland Offices (namely the Beijing Office (BJO) and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan) to provide practical assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland.

5. In addition, the Mainland Offices also relay the views or requests of Hong Kong residents in the Mainland to the relevant Mainland authorities for follow-up. The Guangdong ETO has commissioned an organisation to provide free legal advisory service to Hong Kong residents in need through a telephone hotline or by arranging Mainland duty lawyers to meet the assistance seekers to provide preliminary advice on Mainland-related legal matters.

6. Since August 2017, the relevant central authorities have announced a number of policy measures to facilitate Hong Kong and Macao residents studying, working and living in the Mainland. The measures include specifying in clear terms that to protect the rights and interests of Hong Kong and Macao students, Mainland higher education institutions must accord equal treatment to Hong Kong and Macao students in admission, nurture, management and supporting services; allowing the people of Hong Kong and Macao

working in the Mainland to join the Housing Provident Fund; removing the requirement for Hong Kong and Macao residents working in the Mainland to apply for employment permits; and installing automatic ticket vending and issuing machines to read and verify Home Visit Re-entry Permits at train stations. From 1 September 2018, Hong Kong residents living in the Mainland who meet the relevant criteria can apply for residence permits. A residence permit holder is entitled to enjoy, in accordance with the law, a series of rights, basic public services and facilitation measures in the place where he or she is residing, covering areas relating to daily living including employment, education, medical care, travel, financial services and so on.

7. In 2019-20, the Mainland Offices will continue to disseminate information in relation to the facilitation measures through various channels such as websites, WeChat public accounts, emails and gatherings of Hong Kong people. Meanwhile, the Mainland Offices have been actively reflecting the views of Hong Kong people through day-to-day liaison with the HKMAO and the relevant Mainland authorities. The aim is to strive for the provision of more facilitation for Hong Kong people studying, working and living in the Mainland and to promote the smooth implementation of the measures at the local level, thereby enabling Hong Kong people to capitalise on the opportunities brought about by the development of the country.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB053

(Question Serial No. 1600)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Judiciary Administrator
Secretary for Justice
Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In recent years, there have been frequent reports on incidents involving leakage of personal data. Though the incidents on leakage of clients' data by large companies such as TransUnion Limited and Cathay Pacific Airways in 2018 involved the personal data of as many as millions of clients, data leakage incidents in Hong Kong are currently notified only on a voluntary basis. As advised by the Government, the policy on protection of privacy and housekeeping of the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data fall within the purview of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. What measures are in place to ensure that government departments and public and private organisations have taken effective actions to protect the personal data of their clients?
2. Regarding the current practice of many organisations in engaging outsourced service contractors to collect and process personal data, what measures has the Government taken to ensure that outsourced service contractors are properly monitored by government departments and public and private organisations to protect personal data against unauthorised or accidental access, processing or use?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 51)

Reply:

The Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD) is responsible for monitoring and supervising compliance with the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (PDPO). Supervision of the compliance with the PDPO by the PCPD covers all public and private organisations (including the Government). As a regulatory body, the PCPD discharges its statutory duties through result-based approaches. Apart from law enforcement, the PCPD also carries out publicity and education work, and provides

guidance and support on compliance and good practices to organisations. The PCPD advocates the need for organisations to regard personal data protection as part of their corporate governance responsibilities and to consistently implement policies on personal data protection within the organisations. In this connection, the PCPD issued the revised “Best Practice Guide on Privacy Management Programme” (the Guide) in 2018 to assist public and private organisations (including the Government) in establishing a comprehensive privacy management programme. The Guide offers practical advice with concrete examples, checklists, templates, etc. for the reference of organisations. Furthermore, the PCPD has all along encouraged all data users to give notification in the event of personal data breach to protect the privacy of data subjects. Although there is no mandatory data breach notification requirement in the prevailing legislation, the PCPD published a Guidance Note entitled “Data Breach Handling and the Giving of Breach Notifications” in 2010 to assist data users in handling data breaches and to mitigate the loss and damage that might be caused to the data subjects concerned. At present, the PCPD and the Government are actively studying amendments to the PDPO, including the inclusion of a mandatory notification mechanism for data breaches in the PDPO so as to enhance the protection of personal data privacy.

2. Regarding the engagement of outsourced service contractors (as data processors) to assist in handling personal data, according to section 65(2) of the PDPO, data users shall be responsible for any contravention of the requirement under the PDPO on the part of data processors. Data protection principles 2(3) and 4(2) under the PDPO stipulate that a data user must adopt contractual or other means to prevent unauthorised or accidental access, processing or use of the data transferred to the data processor for processing, and to prevent any personal data transferred to the data processor from being kept longer than is necessary for processing of the data. The PCPD has issued guidelines on “Outsourcing the Processing of Personal Data to Data Processors” to provide practical guidelines to organisations on the handling of personal data of clients. The PCPD also provides relevant professional training courses and internal training for organisations to strengthen the effort in education and publicity.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB054

(Question Serial No. 1984)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Matters requiring special attention in 2019-20 include setting up a Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Development Office) and co-ordinate the work of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government in taking forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area), which involves an increased provision of \$40.2 million (28.9%) and 20 additional posts.

- (1) Please give details of the estimated expenditure. What are the staff establishment and posts, and salary and operating expenses involved? What are the work details?
- (2) Have the 7 additional posts under the 2018-19 estimates been created? If no, will some of the posts overlap with the 20 posts mentioned above?
- (3) Please give details of the estimated expenditure, operating expenses and work plans for the coming 4 financial years. What are the Development Office's detailed strategies and plans in facilitating the business development of Hong Kong small and medium enterprises in the Greater Bay Area?

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau will set up a Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Office) in 2019-20. 19 out of the 20 additional posts under Programme (2) are created for the Office, which include 1 officer at point six of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 officer at point two of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Administrative Officer, 1 Chief Executive Officer, 4 Executive Officers I, 1 Chief Information Officer, 1 Senior Information Officer, 1 Information Officer and 7 supporting staff (from the Personal Secretary, Clerical Officer and Motor Driver grades). In 2019-20, the estimated expenditure of the Office is about

\$38 million, of which about \$21 million is staff cost on civil service posts and about \$17 million is other operating expenses.

2. Among the 7 additional posts under Programme (2) in the 2018-19 Budget, 6 are related to taking forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area). Amongst which, 1 post at point three of the Directorate Pay Scale and 1 post of Personal Secretary I have been upgraded to 1 post at point six of the Directorate Pay Scale and 1 post of Senior Personal Secretary respectively as mentioned in the 19 posts above; while 3 out of the 4 remaining permanent posts have been created. These posts do not overlap with the 19 additional posts to be created in 2019-20.

3. The work priorities of the Office for 2019-20 include the following: to carry out promotion and publicity work and disseminate information to deepen the understanding of the public and industries on the development of the Greater Bay Area; to co-ordinate with relevant central ministries/departments, the Guangdong Provincial Government and the Macao Special Administrative Region Government as well as the relevant bureaux/departments of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government; and to formulate annual work priorities to take forward the development of the Greater Bay Area. The Office will maintain close liaison with Members of the Legislative Council, industries, business associations, professional bodies and relevant stakeholders to gauge their views on the effective implementation of the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Outline Development Plan).

4. Policy bureaux of the HKSAR Government introduce the relevant contents of the Outline Development Plan to respective industries and sectors, and organise seminars to brief on the development opportunities brought by the Greater Bay Area. Take the business sector and SMEs for example, briefings on the Outline Development Plan were held by the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau for the Trade and Industry Advisory Board and major local business associations. The HKSAR Government will maintain liaison with the industries to listen to their views and strive for policy breakthrough in order to expand the business potentials of the Greater Bay Area.

5. This Bureau will review the existing resources in due course and, where necessary, make adjustments to cope with the work demand in the coming 4 financial years in accordance with the established mechanism.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB055

(Question Serial No. 1985)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In respect of co-ordinating the work of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government in taking forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, how will the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office to be set up under the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau promote to the Greater Bay Area the role of Hong Kong in the Greater Bay Area Development through social media? What are the staff establishment and posts, salary and specific work programmes involved?

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau will set up a Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Office) in 2019-20. The proposed Office will involve 19 additional posts, namely 1 officer at point six of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 officer at point two of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Administrative Officer, 1 Chief Executive Officer, 4 Executive Officers I, 1 Chief Information Officer, 1 Senior Information Officer, 1 Information Officer and 7 supporting staff (from the Personal Secretary, Clerical Officer and Motor Driver grades). In 2019-20, the estimated expenditure of the Office is about \$38 million, of which about \$21 million is staff cost on civil service posts.

2. Since August 2018, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government has launched a series of publicity efforts to increase understanding and interest in the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area) amongst various sectors of society. Such efforts include setting up a dedicated website on the Greater Bay Area, as well as producing pamphlets, television promotional clips and radio promotional soundtracks. They also target communication channels that are widely used by young people, such as social media and online platforms. The dedicated website on the Greater Bay Area will also update the policies of the Greater Bay Area cities and the work of the HKSAR Government on a regular basis, in order to help

industries and the community understand and seize the opportunities afforded by the Greater Bay Area Development.

3. In 2019-20, the HKSAR Government will step up the relevant publicity work, e.g. increase the frequency of screening Announcements of Public Interest on television and radio, promote the dedicated website, social media pages and WeChat official account, etc. In addition to the above publicity channels, the Office has planned to produce promotional clips, publish publicity materials and organise exhibitions on the Greater Bay Area in the coming financial year. We hope that the publicity programme can help enhance public understanding on the Greater Bay Area Development and the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, and encourage the community to seize the opportunities afforded by the Greater Bay Area Development. The estimated expenditure of the promotion and publicity programmes is about \$8 million in 2019-20, including the operating expenses for engaging service contractor/staff for the maintenance of social media such as Facebook, Instagram and WeChat official accounts.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB056

(Question Serial No. 1986)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

The provision for the Mainland and Taiwan Offices is 8.2% higher in the 2019-20 Estimates, mainly due to the increased provision in publicity and other operating expenses. In respect of the performance indicators, however, the estimated figures for 2019 of the major indicators under Promotion of Strengths of Hong Kong are lower than the actual figures of 2018.

- (1) Please explain why there is a drop instead of increase in the estimated figures of the relevant indicators in 2019; and
- (2) Please provide information on the specific publicity programmes, manpower arrangement and estimated expenditure involved in 2019-20.

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

In 2018-19, the Mainland Offices (namely the Beijing Office and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan) organised and participated in numerous activities in the Mainland to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the reform and opening up of the country, thus contributing to a significant rise in the figures of the indicator of Promotion of Strengths of Hong Kong when compared with the estimated figures of 2018. With the conclusion of the celebration activities, adjustments have been made to the estimate and figures of some indicators in 2019-20.

2. In 2019-20, the Mainland Offices and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan will continue to promote Hong Kong through appropriate channels, including attending meetings, calling on counterparts; organising/participating in seminars, exhibitions and workshops; organising/participating in cultural exchange events; visiting enterprises with potential and interest in investing in Hong Kong; giving public speeches,

media interviews and briefings; and issuing information circulars, newsletters, press releases etc. to business associations and members of the trade.

3. The Mainland and Taiwan Offices proactively serve as important bridges between Hong Kong and the Mainland/Taiwan, including enhancing liaison and communication with counterparts in the areas under their coverage; representing and promoting Hong Kong's trade and commercial interests; encouraging and attracting investments to Hong Kong; promoting Hong Kong as a desirable platform to develop markets along the Belt and Road; promoting the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area development; and gathering relevant information on new laws and regulations, policies and significant regional development, and disseminating such information to the Hong Kong business sector through various channels. Apart from continuing to take forward the relevant work with existing manpower, we plan to create a time-limited post of Assistant Trade Officer I in the Beijing Office in 2019-20. As the promotion of strengths of Hong Kong is an integral part of the work of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices, the expenditure involved cannot be singled out and itemised.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB057

(Question Serial No. 1987)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

For the financial provision in 2018-19, the estimate for the Rights of the Individuals has decreased by 0.3% but the revised provision has substantially reduced by 18.2%. Please give details on the manpower, resources and work programmes involved.

The estimate for 2019-20 has increased substantially by 40.3% (\$10 million), mainly due to the increased provision in operating expenses. Please give details on the distribution of the above expenditure, staff establishment and post, salary and operating expenses, as well as the work programmes involved.

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)

Reply:

The revised estimate of Programme (4) for 2018–19 is 18.2% lower than the original estimate. This is mainly due to the unused fund reserved for the post of the Chief Operations Officer of the Equal Opportunities Commission and some unused provision.

2. The estimate for 2019-20 has increased substantially by 40.3% over the revised estimate in 2018-19. This is mainly due to the increased operational provision for the work on promoting the rights of the individual, equal opportunities irrespective of gender, family status and race and children's rights, as well as eliminating discrimination against people with different sexual orientations and transgenders.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB058

(Question Serial No. 0675)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau has set up a Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office and co-ordinated the work of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government in taking forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. In this regard, please advise of the following:

- (1) what are the staff establishment and estimated expenditure involved in 2019-20; and
- (2) with the promulgation of the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and the details of its implementation, has the Government assessed whether the resources originally assigned to this purpose can meet the actual needs and made adjustments accordingly? If yes, what are the details; if no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LO Wai-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 35)

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau will set up a Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Office) in 2019-20. The proposed Office will involve 19 additional posts, namely 1 officer at point six of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 officer at point two of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Administrative Officer, 1 Chief Executive Officer, 4 Executive Officers I, 1 Chief Information Officer, 1 Senior Information Officer, 1 Information Officer and 7 supporting staff (from the Personal Secretary, Clerical Officer and Motor Driver grades). In 2019-20, the estimated expenditure of the Office is about \$38 million, of which about \$21 million is staff cost on civil service posts.

2. This Bureau will review the existing resources in due course and, where necessary, make adjustments to cope with work demand in accordance with the established mechanism.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB059****(Question Serial No. 0515)**

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In respect of the Beijing Office and the Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan (the Mainland Offices), would the Government advise this Committee of:

- a) the estimated expenditure of the Mainland Offices in the past 3 years;
- b) the staff establishment of the Mainland Offices in the past 3 years; and
- c) whether the number of ETOs in mainland cities will be increased in future? If yes, what criteria are adopted to select the Mainland cities for setting up the offices?

Asked by: Hon LUK Chung-hung (LegCo internal reference no.: 34)

Reply:

The actual expenditure of the Mainland Offices (namely the Beijing Office (BJO) and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan) in 2016-17 and 2017-18, and the revised estimated expenditure for 2018-19 are set out in the table below:

Office	Actual expenditure in 2016-17 (\$ million)	Actual expenditure in 2017-18 (\$ million)	Revised estimated expenditure for 2018-19 (\$ million)
BJO	78.00	89.40	80.17
Guangdong ETO	55.65	67.19	65.18
Shanghai ETO	46.46	61.00	55.79
Chengdu ETO	39.71	51.36	43.97
Wuhan ETO	34.63	48.02	47.22

2. The staff establishment of the Mainland Offices in 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 is set out in the table below:

Office	Number of staff establishment in 2016-17	Number of staff establishment in 2017-18	Number of staff establishment in 2018-19
BJO	21	22	22
Guangdong ETO	16	18	18
Shanghai ETO	14	15	15
Chengdu ETO	12	13	13
Wuhan ETO	10	13	13

3. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government has fully enhanced the networks and functions of its Mainland Offices. At present, the HKSAR Government has established one office each at the eastern, southern, western, northern and central regions of the Mainland. Each office has established at least two liaison units, making up to a total of 11 liaison units. In the coming year, we will continue to enhance government-to-government liaison as well as trade and commercial relations and investment promotion; and provide support to Hong Kong residents and enterprises in the Mainland through the existing network of Mainland Offices.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB060

(Question Serial No. 1712)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. The promulgation of the development plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (the Greater Bay Area) has forged even closer relationship among Hong Kong, Guangdong and Macao and reduced misunderstandings between residents in the Mainland and Hong Kong, thereby providing a good foundation for strengthening co-operation among the three places. Having regard to the large number of past incidents targeting Mainland tourists in Hong Kong, has the Government commissioned any studies by academic institutions to continuously assess the impression of Hong Kong among Mainland residents, especially those in the Greater Bay Area?
2. What plans does the Government have to promote and introduce the development scale of the Greater Bay Area among the public in Hong Kong, in order to enhance their awareness of the development plan?
3. As mentioned in Section 4 of Chapter 11 of the development plan, efforts will be made "to support think tanks in the Mainland to step up co-operation with those in Hong Kong and Macao, and provide intellectual support for the development of the Greater Bay Area", as well as "to establish an administrative advisory system, and invite professionals from Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao to offer advice on development of the Greater Bay Area". In this connection, please advise what specific plans are in place to follow up on the following matters:
 - a. How to step up cooperation between think tanks in Hong Kong and those in the Mainland?
 - b. How to strengthen support for think tanks in Hong Kong to conduct researches on the Greater Bay Area?
 - c. How to follow up on the work of inviting professionals from Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao to offer advice on the development of the Greater Bay Area?

Reply:

Since August 2018, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government has launched a series of publicity efforts to increase understanding and interest in the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area) amongst various sectors of society. Such efforts include setting up a dedicated website on the Greater Bay Area, as well as producing pamphlets, television promotional clips and radio promotional soundtracks. They also target communication channels that are widely used by young people, such as social media and online platforms. Moreover, upon the promulgation of the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Outline Development Plan), the Symposium on the Outline Development Plan co-organised by the HKSAR Government, the People's Government of Guangdong Province and the Macao SAR Government was held on 21 February 2019 to introduce the contents of the Outline Development Plan and explore the development opportunities of the Greater Bay Area. Around 800 guests, representing relevant central ministries and various sectors of Hong Kong, Guangdong and Macao, attended the symposium.

2. Policy bureaux of the HKSAR Government introduce the relevant contents of the Outline Development Plan to respective industries and sectors, and organise seminars to brief on the development opportunities brought by the Greater Bay Area. In addition to the above publicity channels, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau will set up a Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Office) in 2019-20. The Office has planned to produce promotional clips, publish publicity materials and organise exhibitions on the Greater Bay Area in the coming financial year. The dedicated website on the Greater Bay Area will also update the policies of the Greater Bay Area cities and the work of the HKSAR Government on a regular basis, in order to help industries and the community understand and seize the opportunities afforded by the Greater Bay Area Development.

3. The bureaux/departments of the HKSAR Government will, under their respective policy areas, maintain close liaison with the industries, business associations, professional bodies and relevant stakeholders to gauge their views on the effective implementation of the Outline Development Plan, in order to ensure that the relevant measures can best meet the needs of various sectors of the community. The Office will also consider conducting thematic studies on specific topics in due course having regard to the needs of taking forward the development of the Greater Bay Area.

4. The HKSAR Government will strengthen the co-operation between think tanks of Hong Kong and those in the Mainland and Macao through the Policy Innovation and Co-ordination Office (PICO). Since its establishment in April 2018, PICO has strived to step up liaison with the think tanks in Hong Kong and the Mainland to foster collaboration e.g. a forum, themed “Forty Years of Reform and Opening Up”, was jointly organised with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in November 2018. To complement the efforts for the Greater Bay Area Development, PICO will play a bridging role between the think tanks in Hong Kong and those in the Mainland and Macao to facilitate co-operation and exchange among them.

5. To foster a public policy research community in Hong Kong, PICO has enhanced its 2 public policy research funding schemes (i.e. the Public Policy Research Funding Scheme

and the Strategic Public Policy Research Funding Scheme) by, amongst others, updating the assessment criteria and streamlining the application procedures in order to strengthen support for the research and development of local think tanks and research institutes. The development of the Greater Bay Area is one of the research topics of the 2 public policy research funding schemes. In 2018-19, the 2 funding schemes allocated a total of \$12 million to 5 research projects relating to the Greater Bay Area Development. PICO will continue to encourage local think tanks and research institutes to apply for grants for conducting researches relating to the Greater Bay Area.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB061

(Question Serial No. 0641)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In respect of improving the Administrative Guidelines on Promotion of Racial Equality (“the Guidelines”) for application to all government bureaux and departments as well as related organisations providing services to ethnic minorities, would the Government advise this Committee of:

- a) the progress of improving the Guidelines;
- b) the specific improvement to be introduced to the Guidelines?

Asked by: Hon MAK Mei-kuen, Alice (LegCo internal reference no.: 35)

Reply:

In 2010, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) issued the Administrative Guidelines on Promotion of Racial Equality (“the Guidelines”) to provide general guidance to relevant government bureaux and departments and public authorities (hereafter referred to as “relevant authorities”) to promote racial equality and ensure equal access by ethnic minorities (“EMs”) to public services in the key areas concerned, and to take this into account in the formulation, implementation and review of relevant policies and measures. Since the promulgation of the Guidelines in 2010, the Government has kept its operation under review. At present, the scope of application of the Guidelines has been extended from 14 to 23 relevant authorities.

2. The Government is conducting a review on the Guidelines. Among others, we noted that some EMs have encountered difficulties in adaptation and social integration owing to language barriers. Currently, various government departments have been providing suitable interpretation services to meet the practical needs of EM service users, with a view to ensuring their equal access to public services. To enhance the provision of interpretation services by various government departments, we are exploring the feasibility of including guidelines on the provision of interpretation services in the Guidelines. Moreover, we will consider requiring government departments to collect relevant data and

statistics in relation to the races of stakeholders on a regular basis having regard to their respective actual policies and operational circumstances. This is to facilitate the Government to monitor and assess in a timely manner whether public policies and services will affect racial equality for the continuous improvement of services provision to EMs.

3. The plan of the Government is to improve the Guidelines by 2019 and then apply it to all government bureaux and departments as well as related organisations.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB062****(Question Serial No. 2379)**Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs BureauSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal DataControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

- (a) Please provide in the table below the number of complaints on discrimination lodged under the Race Discrimination Ordinance received by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC).

	No. of complaints on racial discrimination received	No. of complaints on racial discrimination handled	No. of complaints on racial discrimination substantiated	No. of cases successfully convicted
2014				
2015				
2016				
2017				
2018				
2019 (as at March)				

- (b) Regarding complaints on racial discrimination, please provide information as per the following table.

	No. of complaints on racial discrimination against public sector organisations	No. of complaints on racial discrimination against private sector organisations	No. of complaints on racial discrimination against actions of individuals	Others (please specify)
2014				
2015				
2016				
2017				
2018				
2019 (as at March)				

- (c) What are the EOC's publicity and educational measures in relation to racial discrimination taken in the past 3 years and the expenditure involved? What is the estimated expenditure on publicity and educational efforts in 2019-20?

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (LegCo internal reference no.: 42)

Reply:

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) is responsible for implementing the Race Discrimination Ordinance (RDO) (Cap. 602) and carrying out various publicity and education programmes and enforcement work in accordance with the requirements under the RDO to promote public awareness of the RDO and racial equality. The numbers of complaints received by the EOC pursuant to the RDO for the previous years are set out as follows:

	No. of complaints on racial discrimination received	No. of complaints on racial discrimination handled (Note 1)	Outcome of complaint cases handled (Note 2)		No. of cases successfully convicted
2014	39	42	Conciliation attempted	20	0
			Investigation discontinued	19	
2015	42	54	Conciliation attempted	13	0
			Investigation discontinued	29	
2016	202	213	Conciliation attempted	7	0
			Investigation discontinued	195	
2017	65	73	Conciliation attempted	7	0
			Investigation discontinued	57	
			Investigation in progress	1	
2018	69	122	Conciliation attempted	4	0
			Investigation discontinued	55	
			Investigation in progress	10	
2019 (as at 8 March)	23	43	Conciliation attempted	0	0
			Investigation discontinued	7	
			Investigation in progress	16	

Note 1: The number of cases handled includes the cases received in that year and those brought forward from the previous year.

Note 2: Cases which have been handled by the EOC are categorised as “Conciliation attempted” and “Investigation discontinued”. The present figures provided are based on the action status or outcome of the cases received in that year.

2. The numbers of complaints on racial discrimination against public and private organisations and actions of individuals that the EOC received under the RDO are set out below:

	No. of complaints on racial discrimination against public organisations (Note 3)	No. of complaints on racial discrimination against private organisations	No. of complaints on racial discrimination against actions of individuals	Others (please specify)
2014	4	17	18	N/A
2015	3	28	11	N/A
2016	2	20	180	N/A
2017	1	10	54	N/A
2018	13	37	19	N/A
2019 (as at 8 March)	8	13	2	N/A

Note 3: Public organisations include government departments.

3. The EOC is responsible for the implementation of the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 480), the Disability Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 487), the Family Status Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 527) and the RDO, and accordingly carries out respective publicity and education programmes and enforcement work. The expenditures of the EOC on publicity and public education (including staff costs) in 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 were \$21.55 million, \$25.3 million and \$26.16 million (revised estimate) respectively, and the expenditure for 2019-20 is estimated to be \$27.45 million. About 25% of the aforementioned expenditures are used for publicity and education efforts on race discrimination.

4. Starting from 2014-15, the Government has been providing a recurrent funding of \$4.69 million each year to the EOC for enhancing publicity and public education of the RDO. The Ethnic Minorities Unit (EM Unit) set up for this purpose promotes equal opportunities in education and employment for ethnic minorities (EMs) through advocacy, training and promotional efforts. Besides, the Government provided one-off funding of \$3 million to the EOC in 2017-18 for promoting equal opportunities of EMs. The funded programmes included media campaigns, production of educational publications, implementation of partnership projects to explore the feasibility of introducing qualification accreditation for EM language interpreters and conducting integrated research on EM education, academic and employment pathway with a view to drawing up practical guidebooks for EM youth. In 2019-20, the Government will also provide funding of \$2 million to the EOC for organising publicity activities to promote racial integration and equal opportunities of EMs, including programmes about workplaces, service provision and inclusive schools.

5. On training, the EM Unit conducted a total of 309 training sessions from January 2016 to December 2018. Over half of them (55%) targetted the mainstream community, such as civil servants, teachers, bank employees, estate agents, and managerial staff and employees of local businesses; the remaining 45% targetted the EM community.

6. On public education, the EM Unit has published 2 guidance booklets for the education sector in recent years, namely “Promotion of Racial Integration and Prevention of Racial Discrimination in Schools (2016)” and “Easy Guide on Promoting Racial Equality in Schools – Kindergarten Admission (2017)”, for issue to all schools in the territory. Furthermore, in view of the difficulties encountered by non-ethnic Chinese parents when applying for kindergarten admission for their children, the EM Unit published the report on the “Survey on Kindergarten Admission Policies and Attitudes towards Non-Chinese Applicants” in March 2018 to, through media interviews and other coverage, enhance the awareness of fair admission among kindergarten operators and admission staff and their cultural sensitivity in the handling of applications.

7. The EM Unit also initiated a scheme entitled the Racial Diversity and Inclusion Charter for Employers (the Charter) in August 2018. A total of 9 good practices are recommended in the Charter to encourage employers to introduce measures on racial diversity and inclusion in the areas of employment policies, staff culture and working environment. Over 40 employers have signed the Charter since its launch and more are joining in. The signatories commit themselves to promoting racial diversity and inclusion in the workplace and will submit a progress report to the EOC after 1 year.

8. Regarding community outreach, the EM Unit participated in 424 network meetings and 272 community events in the past 3 years. Riding on the efforts, the EM Unit has set up 5 leadership groups within specific communities with the objective of creating a team of ambassadors who can raise awareness and provide information to community members on equal opportunities as well as channel feedback to the EOC on their concerns. These leadership groups include a Nepalese community group, a Pakistani women’s group, a Sikh women’s group, and the respective groups for Filipino and Indonesian foreign domestic helpers. Major concerns expressed by the leadership groups include sexual harassment, domestic violence, support for EM children with special educational needs, workplace discrimination, housing issues, etc.

9. In addition, the EM Unit has set up a Youth Consultative Group on Racial Equality and Integration, comprising 20 Youth Members (6 Chinese and 14 non-Chinese) selected through nomination by secondary schools and universities. Apart from incorporating the perspective of young people into policy recommendations and public education of the EOC, the Youth Members also seek to represent their peers to express their concerns and participate in discussions on race-related issues in the public domain.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB063

(Question Serial No. 0395)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

According to Programme (3), the Mainland and Taiwan Offices will strengthen economic and trade liaison with and enhance the investment promotion function in the Mainland, and foster economic and cultural exchanges with Taiwan. Will the staff establishment of the offices be increased in the next financial year? If yes, what are the details? What is the expenditure involved? In respect of the indicators of Enhancing Trade Opportunities and Promotion of Strengths of Hong Kong, the estimated figures of 2019 are lower than the actual figures of 2018. Please explain in detail whether this is incompatible with the work objectives of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices in the next financial year?

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

In 2018-19, the Mainland Offices (namely the Beijing Office and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan) organised and participated in numerous activities in the Mainland to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the reform and opening up of the country, thus contributing to a significant rise in the figures of the indicators mentioned in the question when compared with the estimated figures of 2018. With the conclusion of the celebration activities, adjustments have been made to the estimate and figures of some indicators in 2019-20.

2. The Mainland Offices and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan proactively serve as important bridges between Hong Kong and the Mainland/Taiwan, including enhancing liaison and communication with counterparts in the areas under their coverage; representing and promoting Hong Kong's trade and commercial interests; encouraging and attracting investments to Hong Kong; promoting Hong Kong as a desirable platform to develop markets along the Belt and Road; promoting the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area development; and gathering relevant information on new laws and regulations, policies and significant regional development, and disseminating such information to the Hong Kong business sector through various channels.

Apart from continuing to take forward the above work with existing manpower, we plan to create a time-limited post of Assistant Trade Officer I in the Beijing Office in 2019-20.

3. As enhancing trade opportunities and promotion of strengths of Hong Kong are an integral part of the work of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices, the expenditure involved cannot be singled out and itemised.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB064

(Question Serial No. 0397)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

It is stated in Programme (2) that the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) will set up a Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office and co-ordinate the work of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government in taking forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area in the next financial year. What are the staff establishment and estimated expenditure of the office? What is the progress of the publicity work on the Greater Bay Area in social media including Facebook, Instagram and WeChat? What are the manpower and expenditure involved? Will more publicity channels be used and new publicity programmes be carried out in the next financial year? If yes, what are the details, as well as the staff and manpower involved?

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau will set up a Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Office) in 2019-20. The proposed Office will involve 19 additional posts, namely 1 officer at point six of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 officer at point two of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Administrative Officer, 1 Chief Executive Officer, 4 Executive Officers I, 1 Chief Information Officer, 1 Senior Information Officer, 1 Information Officer and 7 supporting staff (from the Personal Secretary, Clerical Officer and Motor Driver grades). In 2019-20, the estimated expenditure of the Office is about \$38 million, of which about \$21 million is staff cost on civil service posts.

2. Since August 2018, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government has launched a series of publicity programmes to raise public awareness on and interest in the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area). Following the setting up of dedicated website, Facebook and Instagram pages in August and September 2018 respectively, a WeChat account also came

into operation upon the promulgation of the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area on 18 February 2019.

3. In addition to the above publicity channels, the Office has planned to produce promotional clips, publish publicity materials and organise exhibitions on the Greater Bay Area in the coming financial year. The dedicated website on the Greater Bay Area will also update the policies of the Greater Bay Area cities and the work of the HKSAR Government on a regular basis, in order to help industries and the community understand and seize the opportunities afforded by the development of the Greater Bay Area. The estimated expenditure of the promotion and publicity programmes is about \$8 million in 2019-20, including the operating expenses for engaging service contractor/staff for the maintenance of social media such as Facebook, Instagram and WeChat accounts.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB065

(Question Serial No. 1681)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Under Programme (2), the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs is responsible for, amongst others, to promote public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law. What are the details of activities organised for this purpose in this financial year? What are the number of participants as well as the manpower and expenditures involved in each of these activity? Will more activities be organised in the next financial year to enhance public awareness on the Constitution of our country, so as to give the public a better understanding of the relation between the Constitution and the Basic Law? If yes, what are the details? What are the manpower and expenditures involved?

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy (LegCo internal reference no.: 64)

Reply:

The Constitution of the People's Republic of China (the Constitution) and the Basic Law form the constitutional basis of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (the HKSAR). The HKSAR Government has the responsibility to encourage the general public to have a comprehensive understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law. We have all along placed equal emphasis on the concepts of "one country" and "two systems" and included the relationship between the Constitution and the Basic Law in our Basic Law publicity and promotional activities.

2. The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) will continue to organise various types of activities through different means to enable the public to have a more comprehensive and thorough understanding of the "one country, two systems" principle, the Constitution and the Basic Law, including a correct understanding of the relationship between the Constitution and the Basic Law. The relevant expenditure in 2018-19 and the estimate for 2019-20 in this respect are about \$17 million each. The promotion strategies include:

- (a) using electronic media, such as Internet and smart-phone applications, to promote widely to different strata of the society;

- (b) enhancing awareness and understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law by the general public and students through promotional activities at the district level, such as organising roving exhibitions and arranging mobile resource centre to pay visits to different districts and schools; and
- (c) providing sponsorship to non-government organisations or community organisations through the “Basic Law Promotion Activity Sponsorship Scheme” and “Basic Law Promotion Research Sponsorship Scheme” for staging various promotional and research activities on the Constitution and the Basic Law, such as seminars, quizzes and debate competitions, in order to reach a wider audience.

The relevant work is undertaken by a team in the CMAB which is led by a Principal Assistant Secretary and supported by 4 officers.

3. In 2018-19, each round of the roving exhibitions held in shopping malls attracted an average of over 8 000 participants. The mobile promotional activities held in schools were attended by a daily average of about 140 students. On promotion through electronic media, the Basic Law online game introduced between February and May 2018 attracted nearly 2.4 million visits to the promotional website, and over 120 000 people participated in the game. As for the sponsorship schemes, a total of 17 projects were sponsored by the “Basic Law Promotion Activity Sponsorship Scheme” and “Basic Law Promotion Research Sponsorship Scheme”.

4. Under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (BLPSC) provides views and steer on the overall strategy and key aspects for promoting the Constitution and the Basic Law. The CMAB provides secretariat support to the BLPSC. Five working groups (namely Working Groups on Local Community; Teachers and Students; Civil Servants; Industrial, Commercial and Professional Sectors; and Community Outside Hong Kong) are set up under the BLPSC and are assisted by the Home Affairs Bureau, Education Bureau, Civil Service Bureau, Trade and Industry Department and Information Services Department respectively in planning and organising various types of activities to promote the Constitution and the Basic Law on various fronts.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB066

(Question Serial No. 2217)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Secretary for Security

Question:

The Estimates mentions “the provision of practical assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland”.

Please advise on: how many requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents in the Mainland were received in the past 5 years? Of these, how many cases were resolved through direct assistance of the Government?

Asked by: Hon OR Chong-shing, Wilson (LegCo internal reference no.: 34)

Reply:

Immigration Divisions are currently set up under 5 Mainland Offices of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (namely the Beijing Office and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Guangdong, Chengdu, Shanghai and Wuhan) to provide practical assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland.

2. In 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018, a total of 340, 407, 319, 415 and 375 requests for assistance were received respectively from Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. The Immigration Divisions had rendered practical assistance in the light of actual circumstances.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB067

(Question Serial No. 2245)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2019-20, it is mentioned that the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) will liaise with the Government on the EOC's recommendations in the Discrimination Law Review. When the prohibition of direct and indirect discrimination on grounds of breastfeeding is expected to be implemented?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 185)

Reply:

The Discrimination Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2018 (the Bill) was submitted to the Legislative Council (LegCo) in late 2018 to implement 8 recommendations put forward in the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC)'s Submissions to the Government on the Discrimination Law Review (DLR) that are relatively less complex or controversial, including to introduce express provisions in the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 480) prohibiting direct and indirect discrimination on the ground of breastfeeding and to include expression of milk in the definition of breastfeeding.

2. The Bill was gazetted on 30 November 2018, and presented to LegCo for first and second reading on 12 December 2018. At present, LegCo has formed a Bills Committee to scrutinise the Bill. The Government will carefully listen and consider the views of the Bills Committee, and is looking forward to early passage of the Bill. To facilitate smooth implementation of the proposed legislative measures on prohibiting discrimination on the ground of breastfeeding, the amendments concerned will commence 12 months after the gazettal of the Discrimination Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Ordinance 2018.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB068

(Question Serial No. 2256)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In the light of the recent spate of large-scale personal data breaches in Hong Kong, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. The Government has previously mentioned that it would make amendments to the law as soon as possible to enhance internet privacy and security. What are the work progress and timetable?
2. When will an internet privacy and security law be put forward for public consultation and submitted to this Committee for deliberation?
3. Will the Government actively consider legislating for children's online privacy? If yes, what are the details and timetable? If no, what are the reasons?
4. The numerous personal data breaches reflect the prevailing low corporate awareness of protecting customers' privacy. Will the Government enhance publicity in this respect? If yes, what are the details, timetable and resources involved? If no, what are the reasons?
5. Is there sufficient internet security personnel in Hong Kong? Will the Government train more manpower in this field? If yes, what are the details? And what are the staff establishment and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 204)

Reply:

A number of existing laws in Hong Kong are applicable to computer-related offences. For instance, anyone who gains unauthorised access to the computer system of others may have committed the offence of "access to computer with criminal or dishonest intent" under section 161 of the Crimes Ordinance (Cap. 200) that carries a maximum penalty of imprisonment for 5 years, or the offence of "destroying or damaging property"

under section 60 of the Crimes Ordinance (Cap. 200) that carries a maximum penalty of imprisonment for 10 years. Anyone who impersonates others to engage in fraudulent activities may have committed the offence of “obtaining property by deception” under section 17 of the Theft Ordinance (Cap. 210) or the offence of “fraud” under section 16A of the Theft Ordinance (Cap. 210), which carry a maximum penalty of imprisonment for 10 years and 14 years respectively. Some existing laws do not expressly mention the online environment, but their application still covers the online world. For example, the Unsolicited Electronic Messages Ordinance (Cap. 593) prohibits fraudulent activities related to the sending of multiple commercial electronic messages, while the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (Cap. 486) (PDPO) applies to any personal data for which access to or processing is practicable. The Government will regularly examine relevant laws in response to changing circumstances and make amendments as and when necessary. The Law Reform Commission (LRC) also has plans to review laws related to online offences and has arranged manpower for the preparation work. Upon completion of the review, the relevant bureaux and departments will study the recommendations of the LRC. Furthermore, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau, jointly with the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data, is looking into the provisions and penalties under the PDPO as well as the proposal to establish a mandatory notification mechanism for data breaches.

2. The protection under the PDPO currently covers data subjects of all ages, including children. At present, the Government has no plan to legislate for children’s online privacy. Mindful of the need to safeguard personal data privacy of children, the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD) has been strengthening the protection of personal privacy of children through various publicity and educational activities. In this regard, the PCPD has launched a “Children Privacy” thematic website, and published the guidance notes on “Collection and Use of Personal Data through the Internet – Points to Note for Data Users Targeting at Children” and the leaflet on “Children Online Privacy – practical tips for parents and teachers” to advise online platform operators as well as parents and teachers on the essentials for protection of children privacy. The PCPD also organises privacy protection campaigns for students every year to raise children’s awareness of protecting their personal data privacy.

3. With respect to raising corporate awareness of protecting customers’ privacy, the PCPD will carry out publicity and education on various platforms, such as by updating its website and issuing guidance notes, and maintain liaison with the industry regarding various privacy-related issues. In addition, the PCPD will facilitate compliance of data users with the PDPO in various sectors through inspections, seminars, professional courses, workshops, talks, etc. In 2018, the PCPD conducted 421 professional courses, talks, seminars and conferences for participants from more than 570 organisations. A total of 123 in-house talks were also held at request. The PCPD will continue to allocate resources and organise a variety of educational and publicity activities to raise corporate awareness of protecting personal data privacy.

4. According to the “2018 Manpower Survey Report – Innovation and Technology Sector” published by the Vocational Training Council, the number of employees specialising in information security in Hong Kong rose from 769 in 2016 to 1 118 in 2018, representing an increase of nearly 45%. In addition, it is estimated that there were more than 4 000 personnel undertaking information security and related duties, accounting for about 4% of the total employees in the information technology (IT) sector. The

Government has all along been supporting the development and manpower training of the IT security industry in Hong Kong. The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) and the Hong Kong Computer Emergency Response Team Co-ordination Centre will continue to work with various professional bodies to organise conferences, thematic seminars and workshops, including training for cloud security professional certification and certificate courses on information security, and the annual “Information Security Summit” to enhance IT practitioners’ skills and knowledge of information security. The Government also actively encourages tertiary institutions to strengthen information security modules in their IT-related programmes, and promote information security education in primary and secondary schools to cultivate the youth’s interest and awareness of information security. The above work is undertaken through re-deployment of resources within the OGCIO and does not involve any additional manpower and expenditure.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB069

(Question Serial No. 2778)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Director of Chief Executive's Office
Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Chief Executive stated publicly that she often submits reports on Hong Kong's situation to the Central Government. In this connection, would the Government give detailed information on the following:

- (1) How many reports were submitted to the Central Government by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government in the past 5 years? Whether every one of these reports was submitted at the Central Government's request or at the initiative of the HKSAR Government? What were the manpower and expenditure involved?
- (2) Please set out details of each report submitted in the past 5 years, including date of submission, gist of contents, expenditure involved, departments responsible for drafting the reports, did/would the Government make open the reports to the public, and whether the reports were submitted at the Central Government's request.

Name of report	Date of submission	Gist of contents	Expenditure involved	Department responsible for drafting the reports	Did/would the Government make open the reports	Whether the reports were submitted at the Central Government's request
Report no.1						
Report no.2						
Report no.3						

- (3) Would the Government make open to the public all reports submitted to the Central Government in the past? If the reports cannot be made open to the public, what are the reasons? Could the Government explain the reasons for making/not making open these reports on a case by case basis?

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) reports to the Central Government on the situation of the HKSAR from time to time. The Government will not make public the information on our communication with the Central Government. Preparation of the relevant reports does not involve additional manpower and expenditure.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB070

(Question Serial No. 2397)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

One of the development goals of the Government is to take forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. In implementing relevant measures, does the Government know how many people are working full-time and part-time in the Greater Bay Area (excluding Hong Kong) and how many students are studying full-time and part-time in tertiary institutions? What are the figures?

	Number of people working full time	Number of people working part time	Number of people studying full time in tertiary institutions	Number of people studying part time in tertiary institutions
Number of people engaging development in the Greater Bay Area				

Besides, how many people are working and studying in the Greater Bay Area?

	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+
Number of people working/studying full time or part time							

Asked by: Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael (LegCo internal reference no.: 43)

Reply:

Currently, the Government does not have comprehensive statistical information on Hong Kong people working in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area). The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR)

Government will consider collecting relevant figures on specific topics in due course having regard to its operational needs.

2. Notwithstanding, the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) has been making use of the movement records of Hong Kong permanent residents to compile and release the estimation of “Hong Kong residents usually staying in the Guangdong Province” since 2016. These residents refer to Hong Kong permanent residents who have stayed in the Guangdong Province for 6 months and above cumulatively during the 6 months before and after the reference time-point. As at end-2017, the estimated number of such persons was around 530 000. The corresponding figure for 2018 is not yet available. Since C&SD assumes that Hong Kong permanent residents departing Hong Kong via land control points and the China Ferry Terminal are travelling to the Guangdong Province, the estimation concerned cannot differentiate those who then travel to other areas in the Mainland or outside the Mainland. Besides, their purposes of stay (e.g. for work or study) in the Guangdong Province could not be ascertained in the estimation.

3. Statistics on Hong Kong residents usually staying in the Guangdong Province by age group in 2017 is set out in the table below:

Reference time-point	Age group					Total
	0-14	15-24	24-44	45-64	65+	
End-2017	213 700	25 400	71 400	136 000	79 100	525 500

Notes: For a specific reference time-point, the figures above refer to the number of Hong Kong permanent residents who have stayed in the Guangdong Province for 6 months and above during the one-year period from 6 months before the reference time-point to 6 months after the reference time-point.

Figures may not add up to total due to rounding.

4. We have consulted the Education Bureau (EDB) on the number of Hong Kong residents studying in the Mainland. The HKSAR Government does not compile statistical data on the number of Hong Kong students pursuing studies in the Mainland. Nevertheless, according to the information provided by the Ministry of Education, there were 7 799 Hong Kong students studying at higher education institutions and research institutes in the Guangdong Province as at November 2017 (including 111 students of post-secondary programmes, 6 961 students of bachelor’s programmes, 387 students of master’s programmes and 340 students of doctoral programmes). The figures for 2018 are not yet available. EDB will continue to communicate with education authorities of the cities in the Greater Bay Area to understand their policies and arrangements on education for children of Hong Kong residents working and living in the Greater Bay Area and collect relevant information to support their further studies.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB071

(Question Serial No. 0296)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

When will the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office be set up? What are the estimate and establishment involved in this financial year? What are the rank and duties of the Commissioner for Greater Bay Area Development? Will open recruitment or in-service recruitment be conducted to select suitable candidate for the post? What are the priorities and specific programmes of work of the office?

Moreover, it is stated in last year's reply that the estimated expenditure of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office in 2018-19 was \$13.5 million, but eventually the office was not set up in that year. Then why does the revised estimate of Programme (2): Constitutional and Mainland Affairs increase rather than decrease?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chuen, Tony (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau will set up a Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Office) in 2019-20. The proposed Office will involve 19 additional posts, namely 1 officer at point six of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 officer at point two of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Administrative Officer, 1 Chief Executive Officer, 4 Executive Officers I, 1 Chief Information Officer, 1 Senior Information Officer, 1 Information Officer and 7 supporting staff (from the Personal Secretary, Clerical Officer and Motor Driver grades). In 2019-20, the estimated expenditure of the Office is about \$38 million, of which about \$21 million is staff cost on civil service posts.

2. The Commissioner for the Development of the Greater Bay Area, to be taken up by an officer at point six of the Directorate Pay Scale, will formulate and co-ordinate the overall policies and strategies of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government in taking forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area). The work priorities of the Office for

2019-20 include the following: to carry out promotion and publicity work and disseminate information to deepen the understanding of the public and industries on the development of the Greater Bay Area; to co-ordinate with relevant central ministries/departments, the Guangdong Provincial Government and the Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) Government as well as the relevant bureaux/departments of the HKSAR Government; to formulate annual work priorities to take forward the development of the Greater Bay Area; and to maintain close liaison with business associations, professional bodies and relevant stakeholders to gauge their views on the effective implementation of the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Outline Development Plan).

3. In 2018-19, the estimated expenditure of the Office was about \$13.5 million, which was a ballpark estimate subject to adjustments in the light of the actual situation. Since August 2018, the HKSAR Government has launched a series of publicity efforts to increase understanding and interest in the development of the Greater Bay Area amongst various sectors of society. Such efforts include setting up a dedicated website on the Greater Bay Area, as well as producing pamphlets, television promotional clips and radio promotional soundtracks. They also target communication channels that are widely used by young people, such as social media and online platforms. The dedicated website on the Greater Bay Area will also update the policies of the Greater Bay Area cities and the work of the HKSAR Government on a regular basis, in order to help industries and the community understand and seize the opportunities afforded by the Greater Bay Area Development. Moreover, upon the promulgation of the Outline Development Plan, the Symposium on the Outline Development Plan co-organised by the HKSAR Government, the People's Government of Guangdong Province and the Macao SAR Government was held on 21 February 2019 to introduce the contents of the Outline Development Plan and explore the development opportunities of the Greater Bay Area. Around 800 guests, representing relevant central ministries and various sectors of Hong Kong, Guangdong and Macao, attended the symposium. The actual expenditures of the above-mentioned promotional activities were higher than the estimated expenditures.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB072

(Question Serial No. 0297)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Discrimination against new arrivals, especially one-way permit holders has aggravated in recent years, putting the blame of land and housing problems and healthcare manpower shortage in Hong Kong on them. Will the Equal Opportunities Commission carry out public education and research projects in this financial year to clear public misunderstanding and explain the contribution of new arrivals to the economic development and labour market of Hong Kong? If yes, what is the estimated expenditure involved; if no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chuen, Tony (LegCo internal reference no.: 10)

Reply:

Hong Kong is a multi-cultural international city and a harmonious community with heterogeneous diversity. The Government attaches great importance to promoting social and racial harmony among different groups of people in the city, and is committed to promoting the core values, such as mutual respect for people from different backgrounds in the community and equality for all, through its public education efforts.

2. On helping new arrivals from the Mainland to integrate into the community, various policy bureaux and departments have been providing a range of services in line with their respective policies to meet the needs of the new arrivals. These include education support, employment counselling, social welfare, housing etc., so as to help the new arrivals adapt to life in Hong Kong and facilitate their early integration into the community.

3. The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) will continue to implement public education and publicity activities to promote equal opportunities and anti-discrimination in 2019-20. The EOC promotes the creation of a friendly environment which is free of discrimination through contributing feature articles to a number of newspapers; the Community Participation Funding Programme on Equal Opportunities; radio programmes; roving drama performances in schools; exhibitions; YouTube short video production; youth

mentorship programmes and multi-media publicity plans, etc. The EOC will also continue to make use of online platforms such as YouTube channels to draw the attention of the public to issues concerning equal opportunities and social inclusion. Since the launch of the YouTube channel in 2008, a total of 321 short videos have been uploaded which have attracted more than 480 000 views. Based on the 12-episode YouTube short video series, the “EO Documentaries”, the EOC produced an education kit to promote the basic concepts of anti-discrimination ordinances for use during training conducted by schools and institutions. The EOC will continue to produce more YouTube short videos based on equal opportunity issues that are of concern to the public in order to promote the message of anti-discrimination and pluralistic inclusion. The EOC disseminates the message of non-discrimination against new arrivals through policy initiatives and when promoting the overall concept of equal opportunities for all. Therefore, separate budget and breakdown figures for work in this respect is not available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB073

(Question Serial No. 0298)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Legislative Council is scrutinising the National Anthem Bill. Have funds been earmarked and specific plans been made for publicity, public education and implementation after the Bill is passed?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chuen, Tony (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

To complement the local legislation of the National Anthem Law, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau will issue Announcements in the Public Interests (APIs) and promotional leaflets in due course to promote the background of the national anthem as well as the etiquette to be observed when the national anthem is performed or played in due course using existing resources.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB074

(Question Serial No. 1945)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. In respect of the establishment of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office, what are the estimated expenditure and staff establishment involved in 2019-20; and
2. What are the priorities of work of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office in 2019-20?

Asked by: Hon WONG Pik-wan, Helena (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau will set up a Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Office) in 2019-20. The proposed Office will involve 19 additional posts, namely 1 officer at point six of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 officer at point two of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Administrative Officer, 1 Chief Executive Officer, 4 Executive Officers I, 1 Chief Information Officer, 1 Senior Information Officer, 1 Information Officer and 7 supporting staff (from the Personal Secretary, Clerical Officer and Motor Driver grades). In 2019-20, the estimated expenditure of the Office is about \$38 million, of which about \$21 million is staff cost on civil service posts.

2. The work priorities of the Office for 2019-20 include the following: to carry out promotion and publicity work and disseminate information to deepen the understanding of the public and industries on the development of the Greater Bay Area; to co-ordinate with relevant central ministries/departments, the Guangdong Provincial Government and the Macao Special Administrative Region Government as well as the relevant bureaux/departments of the HKSAR Government; to formulate annual work priorities to take forward the development of the Greater Bay Area; and to maintain close liaison with business associations, professional bodies and relevant stakeholders to gauge their views on the effective implementation of the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB075

(Question Serial No. 1946)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. On engaging the Taiwan-Hong Kong Economic and Cultural Co-operation Council (THEC) in taking forward various priority co-operation areas agreed between the Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic and Cultural Cooperation and Promotion Council and THEC, please give details on the areas agreed.

Asked by: Hon WONG Pik-wan, Helena (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

Reply:

Since their establishment in 2010, the Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic and Cultural Cooperation and Promotion Council and the Taiwan-Hong Kong Economic and Cultural Co-operation Council have agreed to pursue co-operation on various priority areas covering different public policy matters, including transportation, financial regulation, healthcare, food safety, cultural and creative industries, tourism, economic and trade, law, education, environmental protection, heritage conservation, consumer goods safety, testing and certification, meteorological services, responses to natural disasters, nature conservation, intellectual property, urban renewal, and promotion of water saving, etc.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB076****(Question Serial No. 1947)**

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. What are the respective actual, revised and estimated expenditures of the Beijing Office (BJO), the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan, and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan from 2018 to 2020?
2. What are the respective staff establishment of the above offices?

Asked by: Hon WONG Pik-wan, Helena (LegCo internal reference no.: 39)

Reply:

The actual expenditure of the Beijing Office (BJO) and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan, and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan in 2017-18, the revised estimated expenditure for 2018-19 and the estimated expenditure for 2019-20 are set out in the table below:

Office	Actual expenditure in 2017-18 (\$ million)	Revised estimated expenditure in 2018-19 (\$ million)	Estimated expenditure for 2019-20 (\$ million)
BJO	89.40	80.17	85.21
Guangdong ETO	67.19	65.18	67.75
Shanghai ETO	61.00	55.79	66.82
Chengdu ETO	51.36	43.97	46.00
Wuhan ETO	48.02	47.22	51.34

Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan	24.98	25.69	27.00
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2. For the BJO, the establishment in 2019-20 comprises 3 directorate officers (namely 1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade A, 1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade B1 and 1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade C) and 20 non-directorate officers (namely 2 Senior Administrative Officers, 1 Chief Curator, 2 Principal Trade Officers, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Assistant Trade Officer I, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer, 3 Immigration Officers, 1 Chief Information Officer, 1 Information Officer, 2 Senior Executive Officers and 1 Senior Personal Secretary).
3. For the Guangdong ETO, the establishment in 2019-20 comprises 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade B) and 17 non-directorate officers (namely 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Chief Executive Officer, 4 Principal Trade Officers, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer, 2 Immigration Officers, 1 Principal Information Officer and 2 Senior Executive Officers).
4. For the Shanghai ETO, the establishment in 2019-20 comprises 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade B) and 14 non-directorate officers (namely 2 Senior Administrative Officers, 1 Chief Executive Officer, 1 Principal Trade Officer, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer, 2 Immigration Officers, 1 Senior Information Officer and 1 Senior Executive Officer).
5. For the Chengdu ETO, the establishment in 2019-20 comprises 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade C) and 12 non-directorate officers (namely 2 Senior Administrative Officers, 1 Chief Executive Officer, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Senior Information Officer, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer, 1 Immigration Officer and 1 Senior Executive Officer).
6. For the Wuhan ETO, the establishment in 2019-20 comprises 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade C) and 12 non-directorate officers (namely 2 Senior Administrative Officers, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Principal Trade Officer, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Senior Information Officer, 2 Immigration Officers and 1 Senior Executive Officer).
7. For the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan, the establishment in 2019-20 comprises 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade B) and 7 non-directorate officers (namely 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Principal Trade Officer, 2 Trade Officers, 1 Senior Information Officer, 1 Executive Officer I and 1 Personal Secretary I).

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB077

(Question Serial No. 0618)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

It is mentioned in the Budget that Hong Kong, positioned as international financial, transportation and trade centres as well as an international aviation hub in the Greater Bay Area, will strengthen its roles as a global offshore Renminbi business hub and an international asset and risk management centre; and will devote great efforts to develop I&T industries as well as international legal and dispute resolution services. We will seize the opportunity and make dedicated efforts to promote development in the Greater Bay Area to enhance its global competitiveness.

Apart from government policy to complement the efforts, how will the HKSAR Government increase the awareness of SMEs and the general public on the importance of the Outline Development Plan on Hong Kong's future development? Will the Government step up publicity in the community to facilitate policy implementation and enable the public to understand, engage in and embrace the Greater Bay Area Development? If yes, how much resources will be deployed to the relevant publicity work? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ting-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

Since August 2018, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government has launched a series of publicity programmes to raise public awareness on and interest in the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area), including a dedicated website and fact sheet on the Greater Bay Area and Announcements of Public Interest etc. They also target channels more commonly used by young people such as social media and online platforms. Moreover, upon the promulgation of the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Outline Development Plan), the Symposium on the Outline Development Plan co-organised by the governments of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao was held on 21 February 2019 to introduce the contents of the Outline Development Plan and explore the development opportunities of the Greater Bay Area. Around 800 guests, representing

relevant central ministries and various sectors of Hong Kong, Guangdong and Macao, attended the symposium.

2. Policy bureaux of the HKSAR Government introduce the relevant contents of the Outline Development Plan to respective industries and sectors, and organise seminars to brief on the development opportunities brought by the Greater Bay Area. Taking the business sector and SMEs for example, briefings on the Outline Development Plan were held by the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau for the Trade and Industry Advisory Board and major local business associations.

3. In addition to the above publicity channels, the Greater Bay Area Development Office has planned to produce promotional clips, publish publicity materials and organise exhibitions on the Greater Bay Area in the coming financial year. The dedicated website on the Greater Bay Area will also update the policies of the Greater Bay Area cities and the work of the HKSAR Government on a regular basis, in order to help industries and the community understand and seize the opportunities afforded by the development of the Greater Bay Area. The estimated expenditure of the promotion and publicity programmes is about \$8 million in 2019-20.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB078

(Question Serial No. 2405)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In respect of setting up a Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office and co-ordinating the work of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government in taking forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area:

1. What are the staff establishment, ranks of officers and estimated expenditure of the office?
2. What are the details of work of the office? Are there any specific objectives and indicators of work?
3. As various bureaux/departments are involved in the work of the Greater Bay Area Development, what mode of work will be adopted by the office to co-ordinate their efforts?
4. As the community holds different views or have many doubts on government's work to take forward the Greater Bay Area Development, will the office or other government departments adopt any measures/strategies to collect public views? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon WU Chi-wai (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)

Reply:

To take forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area) more effectively, the Chief Executive (CE) announced in the Policy Address delivered in October 2018 that a high-level Steering Committee for the Development of the Greater Bay Area (Steering Committee) would be established, with her as the chairperson and its membership comprising all Secretaries of Department and Directors of Bureau. The Steering Committee will be responsible for the overall co-ordination of matters relating to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region's (HKSAR) participation in the development of the Greater Bay Area. In 2019-20, the

Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau will also set up a Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Office) and appoint a Commissioner for the Development of the Greater Bay Area to implement the relevant work. The Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Outline Development Plan) is a guiding framework covering a wide range of policy areas. CE's Steering Committee will thus undertake the overall co-ordination of the efforts of various policy bureaux/departments for the implementation of the Outline Development Plan. One of the duties of the proposed Office is to provide support for the Steering Committee.

2. The proposed Office will involve 19 additional posts, namely 1 officer at point six of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 officer at point two of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Administrative Officer, 1 Chief Executive Officer, 4 Executive Officers I, 1 Chief Information Officer, 1 Senior Information Officer, 1 Information Officer and 7 supporting staff (from the Personal Secretary, Clerical Officer and Motor Driver grades). In 2019-20, the estimated expenditure of the Office is about \$38 million, of which about \$21 million is staff cost on civil service posts.

3. The work priorities of the Office for 2019-20 include the following: to carry out promotion and publicity work and disseminate information to deepen the understanding of the public and industries on the development of the Greater Bay Area; to co-ordinate with relevant central ministries/departments, the Guangdong Provincial Government and the Macao Special Administrative Region Government as well as the relevant bureaux/departments of the HKSAR Government; and to formulate annual work priorities to take forward the development of the Greater Bay Area. The Office will maintain close liaison with Members of the Legislative Council, industries, business associations, professional bodies and relevant stakeholders to gauge their views on the effective implementation of the Outline Development Plan to ensure that the relevant measures can best meet the needs of various sectors of the community. Since the work of the Office cannot be quantified, we have not set any performance indicators in this respect.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB079****(Question Serial No. 0839)**

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the salaries, allowances, job-related allowances and related expenses to be incurred by the Office of the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs in 2019-20, please tabulate the following information:

- (1) the (i) salaries, (ii) allowances, (iii) job-related allowances, (iv) Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) contribution and (v) Civil Service Provident Fund contribution of (a) Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (SCMA), (b) Under Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (USCMA) and (c) Political Assistant (PA) to SCMA in this financial year;

	(i) Salaries	(ii) Allowances	(iii) Job-related allowances	(iv) MPF contribution	(v) Civil Service Provident Fund contribution
(a) SCMA					
(b) USCMA					
(c) PA to SCMA					

- (2) the estimated expenditures on allowances for (a) SCMA, (b) USCMA and (c) PA to SCMA in this financial year, including the following five categories of expenditures: (i) their medical and dental benefits, (ii) the medical and dental benefits of their spouses, (iii) their leave passage allowances, (iv) the leave passage allowances of their spouses and (v) cars and chauffeur services;

	(i) Medical and dental benefits	(ii) Medical and dental benefits of spouses	(iii) Leave passage allowances	(iv) Leave passage allowances of spouses	(v) Cars and driver services
(a) SCMA					
(b) USCMA					
(c) PA to SCMA					

- (3) the estimated expenditures on job-related allowances for (a) SCMA, (b) USCMA and (c) PA to SCMA in this financial year, including the following three categories of expenditures: (i) official entertainment, (ii) passage for duty visits and (iii) security arrangements.

	(i) Official entertainment	(ii) Passage for duty visits	(iii) Security arrangements
(a) SCMA			
(b) USCMA			
(c) PA to SCMA			

Asked by: Hon YEUNG Alvin (LegCo internal reference no.: 65)

Reply:

In the 2019-20 estimates, the provisions for the salary in respect of the positions of Director of Bureau, Deputy Director of Bureau and Political Assistant to Director of Bureau are \$4.08 million, \$3.06 million and \$1.22 million respectively. A sum of \$18,000 has been earmarked for the Mandatory Provident Fund contribution of each of the above mentioned positions.

2. The Director of Bureau, Deputy Director of Bureau and Political Assistant to Director of Bureau and their families are entitled to the medical and dental benefits available to civil servants and their families. The Director of Bureau is provided with the free use at his discretion of a car and driver in Hong Kong, while the use of government car by Deputy Director of Bureau and Political Assistant to Director of Bureau shall be governed by rules and regulations applicable to civil servants at comparable levels.

3. The provisions in the 2019-20 estimates for official entertainment under the Departmental Entertainment Vote of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau is \$143,000. This Bureau has not set aside provision for the passage for duty visits by the Director of Bureau, Deputy Director of Bureau and Political Assistant to Director of Bureau, nor has it earmarked funds for their leave passage allowance, regularly-paid or job-related allowance, Civil Service Provident Fund contribution and security arrangements.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB080

(Question Serial No. 2071)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

It is mentioned in the Estimates that the Government will set up a Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office and co-ordinate the work of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government in taking forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. What are the specific work programmes, staff establishment and estimated expenditure of the office in the coming year? Will the Government consider setting work performance targets or indicators to assess the work of the office? If yes, what are the details; if no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon YUNG Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 48)

Reply:

With the promulgation of the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Outline Development Plan) on 18 February 2019, the development of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area) has entered the important stage of full implementation. The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau will set up a Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Office) in 2019-20. The proposed Office will involve 19 additional posts, namely 1 officer at point six of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 officer at point two of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Administrative Officer, 1 Chief Executive Officer, 4 Executive Officers I, 1 Chief Information Officer, 1 Senior Information Officer, 1 Information Officer and 7 supporting staff (from the Personal Secretary, Clerical Officer and Motor Driver grades). In 2019-20, the estimated expenditure of the Office is about \$38 million, of which about \$21 million is staff cost on civil service posts.

2. The work priorities of the Office for 2019-20 include the following: to carry out promotion and publicity work and disseminate information to deepen the understanding of the public and industries on the development of the Greater Bay Area; to co-ordinate with relevant central ministries/departments, the Guangdong Provincial Government and the Macao Special Administrative Region Government as well as the relevant

bureaux/departments of the HKSAR Government; to formulate annual work priorities to take forward the development of the Greater Bay Area; and to maintain close liaison with business associations, professional bodies and relevant stakeholders to gauge their views on the effective implementation of the Outline Development Plan. Since the work of the Office cannot be quantified, we have not set any performance indicators in this respect.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB081****(Question Serial No. 0525)**Head: (163) Registration and Electoral OfficeSubhead (No. & title):Programme: Electoral ServicesControlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

Please list, by the 18 District Councils in the territory, the numbers of electors in the final register and the numbers of electors “removed from the register after checking by the Government” last year.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)Reply:

The number of geographical constituency electors in the 2018 final register is 3 814 318. The breakdown by District Council (DC) constituencies is as follows:

District Council	Number of electors
Central & Western	102 603
Wan Chai	69 259
Eastern	302 337
Southern	142 533
Yau Tsim Mong	118 398
Sham Shui Po	183 182
Kowloon City	185 580
Wong Tai Sin	249 394
Kwun Tong	363 789
Tsuen Wan	154 298
Tuen Mun	272 256
Yuen Long	318 651
Kwai Tsing	287 210
Islands	70 188
North	176 408
Tai Po	177 062
Sai Kung	251 682
Sha Tin	389 488
Total	3 814 318

2. In the 2018 voter registration cycle, the number of electors removed from the register because of their failure to respond to the statutory inquiry process was 41 794. The Registration and Electoral Office does not have a breakdown of the number of electors who have been removed from the register by DC constituencies.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB082

(Question Serial No. 0526)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

What is the estimated number of additional non-civil service contract staff to be recruited by the Registration and Electoral Office for the District Council election this year? What are the specific measures to ensure the confidentiality of electors' particulars? Will a cooling-off period be imposed to prohibit all election polls and publicity activities on the polling day?

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) will employ about 1 000 non-civil service contract staff (the number of contract staff to be employed during the peak period) in 2019-20 to cope with the workload arising from the preparation and conduct of the 2019 District Council (DC) Ordinary Election and the 2020 Legislative Council General Election.

2. The register of electors must be made available for public inspection as required by law. The REO will put in place the following measures to protect electors' information:

- (a) Effective measures will continue to be taken by the REO to ensure that the information provided by an elector will be used solely for voter registration and election related purposes. Any person who wishes to copy electors' information in the register of electors for public inspection must obtain prior consent from the Electoral Registration Officer and undertake to use the information concerned solely for election related purposes, including specifying which election it will be used. Members of the public or candidates requesting or copying the information in the register for electors, or requesting electors' address labels or Mailing Label System DVDs in accordance with the law are required to sign an undertaking to be abided by the terms governing the use of electors' information. The extracted information on the DVD is also protected by a password. The members of the public concerned or the candidates are required to comply with the

undertaking to properly destroy the relevant information or return the information to the REO for disposal. Under the existing electoral legislation, any person who uses or reproduces or permits another person to use or reproduce the information in the Register for any purpose other than a purpose related to an election commits a criminal offence.

- (b) With regard to information technology (IT) security, all staff of the REO are prohibited from using the Electors Information Enquiry System for the purpose of verifying voters' identity and handling enquiries in election venues. The REO has also updated its internal guidelines on IT security and will ensure that its IT systems are in compliance with the latest requirements of the Government's security policies, procedures and guidelines.
- (c) As for the general security of election venue, the REO will formulate a venue security plan for each election, and seek comments from the Police and the Electoral Affairs Commission (EAC) on the relevant security arrangements. The arrangements for the usage of personal data, together with the security arrangements, will be personally endorsed by the Chief Electoral Officer. Apart from the circulation of the guidelines on the handling of personal data among staff and provision of adequate staff training on the protection of personal data on a regular basis, the REO will also arrange briefing sessions and training for electoral staff prior to each major election, alerting them to ensure the confidentiality of electors' information while working in the polling stations.

3. Under the existing legislation, express permission from the EAC must be obtained for conducting exit polls within the No Canvassing Zone. To avoid unfair interference with the election process by unduly influencing electors, the EAC has promulgated guidelines on the conduct, publication and broadcast of exit polls within the No Canvassing Zone. Since the 2015 DC Ordinary Election, any person or organisation applying for conducting exit polls are further required to make a statutory declaration to undertake to comply with the terms and guidelines on the conduct of exit polls. As regards election surveys conducted on the polling day outside the No Canvassing Zone or election surveys conducted prior to the polling day in various forms (such as via telephone or internet), there is currently no legislation regulating such activities.

4. The Government had conducted a public consultation on electoral arrangements (including the regulation of election surveys) and published the consultation report in May 2018. Having considered the views received during the public consultation period, we consider that the status quo should be maintained for the regulation of exit polls on the polling day.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB083

(Question Serial No. 2642)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please provide a breakdown of the actual expenditure for and details of the Legislative Council By-election for the Hong Kong Island, Kowloon West and New Territories East Geographical Constituencies and the Architectural, Surveying, Planning and Landscape Functional Constituency held last year; and the reserved provision for and details of the preparation and conduct of other possible by-elections.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

The total expenditure for the Legislative Council by-election for the Hong Kong Island, Kowloon West and New Territories East Geographical Constituencies and the Architectural, Surveying, Planning and Landscape Functional Constituency held on 11 March 2018 is estimated to be around \$223 million, including staff cost, publicity and other election-related expenses (such as costs for hiring venues, postage, printing, etc.).

2. Besides, the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) has reserved about \$53 million in 2019-20 for the preparation and conduct of any possible by-elections. Should there be a need to organise a by-election, the REO will, depending on its timing, scale and practical arrangements, provide adequate manpower and commence early preparatory work to ensure that the by-election will be smoothly conducted in an open, fair and honest manner.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB084

(Question Serial No. 2733)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the conduct of checks on electors in the current register in respect of their registered addresses and the conduct of cross-matching exercise with other government departments on electors' registration particulars, will the Government inform this Committee of:

1. the manpower and staff establishment of the Registration and Electoral Office for conducting the checks on electors in the current register in respect of their registered addresses in 2018-19;
2. the specific details of the electors' registration particulars to be verified in the cross-matching exercise; and
3. the number of inquiry letters issued to electors to confirm their eligibility, the response rate and the number of electors whose registration status was eventually removed in 2018-19?

Asked by: Hon HUI Chi-fung (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) has been stepping up publicity in every voter registration (VR) cycle to remind the public about the importance of providing true and accurate information for registration and updating their registration particulars, especially the principal residential addresses. The REO has also been implementing various checking measures, including the conduct of cross-matching exercise with other government departments on the registered particulars of electors, and inquiry process to improve the accuracy and completeness of VR records. The checking measures include follow-up inquiries on undelivered poll cards arising from elections; cross-matching of the residential addresses of electors with the Housing Department, the Hong Kong Housing Society and the Home Affairs Department; checks on residential addresses with multiple electors or multiple surnames of electors; random sample checks on registered and newly registered electors; checks on addresses with incomplete information 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, if the REO has reasonable grounds to suspect that the registered residential addresses might not be the only or principal residence of certain electors, it will issue inquiry letters to the electors concerned to request confirmation or updating of the registered addresses. Upon the completion of the statutory inquiry procedures, electors failing to respond will be removed from the final register.

2. In the 2018 VR cycle, the number of geographical constituency electors included in the statutory inquiry procedures was 57 286, of which 15 492 valid replies were received for maintaining registration status, representing a response rate of about 27%. The remaining number of electors whose registration status was removed due to failure to respond to the inquiry letters was 41 794. The REO will continue with the above checking work in the 2019 and future VR cycles to enhance the accuracy and completeness of VR records contained in the final register.

3. The REO will allocate sufficient manpower and resources in 2019-20 to sustain the checking work. It will also continue to strengthen the publicity measures to encourage eligible persons to register as electors, remind existing electors to submit address proofs when applying for change of registered residential addresses, remind the electors under checking to update or confirm their registered residential addresses with the REO before the deadline and encourage electors to use the Online Voter Information Enquiry System to verify their registration status and particulars. During the peak period of the VR cycle, the above work will be carried out by a team comprising 131 civil servants (including 20 time-limited civil service posts) and around 500 contract staff. The expenditure on staff remuneration and the related operational expenses is estimated to be around \$161 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB085

(Question Serial No. 0781)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Separate by-elections of the Legislative Council were conducted on 11 March and 25 November 2018. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. The by-election for 3 geographical constituencies, namely the Hong Kong Island, Kowloon West and New Territories East Geographical Constituencies, as well as for the Architectural, Surveying, Planning and Landscape Functional Constituency was held on 11 March. Please set out a breakdown of the required expenditure and manpower by constituency, and the areas in which the expenditure was incurred.
2. The by-election for the Kowloon West Geographical Constituency was held on 25 November. What were the required expenditure and manpower? What were the areas in which the expenditure was incurred?
3. How many complaints did the Government receive in the 2 by-elections respectively? Please provide a breakdown by the category of complaints.

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 28)

Reply:

The total expenditure for the Legislative Council (LegCo) by-election for the Hong Kong Island, Kowloon West (KW) and New Territories East Geographical Constituencies (GCs) and the Architectural, Surveying, Planning and Landscape Functional Constituency (2018 LegCo by-election) held on 11 March 2018 is estimated to be around \$223 million, including staff cost, publicity and other election-related expenses (such as costs for hiring venues, postage, printing, etc.). The relevant preparatory and winding up work of the by-election has been carried out by staff in the establishment of the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) as well as around 300 additional non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff. The REO does not keep record of the relevant expenditure and manpower by geographical constituency or functional constituency.

2. As for the LegCo by-election for the KW GC held on 25 November 2018, the total expenditure is estimated to be around \$47 million, including staff cost, publicity and other election-related expenses (such as costs for hiring venues, postage, printing, etc.). The relevant preparatory and winding up work of the by-election has been carried out by staff in the establishment of the REO as well as around 110 additional NCSC staff.

3. According to current arrangements, the Electoral Affairs Commission (EAC) is responsible for handling election-related complaints and the EAC Secretariat provides the EAC with administrative support. During the complaints-handling periods of the 2018 LegCo by-election and the 2018 LegCo KW GC by-election, a total of 1 778 and 773 complaints (including those directly received from the public by the Hong Kong Police Force and the Independent Commission Against Corruption) were received respectively. A breakdown by the nature of complaints is tabulated below:

Nature		2018 LegCo by-election	2018 LegCo KW GC by-election
1	Election advertisements	700	296
2	Electioneering activities on private premises	107	65
3	Entitlement to vote	13	9
4	Allocation/designation of polling station	45	1
5	False statements	5	13
6	False claim of support	1	1
7	Corruption/bribery/treating/undue influence/duress	26	15
8	Impersonation in relation to voting	7	3
9	Employment of young persons under 18 years of age for canvassing or electioneering activities	1	0
10	Disturbances to electors caused by loudspeakers/broadcasting vehicles/telephone canvassing/others	518	263
11	Personal data privacy	48	18
12	Polling arrangements	29	7
13	No Canvassing Zone arrangements	4	0
14	Illegal canvassing in No Canvassing Zone/No Staying Zone	95	21
15	Conduct of exit polls	6	3
16	Against Returning Officer or his/her staff	0	1
17	Against polling staff	43	13
18	Nomination and candidature	22	0
19	Election expenses	36	10
20	Inaccurate voter registration particulars	3	0

Nature		2018 LegCo by-election	2018 LegCo KW GC by-election
21	False registration of electors	5	2
22	Unfair and unequal treatment by the media	4	4
23	Complaints outside EAC's ambit	14	0
24	Criminal damage	2	2
25	Dispute cases	13	11
26	Intimidation	2	0
27	Others	29	15
Total		1 778	773

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB086

(Question Serial No. 1315)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please provide, by District Councils, a breakdown of the numbers of geographical constituency electors who were no longer eligible for registration and whose registration status was removed in each of the past 3 voter registration cycles, and the reasons for the ineligibility.

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) has been stepping up publicity in every voter registration (VR) cycle to remind the public about the importance of providing true and accurate information for registration and updating their registration particulars, especially the principal residential addresses. The REO has also been implementing various checking measures, including the conduct of cross-matching exercise with other government departments on the registered particulars of electors, and inquiry process to improve the accuracy and completeness of VR records. The checking measures include follow-up inquiries on undelivered poll cards arising from elections; cross-matching of the residential addresses of electors with the Housing Department, the Hong Kong Housing Society and the Home Affairs Department; checks on residential addresses with multiple electors or multiple surnames of electors; random sample checks on registered and newly registered electors; checks on addresses with incomplete information 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, if the REO has reasonable grounds to suspect that registered residential addresses might not be the only or principal residence of certain electors, it will issue inquiry letters to the electors concerned to request confirmation or updating of the registered addresses. Upon the completion of the statutory inquiry process, electors failing to respond will be removed from the final register.

2. The REO does not have a breakdown of the number of electors who have been removed from the register by District Council constituencies. The numbers of

geographical constituency electors removed from the register because of loss of eligibility for registration in the last 3 VR cycles from 2016 to 2018 are as follows:

Reason for removal and number of electors	Cycle	2016	2017	2018
Failure to respond to statutory inquiry process		67 509	29 576	41 794
Death		24 163	26 950	29 792
Other reasons (such as voluntary de-registration, loss of Hong Kong permanent resident status, objection cases allowed by the Revising Officer, etc.)		688	651	528
Total		92 360	57 177	72 114

3. In 2019-20, the REO will continue to strengthen the publicity measures to encourage eligible persons to register as electors, remind existing electors to submit address proofs when applying for change of registered residential addresses, remind the electors under checking to update or confirm their registered residential addresses with the REO before the deadline and encourage electors to use the Online Voter Information Enquiry System to verify their registration status and particulars.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB087****(Question Serial No. 1316)**Head: (163) Registration and Electoral OfficeSubhead (No. & title):Programme: Electoral ServicesControlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

Please provide, by District Councils, a breakdown of the numbers of cases received from the public of misrepresentation in relation to a person's eligibility to be an elector, the numbers of electors involved in such complaints, the numbers of cases that were substantiated after verification, the numbers of electors who were subsequently removed from the register of electors, and the expenses involved in the verification work in each of the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)Reply:

A person who makes any false or incorrect statement in the application for voter registration (VR) or change of registration particulars is in breach of the electoral laws. For suspected cases of false or incorrect statements in VR, the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) will handle them in strict accordance with the law and refer them to the law enforcement agencies for investigation and follow-up.

2. Between the 2016 and 2018 VR cycles, the numbers of electors suspected of, prosecuted for and convicted of making false statements in VR, as well as the numbers of electors removed from the register of electors and newly registered electors cancelled after investigation are as follows:

VR cycle	2016	2017	2018
Number of electors involved in cases referred to the law enforcement agencies by the REO for follow-up and investigation*	631	15	17
Number of electors prosecuted and convicted after investigation in the VR cycle	0	0	0

VR cycle	2016	2017	2018
Number of electors removed from the register of electors after investigation by the REO in the VR cycle	12	0	2
Number of newly registered electors cancelled after investigation by the REO in the VR cycle	170	5	3

* The REO does not keep record of the numbers of cases investigated by the law enforcement agencies during the above VR cycles.

3. The REO does not have a breakdown of the aforementioned cases by District Council constituencies.

4. The work of the REO in checking and verifying the particulars of electors is undertaken by a team comprising civil servants and non-civil service contract staff responsible for VR matters. Details of the operational expenses from 2016-17 to 2018-19 are as follows:

Year	Expenditure on staff remuneration and other operational expenses
2016-17	\$87 million
2017-18	\$51 million
2018-19	\$55 million (revised estimate)

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB088

(Question Serial No. 1332)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Matters requiring special attention in 2019-20 include the conduct and supervision of the 2019 District Council (DC) Ordinary Election. What are the breakdown of expenditure and manpower required for carrying out such work; and how do they compare with those in the 2015 DC Ordinary Election?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: .36)

Reply:

As far as a District Council (DC) Ordinary Election is concerned, it normally spans several financial years from the preparation to the completion of all winding-up work. Regarding the 2019 DC Ordinary Election, the preparatory work commenced in 2018-19 and a provision of \$125 million is included in the 2018-19 revised estimate for the purpose. As for 2019-20, the provision of the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) for the preparation and conduct of the 2019 DC Ordinary Election is \$426 million (including the provision for the preparation and conduct of the 2019 Voter Registration Campaign) with breakdown as follows:

	Expenditure on the preparation and conduct of the election	2019-20 \$ million
(1)	Staff cost	127
(2)	Publicity	28
(3)	Other expenses (including the costs for public consultation, hire of venues, honoraria for polling and counting staff, financial assistance for candidates, transportation, postage, free mailing, printing, and rental cost of temporary offices, etc.)	271
Total		426

2. In addition to the staff in its establishment, the REO plans to create 30 civil service posts and employ about 1 000 non-civil service contract staff (the number of contract staff

to be employed during the peak period) in 2019-20 to cope with the workload arising from the preparation and conduct of the 2019 DC Ordinary Election and the 2020 Legislative Council General Election.

3. The actual expenditure for the preparation and conduct of the 2015 DC Ordinary Election is around \$418 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB089

(Question Serial No. 1333)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Matters requiring special attention in 2019-20 include the preparatory work for the conduct of the 2020 Legislative Council (LegCo) General Election. What are the breakdown of expenditure and manpower required for carrying out such work; and how do they compare with those in the LegCo General Election in 2016?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: .37)

Reply:

As far as a Legislative Council (LegCo) General Election is concerned, it normally spans several financial years from the preparation to the completion of all winding-up work. Regarding the 2020 LegCo General Election, the preparatory work commenced in 2018-19 and a provision of \$7.2 million is included in the 2018-19 revised estimate for the purpose. As for 2019-20, the provision of the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) for the preparation of the 2020 LegCo General Election is \$167 million (including the provision for the preparation and conduct of the 2020 Voter Registration Campaign) with breakdown as follows:

	Expenditure on the preparation and conduct of the election	2019-20 \$ million
(1)	Staff cost	92
(2)	Publicity	1
(3)	Other expenses (including the costs for public consultation, transportation, postage, printing and rental cost of temporary offices, etc.)	74
	Total	167

2. In addition to the staff in its establishment, the REO plans to create 30 civil service posts and employ about 1 000 non-civil service contract staff (the number of contract staff to be employed during the peak period) in 2019-20 to cope with the workload arising from

the preparation and conduct of the 2019 District Council Ordinary Election and the 2020 LegCo General Election.

3. The overall expenditure for the preparation and conduct of the 2016 LegCo General Election is estimated to be about \$695 million, with part of the estimated expenditure to be paid in 2019-20.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB090

(Question Serial No. 1988)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the financial provision for 2018-19, the estimate for Electoral Services signifies an increase by 107.8% but the revised estimate denotes a significant reduction by 42.5%. Please give details of the staffing, resources and work programmes involved in this revision.

The estimate for 2019-20 represents a significant increase by 94.6% (\$387.1 million). Please give details of the allocation of provisions, staff establishment and posts, salaries and operating expenses, as well as the work programmes in relation to the above estimate.

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (LegCo internal reference no.: .21)

Reply:

The revised estimate for 2018-19 of the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) is about \$302 million (42.5%) less than its original estimate. The main reasons are that the expenses related to the preparation and conduct of possible by-elections for the year, as well as the payments of part of the expenditure of the Legislative Council (LegCo) by-election held on 11 March 2018 and the LegCo Kowloon West Geographical Constituency by-election held on 25 November 2018 are lower than the budgeted provision. Besides, the progress of filling some civil service posts newly-created in 2018-19 and employing non-civil service contract staff is slower than expected, resulting in a slight reduction in the expenditure on staff remuneration.

2. The provision for the REO in 2019-20 is about \$387 million (94.6%) higher than its revised estimate for 2018-19. This is mainly due to the increased requirements for the conduct of the 2019 District Council (DC) Ordinary Election, preparation for the 2020 LegCo General Election, as well as the provision reserved for the preparation and conduct of possible by-elections. To cope with the workload arising from the preparation and conduct of the 2019 DC Ordinary Election and the 2020 LegCo General Election, the REO plans to create 30 civil service posts in 2019-20, including 4 Senior Executive Officer, 15 Executive Officer I, 3 Executive Officer II, 2 Clerical Officer and 6 Assistant Clerical Officer posts.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB091

(Question Serial No. 1989)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The indicator for performance measure regarding the estimated number of new electors registered in 2019-2020 is 178 800, representing an increase by 111% over the actual number of 84 672 in 2018. The estimated number of electoral records updated in 2019 is 398 700, signifying an increase by 208% over the actual number of 129 403 in 2018. Please explain the reasons for such increases in the estimations.

In respect of publicising and promoting voter registration and updating records of the registered electors, what are the staff establishment and posts, salaries and operating expenses and work programmes involved?

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) set the relevant indicators for the 2019 voter registration (VR) cycle based on the actual numbers of newly registered electors in geographical constituencies, functional constituencies and Election Committee subsectors as well as the numbers of electoral records updated in the VR cycles in previous election years. The Government will continue to adopt diversified means to appeal to persons of all ages and different backgrounds in order to encourage eligible persons to register as electors, remind electors to update their registration particulars in a timely manner while strengthening public awareness and knowledge of VR.

2. The REO will allocate sufficient manpower and resources in 2019-20 to strengthen the publicity measures to encourage eligible persons to register as electors, remind existing electors to submit address proofs when applying for change of registered residential addresses, remind the electors under checking to update or confirm their registered residential addresses with the REO before the deadline and encourage electors to use the Online Voter Information Enquiry System to verify their registration status and particulars. During the peak period of the VR cycle, the above work will be carried out by a team comprising 131 civil servants (including 20 time-limited civil service posts) and around 500 contract staff. The expenditure on staff remuneration and the related operational expenses is estimated to be around \$161 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB092

(Question Serial No. 1754)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

With respect to the conduct of voter registration (VR) exercises, please provide the following information.

1. A breakdown of the publicity measures and related expenditure for the 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 VR exercises by:
 - a) publicity on television and radio;
 - b) newspapers and magazines;
 - c) websites and mobile applications for smartphone;
 - d) public transport system;
 - e) employing VR Assistants and conducting various publicity activities in the community;
 - f) production and distribution of leaflets, posters, banners, appeal letters, souvenirs and miscellaneous items.
2. A breakdown of the publicity measures and estimated expenditure for the 2019 VR exercise by the same categories listed in item 1 above.
3. Has the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) regularly assessed the effectiveness of various publicity efforts? If so, what are the data, materials or indicators used for assessment? If not, what are the reasons?
4. Further to the above question, how does the REO apply the information in earmarking provision for publicity work in different media in the next year?

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) made use of various channels in the past voter registration (VR) cycles to appeal to eligible persons to register as electors. These channels included various media and platforms, such as television, radio, newspapers, websites, mobile applications for smartphone, public transport system, as well as different kinds of community publicity activities and materials, etc. The publicity measures and expenses for the 2015 to 2019 VR Campaigns are as follows:

Measure	Cycle	Publicity expenses for VR Campaign (\$'000)				
		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019#
Publicity on television and radio		2,270	3,020	400	1,170	2,470
Newspapers and magazines		740	570	1,120	800	390
Websites and mobile applications for smartphone		1,380	1,100	680	820	1,600
Public transport system		1,450	2,210	2,000	2,470	2,530
Employing VR Assistants and conducting various publicity activities in the community		4,530	4,520	1,440	1,380	10,360
Production and distribution of leaflets, posters, banners, appeal letters, souvenirs and miscellaneous items		3,420	2,290	140	480	3,970
Total		13,790	13,710	5,780	7,120	21,320

Figures for the 2019 VR Campaign represent estimated expenses.

2. In the 2018 final register, there are about 3.81 million geographical constituency electors, representing a registration rate of 79.8%. Both the total number of electors and the registration rate are the highest on record. The Government will continue to adopt diversified means to appeal to persons of all ages and different backgrounds in order to encourage eligible persons to register as electors, remind electors to update their registration particulars in a timely manner while strengthening public awareness and knowledge of VR. The Government will also conduct regular reviews on the publicity work and make appropriate adjustments in the light of actual needs and public responses.

3. The REO will arrange sufficient resources and continue to strengthen the publicity measures in 2019-20 to encourage eligible persons to register as electors, remind existing electors to submit address proofs when applying for change of registered residential addresses, remind the electors under checking to update or confirm their registered residential addresses with the REO before the deadline and encourage electors to use the Online Voter Information Enquiry System to verify their registration status and particulars.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB093

(Question Serial No. 0299)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The revised estimate of the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) for 2018-19 is 42.5% lower than the original estimate. What are the reasons for the substantial decrease? What was the actual expenditure for conducting the Legislative Council (LegCo) Kowloon West Geographical Constituency By-election on 25 November 2018? Has the REO reserved provision for the LegCo New Territories East Geographical Constituency By-election that may be held this year? If so, what is the estimated expenditure? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chuen, Tony (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

The revised estimate for 2018-19 of the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) is about \$302 million (42.5%) less than its original estimate. The main reasons are that the expenses related to the preparation and conduct of possible by-elections for the year, as well as the payments of part of the expenditure of the Legislative Council (LegCo) by-election held on 11 March 2018 and the LegCo Kowloon West Geographical Constituency (KWGC) by-election held on 25 November 2018 are lower than the budgeted provision. As for the LegCo KW GC by-election held on 25 November 2018, the overall expenditure is estimated to be about \$47 million, with part of the estimated expenditure to be paid in 2019-20.

2. Besides, the REO has reserved about \$53 million in 2019-20 for the preparation and conduct of any possible by-elections. Should there be a need to organise a by-election, the REO will, depending on the timing, scale and practical arrangements, provide adequate manpower and commence early preparatory work to ensure that the by-election will be smoothly conducted in an open, fair and honest manner.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB094****(Question Serial No. 3765)**

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please set out in table form enquiries and complaints relating to discrimination on grounds of (1) sexual orientation, (2) gender identity and (3) intersex status received by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) in the past 3 years. Given that Hong Kong has no legislation that prohibits all these types of discrimination, have resources been allocated to the EOC for it to work towards the elimination of discrimination in this respect?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 110)

Reply:

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) implements the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 480), Disability Discrimination Ordinance (DDO) (Cap. 487), Family Status Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 527) and Race Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 602); and as provided under these ordinances, carries out publicity and public education programmes and enforcement work. The handling of discrimination against sexual orientation or intersex status falls outside the scope of the EOC's statutory responsibilities.

2. The EOC currently handles enquiries and complaints related to discrimination on the ground of gender identity of a person under the DDO. The relevant enquiries and complaints received by the EOC in the past 3 years are set out in the table below:

	Enquiries related to discrimination on the ground of gender identity	Complaints related to discrimination on the ground of gender identity
2016	22	3
2017	8	2
2018	173	10

3. Each year, the Government provides a subvention in the form of a lump sum allocation to the EOC for it to draw up its estimates of operating expenditures under the principles of prudent fiscal management and efficient and economical use of resources. According to the information provided by the EOC, its expenditure on enforcing the DDO in 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 are \$15.28 million, \$15.34 million and \$15.02 million (estimate) respectively. The implementation of DDO, including the elimination of discrimination on the ground of gender identity, is an integral part of the EOC's daily work. Breakdown of relevant expenditure is not available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB095****(Question Serial No. 4727)**

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please list in table form the actual expenditure on the salary and remuneration in respect of the political appointment positions of Director of Bureau, Deputy Director of Bureau and Political Assistant to Director of Bureau in the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau in the last financial year?

	Salary	Remuneration
Director of Bureau		
Deputy Director of Bureau		
Political Assistant to Director of Bureau		

Please list in table form the estimated expenditure on the salary and remuneration in respect of the political appointment positions of Director of Bureau, Deputy Director of Bureau and Political Assistant to Director of Bureau in the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau in the coming financial year.

	Salary	Remuneration
Director of Bureau		
Deputy Director of Bureau		
Political Assistant to Director of Bureau		

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 301)

Reply:

The provision for the salary in respect of the positions of Director of Bureau, Deputy Director of Bureau and Political Assistant to Director of Bureau in the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau in 2018-19 are \$4.06 million, \$3.05 million and \$1.22 million

respectively. The provision set aside in the 2019-20 estimates for the salary in respect of the positions of Director of Bureau, Deputy Director of Bureau and Political Assistant to Director of Bureau are \$4.08 million, \$3.06 million and \$1.22 million respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB096

(Question Serial No. 4735)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau is responsible for co-ordinating attendance of the HKSAR Government delegations at meetings of the monitoring bodies of the United Nations human rights conventions. In this connection, will the Government set out in table form the number and position of the members of the HKSAR delegation attending the hearing on report under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Universal Periodic Review of the United Nations Human Rights Council in the past year, and the expenditures on accommodation and transportation involved?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 310)

Reply:

The number, relevant department and position of the members of the HKSAR delegation attending the hearing on report under International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), the meeting of the Working Group on Universal Periodic Review (UPR) under the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) and the UNHRC's plenary session in the past year, and the expenditure involved are set out below:

Hearing	Number and position of delegation members	Flight ticket expenditure (\$) (A)	Hotel accommodation expenditure (\$) (B)	Total expenditure (\$)^{note} (A)+(B)
ICERD (August 2018)	<p>7 officers</p> <p><u>Expenses for the following 4 officers were met by CMAB</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Under Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs; - Principal Assistant Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs; - Senior Government Counsel, DOJ; and - Assistant Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs <p><u>Expenses for the following 3 officers were met by the respective bureau/department</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Principal Assistant Secretary for Security; - Principal Assistant Secretary for Education; and - Assistant Commissioner for Labour 	144,600	49,803	194,403
UPR under the UNHRC (November 2018)	<p>9 officers</p> <p><u>Expenses for the following 4 officers were met by CMAB</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Under Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs; - Principal Assistant Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs; - Senior Assistant Solicitor General, DOJ; and 	135,000	46,199	181,199

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assistant Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs <p><u>Expenses for the following 5 officers were met by the respective bureau/department</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chief Secretary for Administration - Assistant Commissioner for Labour; - 2 Principal Assistant Secretaries for Security; and - Administrative Assistant to Chief Secretary 			
UNHRC's plenary session (March 2019)	<p>4 officers</p> <p><u>Expenses for the following 2 officers were met by CMAB</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Under Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs; and - Assistant Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs <p><u>Expenses for the following 2 officers were met by the respective bureau/department</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chief Secretary; and - Administrative Assistant to Chief Secretary 	93,000 (estimate)	4,716 (estimate)	97,716 (estimate)

- Note: (1) The above expenditure excludes overseas subsistence allowance provided to members, communication expenses, etc.
- (2) The arrangement of air passages and hotel accommodation were provided to officers concerned in accordance with the relevant Civil Service Regulations and guidelines.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB097

(Question Serial No. 4736)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

In respect of the (1) Beijing Office, (2) Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (ETO) in Shanghai, (3) ETO in Guangdong, (4) ETO in Chengdu and (5) ETO in Wuhan, set out in table form their respective staff establishments and actual expenditures in the past year, and list in detail the activities organised by these offices respectively to facilitate business operation and development of Hong Kong people in the Mainland and their exchange with people in the Mainland.

In respect of the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office (Taiwan) (HKETCO), set out in table form its staff establishment and actual expenditure in the past year, and list in detail the activities organised by the office to facilitate business operation and development of Hong Kong people in Taiwan and their exchange with Taiwan people.

What are the estimated staff establishments and actual expenditures of the (1) Beijing Office, (2) ETO in Shanghai, (3) ETO in Guangdong, (4) ETO in Chengdu and (5) ETO in Wuhan respectively for the coming year?

What is the estimated staff establishment and actual expenditure of HKETCO for the coming year?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 312)

Reply:

The Mainland and Taiwan Offices (namely the Beijing Office (BJO) and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan, and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan) proactively serve as important bridges between Hong Kong and the Mainland/Taiwan, including enhancing liaison and communication with counterparts in the areas under their coverage; representing and promoting Hong Kong's trade and commercial interests; encouraging and attracting investments to Hong Kong; promoting Hong Kong as a desirable platform to develop

markets along the Belt and Road; promoting the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area development; and gathering relevant information on new laws and regulations, policies and significant regional development, and disseminating such information to the Hong Kong business sector through various channels.

2. The revised estimated expenditure for 2018-19 and estimated expenditure for 2019-20 of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices are set out in the table below:

Office	Revised estimated expenditure for 2018-19 (\$ million)	Estimated expenditure for 2019-20 (\$ million)
BJO	80.17	85.21
Guangdong ETO	65.18	67.75
Shanghai ETO	55.79	66.82
Chengdu ETO	43.97	46.00
Wuhan ETO	47.22	51.34
Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan	25.69	27.00

3. For the BJO, the establishment in 2018-19 comprises 3 directorate officers (namely 1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade A, 1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade B1 and 1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade C) and 19 non-directorate officers (namely 2 Senior Administrative Officers, 1 Chief Curator, 2 Principal Trade Officers, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer, 3 Immigration Officers, 1 Chief Information Officer, 1 Information Officer, 1 Senior Executive Officer, 1 Executive Officer I and 1 Senior Personal Secretary). We plan to upgrade 1 Executive Officer I post to Senior Executive Officer post and create 1 time-limited post of Assistant Trade Officer I. The estimated expenditure on salaries and allowances for the BJO in 2019-20 will be \$38.78 million.

4. For the Guangdong ETO, the establishment in 2018-19 and 2019-20 comprises 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade B) and 17 non-directorate officers (namely 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Chief Executive Officer, 4 Principal Trade Officers, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer, 2 Immigration Officers, 1 Principal Information Officer and 2 Senior Executive Officers). The estimated expenditure on salaries and allowances for the above posts in 2019-20 will be \$30.03 million.

5. For the Shanghai ETO, the establishment in 2018-19 and 2019-20 comprises 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade B) and 14 non-directorate officers (namely 2 Senior Administrative Officers, 1 Chief Executive Officer, 1 Principal Trade Officer, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer, 2 Immigration Officers, 1 Senior Information Officer and 1 Senior Executive Officer). The estimated expenditure on salaries and allowances for the above posts in 2019-20 will be \$27.77 million.

6. For the Chengdu ETO, the establishment in 2018-19 and 2019-20 comprises 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade C) and 12 non-directorate officers (namely 2 Senior Administrative Officers, 1 Chief Executive Officer, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Senior Information Officer, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer, 1 Immigration Officer and 1 Senior Executive Officer). The estimated expenditure on salaries and allowances for the above posts in 2019-20 will be \$20.91 million.

7. For the Wuhan ETO, the establishment in 2018-19 and 2019-20 comprises 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade C) and 12 non-directorate officers (namely 2 Senior Administrative Officers, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Principal Trade Officer, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Senior Information Officer, 2 Immigration Officers and 1 Senior Executive Officer). The estimated expenditure on salaries and allowances for the above posts in 2019-20 will be \$20.38 million.

8. For the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan, the establishment in 2018-19 and 2019-20 comprises 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade B) and 7 non-directorate officers (namely 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Principal Trade Officer, 2 Trade Officers, 1 Senior Information Officer, 1 Executive Officer I and 1 Personal Secretary I). The estimated expenditure on salaries and allowances for the above posts in 2019-20 will be \$12.69 million.

9. In 2018-19, various activities were organised by the Mainland and Taiwan Offices to promote Hong Kong's advantages in the Mainland and Taiwan. The "2018 China-Tianjin Investment and Trade Fair & PECC International Trade and Investment Fair" held by the Tianjin Liaison Unit under the Beijing Office was attended by about 30 000 participants. The "Seminar on Services Trade in Guangdong and Hong Kong and Launching Ceremony of the '2018 Directory of Hong Kong Service Enterprises in Guangdong'" held by the Guangdong ETO in Guangzhou was attended by about 200 participants. The "SmartHK 2018" held by the Shanghai ETO in Hangzhou was attended by about 100 participants. "The Third Silk Road Expo Shaanxi – Hong Kong and Macao Technology Industry Innovation and Development Forum" held by the Chengdu ETO in Xi'an was attended by about 120 participants. The investment promotion roundtable entitled "Belt and Road, Together We Grow" by the Wuhan ETO in Wuhan attracted the attendance of nearly 30 enterprises. The "2018 Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic Co-operation Forum" organised by the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan was attended by over 250 professionals.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB098

(Question Serial No. 5223)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Would the Government provide the following information:

Name of Announcements of Public Interest	Production cost in 2018-19	Publicity cost in 2018-19
Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development (Youth Version)		
Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development (General Public)		

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 372)

Reply:

For the Announcements of Public Interest on the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development (Youth Version and General Public) produced by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau in 2018-19, the costs of production and publicity are about \$1.4 million and \$540,000 respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB099

(Question Serial No. 5227)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Would the Government advise this Committee of the staff establishment, expenditure on emoluments and operational expenses of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office in the coming year?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 376)

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau will set up a Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Office) in 2019-20. The proposed Office will involve 19 additional posts, namely 1 officer at point six of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 officer at point two of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Administrative Officer, 1 Chief Executive Officer, 4 Executive Officers I, 1 Chief Information Officer, 1 Senior Information Officer, 1 Information Officer and 7 supporting staff (from the Personal Secretary, Clerical Officer and Motor Driver grades). In 2019-20, the estimated expenditure of the Office is about \$38 million, of which about \$21 million is staff cost on civil service posts and about \$17 million is other operating expenses.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB100

(Question Serial No. 4335)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. Please list in a table the number of cases where practical assistance was provided to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB), the follow-up actions taken and the number of successful cases in the past 5 years;
2. Please list in a table the number of cases where practical assistance was provided to Hong Kong residents in distress in Taiwan by the CMAB, the follow-up actions taken and the number of successful cases in the past 5 years;
3. Please list in a table the number of cases received by the CMAB of suspected cross-boundary enforcement by Mainland enforcement departments and the follow-up actions taken on every case. Will the CMAB work closely with the relevant Mainland departments to improve the notification system so as to prevent cross-boundary enforcement by Mainland enforcement departments in 2019-20?
4. Please set out the respective numbers of requests for assistance, reports of crime and suspects arrested in the Mainland and Hong Kong Port Areas by month since the commissioning of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link in 2018;
5. Please set out the respective numbers of cases where Hong Kong and Mainland residents were not allowed to buy tickets in accordance with the List of Dishonest Persons implemented in the Mainland by month since the commissioning of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link in 2018;
6. Please set out the respective numbers of Mainland staff who were allowed to work in the Mainland Port Area by month since the commissioning of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link in 2018, and advise in detail whether their meal costs are included in the expenditure of Mass Transit Railway Corporation; and

7. Please advise in detail whether the CMAB and the Taiwan Judiciary had discussions on extradition of suspects or mutual legal assistance in the past 5 years. Will the CMAB discuss with the Taiwan Judiciary on extradition of suspects or mutual legal assistance in 2019-20?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (LegCo internal reference no.: 79)

Reply:

Our reply to parts 1 and 2 of the question is set out below.

- (a) Immigration Divisions are currently set up under the 5 Mainland Offices of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR Government) (namely the Beijing Office and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Guangdong, Chengdu, Shanghai and Wuhan) to provide practical assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. In 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018, a total of 340, 407, 319, 415 and 375 requests for assistance were received respectively from Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. The requests were related to loss of travel documents or money; or persons involved in accidents, injuries or other incidents. The Immigration Divisions had rendered practical assistance in the light of actual circumstances.
- (b) In 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018, the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan (HKETCO) received 283, 245, 95, 99 and 98 requests for assistance respectively from Hong Kong residents in distress in Taiwan. The requests were mainly related to persons involved in accidents, injuries, sickness or other incidents and seeking legal assistance in Taiwan. The HKETCO had liaised closely with the Hong Kong Immigration Department and offered possible assistance in the light of actual circumstances.

2. As for parts 3, 4, 5 and 7 of the question, the consolidated reply from the Security Bureau and the Transport and Housing Bureau is as follows.

- (a) The Basic Law only authorises law enforcement agencies of Hong Kong to enforce laws in Hong Kong. Law enforcement agencies outside of Hong Kong do not have the authority to enforce laws in Hong Kong. The HKSAR Government acts according to the law and does not allow law enforcement officers outside of Hong Kong to take law enforcement actions in Hong Kong. On 14 December 2017, the Security Bureau of the HKSAR Government and the Ministry of Public Security of the Mainland signed the “Arrangements on the Reciprocal Notification Mechanism between the Mainland and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Relating to Situations Including the Imposition of Criminal Compulsory Measures or the Institution of Criminal Prosecution” (the New Arrangements on the Notification Mechanism), which took effect starting from 1 February 2018 and replaced the existing arrangements at that time. The New Arrangements on the Notification Mechanism improves the time needed for and transparency of notifications in terms of time frame, content, scope and channels. The new arrangements enable the HKSAR Government to

inform the family members of Hong Kong residents as early as possible of the imposition of criminal compulsory measures on the Hong Kong residents in the Mainland, so that the family members may consider and decide whether to engage a local lawyer or to render other assistance to the Hong Kong residents concerned in order to safeguard their legal rights. They may also seek assistance from the HKSAR Government when necessary.

- (b) From the commissioning of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (XRL) on 23 September 2018 up to 13 March 2019, the Hong Kong Police Force received 42 reports of cases relating to the Mainland Port Area and 285 cases relating to the Hong Kong Port Area. During the same period, the Hong Kong Police Force arrested 38 persons in the Hong Kong Port Area. The number of arrests made in the Mainland Port Area is a matter under the Mainland's jurisdiction, not a matter under the HKSAR.
- (c) The Hong Kong Section of the XRL connects to the Mainland high-speed rail network and is jointly operated by the Mainland and the Hong Kong railway operator (i.e. the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL)). The ticketing system of the MTRCL needs to link up with that of the Mainland for the purpose of real-name authentication. According to the information provided by the MTRCL, there have been cases since the commissioning of the Hong Kong Section of the XRL in which passengers failed to purchase tickets through its ticketing system. In general, reasons for their failure to purchase tickets include: not being able to get through the real-name authentication system due to input of incorrect personal information, having problems with the payment procedure, having bought tickets for the same train on the same day, and being included in the "List of Dishonest Persons" by Mainland authorities. The MTRCL does not maintain statistics relating to the various reasons for passengers' failure to purchase tickets.
- (d) In the past 5 years, the HKSAR Government did not have discussion with Taiwan on the arrangements of surrender of fugitive offenders or mutual legal assistance in criminal matters. As for last year's murder case of a Hong Kong citizen by a Hong Kong suspect who had returned to Hong Kong after committing the crime in Taiwan, the HKSAR Government has contacted the Taiwan authorities with a view to having communication on the case.

3. The HKSAR Government does not have the information requested in part 6 of the question.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB101

(Question Serial No. 4336)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: Not specified
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

According to Article 22 of the Basic Law, if there is a need for departments of the Central Government, or for provinces, autonomous regions, or municipalities directly under the Central Government to set up offices in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), they must obtain the consent of the government of the Region and the approval of the Central People's Government. Had approval of the HKSAR Government been sought when the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in HKSAR was set up in 2001? If yes, what are the justifications; if no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (LegCo internal reference no.: 80)

Reply:

The Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (the CPGLO) is formerly known as the Xinhua News Agency (Hong Kong Branch), which was established in May 1947. The Central People's Government decided to change the office title of the Xinhua News Agency (Hong Kong Branch) to the CPGLO with effect from 18 January 2000. As the predecessor of the CPGLO has already existed before the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), there is no issue of obtaining consent from the HKSAR Government for the establishment of the Xinhua News Agency in Hong Kong.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB102

(Question Serial No. 4861)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please provide information on the present status of the Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation Joint Conference, its work progress and expected work, minutes of past meetings and relevant expenditure.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 1400)

Reply:

The Plenary of the Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation Joint Conference (the Plenary) takes place annually under the co-chairmanship of the Chief Executive and the Governor of Guangdong Province to review the outcomes of Hong Kong/Guangdong co-operation over the past year, and also set the directions for co-operation for the coming year. The most recent Plenary was held in Hong Kong on 18 November 2017. As an established practice, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government reports the discussions and consensus reached at Plenaries via press releases. Relevant information is also provided to the Panel on Commerce and Industry of the Legislative Council for reference.

2. Policy matters on furthering co-operation between Hong Kong and Guangdong Province in the context of deepening regional co-operation with the Mainland under Programme (2) "Constitutional and Mainland Affairs" are mainly handled by 1 division of staff in the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB). In addition, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong (Guangdong ETO) under Programme (3) "Mainland and Taiwan Offices" also plays an on-site facilitating and co-ordinating role in fostering co-operation between Hong Kong and Guangdong at various levels. As the work on organising and participating in the Plenaries of the Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation Joint Conference for the purpose of furthering Hong Kong/Guangdong co-operation is an integral part of the duties and functions of the officers concerned in CMAB and the Guangdong ETO, the provision required cannot be separately singled out and itemised.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB103****(Question Serial No. 6554)**Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs BureauSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal DataControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

Please provide the number of complaints made under the Disability Discrimination Ordinance and received by the Equal Opportunities Commission over the past 5 years. Please provide a breakdown by category of these complaints.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 1427)Reply:

A breakdown by category of complaint cases in relation to the Disability Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 487) received by the Equal Opportunities Commission over the past 5 years is as follows:

Year	Disability discrimination	Disability harassment	Disability vilification	Victimisation	Total
2014	240	33	4	4	281
2015	213	31	2	0	246
2016	166	15	0	1	182
2017	200	27	8	1	236
2018	467	54	5	13	539

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB104****(Question Serial No. 6555)**

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Grateful if the Government would inform whether the in-house lawyers of the Equal Opportunities Commission have produced anti-discrimination guidelines for public and private organisations in the past 3 years. If yes, please list out the organisations and state the areas covered by the guidelines by year. If not, what the reasons are.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 1429)

Reply:

Drawing up anti-discrimination guidelines for public and private organisations is part of the overall work of the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), instead of the exclusive duties of its in-house lawyers. The in-house lawyers will provide legal advice where necessary. In the past 3 years, the EOC has produced the following guidelines for public and private organisations:

Year of production	Guidelines
2016	Promotion of Racial Integration and Prevention of Racial Discrimination in Schools
	Framework for Corporate Policy on Sexual Harassment
	Preventing Sexual Harassment in the Workplace – Tips for SMEs
2017	Easy Guide on Promoting Racial Equality in Schools: Kindergarten Admission
2018	Racial Diversity and Inclusion Charter for Employers

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB105

(Question Serial No. 6556)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
Programme: Not specified
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

With respect to the work of the Policy, Research and Training Division of the Equal Opportunities Commission, will the Government advise this Committee that for the past 3 years:

- (a) whether any policy research studies (including in-house and consultancy ones) were conducted. If yes, please list the details of research, specific follow-up work upon completion of research and the expenditures involved for each project. If no, what are the reasons?
- (b) whether any assistance was provided to public, subvented or private organisations in formulating or reviewing policies against discrimination and harassment. If yes, please list the names of such organisations and the expenditures involved by year. If no, what are the reasons?
- (c) whether any seminars on equal opportunity issues were organised; if yes, please provide the dates, topics, list of target participants, number of attending participants and the expenditures involved for each seminar organised; if no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 1432)

Reply:

The following information is provided by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) regarding its research studies for formulating and evaluating policies. Internal research studies conducted by the EOC in the past 3 years are as follows:

Date of conducting studies	Internal research studies	Content of the studies	Specific follow-up work	Expenditure
May 2014 – July 2016	Study on the Difficulties Encountered in the Siting of Integrated Community Centres for Mental Wellness and Other Social Welfare Facilities in Hong Kong	<p>To interview the persons-in-charge/representatives of the 24 Integrated Community Centres for Mental Wellness (ICCMWs) in the territory to learn about the issues arising from providing services at temporary sites of the ICCMWs and discuss the difficulties in finding permanent sites for the ICCMWs, especially the challenges encountered in the public consultation on siting.</p> <p>To make recommendations with the aim of reducing misunderstanding of and prejudice against the service nature of the ICCMWs and patients with mental illness.</p>	<p>A press conference was held on 7 July 2016 to announce the findings of the research report.</p> <p>The Chairperson and the Director of Policy, Research and Training of the EOC attended the regular Monthly Meeting with the District Council Chairmen and District Council Vice Chairmen in September 2016 to discuss the findings of the study and lobby for their support in the siting of social welfare facilities in the community.</p>	Staff emoluments
July 2016 – July 2017	Sexual Harassment – Questionnaire Survey for Social Service Sector	To study whether the social welfare organisations in Hong Kong have developed anti-sexual harassment policies and the reasons, and whether they have implemented other measures to prevent sexual harassment.	<p>A press conference was held on 11 July 2017 to announce the findings of the research report and a letter to the Director of Social Welfare was issued to urge the SWD to improve the anti-sexual harassment policies of social welfare agencies.</p> <p>In collaboration with the Hong Kong Council of Social Service, 4 Workshops on the Prevention and Handling of Sexual Harassment for Social Welfare Agencies were held to provide training for representatives of social welfare agencies and their service units on formulating anti-sexual harassment policies and handling complaints about sexual harassment.</p>	Staff emoluments
September	Research Report on	To study the proportion	The research report was	Printing and

Date of conducting studies	Internal research studies	Content of the studies	Specific follow-up work	Expenditure
2016 – January 2017	Barrier-free Taxis in Hong Kong	of barrier-free taxis in Hong Kong, draw comparisons with other countries and make recommendations.	uploaded onto the website of the EOC in the fourth quarter of 2017 and printed in February 2018 for distribution to major members of the public and major stakeholders.	miscellaneous expenses of about \$20,158 and staff emoluments
October – December 2017	Study on Kindergartens' Policies and Attitudes for Admission of Non-Chinese Speaking Applicants	Non-Chinese staff of the Ethnic Minorities Unit enquired about admission information in the capacity of parents and checked the websites of kindergartens.	The EOC announced the findings of the study on 14 March 2018 and uploaded the report onto its website for public viewing. To follow up on the issue, the EOC has continued to provide training for kindergartens as requested.	Staff emoluments
March 2018 – January 2019	Break the Silence: Territory-wide Study on Sexual Harassment of University Students in Hong Kong	To explore the views of students of 9 universities in Hong Kong on sexual harassment and examine the prevalence of sexual harassment on university campus and its causes.	A press conference was held on 21 January 2019 to announce the findings of the research report. Starting from February 2019, the EOC held meetings with the 9 participating universities to discuss with university heads and/or their representatives how the recommendations of the research report could be adopted to step up the anti-sexual harassment measures of the universities. At the invitation of the participating universities, 5 seminars were held from February to March 2019 for their academic and administrative staff to explain the research findings and the prevention of sexual harassment.	Printing and miscellaneous expenses of about \$105,400 and staff emoluments
July 2018 – February 2019	Sexual Harassment – Questionnaire Survey for Sports Sector 2018	To study whether National Sports Associations (NSAs) in Hong Kong have developed anti-sexual harassment policies and the reasons, and whether	A press conference was held on 25 February 2019 to announce the findings of the survey and a letter to the Director of Leisure and Cultural Services was	Staff emoluments

Date of conducting studies	Internal research studies	Content of the studies	Specific follow-up work	Expenditure
		they have adopted other preventive measures against sexual harassment.	issued to urge the Leisure and Cultural Services Department to strengthen the anti-sexual harassment policies of subvented NSAs. Continuous assistance is provided for sports organisations to conduct anti-sexual harassment training.	

Note: As the relevant work is part of the regular duties of staff, the expenditure on manpower required cannot be calculated and quantified separately.

2. Consultancy studies conducted by the EOC in the past 3 years are as follows:

Date of conducting studies	Consultancy research studies	Content of the studies	Specific follow-up work	Expenditure
December 2014 –June 2016	Study on Discrimination against Ethnic Minorities in the Provision of Goods, Services and Facilities, and Disposal and Management of Premises	In this study, data collection was from 3 sources, namely one-to-one in-depth interviews with ethnic minorities who experienced related discrimination, audit checks involving mystery shoppers, and focus group discussions with goods/services providers to evaluate the types and degrees of discrimination against ethnic minority groups with respect to the provision of goods, services and facilities, and disposal and management of premises.	The study report has been uploaded onto the website of the EOC for public perusal; a press conference was also held on 21 September 2016.	\$422,000
May 2015 – August 2016	Equal Opportunities Awareness Survey 2015	Members of the general public aged 15 or above and people who have participated in activities organised by the EOC were surveyed via a representative and territory-wide telephone interview as well as self-administered questionnaires sent by e-mail or by post. The purposes of the survey are to understand public awareness of equal opportunities and the public perception of EOC's work.	The study report has been uploaded onto the website of the EOC for public perusal; a press conference was also held on 18 July 2016.	\$220,000

Date of conducting studies	Consultancy research studies	Content of the studies	Specific follow-up work	Expenditure
March 2015 – May 2016	Study on Pregnancy Discrimination and Negative Perceptions Faced by Working Mothers in Small and Medium Enterprises	The study was broken down into 2 parts, namely employee survey and employer survey. The purposes of the surveys are to assess the types and degrees of pregnancy discrimination and negative perceptions faced by pregnant women and working mothers in small and medium enterprises; to ascertain whether job nature and organisational factors will have an impact on the likelihood of women being subject to unfair treatment during pregnancy as well as the post-natal stage; to explore the issues encountered by women who have to take care of young children under 6 years old when applying for leave; and to solicit views of both employers and employees with regard to the general perceptions of unfavorable treatments encountered by pregnant women.	The study report has been uploaded onto the website of the EOC for public perusal; a press conference was also held on 4 May 2016.	\$435,000
January 2017 – March 2018	A Study on Knowledge of Sexual Harassment and Experience of being Sexually Harassed in the Service Industries: Comparing Recent Female Mainland Chinese Immigrants with Locally-born Women	A mixed research approach of questionnaire surveys and focus group interviews was adopted to investigate the knowledge of female Mainland Chinese immigrants and locally-born women on sexual harassment, and the prevalence and details of sexual harassment they encountered when working in the service industry.	<p>The study report has been uploaded onto the website of the EOC for public perusal; a press conference was also held on 2 March 2018.</p> <p>In the light of the study findings, the EOC contacted the organisations providing services to new arrivals from the Mainland to offer training courses on anti-sexual harassment to their service recipients.</p> <p>The research team was also invited to the Seminar on Enhancing Awareness of Sexual Harassment in Different Sectors co-organised by the EOC and the Gender Research Centre of the Chinese University of</p>	\$476,675

Date of conducting studies	Consultancy research studies	Content of the studies	Specific follow-up work	Expenditure
			Hong Kong on 5 March 2018 to share the insights of the study.	
January 2017 – August 2018	A Study on Family Status Discrimination in the Workplace	This study adopted the mixed research approach of questionnaire surveys, in-depth interviews and focus group discussions to understand the prevalence of family status discrimination in the workplace and the awareness of the Family Status Discrimination Ordinance amongst employers and employees.	<p>The study report has been uploaded onto the website of the EOC for public perusal; a press conference was also held on 22 August 2018.</p> <p>In the light of the study findings, the EOC submitted the findings and recommendations of the study to the Chief Executive on 5 September 2018 as part of the submissions in response to the 2018 Policy Address Public Consultation.</p> <p>In September 2018, the Director of Policy, Research and Training of the EOC was interviewed by “HK01” to discuss the impact of the study findings.</p> <p>To enhance public knowledge of discrimination in the workplace and publicise the study findings, the EOC held a seminar for members of the Equal Opportunity Club on 14 December 2018 to share the study findings and introduce the relevant provisions under the existing legislation. The seminar was attended by 40 people.</p>	\$600,999.20

Date of conducting studies	Consultancy research studies	Content of the studies	Specific follow-up work	Expenditure
August 2017 – present	Identifying Effective Approaches to Reduce Opposition in the Siting of Integrated Community Centres for Mental Wellness and other Mental Health Facilities	This study adopted the mixed research approach of questionnaire survey, in-depth interviews and focus group discussions to examine and analyse the justifications both in favour of and against the siting and setting up of Integrated Community Centres for Mental Wellness (ICCMW) in public areas; and to investigate how the public make a choice in the face of conflicting options in respect of the setting up of ICCMWs and provision of mental wellness service in public areas.	The study will be completed by the second quarter of 2019.	\$592,968.75
June 2018 – present	A Study on the Challenges Faced by Mainstream Schools in Educating Ethnic Minorities in Hong Kong	This study adopted the mixed research approach of questionnaire survey and in-depth interviews to investigate the current position of and challenges faced by mainstream schools in educating ethnic minorities; and to identify effective ways to ensure ethnic minority students are getting equal educational opportunities in mainstream schools.	The study will be completed by the second quarter of 2019.	\$506,080
August 2018 – present	A Study on Public Attitudes towards Female Political Leadership	This study adopted the mixed research approach of questionnaire survey and in-depth interviews to investigate public perception towards female political leadership, and their views on gender equality and political status of women in Hong Kong; to interview political leaders for their views on various policies (such as the quota system) to promote women's representation in political leadership; and to make specific recommendations on how to eliminate the glass ceiling for women in politics.	The study will be completed by the third quarter of 2019.	\$640,650.05
November 2018 – present	A Study on Education and Career Pathways of Ethnic Minority Youth in Hong Kong	This study adopted the mixed research approach of questionnaire survey, in-depth interviews and focus group discussions to examine the	The study will be completed by the fourth quarter of 2019.	\$749,954.10

Date of conducting studies	Consultancy research studies	Content of the studies	Specific follow-up work	Expenditure
		<p>transition to tertiary education and school-to-work transition of ethnic minority youth; to access the attitudes of ethnic minority youth, ethnic minority parents, teachers, other relevant professionals in schools and employers on ethnic minority education and employment, with a view to making specific recommendations on systemic support policies for ethnic minority youth in transition to tertiary education and to work, and producing a practical guidebook for ethnic minority youth in education and career planning.</p>		
<p>Started in the first quarter of 2019</p>	<p>A Study on Potential Model for Accreditation & Regulation of Interpreters and Translators in Ethnic Minority Languages in Hong Kong</p>	<p>This study adopted the mixed research approach of literature review, questionnaire survey, in-depth interviews and focus group discussions to identify options for 3 areas, namely: a standardised accreditation mechanism, regulation models and regulatory body with details on functions, power and accountability of interpreters and translators in ethnic minority languages; and to examine the potential training needs for interpreters and translators to meet the requirements.</p>	<p>The study is expected to be completed by the first quarter of 2020.</p>	<p>\$399,826</p>

3. The anti-discrimination and anti-harassment policies formulated by the EOC for public, subvented and private organisations in the past 3 years are as follows:

Year	Anti-discrimination and anti-sexual harassment policies formulated by EOC	Target of assistance	Expenditure
2016	Framework for Sexual Harassment Policy in Social Service Agencies	Social welfare organisations	Staff emoluments
2016	Autism: A Guide for Law Enforcement Officers Communicating with Persons with Autism Spectrum Disorders	Law enforcement agencies	Staff emoluments
2017	Easy-to-Read Guide for Accessible Air Travel in Hong Kong - Your Rights and Obligations To Air Travel	Airline companies	\$7,800 for printing and staff emoluments
2018	Framework for Anti-Sexual Harassment Policy in Sports Organisations (Revised Version)	Sports organisations	Staff emoluments
2018	Framework for Anti-Sexual Harassment Policy in Churches	Churches	Staff emoluments

Note: As the relevant work is part of the regular duties of staff, the expenditure on manpower required cannot be calculated and quantified separately.

4. In the past 3 years, the EOC reviewed or tendered advice on the following anti-discrimination and anti-harassment policies for public, subvented and private organisations:

Year	Anti-discrimination and anti-sexual harassment policies reviewed/advised by EOC	Target of assistance	Expenditure
2016	Draft Policy on Prohibiting Sexual Harassment, Bully and Violence in the Workplace	Fire Services Department	Staff emoluments
2017	Guidelines on the Formulation of Policies for Preventing Sexual Harassment	Social welfare organisations	Staff emoluments
2018	Policy and Procedures against Sexual Harassment	Social welfare organisations	Staff emoluments

Year	Anti-discrimination and anti-sexual harassment policies reviewed/advised by EOC	Target of assistance	Expenditure
2018	Guidelines on the Formulation of Policies for Preventing and Handling Sexual Harassment	Christian churches	Staff emoluments
2018	Guidelines on the Formulation of Policies for Preventing Sexual Harassment	Christian groups	Staff emoluments
2018	Guidelines on the Formulation of Policies for Preventing Sexual Harassment	Christian groups	Staff emoluments

Note: As the relevant work is part of the regular duties of staff, the expenditure on manpower required cannot be calculated and quantified separately.

5. The EOC organised a total of 19 seminars on equal opportunities issues in the past 3 years as listed below:

Date of seminar	Topic	Target	Attendance	Expenditure
22 June 2016	Workshop for University Student Leaders: "Play Smart: Say NO to Sexual Harassment"	University student leaders	50 persons	Staff emoluments
18 August 2016	Seminar on Anti-Sexual Harassment in Social Service Sector	Social welfare organisations and management personnel of their service units	90 persons	Charges of venue and equipment, hiring printing and refreshments expenses of about \$4,000 and staff emoluments
4 November 2016	Road to Inclusive Education – Seminar on Supporting SEN Students	Representatives of the education sector	About 60 persons	Staff emoluments
30 November 2016	Seminar on Anti-Sexual Harassment in Social Service Sector	Social welfare organisations and management personnel of their service units	96 persons	Printing and refreshments expenses of about \$800 and staff emoluments
14 December 2016	Seminar on Protecting	Parents, carers and	86 persons	Printing and

Date of seminar	Topic	Target	Attendance	Expenditure
	Persons with Intellectual Disabilities Against Sexual Harassment	social workers of persons with intellectual disabilities		refreshments expenses of about \$800 and staff emoluments
6 January 2017	Seminar on the Prevention of Sexual Harassment in Residential Care Homes for Persons with Disabilities	Operators and supervisors of private residential care homes for persons with disabilities	46 persons	Printing and refreshments expenses of about \$450 and staff emoluments
31 May 2017	Workshop for University Student Leaders: "Play Smart: Say NO to Sexual Harassment"	University student leaders	34 persons	Staff emoluments
4 July 2017	Seminar on Awareness of Gender Mainstreaming and Sexual Harassment	Representatives of the social welfare sector and business sector	About 100 persons	Staff emoluments
10 August 2017	Workshop on Preventing Sexual Harassment and Handling of Related Complaints for Social Welfare Agencies	Representatives of social welfare organisations and their service units	49 persons	Printing, refreshments and miscellaneous expenses of about \$650 and staff emoluments
1 September 2017	Workshop on Preventing Sexual Harassment and Handling Related Complaints for Social Welfare Agencies	Representatives of social welfare organisations and their service units	42 persons	Printing, refreshments and miscellaneous expenses of about \$650 and staff emoluments
15 September 2017	Workshop on Preventing Sexual Harassment and Handling Related Complaints for Social Welfare Agencies	Representatives of social welfare organisations and their service units, and representatives of non-subservent small and medium social welfare organisations	53 persons	Printing, refreshments and miscellaneous expenses of about \$650 and staff emoluments
13 October 2017	Workshop on Preventing Sexual Harassment and Handling Related	Representatives of social welfare organisations	45 persons	Printing, refreshments and miscellaneous expenses of

Date of seminar	Topic	Target	Attendance	Expenditure
	Complaints for Social Welfare Agencies			about \$650 and staff emoluments
12 January 2018	Seminar on the Rights of and Challenges Faced by Persons with Disabilities	The social welfare sector and deputations for persons with disabilities	About 70 persons	Staff emoluments
30 January 2018	“To Foster the Olympic Spirit: Seminar on Eliminating Discrimination and Anti-Sexual Harassment in Sports Sector”	Representatives of national sports associations, the Hong Kong Sports Institute and the Leisure and Cultural Services Department	About 250 persons	Printing, photography and miscellaneous expenses of about \$4,400 and staff emoluments
5 March 2018	Seminar on Enhancing Awareness of Sexual Harassment in Different Sectors	Representatives of the education sector, social welfare sector, business sector, sports sector and other sectors	About 120 persons	Charges of venue and equipment, and hiring printing, photography, refreshments and miscellaneous expenses of about \$5,700 and staff emoluments
16 March 2018	Workshop on Preventing Sexual Harassment and Handling Related Complaints for Sports Organisations	Representatives of national sports associations, the Hong Kong Sports Institute and the Leisure and Cultural Services Department	About 50-60 persons	Printing and miscellaneous expenses of about \$600 and staff emoluments
23 March 2018	Workshop on Preventing Sexual Harassment and Handling Related Complaints for Sports Organisations	Representatives of national sports associations, the Hong Kong Sports Institute and the Leisure and Cultural Services Department	About 50-60 persons	Printing and miscellaneous expenses of about \$600 and staff emoluments
12 October 2018	Seminar on Prevention of Sexual Harassment in Churches	Clergymen, lay leaders, Church staff and theology students	About 50 persons	About \$1,500
11 March 2019	Seminar on Prevention of Sexual Harassment in	Clergymen and lay leaders	About 160 persons	Staff emoluments

Date of seminar	Topic	Target	Attendance	Expenditure
	Churches			

Note: As the relevant work is part of the regular duties of staff, the expenditure on manpower required cannot be calculated and quantified separately.

6. On 20-21 September 2018, the EOC and the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions co-organised the “Conference on Equality in the Asia Pacific 2018: Progress and Challenges” to examine the progress on equal rights in the Asia-Pacific Region as well as the problems and challenges encountered, especially with regard to equal rights for women, ethnic minorities and persons with disabilities. More than 270 guests from Hong Kong and the Asia-Pacific Region attended the conference and the expenditure on this conference is \$300,000.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB106

(Question Serial No. 6558)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
Programme: Not specified
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In examining the 2016-17 Estimates of Expenditures, the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) stated that it was conducting an internal review of the Code of Practice on Employment under the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (Code of Practice). The review was expected to be completed by the end of 2016, after which stakeholders and the public would be consulted (Question Serial No.: 0784, Controlling Officer's Reply No.: CMAB007). In this connection, would the Government advise on the following:

- (a) What are the progress of the internal review and the expenditure involved; and
- (b) Whether stakeholders and the public have been consulted on the review of the Code of Practice? If yes, what are the details and results of consultation, the expenditure involved in the consultation and the estimated time for submitting the proposed recommendations of amendments to the Code of Practice to the Legislative Council? If no, what are the reasons? Will the Government consult the stakeholders and the public in 2018-19? If yes, what are the details of the consultation and the estimated expenditure involved? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 1435)

Reply:

According to the information provided by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), the EOC is at present deliberating internally the revised Code of Practice on Employment under the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (Code of Practice). The direction of the review is to make reference to the experiences and precedents accumulated since the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 480) (SDO) came into force in 1996 so as to strengthen the guidelines.

2. Since the Discrimination Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2018 (the Bill) has introduced amendments to certain provisions of the SDO, the EOC considers it necessary to include the enhanced protection afforded by the Bill into the revised Code of

Practice. Subject to the passage of the Bill, the EOC will consult stakeholders and the public on the inclusion of the enhanced protection and other amendments into the Code of Practice.

3. The expected expense for relevant public consultation work is approximately \$200,000, which mainly covers printing and posting fees for public consultation documents, production costs for radio advertisements, which the Information Services Department will distribute to radio stations for broadcast at no charge, publication of newspaper articles on the content of the revised Code of Practice, organising public consultation meetings, as well as production and maintenance costs for a dedicated website on the public consultation. Upon completing the public consultation process, the EOC will submit the proposed revised Code of Practice to the Legislative Council for scrutiny.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB107

(Question Serial No. 6559)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: Not specified
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. What are the work undertaken by the Bureau to publicise, provide guidance on and supervise the implementation of the Administrative Guidelines on Promotion of Racial Equality (the Guidelines) in all policy bureaux, government departments and public organisations as well as the expenditure involved in the past year?
2. Have all policy bureaux, government departments and public organisations set up a dedicated unit or deployed staff to follow up on the Guidelines in the past year? If yes, what are the details; if no, what are the reasons?
3. In the past few years, different standards were adopted by policy bureaux, government departments and public organisations in the provision of interpretation services. Will the Bureau draw up a set of clear and standardised guidelines which makes provision of interpretation services compulsory for the staff of policy bureaux, government departments and public organisations to follow? If yes, what are the details; if no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 1436)

Reply:

In 2010, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (“CMAB”) issued the Administrative Guidelines on Promotion of Racial Equality (“the Guidelines”) to provide general guidance to relevant government bureaux and departments and public authorities (hereafter referred to as “relevant authorities”) to promote racial equality and ensure equal access by ethnic minorities (“EMs”) to public services in the key areas concerned, and to take this into account in the formulation, implementation and review of relevant policies and measures. The Guidelines cover the key public services which are particularly relevant to meeting the needs of EMs and facilitating their integration into society namely, medical, education, vocational training, employment and major community services.

2. In accordance with the Guidelines, the relevant authorities have drawn up checklists of measures within their respective policy and programme areas that would assist in the promotion of racial equality, equal access to key public services and transparency of their work. The checklists, which contain contact information of the relevant authorities, have been uploaded onto the CMAB website and are available in 6 EM languages, namely Bahasa Indonesia, Hindi, Nepali, Tagalog, Thai and Urdu. The relevant authorities will draw up and issue updates on the contents of the checklists according to their respective programme areas where necessary. As relevant authorities are responsible for implementing and monitoring the implementation of the Guidelines in areas relevant to their purview, this Bureau does not keep a breakdown of the manpower and expenditure involved.

3. Relevant authorities have all along been providing specific services, such as interpretation services, to meet the practical needs of EMs under their respective policy areas, with a view to facilitating their integration into society, and ensuring equal access to public services. Since the interpretation needs of EMs vary depending on the type of public service sought, the relevant authorities will consider the actual situation and adopt suitable procedures to provide interpretation services to EMs requiring assistance.

4. The CMAB is also conducting a review on the Guidelines. One of our concerns is that some EMs have encountered difficulties in adaptation and social integration owing to language barriers. Currently, various government departments provide interpretation services to meet the practical needs of EM service users, with a view to ensuring their equal access to public services. To enhance the provision of interpretation services by these government departments, we are exploring the feasibility of including guidelines on the provision of interpretation services in the Guidelines. Moreover, we will consider requiring government departments to collect relevant data and statistics in relation to the race of stakeholders on a regular basis and having regard to their respective actual policies as well as operational circumstances. This is to facilitate the Government to monitor and assess in a timely manner whether public policies and services will affect racial equality and for the continuous improvement of services provided to EMs.

5. To improve the Guidelines for application to all government bureaux and departments as well as related organisations providing services to EMs, this Bureau will allocate a total of \$4.3 million to the relevant work over the coming 4 financial years from 2019-20.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB108****(Question Serial No. 6588)**

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child has asked Contracting States or territories to the Convention on the Rights of the Child to promote public awareness of the provisions of the Convention. In this regard, what were the Government's related expenditures in the past 5 years? Has provision been earmarked for promotional work in the next financial year? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 1616)

Reply:

The Government is committed to promoting public awareness of and respect for the rights of children as enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (the Convention), which includes continuing to promote children's rights through the Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme (the Funding Scheme). The objective of the Funding Scheme is to encourage and enable community organisations to take up educational projects for raising public awareness and understanding of children's rights enshrined in the Convention. Besides, the Children's Rights Forum is also held on a regular basis to provide a platform for exchanging views on matters concerning children's rights among NGOs, children's representatives and the Government. The relevant expenditures (excluding staff costs) in the past 5 years are set out in the table below:

Financial Year	Expenditure on promoting children's rights (\$ million)
2014-15	1.288
2015-16	2.876 [^]
2016-17	1.055
2017-18	1.125
2018-19	1.201 (revised estimate)

[^] including a television programme co-produced with the Radio Television Hong Kong to promote children's rights.

2. In the coming financial year, the Government will continue to promote children's rights through implementing the Funding Scheme and organising the Children's Rights Forum. The estimated expenditure for these efforts is about \$1.1 million (excluding staff costs).

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB109

(Question Serial No. 7036)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
Programme: Not specified
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding issues on the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC)'s provision of legal assistance in the past 5 years, will the Government advise on the following:

- (a) The numbers of cases where the complainants had applied directly for legal assistance in each year. Amongst them, how many cases were granted legal assistance, granted limited assistance, refused legal assistance and withdrawn by the complainants respectively?
- (b) The numbers of cases where the complainants had applied for legal assistance after conciliation in each year. Amongst them, how many cases were granted legal assistance, granted limited assistance, refused legal assistance and withdrawn by complainants respectively?
- (c) In respect of cases where legal assistance was granted (excluding limited assistance) in each year, what are the numbers of cases concluded without filing any proceedings; cases settled out of court after proceedings had been filed; and cases taken to court for trial respectively? For cases where no proceedings were filed, what are the numbers of cases withdrawn by the complainants; settled before proceedings were filed; and what are the numbers of cases where the provision of legal assistance was discontinued by the EOC respectively?
- (d) In respect of cases where the provision of limited legal assistance was granted in each year, what are the numbers of cases where complainants were eventually granted legal assistance; where the provision of legal assistance was discontinued upon further investigation of the LSD; and where complainants had withdrawn the applications respectively?
- (e) Among cases taken to court for trial in each year, how many of them were cases where legal proceedings were handled and represented by the EOC's in-house lawyers; and how many were handled and represented by external lawyers? What were the respective expenditures involved?

- (f) The numbers of cases where the EOC had engaged external lawyers to provide legal advice in each year and the respective expenditures involved.
- (g) The year -by-year figures on the establishment of lawyers of the EOC (including those handling complaint investigations/legal assistance and other work of the EOC); the percentages of lawyers against the overall number of employees; the actual number of lawyers employed by the EOC; and the expenditures involved respectively.
- (h) Are EOC's in-house lawyers required to have experience in litigation work and represent litigants? If yes, in the last 10 years, why has the EOC used only external lawyers for litigation work instead of in-house lawyers when the EOC specialises in anti-discrimination laws? What would be the savings if in-house lawyers directly represented the complainants instead of using external lawyers?
- (i) If EOC's in-house lawyers are not required to have experience in litigation work, please explain why not, and why the small number of legal assistance applications handled each year justifies the cost of hiring 8 in-house lawyers?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 1428)

Reply:

According to the information provided by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), the response to the question is provided as follows:

2. Regarding part (a) of the question, the EOC may provide legal assistance pursuant to the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 480) and the other 3 anti-discrimination ordinances. However, a complaint has to first be lodged by relevant persons with the EOC under the 4 anti-discrimination ordinances before an application for legal assistance is made. If the relevant complaint cannot be settled through conciliation, then an application may be made to the EOC for legal assistance. Therefore, there are no cases where the EOC handles direct applications for legal assistance by complainants without going through investigation and conciliation.

3. Regarding part (b) of the question, cases where the complainants had applied to the EOC for legal assistance after unsuccessful conciliation in each of the past 5 years are set out in the table below:

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total number of applications for legal assistance processed in the year#	38	32	39	46	63
Cases where legal assistance was granted	13	20	14	18	27
Cases where limited legal assistance was granted (Note 1)	4	2	2	8*	5

Legal assistance not granted	18	10	20*	12	21
Applications withdrawn	0	0	0	0	1
Granting of legal assistance to be determined in the coming financial year	3	0	2	9	9

Including cases (i) that applied for legal assistance in the year and (ii) transferred from the previous year. Legal assistance for the same case may be applied for and granted in different years.

* 1 application not granted legal assistance in 2016 was granted limited assistance in 2017 upon review requested by the applicant.

Note 1: "Limited legal assistance" refers to the seeking of further information from parties concerned before assessing whether or not to continue providing legal assistance to the case, including the provision of assistance in negotiation and conciliation among parties concerned.

4. Regarding part (c) of the question, relevant cases where legal assistance was granted (excluding limited assistance) in each of the past 5 years are set out in the table below:

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
No proceedings were filed and the provision of legal assistance was discontinued by the Legal Service Division (LSD)#	1	2	1	0	0
No proceedings were filed and the complainant had withdrawn the application	0	1	2	1	4
No proceedings were filed and out-of-court settlement had been reached	6	13	8	14	2
Out-of-court settlement was reached after proceedings had been filed	4	2	1	1	0
Provision of legal assistance was discontinued after proceedings had been filed#	0	1	0	0	0
Legal proceedings were underway	0	0	0	2	5
Undergoing court trials	0	1	0	0	0
Litigation successful after court trials	1	0	0	0	0
Still processing	1	0	2	0	16
Total number of cases	13	20	14	18	27

Having regard to the further analysis of the legal basis of the case concerned, the EOC has decided to discontinue the provision of legal assistance.

5. Regarding part (d) of the question, relevant cases where limited legal assistance was granted in each of the past 5 years are set out in the table below:

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Still seeking further information	0	0	0	1	2
Provision of legal assistance was continued after further information had been sought	1	0	1	2	2
Provision of legal assistance was discontinued after further information had been sought*	3	2	1	5	1
Application withdrawn by the complainant	0	0	0	0	0
Total number of cases	4	2	2	8	5

Having regard to the further analysis of the legal basis of the case concerned, the EOC has decided to discontinue the provision of legal assistance.

6. Regarding parts (e) and (f) of the question, all cases taken to courts for trial were handled and represented by in-house lawyers of the EOC. For hearings where the engagement of external counsels is required, the Legal Officer in charge of the case will also appear in court to provide support and new instructions to the external counsel. In the past 5 years, the numbers of cases where proceedings were handled and represented by the EOC's in-house lawyers as well as the numbers of cases where external lawyers were engaged to provide legal assistance are set out in the table below:

In-house/ engaging external legal service	Nature of legal service	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19 (up to February 2019)
Legal assistance provided by the LSD of the EOC	Number of cases where legal proceedings were handled and represented by the EOC's in-house lawyers	3	4	7	4	8

Legal assistance provided by external lawyers	Number of cases where external lawyers appeared in courts	2	3	2	1	4
	Number of cases where external lawyers provided legal advice	14	6	3	3	1
	Expenditure *	About \$870,000	About \$360,000	About \$260,000	About \$380,000	About \$490,000
Seeking independent legal advice from external lawyers on institutional operation and individual complaint cases	Number of cases where external lawyers provided legal advice	0	1	1	2	0
	Expenditure	-	About \$120,000	About \$120,000	About \$130,000	-

* excluding the costs for engaging other professionals, including conciliators, engineers or other experts, to provide professional advice.

7. Regarding part (g) of the question, the LSD of the EOC has an establishment of 8 lawyers, including 1 Chief Legal Counsel, 5 Senior Legal Officers and 2 Legal Officers. Amongst them, 3 Senior Legal Officers and 2 Legal Officers are mainly responsible for handling legal assistance cases and providing legal advice on the handling of enquiries and complaints relating to discrimination. The remaining 2 Senior Legal Officers undertake work which falls outside the above, such as work relating to the review of anti-discrimination ordinances, drafting codes of practice and providing internal legal support. There are 7 local lawyers and 1 overseas lawyer in the LSD, which together represent around 8.5% of the overall number of staff. In the past 5 years, the staff costs of the aforementioned establishment of lawyers are \$9.41 million (2014-15), \$9.06 million (2015-16), \$11.32 million (2016-17), \$11.67 million (2017-18) and \$13.27 million (2018-19) respectively.

8. Regarding parts (h) and (i) of the question, the lawyers responsible for legal assistance cases in the LSD of the EOC are required to have experience in litigation work and represent litigants. Lawyers in the LSD of the EOC directly provide legal advice to every complainant who has been granted legal assistance throughout the whole process of legal assistance from commencement to completion. If legal proceedings are required for the complainant's case, lawyers in the LSD of the EOC will serve as the legal representatives of the complainants to initiate legal proceedings and represent the complainants throughout the proceedings until the end of trial. In-house lawyers of the EOC appear in court to handle the legal proceedings for each case, and the EOC does not only use external lawyers for litigation work.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB110****(Question Serial No. 7037)**

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the Equal Opportunities Commission's engagement of external lawyers in the provision of legal services, grateful if the Government would advise on the number of times where external lawyers were engaged to provide legal services in each of the past 5 years, and the reason for engaging external lawyers, the nature of legal services concerned and the expenditure involved on each of such occasions.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 1430)

Reply:

According to the information provided by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), the number of times that external lawyers were engaged, the number of external lawyers engaged, the expenditure involved and the reasons for engaging external lawyers by the EOC in the past 5 years are as follows:

Reasons for engaging external lawyers	Nature of legal services	Year				
		2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
To provide legal assistance	External lawyers appeared in courts	2	3	2	1	4
	External lawyers provided legal advice	14	6	3	3	1
	Expenditure*	About \$870,000	About \$360,000	About \$260,000	About \$380,000	About \$490,000

To seek independent legal advice on institutional operation and individual complaint cases	External lawyers provided legal advice	0	1	1	2	0
	Expenditure	-	About \$120,000	About \$120,000	About \$130,000	-
To take part in legal proceedings in the capacity of amicus curiae	External senior counsels/ counsels represent the EOC in legal proceedings	2	0	0	0	0
	Expenditure	About \$720,000	-	-	-	-

* excluding the costs for engaging other professionals, including conciliators, engineers or other experts, to provide professional advice.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB111

(Question Serial No. 7038)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
Programme: Not specified
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Equal Opportunities provided assistance other than by way of conciliation, including providing legal advice. In this connection, grateful if the Government would advise in the past 5 years:

- a) the number of cases where legal advice was given to complainants directly,
- b) at which stage of case handling was legal advice given to complainants directly,
- c) the establishment of in-house lawyers who provide legal advice,
- d) the expenditure involved in each of the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 1431)

Reply:

According to the information provided by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), the Legal Service Division (LSD) of the EOC would directly provide legal advice to every complainant who has been granted legal assistance. In the past 5 years, EOC lawyers have provided legal advice to 17 (2014), 22 (2015), 16 (2016), 26 (2017) and 32 (2018) cases respectively.

2. Lawyers in the LSD of the EOC directly provide legal advice to every complainant who has been granted legal assistance throughout the whole process of legal assistance from commencement to completion.

3. The LSD is comprised of 1 Chief Legal Counsel, 5 Senior Legal Officers, 2 Legal Officers and 2 secretaries. Amongst them, 3 Senior Legal Officers and 2 Legal Officers are mainly responsible for handling legal assistance cases and providing legal advice on the handling of enquiry and complaint relating to discrimination. The remaining 2 Senior Legal Officers undertake work which falls outside the above, e.g. work relating to the

review of anti-discrimination ordinances, drafting codes of practice and providing internal legal support.

4. In the past 5 years, the expenditures involved by the EOC in the aforementioned legal assistance work are about \$7.62 million (2014-15), \$6.42 million (2015-16), \$8.47 million (2016-17), \$8.90 million (2017-18) and \$9.05 million (estimate of 2018-19) respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB112

(Question Serial No. 7059)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

According to the Equal Opportunities Commission's website, the number of complaints received each year ranged between 500 to 600 from 2014 to 2017: (a) 606 cases in 2014; (b) 509 cases in 2015; (c) 601 cases in 2016; and (d) 544 cases in 2017. In 2018, however, the number of cases received rose by almost 100% to 1 018 complaints. In light of this unusually sharp increase, please provide the following information:

- (a) What is the method for counting complaints?
- (b) What are the reasons for the number of complaints to increase by almost 100% within one year against the trend in recent years?
- (c) The sharp increases related to complaints made under the Sex Discrimination Ordinance, Disability Discrimination Ordinance and Family Status Discrimination Ordinance, but not the Race Discrimination Ordinance. What are the reasons for these differences?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 3910)

Reply:

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) determines whether a case it received is of the nature of a complaint based on the following criteria:

- (a) the complaint should be made in written form;
- (b) the person who submits the correspondence should be "the aggrieved person" or the authorised representative of "the aggrieved person"; and
- (c) "the aggrieved person" should make an allegation of commission of "an unlawful act" by a certain person in accordance with the relevant ordinances. If the content of correspondence is not clear, the EOC will give the benefit of

the doubt to “the aggrieved person”, thereby treating and processing the correspondence as a complaint.

2. According to the information provided by the EOC, the substantial increase in the number of complaint cases in 2018 over 2017 is mainly due to the re-classification of some cases originally classified as enquiries to complaints made under the relevant anti-discrimination ordinances since end-2017. Besides, the efforts made by EOC in recent years in implementing anti-sexual harassment campaign, encouraging employment for persons with disabilities and ethnic minorities and advocating the enactment of legislation to protect breastfeeding women have enhanced public awareness on the issues and the rights concerned, and thus contributed to the rise in the number of complaints made under the 4 anti-discrimination ordinances.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB113

(Question Serial No. 7081)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In November 2017, the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) hired a Chief Project Manager for 6 months to conduct a review of the EOC's complaint handling and legal assistance services. The review is not yet completed and the Chief Project Manager is still hired by the EOC. In this connection, please provide the following information:

- (a) What was the original completion date for the review?
- (b) What is the progress with the review and the total expenditure for hiring the Chief Project Manager as well as other expenses?
- (c) What are the reasons for the delay in completing the review and to hire the Chief Project Manager continuously for over 16 months, particularly when the EOC has also enlisted the help of a law professor to review its complaint handling and legal assistance services on an unpaid basis?
- (d) What would be the projected cost for conducting a public consultation exercise on the review and when would this consultation be held?
- (e) What is the new completion date for the review, and what is the projected cost in publicising the new complaint handling and legal assistance services to the public?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 8620)

Reply:

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) regularly reviews its performance, including its operational procedures, with a view to maintaining and enhancing the quality of its services. In light of the views from members of the Legislative Council, non-governmental organisations and members of the public, the EOC has embarked on a comprehensive review of its complaint-handling functions. The review aims to examine the entire process of complaint-handling and provision of legal assistance, i.e. from the initial handling of the complaint to bringing the case to Court. The purposes are to assess

whether the current process is the most efficient and effective in fulfilling the EOC's statutory role and functions, while ensuring fairness and consistency in the performance of its duties, and to identify possible enhancement measures.

2. The review is being undertaken by a Chief Project Manager and overseen by the EOC Board. The EOC has also invited a former High Court Judge to provide advice to the review board on an independent and pro-bono basis. The EOC will carefully study the findings and recommendations of the review, as well as the financial and staffing implications involved. The recommendations will then be submitted to the EOC Board for endorsement.

3. As far as we understand, the above work is still underway. If the EOC requests for support upon completion of the relevant work, the Government will give careful consideration to it.

4. According to the information provided by the EOC, the major expenditure involved in the review of complaint-handling process is the emolument of the Chief Project Manager. The staff costs of the post in 2017-18 and 2018-19 were \$780,000 and \$2.01 million respectively, making up a total of \$2.79 million. Other related expenses of this review (including administrative support and publicity costs etc.) were absorbed in the recurrent operating expenditures of the EOC.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB114

(Question Serial No. 7082)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Under each anti-discrimination ordinance, the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) has the power to prescribe a form as a way to provide “help for aggrieved persons in obtaining information, etc”. These forms help aggrieved persons ask questions about their potential claims to the alleged discriminator, harasser or vilifier (section 83 of Sex Discrimination Ordinance; section 79 of Disability Discrimination Ordinance; section 61 of Family Status Discrimination Ordinance and section 77 of Race Discrimination Ordinance). To date, the EOC has not prescribed these forms and does not seem to have publicised these provisions at all. People in general are not aware of this tool under the law that can be very helpful to aggrieved persons. In this connection, please provide the following information:

- (a) In the past 5 years, has the EOC publicised the provision on “help for aggrieved persons in obtaining information, etc”? If yes, please give details of the promotion work and the expenditure involved. If no, why not?
- (b) In the past 5 years, has the EOC prepared any draft forms under each of the four anti-discrimination ordinances or started preparation work? If yes, please give details and the expenditure involved for the work conducted so far. If no, why not?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 8621)

Reply:

Pursuant to the existing anti-discrimination ordinances, the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) has the power to prescribe a form through which the aggrieved person may question the respondent (there is also a form for the respondent to answer the questions). The questions and replies shall be admissible as evidence in the proceedings. If the respondent, without reasonable excuse, omitted to reply or his reply is evasive or equivocal, the Court may draw an inference that he committed an unlawful act.

2. Conferred with the statutory power under the anti-discrimination ordinances to investigate into complaints lodged by aggrieved persons, the EOC can help the aggrieved

persons to collect information from respondents and other relevant parties. Thus, the EOC considers that there is no practical need for the aggrieved persons to use a prescribed form. When compared with the EOC's existing mechanism for complaint handling and investigation, the use of a prescribed form by the aggrieved persons to question respondents is rather convoluted.

3. The EOC believes that there is no strong public demand for the use of prescribed forms. There are adequate channels for the EOC to work towards eliminating discrimination by assisting aggrieved persons in obtaining information from respondents, given the EOC's powers of investigation and conciliation as well as the option to provide legal assistance to appropriate cases for bringing proceedings in court. Therefore, the EOC has not prescribed forms for aggrieved persons to question respondents.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB115

(Question Serial No. 7084)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Last year in examining the Estimates of Expenditure, the Controlling Officer stated that the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) had expected to complete the first draft of its internal review of the Code of Practice on Employment under the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (Code of Practice) in 2018-19, after which the EOC would consult the Legislative Council, relevant organisations and the public. It is noted that this review was originally expected to be completed by the end of 2016 (Question Serial No.: 0784, Controlling Officers Reply No.: CMAB007). In this connection, would the Government advise on the following:

- (a) What are the progress of the internal review and the expenditure involved; and is the first draft now available?
- (b) What is the timetable and expenditure involved in consulting the Legislative Council, relevant organisations and the public?
- (c) If no timetable is yet available, what are the reasons given such an extensive time delay from its original completion date, and what is the expenditure incurred for this delay?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 8623)

Reply:

According to the information provided by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), the EOC is at present deliberating internally the revised Code of Practice on Employment under the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (Code of Practice). The direction of the review is to make reference to the experiences and precedents accumulated since the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 480) (SDO) came into force in 1996 so as to strengthen the guidelines.

2. Since the Discrimination Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2018 (the Bill) has introduced amendments to certain provisions of the SDO, the EOC considers it

necessary to include the enhanced protection afforded by the Bill into the revised Code of Practice. Subject to the passage of the Bill, the EOC will consult stakeholders and the public on the inclusion of the enhanced protection and other amendments into the Code of Practice.

3. The expected expense for relevant public consultation work is approximately \$200,000, which mainly covers printing and posting fees for public consultation documents, production costs for radio advertisements, which the Information Services Department will distribute to radio stations for broadcast at no charge, publication of newspaper articles on the content of the revised Code of Practice, organising public consultation meetings, as well as production and maintenance costs for a dedicated website on the public consultation. Upon completing the public consultation process, the EOC will submit the proposed revised Code of Practice to the Legislative Council for scrutiny.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB116****(Question Serial No. 7085)**

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

What is the current establishment of the Complaint Services Division? How many staff members of the Complaint Services Division have resigned in each of the past 3 years (as at 6 March 2019)? Please give a yearly breakdown on the number of resignation and new appointment by rank.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 8624)

Reply:

According to the information provided by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), the Complaint Services Division (CSD) of the EOC currently has an establishment of 27 staff, including 1 director, 22 officers (including 1 officer post created in November 2018) and 4 clerical support staff.

2. In the past 3 years (up to March 2019), the number and rank of the resignees and new appointees in the CSD are set out in the table below*:

Year		Rank	Director	Chief Officer	Senior Officer	Officer	Assistant Officer/ Assistant Enquiry Officer	Total
2016	Resignees	-	-	-	1	3	2	6
	New appointees	-	-	-	-	3	3	6
2017	Resignees	1 (Note 1)	-	-	3	2 (Note 2)	4	10
	New appointees	-	-	-	2	3	2	7

2018	Resignees	-	2	4 (Note 2)	4	2	12
	New appointees	-	2 (Note 3)	4 (Note 3)	4 (Note 4)	5	15
2019 (up to March 2019)	Resignees	-	-	-	-	-	0
	New appointees	1	-	1 (Note 5)	-	-	2

* No resignation from clerical support staff is recorded in the past 3 years.

Note 1: The resignation of 1 Director in 2017 took effect on 30 December 2017

Note 2: Including 1 staff member who transferred from the CSD to another division/unit

Note 3: Including 1 staff member who transferred to the CSD upon promotion from another division/unit

Note 4: Including 1 staff member who transferred to the CSD from another division/unit

Note 5: Including 1 staff member who was promoted internally in the CSD

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB117

(Question Serial No. 7086)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Equal Opportunities Commission provides “assistance other than by way of conciliation” to victims under the Sex Discrimination Ordinance, the Disability Discrimination Ordinance, the Family Status Discrimination Ordinance and the Race Discrimination Ordinance, which may include:

- (a) giving advice;
- (b) arranging for the giving of advice or assistance by a solicitor or counsel;
- (c) arranging for representation by any person, including all such assistance as is usually given by a solicitor or counsel in the steps preliminary or incidental to any proceedings, or in arriving at or giving effect to a compromise to avoid or bring to an end any proceedings; and
- (d) any other form of assistance which the EOC may consider appropriate. Please provide a breakdown of the forms of assistance offered to victims by year and by ordinance in the past 5 years. Please also indicate if the same victims received more than one form of assistance in the same case.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 8625)

Reply:

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) may provide legal assistance to persons who have taken legal actions under the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (SDO) (Cap. 480), Disability Discrimination Ordinance (DDO) (Cap. 487), Family Status Discrimination Ordinance (FSDO) (Cap. 527) and Race Discrimination Ordinance (RDO) (Cap. 602). A complaint has to be first lodged by relevant persons with the EOC under the 4 anti-discrimination ordinances before an application for legal assistance is made. If the relevant complaint cannot be settled through conciliation, then an application could be made to the EOC for legal assistance. EOC will consider providing assistance other than by way of conciliation to successful applicants of legal assistance, including:

- (a) giving advice (i.e. legal advice given by lawyers of the Legal Service Division (LSD) of the EOC);
- (b) arranging for the giving of advice or assistance by a solicitor or counsel (i.e. advice or assistance given by external solicitors or counsel engaged by the EOC. In the past 5 years, the EOC only engaged external counsels to provide advice or assistance);
- (c) arranging for representation by any person, including all such assistance as is usually given by a solicitor or counsel in the steps preliminary or incidental to any proceedings, or in arriving at or giving effect to a compromise to avoid or bring to an end any proceedings; and
- (d) any other form of assistance which the EOC may consider appropriate (e.g. engaging other professionals including engineers, doctors or other experts to provide professional advice on cases).

2. According to the information provided by the EOC, figures on assistance other than by way of conciliation provided to victims in the breakdown in years and ordinances in the past 5 years are set out in ensuing paragraphs:

3. In 2014, a total of 17 cases were granted legal assistance by the EOC (9 claims were related to the SDO and 8 claims were related to the DDO). The respective forms of assistance other than by way of conciliation given in these cases are set out in the table below:

Case	Giving advice	Arranging for the giving of advice or assistance by a solicitor or counsel	Arranging for representation by any person in legal proceedings	Any other form of assistance
Claims made under the SDO				
Case 1	✓	✓	✓	
Case 2	✓	✓	✓	
Case 3	✓		✓	
Case 4	✓		✓	
Case 5	✓		✓	
Case 6	✓		✓	
Case 7	✓		✓	
Case 8	✓		✓	
Case 9	✓		✓	
Claims made under the DDO				
Case 10	✓	✓	✓	
Case 11	✓	✓	✓	
Case 12	✓	✓	✓	
Case 13	✓		✓	
Case 14	✓		✓	
Case 15	✓	✓	✓	✓
Case 16	✓	✓	✓	
Case 17	✓		✓	

4. In 2015, a total of 22 cases were granted legal assistance by the EOC (6 claims were related to the SDO, 15 claims were related to the DDO and 1 claim was related to the RDO). The respective forms of assistance other than by way of conciliation given in these cases are set out in the table below:

Case	Giving advice	Arranging for the giving of advice or assistance by a solicitor or counsel	Arranging for representation by any person in legal proceedings	Any other form of assistance
Claims made under the SDO				
Case 1	✓		✓	
Case 2	✓		✓	
Case 3	✓	✓	✓	
Case 4	✓	✓	✓	
Case 5	✓		✓	
Case 6	✓		✓	
Claims made under the DDO				
Case 7	✓	✓	✓	
Case 8	✓	✓	✓	
Case 9	✓		✓	
Case 10	✓	✓	✓	✓
Case 11	✓	✓	✓	✓
Case 12	✓		✓	
Case 13	✓		✓	
Case 14	✓	✓	✓	
Case 15	✓		✓	
Case 16	✓		✓	
Case 17	✓		✓	
Case 18	✓		✓	
Case 19	✓		✓	✓
Case 20	✓		✓	
Case 21	✓		✓	
Claims made under the RDO				
Case 22	✓		✓	

5. In 2016, a total of 16 cases were granted legal assistance by the EOC (7 claims were related to the SDO, 7 claims were related to the DDO, 1 claim was related to the FSDO and 1 claim was related to the RDO). The respective forms of assistance other than by way of conciliation given in these cases are set out in the table below:

Case	Giving advice	Arranging for the giving of advice or assistance by a solicitor or counsel	Arranging for representation by any person in legal proceedings	Any other form of assistance
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Claims made under the SDO				
Case 1	✓		✓	
Case 2	✓		✓	
Case 3	✓		✓	
Case 4	✓		✓	
Case 5	✓		✓	
Case 6	✓		✓	
Case 7	✓		✓	
Claims made under the DDO				
Case 8	✓		✓	
Case 9	✓		✓	
Case 10	✓		✓	✓
Case 11	✓		✓	
Case 12	✓		✓	
Case 13	✓		✓	
Case 14	✓		✓	
Claims made under the FSDO				
Case 15	✓			
Claims made under the RDO				
Case 16	✓		✓	

6. In 2017, a total of 26 cases were granted legal assistance by the EOC (11 claims were related to the SDO, 14 claims were related to the DDO and 1 claim was related to the RDO). The respective forms of assistance other than by way of conciliation given in these cases are set out in the table below:

Case	Giving advice	Arranging for the giving of advice or assistance by a solicitor or counsel	Arranging for representation by any person in legal proceedings	Any other form of assistance
Claims made under the SDO				
Case 1	✓		✓	
Case 2	✓		✓	
Case 3	✓		✓	
Case 4	✓		✓	
Case 5	✓		✓	
Case 6	✓		✓	
Case 7	✓		✓	
Case 8	✓		✓	
Case 9	✓	✓	✓	
Case 10	✓		✓	
Case 11	✓		✓	
Claims made under the DDO				
Case 12	✓	✓	✓	
Case 13	✓		✓	
Case 14	✓		✓	
Case 15	✓		✓	

Case 16	✓		✓	
Case 17	✓		✓	
Case 18	✓		✓	
Case 19	✓		✓	
Case 20	✓		✓	
Case 21	✓		✓	
Case 22	✓		✓	
Case 23	✓		✓	
Case 24	✓		✓	
Case 25	✓		✓	
Claims made under the RDO				
Case 26	✓		✓	✓

7. In 2018, a total of 32 cases were granted legal assistance by the EOC (19 claims were related to the SDO and 13 claims were related to the DDO). The respective forms of assistance other than by way of conciliation given in these cases are set out in the table below:

Case	Giving advice	Arranging for the giving of advice or assistance by a solicitor or counsel	Arranging for representation by any person in legal proceedings	Any other form of assistance
Claims made under the SDO				
Case 1	✓	✓	✓	
Case 2	✓		✓	
Case 3	✓		✓	
Case 4	✓		✓	
Case 5	✓		✓	
Case 6	✓		✓	
Case 7	✓		✓	
Case 8	✓		✓	
Case 9	✓		✓	
Case 10	✓		✓	
Case 11	✓		✓	
Case 12	✓		✓	
Case 13	✓		✓	
Case 14	✓		✓	
Case 15	✓		✓	
Case 16	✓		✓	
Case 17	✓		✓	
Case 18	✓		✓	
Case 19	✓		✓	
Claims made under the DDO				
Case 20	✓		✓	
Case 21	✓		✓	
Case 22	✓		✓	✓

Case 23	✓		✓	
Case 24	✓		✓	
Case 25	✓		✓	
Case 26	✓		✓	
Case 27	✓		✓	
Case 28	✓		✓	
Case 29	✓		✓	
Case 30	✓		✓	
Case 31	✓		✓	
Case 32	✓		✓	

Remark: Depending on the circumstances of the case, the LSD of the EOC may provide legal assistance and seek the advice or assistance by an external counsel for the same case in different years. In addition, the LSD will also seek the advice of an external senior counsel on a number of cases involving the same complex legal issue.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB118

(Question Serial No. 7087)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please provide the criteria in the Internal Operating Procedures Manual of the Equal Opportunities Commission for classifying cases into enquiries and complaints in the past 5 years. If changes have been made to the criteria in the past 5 years, please advise when the revision was made and the original and revised criteria.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 8626)

Reply:

According to the information provided by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), an Internal Operating Procedures Manual (the Manual) is in place and the current version was issued in 2013.

2. As set out in the Manual, all incoming written correspondence received by the EOC should be assessed by a Chief Equal Opportunities Officer. The EOC determines whether or not the correspondence is of the nature of a complaint based on the following criteria:

- (a) the complaint should be made in written form;
- (b) the person who submits the correspondence should be “the aggrieved person” or the authorised representative of “the aggrieved person”; and
- (c) “the aggrieved person” should make an allegation of commission of “an unlawful act” by a certain person in accordance with the relevant ordinances. If the content of correspondence is not clear, the EOC will give the benefit of the doubt to “the aggrieved person”, thereby treating and processing the correspondence as a complaint.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB119

(Question Serial No. 7088)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding issues on the Equal Opportunities Commission, please advise the following:

- a) What is the scope of work for which the team of lawyers of the EOC is responsible? What are the expenditure and manpower arrangement involved?
- b) The percentage of complaints where legal assistance is granted is generally minimal. What is the percentage of complaints in each of the past 5 years where legal assistance was granted?
- c) In the past 5 years, what are the number of times where external lawyers were engaged, the number of lawyers engaged, the expenditure involved and the reasons for engaging external lawyers by the EOC?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 8627)

Reply:

According to the information provided by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), the Legal Service Division (LSD) of the EOC is mainly responsible for handling applications for legal assistance and acting as the legal representative of those who have been granted legal assistance. In addition, the LSD is also responsible for providing internal legal advice and support to the EOC, such as providing legal advice on handling enquiries and complaints relating to discrimination, providing advice on legal issues arising from the daily operation of the EOC, reviewing contracts/agreements, drafting codes of practice, providing legal support in cases where the EOC is the defendant and providing legal support to issues relating to the corporate governance of the EOC. The division also undertakes matters relating to the review of the 4 anti-discrimination ordinances.

2. The LSD is comprised of 1 Chief Legal Counsel, 5 Senior Legal Officers, 2 Legal Officers and 2 secretaries. Amongst them, 3 Senior Legal Officers and 2 Legal Officers are mainly responsible for handling legal assistance cases and providing legal advice on the handling of enquiries and complaints relating to discrimination. The remaining 2 Senior

Legal Officers undertake work which falls outside the above, e.g. work relating to the review of anti-discrimination ordinances, drafting codes of practice and providing internal legal support. In the preceding financial year, the expenditure incurred by the EOC on the above work is about \$13.03 million. This includes expenditure on emoluments of the staff involved but excludes the expenditure arising from the engagement of external lawyers to provide legal advice.

3. Pursuant to the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 480), the EOC may provide legal assistance. However, a complaint has to be first lodged by relevant persons with the EOC under the 4 anti-discrimination ordinances before an application for legal assistance is made. If the relevant complaint cannot be settled through conciliation, then an application could be made to the EOC for legal assistance. Since each case bears its unique circumstances which may directly affect the EOC's decision on whether or not legal assistance is granted, the number of legal assistance granted by the EOC varies each year. The following are figures on cases where legal assistance was granted by the EOC in the past 5 years:

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total number of applications for legal assistance processed in the year#	38	32	39	46	63
Cases where legal assistance was granted	17	22	16	26*	32
Legal assistance not granted	18	10	20*	12	21
Applications withdrawn	0	0	0	0	1
Granting of legal assistance to be determined next year	3	0	2	9	9

Including cases (i) that applied for legal assistance in the year and (ii) transferred from the previous year. Legal assistance for the same case may be applied for and granted in different years.

* 1 application not granted legal assistance in 2016 was granted limited assistance in 2017 upon review requested by the applicant.

4. The number of times that external lawyers were engaged, the number of external lawyers engaged, the expenditure involved and the reasons for engaging external lawyers by the EOC in the past 5 years are as follows:

Reasons for engaging external lawyers	Nature of legal services	Year				
		2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
To provide legal assistance	External lawyers appeared in courts	2	3	2	1	4
	External lawyers provided legal advice	14	6	3	3	1
	Expenditure*	About \$870,000	About \$360,000	About \$260,000	About \$380,000	About \$490,000
To seek independent legal advice on institutional operation and individual complaint cases	External lawyers provided legal advice	0	1	1	2	0
	Expenditure	-	About \$120,000	About \$120,000	About \$130,000	-
To take part in legal proceedings in the capacity of amicus curiae	External senior counsels/ counsels represent the EOC in legal proceedings	2	0	0	0	0
	Expenditure	About \$720,000	-	-	-	-

* excluding the costs for engaging other professionals, including conciliators, engineers or other experts, to provide professional advice.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB120****(Question Serial No. 7089)**

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please provide information on:

- (a) the amount of financial assistance received by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) for each work item and by each division in the past 5 years; and
- (b) the amount of financial assistance received by and the staff establishment of the Ethnic Minorities (EM) Unit under the EOC since its establishment until now.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 8628)

Reply:

According to the information provided by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), financial assistance (including the Government's provision for recurrent expenditure and other income) received by the EOC in the past 5 years for each work item and by each division are as follows:

Year	Enquiry, complaint and conciliation services (million dollars)	Legal service (million dollars)	Publicity and public education services (million dollars)	Training and consultancy services (million dollars)	Policy support and research services (million dollars)	Advocacy services for ethnic minorities (EM) (million dollars)	Total (million dollars)
2014-15	33.37	19.82	26.08	8.34	16.69	-	104.30
2015-16	34.66	19.81	24.21	8.25	15.41	7.70	110.04
2016-17	38.07	21.92	24.23	9.23	13.85	8.08	115.38
2017-18	39.05	23.93	26.45	12.60	13.86	10.08	125.97
2018-19 (estimate)	34.87	23.25	25.58	11.62	11.62	9.30	116.24

2. Starting from 2014-15, the Government has been providing a recurrent funding of \$4.69 million each year to the EOC for enhancing publicity and public education of the Race Discrimination Ordinance (RDO) (Cap. 602). The Ethnic Minorities (EM) Unit set up for this purpose promotes equal opportunities to education, employment and services for EMs through advocacy, training and promotional efforts. Besides, the Government provided one-off funding of \$2 million to the EOC in 2014-15 for promoting the RDO and provided another one-off funding of \$3 million to the EOC in 2017-18 for promoting equal opportunities of EMs. In 2019-20, the Government will also provide funding of \$2 million to the EOC for organising publicity activities to promote racial integration and equal opportunities of EMs.

3. Currently, the EM Unit is comprised of 1 Senior Equal Opportunities Officer, 1 Training Officer, 2 Equal Opportunities Officers, 2 Assistant Equal Opportunities Officers and 1 Assistant Information Technology Officer. The Assistant Information Technology Officer also concurrently supports the work of other divisions.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB121

(Question Serial No. 7157)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: Not specified
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Did government departments receive complaints about failure to have access to appropriate services due to language barrier lodged by the ethnic minorities in the past 5 years? If yes, what are the figures broken by departments; if no, what are the reasons?

Further to the above question, how do government departments follow up on and handle the complaints? If ethnic minorities are not provided with appropriate interpretation service, where can they lodge a complaint and request the Government to take follow-up action?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 8617)

Reply:

Relevant authorities have all along been providing specific services, such as interpretation services, to meet the practical needs of ethnic minorities (“EMs”) under their respective policy areas, with a view to facilitating their integration into society and ensuring equal access to public services. In formulating response to this question, we have consulted 5 government departments providing services to ethnic minorities, including the Social Welfare Department, the Housing Department, the Department of Health, the Hospital Authority and the Labour Department. 4 of them have indicated that they have not received any complaints about failure to have access to appropriate services due to language barrier lodged by EMs in the past 5 years; whilst 1 department indicated that it does not maintain relevant records.

2. Government departments provide services and support to EMs according to their needs and circumstances. Any person (including EMs) who fails to have access to appropriate services can make requests and complaints to the relevant government departments through various channels, including telephone, fax and email. The department concerned will take follow-up action as appropriate in the light of the facts of individual cases.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB122

(Question Serial No. 7170)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

- 1.1 What are the figures on the use of interpretation services (including telephone interpretation, on-sight interpretation, on-site interpretation, translation, proof-reading and simultaneous interpretation services) by government departments (including Social Welfare Department, Housing Department, Department of Health, Hospital Authority, Labour Department and others) in the past 5 years? Among them, how many have engaged the services of the Centre for Harmony and Enhancement of Ethnic Minority Residents (the CHEER Centre)?
- 1.2 For the figures requested for in 1.1 above, please give a breakdown by 7 EM languages on the use of interpretation services by government departments through the CHEER Centre. Among them, how many have engaged the services of the CHEER Centre?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 8615)

Reply:

Relevant authorities have all along been providing services, such as interpretation services, to meet the needs of ethnic minorities (“EMs”) under their respective policy areas, with a view to facilitating EMs integrate into society and ensuring their equal access to public services.

2. The number of interpretation services arranged by major government departments for EMs over the past 5 years and the related service providers are set out in **Annex 1**.
3. The breakdown of the use of interpretation and translation services of the Centre for Harmony and Enhancement of Ethnic Minority Residents (the CHEER Centre) by major government departments and by EM languages in the past 5 years are set out in **Annexes 2 and 3** respectively.

**The number of interpretation services
arranged by major government departments
for EMs in the past 5 years**

Major government departments	Interpretation service provider(s)	Total no. of interpretation services arranged (Note 1)				
		2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19 (Note 2)
Social Welfare Department (SWD) (Note 3)	CHEER Centre	173	247	247	178	Not available (Note 3)
Housing Department	CHEER Centre	60	46	15	39	Not available (Note 4)
Department of Health (DH) (Note 5)	CHEER Centre; part-time court interpreters; and Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui (HKSKH) Lady MacLehose Centre	572	616	731	916	930
Hospital Authority (HA) (Note 5)	HKSKH Lady MacLehose Centre; part-time court interpreters; Consulate Offices; and non-governmental organisations	7 951	10 449	12 393	15 257	9 617 (as at 31 October 2018)
Labour Department	CHEER Centre; part-time court interpreters; and service contractors on P-card list	373	354	364	451	452

Notes:

- (1) Interpretation services include telephone interpretation and enquiry service, and on-site interpretation service.
- (2) Figures as at 31 January 2019.
- (3) SWD has not collected the statistics on the use of interpretation and translation services in the past 5 years. The above table shows the number of telephone interpretation and enquiry service, as well as on-site interpretation service provide by the CHEER Centre to SWD. The relevant figure for the CHEER Centre in 2018-19 will only be available after receipt of the quarterly report from the centre operator. In connection with the interpretation services provided by SWD through part-time court interpreters and other service contractors, SWD has started to collect the relevant

statistical data since 1 January 2019.

- (4) Figure for 2018-19 will only be available in early May 2019 after receipt of the quarterly report from the CHEER Centre.
- (5) DH provides different types of public health services for the public (including EMs) through its clinics and health centres. HA provides the public (including EMs) with medical services through its hospitals, specialist clinics, general outpatient clinics and outreach services.

**Use of CHEER Centre's interpretation and translation services
by major government departments**

Service	Year (Note 1)	Social Welfare Department	Housing Department	Department of Health	Labour Department	Other bureaux/ departments	Total
Telephone interpretation & enquiry service	2013-14	138	58	48	67	55	366
	2014-15	134	60	38	67	66	365
	2015-16	238	39	75	141	125	618
	2016-17	225	10	56	222	164	677
	2017-18	162	24	53	142	121	502
On-site (escort) interpretation service	2013-14	54	0	349	0	12	415
	2014-15	39	0	428	2	132	601
	2015-16	9	7	507	12	129	664
	2016-17	22	5	595	13	80	715
	2017-18	16	15	727	54	107	919
On-sight interpretation service (Note 2)	2013-14	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	2014-15	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	2015-16	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	2016-17	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	2017-18	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Written translation service (including proof-reading service)	2013-14	1	0	1	5	29	36
	2014-15	2	3	4	6	31	46
	2015-16	1	3	2	12	18	36
	2016-17	4	2	0	16	17	39
	2017-18	2	4	11	18	8	43
Simultaneous interpretation service	2013-14	0	0	0	0	12	12
	2014-15	0	1	0	0	5	6
	2015-16	0	0	0	0	3	3
	2016-17	0	0	0	1	6	7
	2017-18	0	0	0	10	6	16

Note:

- (1) Usage figures of 2018-19 will only be available in early May 2019 after receipt of the quarterly report from the centre operator.
- (2) EMs can bring along documents in English to the CHEER Centre for on-sight interpretation service provided by interpreters. This service is not applicable to bureaux/departments.

Use of CHEER Centre's interpretation and translation services
Breakdown by EM languages

Service	Year (Note 1)	Bahasa Indonesia	Thai	Tagalog	Hindi	Nepali	Punjabi	Urdu	Total
Telephone interpretation & enquiry service	2013-14	343	85	31	224	535	462	852	2 532
	2014-15	241	85	31	259	357	453	830	2 256
	2015-16	375	176	124	237	409	370	887	2 578
	2016-17	370	139	98	217	952	343	1 079	3 198
	2017-18	179	98	81	226	850	338	708	2 480
On-site (escort) interpretation service	2013-14	9	6	2	12	98	90	280	497
	2014-15	13	54	1	19	103	179	252	621
	2015-16	18	69	11	18	78	72	435	701
	2016-17	33	27	16	23	74	82	521	776
	2017-18	46	18	125	41	149	100	574	1 053
On-sight interpretation service (Note 2)	2013-14	16	12	0	3	13	15	100	159
	2014-15	13	14	0	10	30	8	162	237
	2015-16	4	2	0	6	23	0	198	233
	2016-17	1	8	0	1	4	1	226	241
	2017-18	2	5	2	9	21	1	231	271
Written translation service (including proof-reading service) (Note 3)	2013-14	29	26	26	40	41	13	40	215
	2014-15	33	24	30	38	42	12	43	222
	2015-16	26	23	22	39	43	20	53	226
	2016-17	21	19	17	22	28	20	43	170
	2017-18	29	27	20	40	48	18	53	235
Simultaneous interpretation service (Note 3)	2013-14	9	1	0	2	9	0	8	29
	2014-15	3	0	0	2	8	1	5	19
	2015-16	21	1	0	1	3	0	2	28
	2016-17	22	0	0	4	9	0	9	44
	2017-18	4	10	0	1	13	0	7	35

Note:

- (1) Usage figures of 2018-19 will only be available in early May 2019 after receipt of the quarterly report from the centre operator.
- (2) EMs can bring along documents in English to the CHEER Centre for on-sight interpretation service provided by interpreters. This service is not applicable to bureau/departments.
- (3) More than 1 EM languages may be involved in a request of written translation service and simultaneous interpretation service.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB123****(Question Serial No. 5184)**

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

- (1) Please set out the staff establishment and emoluments of all Mainland Offices, including the Beijing Office and the Economic and Trade Offices in Shanghai, Guangdong, Chengdu and Wuhan, as well as the operating expenses of each of these offices in the past 2 years (2017-18 to 2018-19); and
- (2) Under investment promotion in paragraph 12 of the Estimates, the projects completed in 2017 and 2018 are 97 and 115 respectively. Please set out the date and scope of the projects as well as the staff establishment involved in these projects.

Asked by: Hon FAN Kwok-wai, Gary (LegCo internal reference no.: 119)

Reply:

The actual expenditure of the Mainland Offices (namely the Beijing Office (BJO) and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan) in 2017-18 and the revised estimated expenditure for 2018-19 are set out in the table below:

Office	Actual expenditure in 2017-18 (\$ million)	Revised estimated expenditure for 2018-19 (\$ million)
BJO	89.40	80.17
Guangdong ETO	67.19	65.18
Shanghai ETO	61.00	55.79
Chengdu ETO	51.36	43.97
Wuhan ETO	48.02	47.22

2. For the Beijing Office, the establishment in 2017-18 and 2018-19 comprises 3 directorate officers (namely 1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade A, 1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade B1 and 1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade C) and 19 non-directorate officers (namely 2 Senior Administrative Officers, 1 Chief Curator, 2 Principal Trade Officers, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer, 3 Immigration Officers, 1 Chief Information Officer, 1 Information Officer, 1 Senior Executive Officer, 1 Executive Officer I and 1 Senior Personal Secretary). The estimated expenditure on salaries and allowances for the above posts in 2018-19 is \$36.58 million.

3. For the Guangdong ETO, the establishment in 2017-18 and 2018-19 comprises 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade B) and 17 non-directorate officers (namely 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Chief Executive Officer, 4 Principal Trade Officers, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer, 2 Immigration Officers, 1 Principal Information Officer and 2 Senior Executive Officers). The estimated expenditure on salaries and allowances for the above posts in 2018-19 is \$28.18 million.

4. For the Shanghai ETO, the establishment in 2017-18 and 2018-19 comprises 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade B) and 14 non-directorate officers (namely 2 Senior Administrative Officers, 1 Chief Executive Officer, 1 Principal Trade Officer, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer, 2 Immigration Officers, 1 Senior Information Officer and 1 Senior Executive Officer). The estimated expenditure on salaries and allowances for the above posts in 2018-19 is \$23.21 million.

5. For the Chengdu ETO, the establishment in 2017-18 and 2018-19 comprises 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade C) and 12 non-directorate officers (namely 2 Senior Administrative Officers, 1 Chief Executive Officer, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Senior Information Officer, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer, 1 Immigration Officer and 1 Senior Executive Officer). The estimated expenditure on salaries and allowances for the above posts in 2018-19 is \$18.38 million.

6. For the Wuhan ETO, the establishment in 2017-18 and 2018-19 comprises 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade C) and 12 non-directorate officers (namely 2 Senior Administrative Officers, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Principal Trade Officer, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Senior Information Officer, 2 Immigration Officers and 1 Senior Executive Officer). The estimated expenditure on salaries and allowances for the above posts in 2018-19 is \$16.65 million.

7. Invest Hong Kong offers one-stop and customised support services to Mainland and Taiwan companies from the planning to implementation stages. The services offered include provision of market information, guidance on laws and regulations for the sectors concerned, facilitation of visa applications, advice on funding and other support schemes, provision of contact information of banks and introduction to business partners, etc. In 2017 and 2018, the investment promotion projects completed by Invest Hong Kong through the Investment Promotion Units in the Mainland Offices and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan and the scope covered are set out below:

Scope of projects	2017	2018
Business and Professional Services	8	11
Creative Industries	3	7
Consumer Products	4	2
Financial Technology	1	2
Financial Services	21	23
Innovation and Technology	15	24
Information and Communication Technology	7	8
Tourism and Hospitality	13	14
Transport and Logistics	25	24
Total	97	115

The Investment Promotion Units in the Mainland and Taiwan have a total of 27 staff members, including Heads, Senior Managers, Managers and Assistant Managers of Investment Promotion etc.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB124

(Question Serial No. 5859)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please list out the number of visits to the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in HKSAR each year by vehicles of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau in the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (LegCo internal reference no.: 176)

Reply:

Staff of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) routinely use office vehicles to get to various destinations to attend official functions, etc. according to operational needs. A large number of trip records are involved. The CMAB has not compiled a breakdown of such trip records by destination.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB125

(Question Serial No. 5861)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In respect of the progress of the consultation on the Sexual Orientation Discrimination Ordinance, please provide information on:

1. the expected time of conducting consultation on the Sexual Orientation Discrimination Ordinance; and
2. the number and type of staff as well as the expenditure involved in the Sexual Orientation Discrimination Ordinance consultation exercise.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (LegCo internal reference no.: 178)

Reply:

The Government is committed to fostering the culture and values of inclusiveness, mutual respect and non-discrimination and promoting equal opportunities for people of different sexual orientations and transgenders. We are conducting a further study on the experience of other jurisdictions in tackling discrimination through legislative and administrative measures. The study covers the following topics:

- (a) administrative measures adopted in other jurisdictions to tackle discrimination against the sexual minorities, and any empirical data on their implementation; and
- (b) legislative measures adopted in other jurisdictions to tackle discrimination against the sexual minorities, including empirical data on their implementation; definitions of “gender identity” and “sexual orientation” in the relevant legislation, and the threshold of evidence required to support claims; the evolving case law, in particular the scope and application of exemptions in anti-discrimination legislation, and the criteria adopted by courts in balancing the rights and freedoms involved; comparative analysis of the different approaches of formulating anti-discrimination laws; stakeholders’ views on the adequacy of protection and accessibility of

remedies; the concerns of parties such as the legislature, enforcement authorities and stakeholder groups and the relevant discourse, etc.

We expect to complete the study in the first half of 2019. The findings will provide more information to facilitate more in-depth discussion in the community on the issue of whether legislation should be introduced to protect people of different sexual orientations and transgenders against discrimination. The resources required for the study are absorbed in the recurrent expenditure of the Bureau; a separate breakdown of the expenditure is not available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB126

(Question Serial No. 6132)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

- (1) Please list out in table form the promotion and education activities organised by the Government in relation to human rights and democracy and the expenditure involved in the past 5 years. Please provide relevant information, including description, date and number of participants of the activities.
- (2) In respect of the submission of Universal Periodic Review (UPR) reports and reports under human right treaties by the Government, please provide information on the expenditure (including publicity, consultation and education expenses) involved, staff establishment and number of people involved in consultation etc.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (LegCo internal reference no.: 105)

Reply:

The Government's public education and promotion activities on human rights are taken forward by a number of policy bureaux, including the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB), the Education Bureau, the Home Affairs Bureau and the Labour and Welfare Bureau. As education and promotion activities of various bureaux and departments are an integral part of their daily work, this Bureau is unable to provide breakdown of expenditure for the work involved.

2. Education and promotion activities in respect of children, sexual minorities, ethnic minorities and fundamental human rights organised by this Bureau in the past 5 years are detailed at the Annex.

3. Under Programme (4), the CMAB is committed to increasing the community's awareness of, respect for and protection of the rights of the individual. Relevant initiatives include continuing to promote children's rights through the Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme and the Children's Rights Forum, and eliminating discrimination against sexual minorities by sponsoring worthwhile community projects through the Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme and organising various publicity and

promotion programmes. Under Programme (5), the CMAB has set aside provision for the Equal Opportunities Commission and the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data to carry out promotion and education programmes and law enforcement work within their statutory framework to promote rights of the individual with respect to personal data privacy, promote equal opportunities and eliminate discrimination. The relevant expenditures in the past 5 years are as follows:

Year	Relevant expenditure (\$ million)	
	Programme (4)	Programme (5)
2014-15	26.0	179.9
2015-16	26.6	179.2
2016-17	25.3	185.4
2017-18	28.6	198.0
2018-19	24.8 (revised estimate)	189.4 (revised estimate)

4. Hard copies of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region's (HKSAR) reports as required under the Universal Periodic Review mechanism of the United Nations (UN) and 7 human rights treaties are published in accordance with the reporting cycles of the respective mechanism and treaties, and are distributed to stakeholders including the Executive Council, the Legislative Council and interested non-governmental organisations through various channels. They are also available to members of the public upon request. The expenditures on publishing promotional materials on the human rights treaties concerned in hard copy (including texts of the treaties, the HKSAR's reports and other promotional materials) in the past 5 years are as follows:

Year	Publication cost (\$)
2014-15	91,000
2015-16 (Note)	-
2016-17	115,000
2017-18	113,000
2018-19	119,000

Note: In 2015-16, no such expenditure was incurred as there was no need to publish the HKSAR's reports.

5. Compiling UN human rights reports is an integral part of the work of this Bureau, and no breakdown is available for the resources and manpower involved.

Education or Promotion Activities in respect of Children, Sexual Minorities, Ethnic Minorities and Fundamental Human Rights taken forward by the CMAB

Year: 2018-19

Date and description of activities	Responsible organisation(s)	Target and No. of participants (if applicable)
<i>Children</i>		
Children’s Rights Education Funding Scheme (February to December 2018)	Sponsored organisations	Members of the public (about 47 000 persons)
Publication and distribution of comic booklets of the Convention on the Rights of the Child	CMAB	Members of the public
<i>Sexual minorities</i>		
Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme (April 2018 to March 2019)	Sponsored organisations	Members of the public (about 15 700 persons)
Various publicity measures such as API, advertisement, seminar and briefing session to promote equal opportunities for sexual minorities (including promotion of Code of Practice against Discrimination in Employment on the Ground of Sexual Orientation) (Whole year)	CMAB	Members of the public
<i>Ethnic minorities</i>		
Co-operation with RTHK to produce a TV series on integration with ethnic minorities – foreign language version (broadcast from October to December 2018)	CMAB and RTHK	Members of the public
<i>Fundamental human rights</i>		
Conducting fora, including: (a) Human Rights Forum (held on 18 April 2018 and 15 January 2019); and (b) Children’s Rights Forum (held on 28 September 2018 and 11 January 2019).	CMAB	Mainly interested non-governmental organisations; also open to interested members of the public
Various publicity measures such as API and advertisement to promote the Code on Access to Information (Whole year)	CMAB	Members of the public

Year: 2017-18

Date and description of activities	Responsible organisation(s)	Target and No. of participants (if applicable)
<i>Children</i>		
Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme (February to December 2017)	Sponsored organisations	Members of the public (about 47 900 persons)
Publication and distribution of comic booklets of the Convention on the Rights of the Child	CMAB	Members of the public
<i>Sexual minorities</i>		
Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme (June 2017 to March 2018)	Sponsored organisations	Members of the public (about 12 300 persons)
Various publicity measures such as API, advertisement, seminar and briefing session to promote equal opportunities for sexual minorities (including promotion of Code of Practice against Discrimination in Employment on the Ground of Sexual Orientation) (Whole year)	CMAB	Members of the public
Co-operation with RTHK to produce a TV programme which makes reference to real-life scenarios encountered by the sexual minorities (August to September 2017)	CMAB and RTHK	Members of the public
<i>Ethnic minorities</i>		
Co-operation with RTHK to produce/organise - (a) a TV series on integration with ethnic minorities (broadcast from July to September 2017); and (b) media experience / school outreach programme and website design on racial equality (March to July 2017).	CMAB and RTHK	Members of the public (about 350 primary and secondary school students)
<i>Fundamental human rights</i>		
Conducting fora, including: (a) Human Rights Forum (held on 20 December 2017); and (b) Children's Rights Forum (held on 16 June and 3 November 2017 and 12 January 2018).	CMAB	Mainly interested non-governmental organisations; also open to interested members of the public
Various publicity measures such as API and advertisement to promote the Code on Access to Information (Whole year)	CMAB	Members of the public

Year: 2016-17

Date and description of activities	Responsible organisation(s)	Target and No. of participants (if applicable)
<i>Children</i>		
Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme (January to December 2016)	Sponsored organisations	Members of the public (about 42 100 persons)
<i>Sexual minorities</i>		
Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme (June 2016 to January 2017)	Sponsored organisations	Members of the public (about 10 200 persons)
Various publicity measures such as API, advertisement, seminar and briefing session to promote equal opportunities for sexual minorities (including promotion of Code of Practice against Discrimination in Employment on the Ground of Sexual Orientation) (Whole year)	CMAB	Members of the public
<i>Ethnic minorities</i>		
Co-operation with RTHK to produce a TV series on integration with ethnic minorities (Broadcast from September to November 2016)	CMAB and RTHK	Members of the public
<i>Fundamental human rights</i>		
Publication and distribution of United Nations human rights reports	CMAB	Members of the public
Conducting fora, including: (a) Human Rights Forum (held on 12 July 2016); and (b) Children's Rights Forum (held on 27 May and 13 October 2016 and 3 March 2017).	CMAB	Mainly interested non-governmental organisations; also open to interested members of the public
Various publicity measures such as API and advertisement to promote the Code on Access to Information (Whole year)	CMAB	Members of the public

Year: 2015-16

Date and description of activities	Responsible organisation(s)	Target and No. of participants (if applicable)
<i>Children</i>		
Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme (January to December 2015)	Sponsored organisations	Members of the public (about 39 500 persons)
Co-operation with RTHK to produce a TV programme on promotion of children's rights (Broadcast from August to September 2015)	CMAB and RTHK	Members of the public
<i>Sexual minorities</i>		
Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme (June 2015 to January 2016)	Sponsored organisations	Members of the public (about 10 700 persons)
Various publicity measures such as API and advertisement to promote equal opportunities for the sexual minorities (Whole year)	CMAB	Members of the public
<i>Fundamental human rights</i>		
Conducting fora, including: (a) Human Rights Forum (held on 4 November 2015); and (b) Children's Rights Forum (held on 1 April, 9 October and 4 December 2015 and 21 January 2016).	CMAB	Mainly interested non-governmental organisations; also open to interested members of the public
Various publicity measures such as API and advertisement to promote the Code on Access to Information (Whole year)	CMAB	Members of the public

Year: 2014-15

Date and description of activities	Responsible organisation(s)	Target and No. of participants (if applicable)
<i>Children</i>		
Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme (January to December 2014)	Sponsored organisations	Members of the public (about 69 800 persons)
Co-operation with RTHK to produce a TV programme on promotion of children's rights (Broadcast from November 2014 to January 2015)	CMAB and RTHK	Members of the public
<i>Sexual minorities</i>		
Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme (June 2014 to January 2015)	Sponsored organisations	Members of the public (about 15 000 persons)
Various publicity measures such as API and advertisement to promote equal opportunities for the sexual minorities (Whole year)	CMAB	Members of the public
<i>Ethnic minorities</i>		
Co-operation with RTHK to produce/organise - (a) a TV series on integration with ethnic minorities (broadcast from July to September 2014); and	CMAB and RTHK	Members of the public
(b) school outreach programme (October 2014 to January 2015).		(about 1 150 secondary and primary school students)
<i>Fundamental human rights</i>		
Publication and distribution of United Nations human rights reports	CMAB	Members of the public
Conducting fora, including: (a) Human Rights Forum (held on 31 July 2014); and (b) Children's Rights Forum (held on 12 August 2014).	CMAB	Mainly interested non-governmental organisations; also open to interested members of the public
Various publicity measures such as API and advertisement to promote the Code on Access to Information (Whole year)	CMAB	Members of the public

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB127****(Question Serial No. 6494)**Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs BureauSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's OfficeControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

Please specify the numbers and details of any visits to various District Councils (DCs) made and any district activities attended by the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs in the past 2 years.

District	DC Meetings Attended	District Visits Made	Community Activities Attended	Government Activities Attended
Central and Western	Date: Venue: Details:	Date: Venue: Details:	Date: Venue: Details:	Date: Venue: Details:
Eastern	Date: Venue: Details:	Date: Venue: Details:	Date: Venue: Details:	Date: Venue: Details:
Southern	Date: Venue: Details:	Date: Venue: Details:	Date: Venue: Details:	Date: Venue: Details:
Wan Chai	Date: Venue: Details:	Date: Venue: Details:	Date: Venue: Details:	Date: Venue: Details:
Kowloon City	Date: Venue: Details:	Date: Venue: Details:	Date: Venue: Details:	Date: Venue: Details:
Kwun Tong	Date: Venue: Details:	Date: Venue: Details:	Date: Venue: Details:	Date: Venue: Details:
Sham Shui Po	Date: Venue: Details:	Date: Venue: Details:	Date: Venue: Details:	Date: Venue: Details:
Yau Tsim Mong	Date: Venue: Details:	Date: Venue: Details:	Date: Venue: Details:	Date: Venue: Details:

Wong Tai Sin	Date: Venue: Details:	Date: Venue: Details:	Date: Venue: Details:	Date: Venue: Details:
Islands	Date: Venue: Details:	Date: Venue: Details:	Date: Venue: Details:	Date: Venue: Details:
Kwai Tsing	Date: Venue: Details:	Date: Venue: Details:	Date: Venue: Details:	Date: Venue: Details:
North	Date: Venue: Details:	Date: Venue: Details:	Date: Venue: Details:	Date: Venue: Details:
Sai Kung	Date: Venue: Details:	Date: Venue: Details:	Date: Venue: Details:	Date: Venue: Details:
Sha Tin	Date: Venue: Details:	Date: Venue: Details:	Date: Venue: Details:	Date: Venue: Details:
Tai Po	Date: Venue: Details:	Date: Venue: Details:	Date: Venue: Details:	Date: Venue: Details:
Tsuen Wan	Date: Venue: Details:	Date: Venue: Details:	Date: Venue: Details:	Date: Venue: Details:
Tuen Mun	Date: Venue: Details:	Date: Venue: Details:	Date: Venue: Details:	Date: Venue: Details:
Yuen Long	Date: Venue: Details:	Date: Venue: Details:	Date: Venue: Details:	Date: Venue: Details:

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (LegCo internal reference no.: 474)

Reply:

The Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs paid visits to 17 District Councils in the past 2 years, details of which are as follow:

<u>District</u>	<u>Date</u>
Tuen Mun	11 March 2019
Islands	31 January 2019
Sai Kung	28 December 2018
Wanchai	22 November 2018
Southern	26 September 2018
Sham Shui Po	22 August 2018

<u>District</u>	<u>Date</u>
North	22 June 2018
Central and Western	27 April 2018
Kwun Tong	23 March 2018
Kwai Tsing	2 March 2018
Wong Tai Sin	25 January 2018
Kowloon City	11 December 2017
Eastern	17 November 2017
Tai Po	27 September 2017
Yau Tsim Mong	15 September 2017
Yuen Long	29 August 2017
Tsuen Wan	28 July 2017

2. The Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs also attended a large number of activities organised by the Government and various organisations from time to time. We have not compiled a breakdown of the figures by district and organiser.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB128

(Question Serial No. 7173)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please consolidate the information in the full set of Estimates of Expenditures and set out in table form the information on the work of each policy bureau in relation to the Greater Bay Area:

- (1) projects/programmes on the Greater Bay Area;
- (2) the period and commencement date of the programmes;
- (3) programmes being implemented and their progress, number of applications received and granted, and the expenditure involved;
- (4) the estimated expenditure of the programmes; and
- (5) the manpower and ranks involved.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (LegCo internal reference no.: 111)

Reply:

To take forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area) more effectively, the Chief Executive (CE) announced in the Policy Address delivered in October 2018 that a high-level Steering Committee for the Development of the Greater Bay Area (Steering Committee) would be established, with her as the chairperson and its membership comprising all Secretaries of Department and Directors of Bureau. The Steering Committee will be responsible for the overall co-ordination of matters relating to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region's (HKSAR) participation in the development of the Greater Bay Area. In 2019-20, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau will also set up a Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Office) and appoint a Commissioner for the Development of the Greater Bay Area to implement the relevant work. The Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Outline Development Plan) is a guiding framework covering a wide range of policy areas. CE's Steering Committee will thus undertake the overall co-ordination of the efforts of various policy bureaux/departments for

the implementation of the Outline Development Plan. One of the duties of the proposed Office is to provide support for the Steering Committee.

2. The work priorities of the Office for 2019-20 include the following: to carry out promotion and publicity work and disseminate information to deepen the understanding of the public and industries on the development of the Greater Bay Area; to co-ordinate with relevant central ministries/departments, the Guangdong Provincial Government and the Macao Special Administrative Region Government as well as the relevant bureaux/departments of the HKSAR Government; and to formulate annual work priorities to take forward the development of the Greater Bay Area. The Office will maintain close liaison with Members of the Legislative Council, industries, business associations, professional bodies and relevant stakeholders to gauge their views on the effective implementation of the Outline Development Plan to ensure that the relevant measures can best meet the needs of various sectors of the community. On publicity efforts, we will increase the frequency of screening Announcements of Public Interest on television and radio, and promote the dedicated website, social media pages and WeChat official account, etc. The Office has also planned to produce promotional clips, publish publicity materials and organise exhibitions on the Greater Bay Area in the coming financial year. The HKSAR Government hopes that the publicity programme can help enhance public understanding on the Greater Bay Area Development and the Outline Development Plan, and encourage the community to seize the opportunities afforded by the Greater Bay Area Development.

3. The proposed Office will involve 19 additional posts, namely 1 officer at point six of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 officer at point two of the Directorate Pay Scale, 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Administrative Officer, 1 Chief Executive Officer, 4 Executive Officers I, 1 Chief Information Officer, 1 Senior Information Officer, 1 Information Officer and 7 supporting staff (from the Personal Secretary, Clerical Officer and Motor Driver grades). In 2019-20, the estimated expenditure of the Office is about \$38 million, of which about \$21 million is staff cost on civil service posts. About \$17 million is other operating expenses, including an estimated expenditure of about \$8 million for promotion and publicity programmes. As the work of other bureaux in taking forward the development of the Greater Bay Area is an integral part of the overall duties of the staff concerned, the manpower and expenditure involved cannot be separately itemised.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB129

(Question Serial No. 3885)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please provide in table form the activities organised in Taiwan by the SAR Government or the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office (Taiwan) to promote trade, investment or tourism in Hong Kong for the past three financial years. For each activity, please provide the following information:

1. Date
2. Number of Days
3. Venue
4. Theme
5. Total Expenditure
6. Number of Participants
7. Number of reports in media coverage
8. Number of people reached by media coverage

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wing-hang, Dennis (LegCo internal reference no.: 55)

Reply:

The Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan (HKETCO) proactively serves as an important bridge between Hong Kong and Taiwan, including enhancing liaison and communication with its counterparts; representing and promoting Hong Kong's trade and commercial interests; encouraging and attracting investments to come to Hong Kong; promoting tourism, culture and arts in Hong Kong; and gathering relevant information on new laws, regulations and policies related to trade and commerce and on significant developments in Taiwan, and disseminating such information to the

business sector of Hong Kong and Hong Kong businesses in Taiwan through various channels.

2. In performing the above functions, the HKETCO organised various activities to promote Hong Kong's advantages in Taiwan. For example, in 2016-17, the HKETCO hosted the "2016 Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic Co-operation Forum", which was attended by about 200 professionals; organised 2 economic co-operation seminars which drew about 120 participants from the business sector; co-organised the "Innovative & Diverse – An Amazing Hong Kong" roving exhibition with the Hong Kong Business Association in Taiwan to introduce the advantages of the pillar and emerging industries of Hong Kong, which attracted an attendance of about 20 000; and supported the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) Taiwan Branch's "Short Break @ Hong Kong: Family Promotion" tourism promotion campaign, whose publicity video had over 3.4 million views. In 2017-18, the HKETCO hosted the "2017 Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic Co-operation Forum", which was attended by over 200 professionals; organised 3 economic co-operation seminars which drew about 120 participants from the business sector; and supported the HKTB Taiwan Branch's "Old Town Central" cultural tourism promotion programme, whose publicity video had 2.01 million views. In 2018-19, the HKETCO hosted the "2018 Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic Co-operation Forum", which was attended by over 250 professionals; organised 3 economic co-operation seminars which drew about 270 participants from the business sector; hosted the "Hong Kong Now!" roving exhibition to introduce the innovation and technology development of Hong Kong, which attracted an attendance of over 5 000; and supported the HKTB Taiwan Branch to launch "Splendid Sham Shui Po" cultural tourism promotion programme, whose dedicated website had 390 000 visits. The HKETCO communicated with the business sector, professionals from various sectors and the public in Taiwan through the above activities. It also worked together with major media agencies in Taiwan to produce columns featuring interviews with Hong Kong and Taiwan personages to promote the various advantages of Hong Kong. As the above work is part of the regular duties of the HKETCO, the related expenditures incurred cannot be singled out and itemised.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB130

(Question Serial No. 7200)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please set out in table form the establishment and number of posts in all Mainland Offices and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wing-hang, Dennis (LegCo internal reference no.: 53)

Reply:

For the Beijing Office, the establishment in 2018-19 comprises 3 directorate officers (namely 1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade A, 1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade B1 and 1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade C) and 19 non-directorate officers (namely 2 Senior Administrative Officers, 1 Chief Curator, 2 Principal Trade Officers, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer, 3 Immigration Officers, 1 Chief Information Officer, 1 Information Officer, 1 Senior Executive Officer, 1 Executive Officer I and 1 Senior Personal Secretary).

2. For the Guangdong Economic and Trade Office (ETO), the establishment in 2018-19 comprises 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade B) and 17 non-directorate officers (namely 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Chief Executive Officer, 4 Principal Trade Officers, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer, 2 Immigration Officers, 1 Principal Information Officer and 2 Senior Executive Officers).

3. For the Shanghai ETO, the establishment in 2018-19 comprises 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade B) and 14 non-directorate officers (namely 2 Senior Administrative Officers, 1 Chief Executive Officer, 1 Principal Trade Officer, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer, 2 Immigration Officers, 1 Senior Information Officer and 1 Senior Executive Officer).

4. For the Chengdu ETO, the establishment in 2018-19 comprises 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade C) and 12 non-directorate officers (namely 2 Senior Administrative Officers, 1 Chief Executive Officer, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Senior Information

Officer, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer, 1 Immigration Officer and 1 Senior Executive Officer).

5. For the Wuhan ETO, the establishment in 2018-19 comprises 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade C) and 12 non-directorate officers (namely 2 Senior Administrative Officers, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Principal Trade Officer, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Senior Information Officer, 2 Immigration Officers and 1 Senior Executive Officer).

6. For the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan, the establishment in 2018-19 comprises 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade B) and 7 non-directorate officers (namely 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Principal Trade Officer, 2 Trade Officers, 1 Senior Information Officer, 1 Executive Officer I and 1 Personal Secretary I).

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB131

(Question Serial No. 7248)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In respect of the use of social network, please advise this Committee of:

1. the expenses of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) on publicity through social network and the staff establishment involved in the past 3 years; and
2. the criteria adopted by the CMAB to evaluate the effectiveness of the publicity and spending mentioned above.

Asked by: Hon KWONG Chun-yu (LegCo internal reference no.: 91)

Reply:

1. The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB)'s expenses on publicity through social network in the past 3 years are detailed below:

2018-19

Publicity item	Publicity channel	Publicity expenses#
Elimination of discrimination against people of different sexual orientations/gender identities	website, mobile application and social media	\$650,000
Promotion of the Basic Law	network media	\$770,000
Promotion of messages of equal opportunities, racial integration, breaking gender stereotypes and barrier-free access	website, mobile application, social media and network media	\$290,000
Code on Access to Information	website and mobile application	\$100,000

Promotion of the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area	social media	\$770,000
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2017-18

Publicity item	Publicity channel	Publicity expenses#
Elimination of discrimination against people of different sexual orientations/gender identities	website, mobile application and social media	\$560,000
Promotion of the Basic Law	network media	\$600,000
Promotion of messages of equal opportunities, racial integration, breaking gender stereotypes and barrier-free access	website, mobile application, social media and network media	\$250,000
Code on Access to Information	website and mobile application	\$180,000

2016-17

Publicity item	Publicity channel	Publicity expenses#
Elimination of discrimination against people of different sexual orientations/gender identities	website, mobile application and social media	\$940,000
Promotion of the Basic Law	network media	\$480,000
Promotion of messages of equal opportunities, racial integration, breaking gender stereotypes and barrier-free access	website, mobile application, social media and network media	\$550,000

The publicity expenses do not include manpower expenditure

Since the above work was performed as part of the daily duties of our staff, the manpower involved cannot be singled out or separately quantified.

2. We have evaluated the effectiveness of the above initiative with reference to the views and data (such as the number of visits, hit rates, etc.) collected through different channels, and consider the initiative has achieved the intended effect.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB132

(Question Serial No. 4222)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding issues on the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), please advise the following:

1. What is the scope of work for which the team of lawyers of the EOC is responsible? What are the expenditure and manpower arrangement involved?
2. In the past 2 years, the complaints where legal assistance was granted account for less than 5% of the complaints handled by the EOC. Why is the number of complaints where legal assistance was granted so minimal?
3. In the past 3 years, what are the number of times where external lawyers were engaged, the number of external lawyers engaged, the expenditure involved and the reasons for engaging external lawyers by the EOC?

Asked by: Hon LAM Cheuk-ting (LegCo internal reference no.: 68)

Reply:

According to the information provided by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), the Legal Service Division (LSD) of the EOC is mainly responsible for handling applications for legal assistance and acting as the legal representative of those who have been granted legal assistance. In addition, the LSD is also responsible for providing internal legal advice and support to the EOC, such as providing legal advice on handling enquiries and complaints relating to discrimination, providing advice on legal issues arising from the daily operation of the EOC, reviewing contracts/agreements, drafting codes of practice, providing legal support in cases where the EOC is the defendant and providing legal support to issues relating to the corporate governance of the EOC. The LSD also undertakes matters relating to the review of the 4 anti-discrimination ordinances.

2. The LSD is comprised of 1 Chief Legal Counsel, 5 Senior Legal Officers, 2 Legal Officers and 2 secretaries. Amongst them, 3 Senior Legal Officers and 2 Legal Officers

are mainly responsible for handling legal assistance cases and providing legal advice on the handling of enquiries and complaints relating to discrimination. The remaining 2 Senior Legal Officers undertake work which falls outside the above, e.g. work relating to the review of anti-discrimination ordinances, drafting codes of practice and providing internal legal support. In the preceding financial year, the expenditure incurred by the EOC on the above work is about \$13.03 million. This includes expenditure on emoluments of the staff involved but excludes the expenditure arising from the engagement of external lawyers to provide legal advice.

3. Pursuant to the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 480), the EOC may provide legal assistance to relevant persons, who must first lodged a complaint with the EOC under the 4 anti-discrimination ordinances. If the relevant complaint cannot be settled through conciliation, then an application could be made to the EOC for legal assistance. Since most of the complaint cases were either discontinued due to various factors like withdrawal by applicants or settlement of cases or successfully resolved through conciliation, only a small number of complaints require legal assistance. Taking cases in 2018 as an example, the EOC processed a total of about 1 200 complaints and received 54 applications for legal assistance. Among these applications, 32 were granted (which accounts for about 60% of applications).

4. In the past 3 years, the number of times that external lawyers were engaged, the number of external lawyers engaged, the expenditure involved and the reasons for engaging external lawyers are as follows:

Reasons for engaging external lawyers	Nature of legal services	Year		
		2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
To provide legal assistance	External lawyers appeared in courts	2	1	4
	External lawyers provided legal advice	3	3	1
	Expenditure*	About \$260,000	About \$380,000	About \$490,000
To seek independent legal advice on institutional operation and individual complaint cases	External lawyers provided legal advice	1	2	0
	Expenditure	About \$120,000	About \$130,000	-

* excluding the costs for engaging other professionals, including conciliators, engineers or other experts, to provide professional advice.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB133

(Question Serial No. 3383)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The number of complaints to be processed in 2019 is estimated at 1 200, which is lower than the actual figure in 2017. What are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEE Kok-long, Joseph (LegCo internal reference no.: 56)

Reply:

According to the information provided by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), the established method for calculating the estimated number of complaints handled is by making reference to figures in the previous year. The EOC projects that the number of complaint cases to be handled in 2019 is 1 200, which is similar to the actual number (1 214) in 2018.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB134

(Question Serial No. 3384)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention that the Government will advocate equal opportunities in education and employment for ethnic minorities. What are the specific work plans in this respect? What are the resources and manpower involved?

Asked by: Hon LEE Kok-long, Joseph (LegCo internal reference no.: 57)

Reply:

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) implements the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 480), Disability Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 487), Family Status Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 527) and Race Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 602) (RDO); and carries out respective publicity and education programmes and enforcement work under these Ordinances. According to the information provided by the EOC, its expenditure on publicity and public education (including staff costs) for 2019-20 is estimated to be \$27.45 million, about 25% of the aforementioned expenditure is used for publicity and education efforts on the elimination of race discrimination.

2. Starting from 2014-15, the Government has been providing recurrent funding of \$4.69 million each year to the EOC for enhancing publicity and public education of the RDO. The Ethnic Minorities Unit (EM Unit) set up for this purpose promotes equal opportunities in education and employment for EMs through advocacy, training and promotional efforts. Besides, the Government provided one-off funding of \$3 million to the EOC in 2017-18 for promoting equal opportunities of EMs. The funded programmes include media campaigns, production of educational publications, implementation of partnership projects to explore the feasibility of introducing qualification accreditation for EM language interpreters and conducting integrated research on EMs education, academic and employment pathway with a view to drawing up practical guidebooks for EM youth. In 2019-20, the Government will also provide funding of \$2 million to the EOC for organising publicity activities to promote racial integration and equal opportunities of EMs, including programmes about workplaces, service provision and inclusive schools.

3. Currently, the EM Unit is comprised of 1 Senior Equal Opportunities Officer, 1 Training Officer, 2 Equal Opportunities Officers, 2 Assistant Equal Opportunities Officers and 1 Assistant Information Technology Officer. The Assistant Information Technology Officer also concurrently supports the work of other divisions.

4. In 2019-20, the EOC will advocate the rights of EMs to education and employment through the following publicity and public education efforts:

- (a) on education, the EOC initiated a Study on Education and Career Pathways of Ethnic Minority Youth in Hong Kong in 2018 with a view to putting forward recommendations to the Government and producing practical guides for EM youth. A Working Group on Education for EMs was also set up in 2018 to conduct a systemic study on the current position of Chinese language learning by EM students, and to collate the opinions of major stakeholders with a view to submitting comprehensive recommendations to the Government. To promote fair admission policies in schools, especially in the stage of pre-school education, the EOC has published simple guides and organised training programmes for teaching staff, parents and students in schools; and
- (b) on employment, the EOC has published the Racial Diversity and Inclusion Charter for Employers in order to, in particular, encourage and assist employers to provide internship programmes for EM youth in an effort to widen their career prospects. Sharing sessions with business executives have also been held to promote employment opportunities for EMs, especially targetting EM human resources born and bred and/or educated in Hong Kong.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB135

(Question Serial No. 3385)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention that the Government will foster a friendly environment free from discrimination and harassment. In this respect, what are the numbers of requests for assistance and complaints received in the past 3 years? What are the specific plans for the improvement of the situation concerned in 2019-20, and what are the resources and manpower involved?

Asked by: Hon LEE Kok-long, Joseph (LegCo internal reference no.: 58)

Reply:

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) implements the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 480), Disability Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 487) (DDO), Family Status Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 527) and Race Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 602); and carries out publicity and public education programmes and enforcement work under these ordinances. In the past 3 years (2016-2018), the EOC received a total of 2 045 complaints lodged under the 4 anti-discrimination ordinances. Amongst these complaints, 1 310 were related to discrimination, 432 to harassment and 312 to other matters.

2. The EOC will continue its efforts in promoting the creation of a friendly environment which is free of discrimination and harassment through a series of activities in 2019-20, including contributing feature articles to a number of newspapers; implementing 2 rounds of the Community Participation Funding Programme on Equal Opportunities to sponsor equal opportunities projects carried out by non-profit-making organisations; radio programmes; promotional activities on the children book series entitled "Tally & Friends"; public education activities on the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; roving drama performance in schools; publications and electronic newsletters; advertisements on MTR light-boxes; exhibitions; YouTube short video production and multi-media publicity plans, etc.

3. In December 2018, the EOC launched a radio publicity campaign entitled “Embracing Social Inclusion Project” for 1 year in collaboration with Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK)’s Radio 1 to promote equal opportunities for persons with disabilities and promote awareness and understanding of the DDO of the general public. Promotional programmes in the form of radio dramas, quizzes, in-depth interviews, radio publicity segments and public events etc. will be produced and broadcast in 3 RTHK’s Radio 1 programmes, namely “Care for Disabled”, “Yes We Can” and “Happy Daily” to promote the message of integration of persons with disabilities in the community. A total of 20 rehabilitation agencies have agreed to serve as supporting organisations of the campaign to assist with the publicity efforts. Their representatives will also share their views on issues like the creation of a friendly environment which is free of discrimination and harassment, rehabilitation and disabilities etc., in the above radio programmes. The EOC has also planned to co-hold a large scale outdoor event with RTHK Radio 1 in November 2019 to promote the message of integration of persons with disabilities as well as pluralistic inclusion values in the community. A series of booklets which aims at enhancing public understanding on various types of disabilities will also be produced to combat misunderstanding and discrimination against various types of disabilities among people from different sectors of the community, and to further understand the needs of people with disabilities, with a view to fostering an inclusive and barrier-free social environment.

4. The EOC will continue to make use of online platforms such as YouTube to draw the attention of the public to issues concerning equal opportunities and social inclusion. Since the launch of EOC’s YouTube channel in 2008, a total of 323 short videos have been uploaded, which have attracted more than 484 000 views. The EOC will continue to produce more YouTube short videos about equal opportunity issues that are of concern to the public in order to promote the message of anti-discrimination and pluralistic inclusion.

5. Besides, the promotion of creating a friendly environment free of sexual harassment has always been one of the priority areas of work of the EOC. Since 2013, the EOC has implemented the Anti-Sexual Harassment Campaign for various sectors of the community. In 2019-20, the Campaign will focus on the religious and education sectors. In fact, after a spate of claims of sexual harassment incidents taking place in religious organisations had come to light last year, the EOC invited a number of churches and denominations to a meeting to explore how to better prevent sexual harassment in churches, and co-organised seminars on the issue with the Divinity School of Chung Chi College, City University of Hong Kong last year. This year, the EOC works with the Hong Kong Christian Council to provide further training for Christian churches on the prevention of sexual harassment and formulation of anti-sexual harassment policy. The training is provided in 3 stages. Firstly, a Seminar on Prevention of Sexual Harassment in Churches was held in March this year to improve the basic understanding of clergymen and lay leaders on the definition of sexual harassment and the related legal obligations. In the second and third stages, 2 workshops will be held in April and May 2019. The first one will teach the participants on the skills of formulating anti-sexual harassment policy while the second one will examine draft policies, draw attention to common mistakes and other points to note, including knowledge and skills of handling relevant complaints.

6. Meanwhile, many Christian churches and organisations have requested the EOC to provide training on sexual harassment. Last year, the EOC’s representatives served as speakers in relevant seminars for 4 churches and organisations on request. Since January this year, requests for training from 6 Christian churches and organisations and enquiries

from a number of churches and organisations were received. Apart from Christian organisations, the EOC also gave talks on sexual harassment for the clergymen and lay leaders of the Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong in late 2018 and March 2019 respectively. Recently, the Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong has completed the drafting of the Guidelines on Handling Sexual Harassment in Church.

7. On the education sector, the EOC published the *Break the Silence: Territory-wide Study on Sexual Harassment of University Students in Hong Kong* on 21 January 2019, which put forward a total of 17 recommendations. From February to April 2019, the EOC met/will meet with heads/deputies of 9 universities and other managers of universities to discuss ways to implement the study recommendations in universities, enhance the awareness of teachers and students on the prevention of sexual harassment, and improve the promotion work and mechanism of handling sexual harassment in universities. The EOC will also organise briefings on the findings of the study and provide training on sexual harassment for the teachers and students of the 9 participating universities. Moreover, the EOC is exploring the possibility of co-holding forums with youth groups to discuss the study findings and the underlying causes of sexual harassment among university students.

8. On publicity efforts, the EOC has published 12 000 copies of leaflets in Chinese and English containing infographic of the study and other information, including the definition of sexual harassment; what to do when being sexually harassed; what to do when witnessing or learning of a sexual harassment incident; and the enquires, complaints and support service hotlines. Moreover, the EOC will produce electronic materials based on survey results and the responses given in the questionnaires and in-depth interviews of the study for lending to universities, secondary schools and other interested organisations for exhibition purpose.

9. In the coming year, the EOC will re-design the online course “Preventing Sexual Harassment in Schools” introduced in 2007. The proposed contents of the re-designed course will incorporate interactive games and interesting themes or stories to attract universities students to learn more about sexual harassment through a creative interface with interactive features and design compatible with mobile phones.

10. It is found in the *Break the Silence: Territory-wide Study on Sexual Harassment of University Students in Hong Kong* that inadequate sex education in primary and secondary schools is one of the causes leading to the prevalence of sexual harassment in university. This year, the EOC will co-hold a roundtable conference with stakeholders to facilitate officials from the Education Bureau and other stakeholders such as teachers and NGOs to discuss how a review on the curriculum of sex education courses can be conducted.

11. As the work mentioned above is part of the overall work of the EOC, no breakdown of the manpower and resources involved is available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB136

(Question Serial No. 3455)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. What are the work programmes of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office in taking forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area in the coming 3 years? (Please provide information on the project, place of carrying out the project, targeted participants and estimated expenditure involved).

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

Reply:

To take forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area) more effectively, the Chief Executive (CE) announced in the Policy Address delivered in October 2018 that a high-level Steering Committee for the Development of the Greater Bay Area (Steering Committee) would be established, with her as the chairperson and its membership comprising all Secretaries of Department and Directors of Bureau. The Steering Committee will be responsible for the overall co-ordination of matters relating to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region's (HKSAR) participation in the development of the Greater Bay Area. In 2019-20, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau will also set up a Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Office) and appoint a Commissioner for the Development of the Greater Bay Area to implement the relevant work. The Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Outline Development Plan) is a guiding framework covering a wide range of policy areas. CE's Steering Committee will thus undertake the overall co-ordination of the efforts of various policy bureaux/departments for the implementation of the Outline Development Plan. One of the duties of the proposed Office is to provide support for the Steering Committee.

2. The work priorities of the Office for 2019-20 include the following: to carry out promotion and publicity work and disseminate information to deepen the understanding of the public and industries on the development of the Greater Bay Area; to co-ordinate with relevant central ministries/departments, the Guangdong Provincial Government and the

Macao Special Administrative Region Government as well as the relevant bureaux/departments of the HKSAR Government; and to formulate annual work priorities to take forward the development of the Greater Bay Area. The Office will maintain close liaison with Members of the Legislative Council, industries, business associations, professional bodies and relevant stakeholders to gauge their views on the effective implementation of the Outline Development Plan to ensure that the relevant measures can best meet the needs of various sectors of the community. On publicity efforts, we will increase the frequency of screening Announcements of Public Interest, and promote the dedicated website, social media pages and WeChat official account, etc. The Office has also planned to produce promotional clips, publish publicity materials and organise exhibitions on the Greater Bay Area in the coming financial year. The HKSAR Government hopes that the publicity programme can help enhance public understanding on the Greater Bay Area Development and the Outline Development Plan, and encourage the community to seize the opportunities afforded by the Greater Bay Area Development.

3. In 2019-20, the estimated expenditure of the Office is about \$38 million, of which about \$21 million is staff cost on civil service posts. About \$17 million is other operating expenses, including an estimated expenditure of about \$8 million for promotion and publicity programmes.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB137

(Question Serial No. 3456)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. How many Hong Kong students studied in the Mainland in the past 3 years? (Please provide breakdown figures by location and level of study) If the figures are not available, will the Government collect the relevant statistics for effectively facilitating Hong Kong residents living and studying in the Greater Bay Area cities in taking forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area?
2. How many Hong Kong residents worked or started up businesses in the Mainland in the past 3 years? (Please provide breakdown figures by location and industry) If the figures are not available, will the Government collect the relevant statistics for effectively promoting economic co-operation and development in the Greater Bay Area in taking forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area?
3. How many Hong Kong residents were hospitalised in the Mainland in the past 3 years? (Please provide breakdown figures by location and hospital) If the figures are not available, will the Government collect the relevant statistics for effectively facilitating Hong Kong residents to reside, live and enjoy retirement life in the Greater Bay Area cities in taking forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 39)

Reply:

We have consulted the Education Bureau (EDB) on the number of Hong Kong residents studying in the Mainland. The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) does not compile statistical data on the number of Hong Kong students pursuing studies in the Mainland. Nevertheless, according to the information provided by the Ministry of Education, as at December 2016 and November 2017, 15 320 and 15 180 Hong Kong students were studying in the higher education

institutions and research institutes in the Mainland respectively. The figures for 2018 are not yet available. A breakdown of the figures by region and level of study is set out at **Annexes A and B** respectively. The EDB will continue to communicate with education authorities in the cities in the Greater Bay Area to understand their policies and arrangements on education for children of Hong Kong residents working and living in the Greater Bay Area and collect relevant information to support their further studies.

2. At present, the HKSAR Government does not have statistics on Hong Kong residents who work, set up business and are hospitalised in the Mainland. The HKSAR Government will consider collecting relevant figures on specific topics in due course having regard to the needs of taking forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

**Number of Hong Kong students studying in
Mainland higher education institutions and research institutes
(as at December 2016)**

2016	Post-secondary Programme	Bachelor's Programme	Master's Programme	Doctoral Programme
Beijing	0	1 174	303	219
Tianjin	0	147	3	3
Shanxi	0	1	0	0
Liaoning	0	16	20	5
Jilin	0	27	1	0
Heilongjiang	0	17	1	1
Shanghai	1	504	66	130
Jiangsu	7	545	40	40
Zhejiang	0	205	5	3
Anhui	0	7	1	0
Fujian	2	2 106	49	34
Jiangxi	0	170	6	30
Shandong	0	100	4	3
Hubei	0	531	22	66
Hunan	0	142	4	8
Guangdong	135	7 123	408	361
Guangxi	0	128	9	0
Hainan	0	1	0	0
Chongqing	0	115	6	0
Sichuan	0	180	9	1
Yunnan	0	17	0	0
Shaanxi	0	44	1	10
Gansu	0	1	1	1
Total	145	13 301	959	915

**Number of Hong Kong students studying in
Mainland higher education institutions and research institutes
(as at November 2017)**

2017	Post-secondary Programme	Bachelor's Programme	Master's Programme	Doctoral Programme
Beijing	0	1 208	346	194
Tianjin	0	124	3	3
Hebei	1	1	0	0
Shanxi	0	2	0	0
Inner Mongolia	0	0	0	0
Liaoning	0	16	21	4
Jilin	0	27	1	0
Heilongjiang	0	18	1	0
Shanghai	3	520	85	133
Jiangsu	5	546	42	40
Zhejiang	4	220	5	4
Anhui	1	5	1	0
Fujian	14	1 870	56	33
Jiangxi	3	218	6	30
Shandong	0	121	4	3
Henan	0	1	0	0
Hebei	0	513	28	62
Hunan	18	197	4	7
Guangdong	111	6 961	387	340
Guangxi	2	113	10	0
Hainan	7	5	0	0
Chongqing	1	129	10	0
Sichuan	0	242	9	3
Guizhou	0	1	0	0
Yunnan	1	23	1	0
Shaanxi	0	39	0	10
Gansu	0	1	1	1
Xinjiang	0	0	0	0
Total	171	13 121	1 021	867

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB138

(Question Serial No. 3457)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Secretary for Security

Question:

1. Please set out the number of cases of providing information and other appropriate support for Hong Kong residents in the Mainland in the past 3 years (please provide description of the assistance sought and the number of residents who received assistance), as well as the ratio of the residents who were rendered support in the total number of Hong Kong residents in the Mainland in each of these years.
2. Please set out the number of cases of providing information and other appropriate support for Hong Kong residents in Taiwan in the past 3 years (please provide description of the assistance sought and the number of residents who received assistance), as well as the ratio of the residents who were rendered support in the total number of Hong Kong residents in Taiwan in each of these years.

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 40)

Reply:

To support Hong Kong residents in the Mainland and Taiwan, the Mainland Offices and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan (HKETCO) collect and update from time to time practical information on medical care, education and legal services etc. and disseminate such information through production of information booklets and the offices' websites to assist Hong Kong residents to adapt to living in the area. The Mainland Offices have published booklets on living in Beijing, Tianjin, Shenyang, Guangdong, Shanghai, Hangzhou, Shandong, Chengdu, Chongqing, Xi'an, Guiyang, Wuhan, Changsha and Zhengzhou. The Mainland Offices and the HKETCO also liaise closely with organisations of Hong Kong residents, business associations, enterprises and student groups from time to time to better understand the situations of Hong Kong residents working, studying and living in the Mainland and Taiwan, and to provide appropriate assistance when necessary. Examples of such assistance include organising events for Hong Kong residents there for sharing of experiences of living in the Mainland, providing information on further studies and job opportunities for Hong Kong students, and holding

career talks jointly with organisations of Hong Kong residents to address the needs of Hong Kong students. In 2019-20, the Mainland Offices and the HKETCO will continue with the above work.

2. Immigration Divisions are currently set up under the 5 Mainland Offices of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (namely the Beijing Office and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan) to provide practical assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. In 2016, 2017 and 2018, a total of 319, 415 and 375 requests for assistance were received respectively from Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. The requests were related to loss of travel documents or money; or persons involved in accidents, injuries or other incidents. The Immigration Divisions had rendered practical assistance in the light of actual circumstances.

3. The Guangdong ETO has commissioned an organisation to provide free legal advisory service to Hong Kong residents in need through a telephone hotline or by arranging Mainland duty lawyers to meet the assistance seekers to provide preliminary advice on Mainland-related legal matters. In 2016, 2017 and 2018, 1 993, 2 389 and 2 203 requests for free legal advisory service were received respectively.

4. The HKETCO received a total of 95, 99 and 98 requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents in distress in Taiwan in 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively. The requests were mainly related to persons involved in accidents, injuries, sickness or other incidents and seeking legal assistance in Taiwan. The HKETCO has maintained close liaison with the Hong Kong Immigration Department and offered possible assistance in the light of actual circumstances.

5. The Mainland Offices and the HKETCO do not have other figures as requested in the question.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB139

(Question Serial No. 3488)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In respect of the discrimination against and the lack of upward social mobility among the ethnic minorities, would the Government advise of:

1. the amount of resources to be deployed for solving the poverty problem of ethnic minorities;
2. the number of requests for assistance from ethnic minorities in relation to discrimination received by the EOC in the past 3 years; and
3. the amount of resources deployed in the past 3 years and to be deployed in the coming year for the education and employment of ethnic minorities to facilitate their integration into community?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 68)

Reply:

The Government has all along been providing support to the integration of ethnic minorities (EMs) into the community through measures implemented by various bureaux and departments. EMs who meet the eligibility criteria of the various social welfare and support services have equal access to the relevant services. We have not kept an estimation of the amount of resources dedicated for EMs.

2. The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) implements the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 480), Disability Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 487), Family Status Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 527) and Race Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 602) (RDO); and carries out respective publicity and education programmes and enforcement work under these Ordinances. The EOC received a total of 49 complaints concerning discrimination against EMs in the past 3 years, with an annual breakdown of 10, 15 and 24 in 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively.

3. According to information provided by the EOC, the expenditures of the EOC on publicity and public education (including staff costs) in 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 were \$21.55 million, \$25.3 million and \$26.16 million (revised estimate) respectively, and the expenditure for 2019-20 is estimated to be \$27.45 million. About 25% of the aforementioned expenditures are used for publicity and education efforts on race discrimination. One-off funding of \$3 million was provided to the EOC in 2017-18 for enhancing the promotion of equal opportunities of EMs. In 2019-20, the Government will also provide funding of \$2 million to the EOC for organising publicity activities to promote racial integration and equal opportunities of EMs, including programmes about workplaces, service provision and inclusive schools.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB140

(Question Serial No. 4400)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In respect of promoting public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law, would the Government advise this Committee of:

- a) the expenditures incurred on the promotion of the Basic Law in the past 3 years;
- b) the specific work undertaken to promote the Basic Law in the past year;
- c) whether performance indicators will be set to assess the effectiveness of the promotion work? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon LUK Chung-hung (LegCo internal reference no.: 65)

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) has been organising various types of activities through different means to enable the public to have a more comprehensive and thorough understanding of the “one country, two systems” principle, the Constitution and the Basic Law. In this respect, an actual expenditure of about \$16 million was incurred in the financial year of 2016-17. In 2017-18 and 2018-19, the relevant provision for each of the financial year is about \$17 million. The strategies to promote the Constitution and the Basic Law include:

- (a) using electronic media, such as Internet and smart-phone applications, to promote widely to different strata of the society;
- (b) enhancing awareness and understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law by the general public and students through promotional activities at the district level, such as organising roving exhibitions and arranging mobile resource centre to pay visits to different districts and schools; and
- (c) providing sponsorship to non-government organisations or community organisations through the “Basic Law Promotion Activity Sponsorship

Scheme” and “Basic Law Promotion Research Sponsorship Scheme” for staging various promotional and research activities on the Constitution and the Basic Law, such as seminars, quizzes and debate competitions, in order to reach a wider audience.

2. Under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (BLPSC) provides views and steer on the overall strategy and key aspects for promoting the Constitution and the Basic Law, and monitors, evaluates and reviews promotional programmes undertaken by government departments and non-governmental organisations. The CMAB provides secretariat support to the BLPSC. Five working groups (namely Working Groups on Local Community; Teachers and Students; Civil Servants; Industrial, Commercial and Professional Sectors; and Community Outside Hong Kong) are set up under the BLPSC and are assisted by the Home Affairs Bureau, Education Bureau, Civil Service Bureau, Trade and Industry Department and Information Services Department respectively in planning and organising various types of activities to promote the Constitution and the Basic Law on various fronts. The BLPSC and its working groups will review the format, content and effectiveness of promotional activities in relation to the Constitution and the Basic Law from time to time through evaluating their popularity based on the number and feedbacks of participants, and will give due regard to the development and trend of promotional media and information technology with a view to optimising our promotion strategy.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB141

(Question Serial No. 3655)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

- 1) Please provide information on the Fund administered by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) including the date of incorporation, objectives and mode of operation of the Fund; as well as its balance, amount of injections by government, total amounts of investment or other incomes and expenditure in 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18. If there are other funds within the purview of CMAB, please also provide information as per the items above.
- 2) Regarding the funds administered by CMAB, how will the Government assess and monitor the situation of various subsidies? Is there any indicator for reviewing the effectiveness of the funds? If yes, what is the latest situation? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau was not responsible for administering any Fund in 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB142

(Question Serial No. 3685)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

- (a) Please list out the expenditure and manpower arrangement of the Beijing Office, other Mainland Offices and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan for promoting cultural exchange in the past year, as well as the percentage of such expenditure against the total expenditure.
- (b) Please list out in the following table the details of cultural and arts or sports activities (e.g. film festivals, cultural performances and roving exhibitions, etc.) organised by the Beijing Office, other Mainland Offices and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan in the past year.

Name	Date	Hong Kong organisation(s) involved (if any)	Expenditure

- (c) What specific plans do the Beijing Office, other Mainland Offices and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan have to promote cultural exchange this year? What are the related expenditure and manpower arrangement?
- (d) The Government created the post of Head (Cultural Exchange) under the Beijing Office in July 2016. What efforts have been made by him/her in the past year to promote cultural exchange between Hong Kong and the Mainland? In what ways has he/she provided support to Hong Kong artists engaged in cultural and arts activities in the Mainland? What is the expenditure involved in the deployment of the dedicated staff concerned?
- (e) Will the Government consider deploying dedicated staff to other Mainland Offices to handle cultural matters in future? If it will, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

- (f) Had local cultural organisations ever approached the Beijing Office, other Mainland Offices and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan, reflecting the need to engage in cultural exchanges with the Mainland and Taiwan as well as to promote local culture? If yes, what were the relevant figures? How were such requests handled by the Offices concerned?

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 77)

Reply:

The Mainland and Taiwan Offices (namely the Beijing Office and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan, and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan) have taken continuous efforts to assist in enhancing cultural and arts exchange between Hong Kong and the Mainland/Taiwan.

2. In 2018-19, the initiatives taken by the Mainland and Taiwan Offices included organising, co-organising, participating in or supporting film festivals, dance performances, theatrical shows, concerts, arts exhibitions, fashion shows, lantern carnivals, exchange activities and radio programmes, etc. to showcase Hong Kong's unique culture and arts. The cultural and arts activities organised by the Mainland Offices included drama performances "*Confucius: 63 Revisited*", "*'night, Mother*" and "*Papa*"; the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra China Tour, Gaudeamus Dunhuang music performance and Guizhou-Hong Kong Traditional Chinese Music Concert; dance drama "*Dunhuang Reflections*"; Chengdu-Hong Kong Chinese Opera Show and orchestra performance. The Hong Kong organisations involved in the above activities included Chung Ying Theatre Company, Perry Chiu Experimental Theatre, Théâtre de la Feuille, Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra, Gaudeamus Dunhuang, Windpipe Chinese Music Ensemble, Hong Kong Dance Federation, Chinese Artist Association of Hong Kong and Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, etc. The Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan promoted cultural exchanges between Hong Kong and Taiwan through organising and participating in various activities. Such activities included assisting the Hong Kong-Taiwan Cultural Co-operation Committee in organising the annual "Hong Kong Week" to showcase Hong Kong's unique culture and arts; supporting cultural groups such as Asian Youth Orchestra, Hong Kong Publishing Federation and the Hong Kong Printers Association, etc. to stage performances or participate in events in Taiwan; participating in the large-scale lantern festivals in Taiwan; arranging cultural personalities from Hong Kong to give media interviews and publishing the annual magazine *Art & Culture @ Hong Kong*; and meeting with members and organisations of the cultural sector in Taiwan. As the promotion of cultural exchange is an integral part of the duties and functions of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices, the expenditure involved cannot be singled out and itemised.

3. In 2018-19, many Hong Kong cultural and arts organisations approached the Mainland and Taiwan Offices to engage in cultural exchanges in the Mainland and Taiwan. The Mainland and Taiwan Offices handled their requests as appropriate, such as assisting in the promotion of the related performances, liaising and communicating with local authorities in the Mainland and Taiwan, etc. In 2019-20, the Mainland and Taiwan Offices will continue to assist relevant Hong Kong cultural and arts organisations in liaising with local authorities and bodies as necessary, and help publicise the related events as

appropriate to support the performances of these cultural and arts organisations, and further promote Hong Kong's unique culture and arts.

4. In July 2016, the post of Head (Cultural Exchange) was created under the Beijing Office (BJO) to assume the responsibilities of planning, co-ordinating and implementing cultural programmes, enhancing liaison with the Mainland in promoting culture and arts and fostering cultural exchange. The Head (Cultural Exchange) of BJO maintains close liaison and regular communication with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and enhances contact with museums and cultural authorities under the governments of relevant provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions; visits performing arts and exhibition venues in the service areas of BJO to establish networks, explores opportunities for performances and exhibitions for Hong Kong artists and arts groups, and provides reports to the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) and the Leisure and Cultural Services Department on relevant information in good time; offers advice and assistance from time to time to Hong Kong artists, arts organisations or groups participating in cultural exchange events with the Mainland; co-organises cultural exchange events in the service areas with Hong Kong arts organisations or groups, including performances, campus film activities, youth exchange camps, post-performance talks, seminars and master classes; provides suitable support to meet the needs of arts groups, including arranging interviews with local radio channels, newspapers or electronic media, inviting the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and relevant government authorities to attend activities or watch performances, promoting the events via BJO's networks, disseminating information of the events and inviting Hong Kong people or students living there to join the events; and organising forums for the industry or pre-performance cocktail receptions. In 2018-19, the Head (Cultural Exchange) took forward and completed various initiatives, including supporting the performances of the Hong Kong Repertory Theatre, Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra, Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra and City Contemporary Dance Company in Beijing and other places; and supporting the staging of an experimental Cantonese opera of West Kowloon Cultural District in Beijing and the exchange and performances of the Gaudeamus Dunhuang in Dunhuang, etc. The revised estimated expenditure for the above post in 2018-19 is around \$1.7 million. From 2018-19, the Mainland Offices will recruit local staff to assist in organising cultural exchange activities between Hong Kong and the Mainland. Together with HAB, we will continue to review the effectiveness of deploying dedicated staff for handling cultural matters and the way forward.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB143

(Question Serial No. 7222)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: Not specified
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

It is mentioned in the 2018-19 Budget that “To enhance collaboration within the Government on support for the ethnic minorities, the Chief Secretary for Administration will set up a steering committee to co-ordinate, review and monitor work in this area. I will earmark \$500 million to strengthen support for ethnic minorities.” The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau would provide secretariat support to the steering committee. In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee of whether the steering committee has discussed about the timetable for taking forward those recommendations under the review of Race Discrimination Ordinance (RDO) which are considered of higher priority and about including government functions and powers in the next stage of RDO amendment to address the current deficiencies of the RDO and help promote racial equality? If yes, what are the details; if no, what the reasons?

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (LegCo internal reference no.: 43)

Reply:

The Discrimination Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2018 (the Bill) was submitted to the Legislative Council (LegCo) in late 2018 to implement 8 recommendations put forward in the Equal Opportunities Commission's Submissions to the Government on the Discrimination Law Review that are relatively less complex or controversial. The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau will continue to study the remaining 19 recommendations of priority, including the recommendation to amend the Race Discrimination Ordinance (Cap.602) by providing that it is unlawful for the Government to discriminate in performing its functions or exercising its powers, and follow-up as appropriate.

2. Upon completing the legislative exercise of the Bill, we will promptly begin our work at the next stage, with the aim of informing the public of our decisions on the way forward within the term of this Government.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB144

(Question Serial No. 5017)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

- 1) Please advise on the provision of telephone and on-site interpretation services for ethnic minorities at public hospitals and clinics under the Hospital Authority, government departments and public organisations (including Integrated Family Service Centres and Social Security Field Units under the Social Welfare Department). How many staff members are involved in providing telephone and on-site interpretation services for ethnic minorities?
- 2) At present, what is the general waiting time for the telephone and on-site interpretation services for ethnic minorities?

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-chun (LegCo internal reference no.: 67)

Reply:

Relevant government bureaux and departments and public authorities have all along been providing specific services, such as interpretation services, to meet the practical needs of ethnic minorities (EMs) under their respective policy areas, with a view to facilitating their integration into society and ensuring equal access to public services.

2. Under the Home Affairs Department (HAD), there are 8 support service centres for EMs which provide Cantonese classes, designated learning classes and integration programmes for EMs to facilitate their integration into the community. Among them, the Centre for Harmony and Enhancement of Ethnic Minority Residents ("CHEER") operated by the Hong Kong Christian Service provides general interpretation and translation services in addition to a variety of basic services. Interpretation and translation services in specialised or professional areas do not fall within the service scope of the CHEER. The interpretation and translation services provided by the CHEER consist mainly of instant telephone interpretation and enquiry services. Depending on the availability of resources, on-site interpretation or simultaneous interpretation services can also be arranged. At present, there are 19 staff members in the CHEER who are responsible for providing interpretation and translation services and assist in providing other support services.

Almost all of the telephone interpretation and enquiry cases were handled instantly. Over 90% of on-site interpretation services were performed on the date requested by the user departments while the rest were performed after rescheduling. Since the interpretation needs of EMs vary depending on what public services they sought, the relevant authorities will consider the actual situation and adopt suitable procedures to provide interpretation services to EMs in need.

3. To facilitate access to public services by EMs, the HAD has planned to enhance interpretation and translation services in the CHEER Centre and introduce new services in Vietnamese starting from 2019-20.

4. Interpretation services covering 18 EM languages are provided in public hospitals and clinics under the Hospital Authority (HA) primarily through a service contractor, the HKSKH Lady MacLehose Centre (the Centre), part-time court interpreters and relevant consulates. At present, the Centre employs more than 125 interpreters who have all received training in medical-related knowledge as well as communication skills. Moreover, the Department of Health (DH) has also engaged the Centre to provide both telephone and on-site interpretation services in 18 EM languages to patients since 1 September 2017. Depending on the needs of individual patients, DH staff will arrange on-site or telephone interpretation service in advance or urgently.

5. The HA has put in place guidelines on the arrangement of interpretation services. HA staff will contact the contractor's 24-hour call centre to arrange on-site or telephone interpretation services according to the needs of each case or upon request of patients. For scheduled services (such as medical appointment at the general outpatient and specialist clinics), patients may request the hospital/clinic concerned to arrange interpretation services in advance. For non-scheduled service (such as emergency hospital admission), hospital staff will arrange immediate provision of telephone interpretation services or on-site interpretation services as soon as possible.

6. Social Welfare Department (SWD) (including its Integrated Family Service Centres and Social Security Field Units) will arrange appropriate interpretation service for EMs from various sources, such as court interpretation service, as well as interpretation service as provided by the service contractor of the HA, the CHEER and other non-governmental organisations. SWD has installed web-cam facilities in 10 service units for conducting tripartite video conferencing among service users, social workers/social security staff and interpreters of CHEER when required. Besides, SWD Hotline has provided callers of EM groups to have instant access to telephone interpretation service in 7 common ethnic minority languages so as to facilitate their welfare service enquiry.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB145

(Question Serial No. 5450)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. What work will the Bureau undertake to strength support for the ethnic minorities in the coming 3 years?
2. Further to the above question, how much resources will be allocated by the Bureau for improving the Administrative Guidelines on Promotion of Racial Equality (the Guidelines)?
3. What are the work undertaken by the Bureau to publicise, provide guidance on and supervise the implementation of the Guidelines in all policy bureaux, government departments and public organisations?
4. Have all policy bureaux, government departments and public organisations set up a dedicated unit or deployed staff to follow up on the Guidelines? If yes, what are the details; if no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-chun (LegCo internal reference no.: 195)

Reply:

The Government has all along been providing support for the integration of ethnic minorities (“EMs”) into society through services provided by various bureaux and departments. In 2010, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (“CMAB”) issued the Administrative Guidelines on Promotion of Racial Equality (“the Guidelines”) to provide general guidance to relevant government bureaux and departments and public authorities (hereafter referred to as “relevant authorities”) to promote racial equality and ensure equal access by EMs to public services in the key areas concerned, and to take this into account in the formulation, implementation and review of relevant policies and measures. Since the promulgation of the Guidelines in 2010, the Government has kept its operation under review. At present, the scope of application of the Guidelines has been extended from 14 to 23 relevant authorities.

2. In accordance with the Guidelines, the relevant authorities have drawn up checklists of measures within their respective policy and programme areas that would assist in the promotion of racial equality, equal access to key public services and transparency of their work. The checklists, which contain contact information of the relevant authorities, have been uploaded onto the CMAB website and are available in 6 EM languages, namely Bahasa Indonesia, Hindi, Nepali, Tagalog, Thai and Urdu. The relevant authorities will draw up and issue updates on the contents of the checklists according to their respective programme areas where necessary, and are responsible for implementing and monitoring the implementation of the Guidelines in areas relevant to their purview.

3. The CMAB is also conducting a review on the Guidelines. One of our concerns is that some EMs have encountered difficulties in adaptation and social integration owing to language barriers. Currently, various government departments provide interpretation services to meet the practical needs of EM service users, with a view to ensuring their equal access to public services. To enhance the provision of interpretation services by these government departments, we are exploring the feasibility of including guidelines on the provision of interpretation services in the Guidelines. Moreover, we will consider requiring government departments to collect relevant data and statistics in relation to the race of stakeholders on a regular basis and having regard to their respective actual policies as well as operational circumstances. This is to facilitate the Government to monitor and assess in a timely manner whether public policies and services will affect racial equality and for the continuous improvement of services provided to EMs.

4. To improve the Guidelines for application to all government bureaux and departments as well as relevant organisations providing services to EMs, this Bureau will allocate a total of \$4.3 million to the relevant work over the coming 4 financial years from 2019-20.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB146

(Question Serial No. 6095)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In respect of public education and publicity programmes, what strategy will the Government take to raise public awareness on the issue of sexual orientation and gender identity?

How much resources will be allocated for the publicity work?

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (LegCo internal reference no.: 635)

Reply:

The Government is committed to fostering the culture and values of inclusiveness, mutual respect and non-discrimination and promoting equal opportunities for people of different sexual orientations and transgenders. The Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Unit (GISOU) of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau carries out education and promotion programmes, which include following up on the strategies and measures set out below.

2. On public education and promotion, the Government has enhanced publicity to promote the message of non-discrimination against sexual minorities, including stepping up dissemination of the message "Eliminate Discrimination, Embrace Inclusion" for people of different sexual orientations and transgenders through broadcast of promotional video in government premises, public transport network (including the display platform in railway stations, train compartments and ferries), lift lobbies of commercial buildings and on the Internet. Moreover, Announcements in the Public Interest to promote equal opportunities for people of different sexual orientations and transgenders have continued to be broadcast on television and radio, and related promotional posters have been displayed in various districts. To encourage employers to provide equal opportunities for people of different sexual orientations, the Government has actively introduced the Code of Practice against Discrimination in Employment on the Ground of Sexual Orientation (the Code) to employers. At present over 350 public and private organisations employing about 550 000 employees locally have pledged to adopt the Code. The Code is advertised on websites relevant to commerce and industry and recruitment as well as publications of business

chambers and federations. The Government will continue to encourage more organisations to adopt the Code through various channels including talks, seminars and online promotion, etc.

3. Besides, the Government has been providing funding support to worthwhile community projects through the Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme (Funding Scheme) to promote equal opportunities for people of different sexual orientations and transgenders, or provide support services for the sexual minorities.

4. In 2019-20, the estimated expenditure of the GISOU is \$3.62 million, including \$1.27 million for staff costs and \$2.35 million for public education and promotion expenses. The estimated expenditure for the Funding Scheme is \$1.25 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB147

(Question Serial No. 7273)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
Programme: Not specified
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

After Mr YEN Chung-kuang, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, left his office in July last year, Mr LU Chang-shui, the new Director General, has not been issued a work visa to come to Hong Kong for 9 months. Does the Bureau consider that this will damage the co-operation between the two places? If yes, will the Bureau urge the Immigration Department to expedite the processing of the employment visa concerned in order to “foster co-operation between Hong Kong and Taiwan on trade, investment and tourism matters”? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (LegCo internal reference no.: 44)

Reply:

The economic and trade exchanges between Hong Kong and Taiwan have all along been ongoing. Last year, Taiwan was Hong Kong's third largest trading partner and Hong Kong was Taiwan's fourth largest trading partner. As regards tourism, Taiwan continued to be Hong Kong's second largest visitor source market.

2. In 2010, the Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic and Cultural Cooperation and Promotion Council (ECCPC) and the Taiwan-Hong Kong Economic and Cultural Co-operation Council (THEC) were established in Hong Kong and Taiwan respectively to promote exchanges and co-operation between the two places. We will continue to foster exchanges and co-operation between Hong Kong and Taiwan in economic, trade and other areas through the ECCPC-THEC platform in a pragmatic manner.

3. The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region will not comment on individual cases or make public information concerning individual cases. In handling each application, the Immigration Department acts in accordance with the relevant laws and policies, and decides whether to approve or refuse the application after careful consideration of the circumstances of each case.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB148****(Question Serial No. 3444)**

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Please set out the numbers and nature of enquires, requests for assistance and complaints made to the Mainland Offices by Hong Kong enterprises and investors in the Mainland in the past 3 years, the outcome of the cases, as well as the financial resources and manpower involved.

Asked by: Hon WONG Ting-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 71)

Reply:

The numbers of enquiries as well as assistance cases and complaints which were not related to immigration and personal safety matters received by the Mainland Offices (namely the Beijing Office and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan) from 2016 to 2018 are as follows:

Year	Enquiries	Assistance cases and complaints which were not related to immigration and personal safety matters
2016	11 043	147
2017	9 475	145
2018	11 286	218

As the nature and complexity of the cases vary, the Mainland Offices cannot provide a breakdown on individual cases which are at different handling stages.

2. As providing assistance to Hong Kong enterprises and investors in the Mainland is an integral part of the duties and functions of the Mainland Offices, the estimated expenditure and manpower involved cannot be singled out and itemised.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB149****(Question Serial No. 3766)**Head: (163) Registration and Electoral OfficeSubhead (No. & title):Programme: Electoral ServicesControlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

- (1) Please list in the following table, by the 18 District Councils (DCs) in the territory, the numbers of registered electors in the register of electors in the past 3 years.

18 DCs	2016 register of electors	2017 register of electors	2018 register of electors

- (2) Please list in the following table, by the 18 DCs in the territory, the numbers of newly registered electors in the register of electors in the past 3 years.

18 DCs	2016 register of electors	2017 register of electors	2018 register of electors

- (3) Please list in the following table, by the 18 DCs in the territory, the numbers of electors removed from the register of electors in the past 3 years and the respective reasons for the removal.

18 DCs	2016 register of electors	2017 register of electors	2018 register of electors

- (4) What were the manpower and expenditures involved in the Voter Registration (VR) Campaigns in election and non-election years in the past 3 years? Has a comparison been made on whether there is a positive correlation between these figures and the VR statistics? Has the Government reviewed the effectiveness of the VR Campaigns and what are the details of the review?
- (5) What organisations were commissioned by the Government to take charge of the VR Campaigns in the past 3 years? What indicators did these organisations use to evaluate the effectiveness of the VR work? What were the manpower and expenditures involved?

- (6) What are the manpower and expenditure allocated for the VR Campaign in the coming year?
- (7) It is mentioned in the Programme that the Government will enhance the checking of electors in the current register in respect of their registered addresses. Please list in the following table, by the 18 DCs in the territory, the numbers of “electors checked by the Government” in the past 3 years. How many of them were electors with registered addresses at residential homes for the elderly?

18 DCs	2016 register of electors	2017 register of electors	2018 register of electors

- (8) Please list in the following table, by the 18 DCs in the territory, the numbers of “electors removed from the register upon checking by the Government” in the past 3 years. How many of them were electors with registered addresses at residential homes for the elderly?

18 DCs	2016 register of electors	2017 register of electors	2018 register of electors

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 111)

Reply:

A breakdown by individual District Councils (DCs) of the numbers of registered geographical constituency (GC) electors in the 2016, 2017 and 2018 final registers is set out below:

	2016 final register	2017 final register	2018 final register
Central & Western	105 004	104 086	102 603
Wan Chai	71 646	70 658	69 259
Eastern	307 381	305 231	302 337
Southern	143 776	143 298	142 533
Yau Tsim Mong	120 035	119 515	118 398
Sham Shui Po	181 079	183 019	183 182
Kowloon City	187 015	186 917	185 580
Wong Tai Sin	249 024	248 706	249 394
Kwun Tong	352 543	359 952	363 789
Tsuen Wan	152 965	153 132	154 298
Tuen Mun	271 290	271 839	272 256
Yuen Long	308 865	314 400	318 651

	2016 final register	2017 final register	2018 final register
Kwai Tsing	284 752	285 952	287 210
Islands	68 639	69 378	70 188
North	175 072	176 375	176 408
Tai Po	175 720	177 342	177 062
Sai Kung	245 808	249 662	251 682
Sha Tin	378 471	385 607	389 488
Total	3 779 085	3 805 069	3 814 318

2. A breakdown by individual DCs of the numbers of newly registered GC electors in the 2016, 2017 and 2018 final registers is set out below:

	2016 final register	2017 final register	2018 final register
Central & Western	4 572	2 077	2 366
Wan Chai	2 731	1 315	1 344
Eastern	11 789	4 485	4 926
Southern	5 046	2 221	2 399
Yau Tsim Mong	6 705	3 343	3 793
Sham Shui Po	9 479	4 631	5 306
Kowloon City	8 982	4 774	4 705
Wong Tai Sin	9 484	4 671	4 303
Kwun Tong	15 498	8 251	8 281
Tsuen Wan	7 615	2 918	2 740
Tuen Mun	11 154	5 144	4 843
Yuen Long	16 177	8 808	7 643
Kwai Tsing	11 993	5 880	6 031
Islands	3 287	1 754	1 793
North	9 499	4 657	4 162
Tai Po	9 724	3 865	3 217
Sai Kung	13 829	5 989	5 509
Sha Tin	19 939	8 378	8 002
Total	177 503	83 161	81 363

3. The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) has been stepping up publicity in every voter registration (VR) cycle to remind the public about the importance of providing true and accurate information for registration and updating their registration particulars, especially the principal residential addresses. The REO has also been implementing various checking measures, including the conduct of cross-matching exercise with other government departments on the registered particulars of electors, and inquiry process to improve the accuracy and completeness of VR records. The checking measures include follow-up inquiries on undelivered poll cards arising from elections; cross-matching of the residential addresses of electors with the Housing Department, the Hong Kong Housing Society and the Home Affairs Department; checks on residential addresses with multiple electors or multiple surnames of electors; random sample checks on registered and newly registered electors; checks on addresses with incomplete information 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, if the REO has reasonable grounds to suspect that registered residential addresses might not be the only or principal residence of certain electors, it will issue inquiry letters to the electors concerned to request confirmation or updating of the registered addresses. Upon the completion of the statutory inquiry procedures, electors failing to respond will be removed from the final register.

The REO does not have statistics on the number of electors included in statutory inquiry procedures or removed from the register by DCs. In the last 3 VR cycles from 2016 to 2018, the numbers of electors included in statutory inquiry procedures were 103 802, 43 577 and 57 286 respectively, of which the numbers of electors with registered addresses at residential care homes for the elderly were 3 405, 260 and 85 respectively. A breakdown of the numbers of GC electors removed from the respective register because of loss of eligibility for registration in the above 3 VR cycles is as follows:

Reason for removal and number of electors	Cycle	2016	2017	2018
Failure to respond to statutory inquiry procedures#		67 509	29 576	41 794
Death		24 163	26 950	29 792
Other reasons (such as voluntary de-registration, loss of Hong Kong permanent resident status, objection cases allowed by the Revising Officer, etc.)		688	651	528
Total		92 360	57 177	72 114

In the VR cycles from 2016 to 2018, among the electors removed due to failure to respond to statutory inquiry procedures, 2 563, 170 and 68 electors were those with registered addresses at residential care homes for the elderly.

4. The REO did not commission any individual organisation to undertake VR Campaigns. The work of the REO in checking and verifying the particulars of electors as well as implementing VR Campaigns is undertaken by a team comprising civil servants and non-civil service contract staff responsible for VR matters. From 2016-17 to 2018-19, the establishment and operational expenses (including publicity expenses on VR Campaign) in respect of VR and checking work are detailed below:

Year	Civil service establishment*	Number of contract staff employed@	Expenditure on staff remuneration and related operational expenses
2016-17	93	394	\$87 million
2017-18	107	87	\$51 million
2018-19	123	about 310	\$55 million (revised estimate)

* Including time-limited civil service posts created in the relevant year

@ NCSC staff are employed according to actual needs. These figures represent the number of staff employed during the peak period of the VR cycle in the relevant year.

In the 2018 final register, there are about 3.81 million GC electors, representing a registration rate of 79.8%. Both the total number of electors and the registration rate are the highest on record. The Government will continue to adopt diversified means to appeal to persons of all ages and different backgrounds in order to encourage eligible persons to register as electors, remind electors to update their registration particulars in a timely manner while strengthening the public awareness and knowledge of VR. The Government will also conduct regular reviews on the publicity work and make appropriate adjustments in the light of actual needs and public responses.

5. The REO will allocate sufficient manpower and resources in 2019-20 to sustain the checking work. It will also continue to strengthen the publicity measures to encourage eligible persons to register as electors, remind existing electors to submit address proofs when applying for change of registered residential addresses, remind the electors under checking to update or confirm their registered residential addresses with the REO before the deadline and encourage electors to use the Online Voter Information Enquiry System to verify their registration status and particulars. During the peak period of the VR cycle, the above work will be carried out by a team comprising 131 civil servants (including 20 time-limited civil service posts) and around 500 contract staff. The expenditure on staff remuneration and the related operational expenses is estimated to be around \$161 million. The relevant work will continue in the 2019 and 2020 VR cycles.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB150

(Question Serial No. 3774)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

What were the actual manpower and expenditures allocated for the conduct of the Legislative Council (LegCo) by-election held on 25 November last year?

What are the estimated manpower and expenditures allocated for the conduct of the 2019 District Council Ordinary Election?

In the past, ballot papers were passed beforehand to the Presiding Officers, who would keep the ballot papers at home for a period of as long as one week, before bringing them to the polling stations on the polling day. Were there any measures in place to ensure that the ballot papers and electors' data would be safe from tampering during the process?

Mrs Carrie LAM once said openly that the Government would conduct an internal review to study whether local legislation relating to electoral declarations and oaths should be amended following the interpretation of the Basic Law by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and the court's rulings. Please advise whether such amendments include the criteria for the Returning Officer to determine the candidates' eligibility to stand for election and whether the study will be completed and made public before next LegCo election.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 119)

Reply:

Estimated Expenditure for the Election/By-election

The total expenditure for the Legislative Council (LegCo) Kowloon West Geographical Constituency by-election held on 25 November 2018 is estimated to be \$47 million, with part of the estimated expenditure to be paid in 2019-20. The relevant preparatory and winding up work of the by-election has been carried out by staff in the establishment of the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) as well as around 110 non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff.

2. As far as a District Council (DC) Ordinary Election is concerned, it normally spans several financial years from the preparation to the completion of all winding-up work. Regarding the 2019 DC Ordinary Election, the preparatory work commenced in 2018-19 and a provision of \$125 million is included in the 2018-19 revised estimate for the purpose. As for 2019-20, the provision of the REO for the preparation and conduct of the 2019 DC Ordinary Election is \$426 million (including the provision for the preparation and conduct of the 2019 Voter Registration Campaign). In addition to the staff in its establishment, the REO plans to create 30 posts and employ about 1 000 NCSC staff (the number of contract staff to be employed during the peak period) in 2019-20 to cope with the workload arising from the preparation and conduct of the 2019 DC Ordinary Election and 2020 LegCo General Election.

Security Measures

3. In previous elections and by-elections, all ballot papers were delivered by REO officers to the office for storage under the escort of security guards after completion of printing by the Government Logistics Department. Proper security measures were put in place by the REO at the office concerned, including round-the-clock stationing by security guards and CCTV surveillance. In view of the large number of polling stations involved, the Presiding Officers (PROs) and their deputies went to the ballot paper distribution centre of the REO in batches starting from about one week before the polling day to collect ballot papers for their respective polling stations, and bring them along to their polling stations on the polling day.

4. When collecting the ballot papers, the polling staff had to undergo specified procedures, including checking the quantity and serial numbers of the ballot papers against the “Summary of ballot paper stock allocated to individual polling station” (the Summary) of the REO. Both the REO and the polling staff concerned had to sign on the Summary to confirm the quantity of ballot papers distributed, and each side was given a signed copy of the Summary for record.

5. To ensure that ballot papers were free from tampering, all ballot papers collected by the polling staff were required to be put in plastic bags sealed with tamper proof tapes. Both the REO and the polling staff concerned were required to sign against the seals. It would be easily spotted if a plastic bag had been torn open. All sealed ballot papers had to be put into a locked suitcase. The REO had repeatedly reminded the polling staff concerned that the sealed packets of ballot papers should be stored properly and could only be opened after they had arrived at their respective polling stations on the polling day.

6. The polling staff involved in the collection of ballot papers, after arriving at their respective polling stations on the polling day, were required to report to the PRO the quantity and serial numbers of the ballot papers concerned. The PRO would check the quantity and serial numbers of the ballot papers against the entries in the Summary. Before the start of the poll, the polling staff at the ballot paper issuing desks also had to conduct random checks of the ballot papers to ensure that they were unmarked. The PRO would inform the candidates or their agents who were present at the polling station of the quantity of ballot papers kept by him/her and where the ballot papers were placed, and allow them to observe the unsealing of the packets of ballot papers. They might also request checking the ballot papers, if necessary.

Nomination

7. In accordance with the relevant electoral law and regulations, whether or not a candidate's nomination is valid is determined by the Returning Officer according to the legal requirements and relevant procedures. The Government will, in accordance with the Basic Law and the relevant interpretation by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, and with reference to the Court's rulings on the relevant election petitions, carefully examine the local legislation to see if there is a need to straighten it out and consider how to make appropriate adjustments.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB151****(Question Serial No. 6017)**Head: (163) Registration and Electoral OfficeSubhead (No. & title):Programme: Electoral ServicesControlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

Regarding the work in relation to the Code on Access to Information, please advise this Committee of the following:

- 1) Concerning the requests for information under the Code on Access to Information received by the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) for which only some of the required information was provided, please state in table form: (i) the content of the requests for which only some of the required information was provided; (ii) the reasons for providing some of the information only; and (iii) how the requests were eventually handled.

Year

(i) Content of the requests for which only some of the required information was provided	(ii) Reasons for providing some of the information only	(iii) How the requests were eventually handled

- 2) Concerning the requests for information under the Code on Access to Information received by the REO for which the required information was not provided, please state in table form: (i) the content of the requests refused; (ii) the reasons for refusal; and (iii) how the requests were eventually handled.

Year

(i) Content of the requests refused	(ii) Reasons for refusal	(iii) How the requests were eventually handled

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (LegCo internal reference no.: 261)

Reply:

During the period from January to September 2018, the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) only refused one request for information under the Code on Access to Information (the Code).

2. On the refusal case mentioned above, the REO had not provided the applicant with the hourly cumulative voter turnout in the Architectural, Surveying, Planning and Landscape Functional Constituency in each ordinary polling station for the 2018 Legislative Council by-election, which is regarded as “legal restrictions” in accordance with paragraph 2.18 of the Code.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB152****(Question Serial No. 6674)**Head: (163) Registration and Electoral OfficeSubhead (No. & title):Programme: Electoral ServicesControlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

Please provide, in respect of the past 5 years, the following information:

1. the numbers of registered electors and the percentage of newly registered electors for each year;
2. the numbers of accessible polling stations and their ratios against the total numbers of polling stations in the elections conducted.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 1448)Reply:

The numbers of newly registered geographical constituency (GC) electors and registered GC electors in the voter registration cycles from 2014 to 2018 are listed as follows:

	2014 final register	2015 final register	2016 final register	2017 final register	2018 final register
Number of newly registered GC electors (Percentage out of total number of electors)	77 261 (2.2%)	262 633 (7.1%)	177 503 (4.7%)	83 161 (2.2%)	81 363 (2.1%)
Number of registered GC electors	3 507 786	3 693 942	3 779 085	3 805 069	3 814 318

In the 2018 final register, there are about 3.81 million GC electors, representing a registration rate of 79.8%. Both the total number of electors and the registration rate are the highest on record.

2. For the ordinary or general elections conducted in the past 5 years, the numbers of polling stations which were accessible to persons with mobility difficulties and wheelchair

users, and their respective percentages out of the total numbers of polling stations are as follows:

Election	Total number of polling stations*	Number of polling stations accessible to persons with mobility difficulties and wheelchair users* (percentage out of total number of polling stations*)
2015 District Council Ordinary Election	495	466 (94%)
2016 Legislative Council General Election	571	538 (94%)
2016 Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections	110	110 (100%)
2017 Chief Executive Election	1	1 (100%)

* excluding dedicated polling stations

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB153****(Question Serial No. 6507)**Head: (163) Registration and Electoral OfficeSubhead (No. & title):Programme: Electoral ServicesControlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

The Registration and Electoral Office is responsible for voter registration. Please inform this Committee of the following:

1. The numbers of registered electors in 431 District Council Constituency Areas (DCCAs) across the territory, with a breakdown by age group and gender as shown in the table below.

	18-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70+	Subtotal	Total
Male														
Female														
Subtotal:														

2. The numbers of newly registered electors in 431 DCCAs across the territory, with a breakdown by age group and gender as shown in the table below.

	18-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70+	Subtotal	Total
Male														
Female														
Subtotal:														

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (LegCo internal reference no.: 489)

Reply:

Regarding the breakdown of the numbers of registered and newly registered electors in the 2018 final register by District Council constituencies, age group* and gender, please refer to the voter registration statistics on the website of the Registration and Electoral Office (REO):

(Internet link: <https://www.voterregistration.gov.hk/eng/statistic2018.html>)

- * The age groups include 18-20, 21-25, 26-30, 31-35, 36-40, 41-45, 46-50, 51-55, 56-60, 61-65, 66-70 and 71 or above. The REO does not maintain statistics with breakdown by any other age groups.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB154

(Question Serial No. 3965)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Does the work of the Electoral Affairs Commission (EAC) include conducting a detailed review of reasonable canvassing and electioneering zones in various districts or new constituencies, such as the District Council Constituency Area E02 (Kowloon Station) located exactly in a property of the MTR Corporation Limited under its management?

Does the scope of responsibility of the EAC include co-ordinating private enterprises and relevant government departments so that there are suitable places in each constituency to reach out to electors, thereby ensuring a fair democratic election in each constituency?

Asked by: Hon WONG Pik-wan (LegCo internal reference no.: 61)

Reply:

According to the Guidelines on Election-related Activities issued by the Electoral Affairs Commission (EAC), validly nominated candidates in a contested election may be allocated with “designated display spots” (“designated spots”). The “designated spots” are usually located at government land/property frequented by electors, or at the premises owned or occupied privately that have been made available to the Government for use. “Designated spots” are identified and allocated by the Returning Officer of the relevant constituency, who will negotiate with the government departments and public organisations/management bodies concerned (such as the Hospital Authority, the Vocational Training Council and universities) and obtain their approval or authorisation to identify and designate suitable locations in the constituency as “designated spots” for the display of election advertisements (EAs) by the candidates. The principle of allocation of “designated spots” is that each list of candidates contesting in the same constituency should be allocated the same number of “designated spots” and an equal area of space for displaying EAs. “Designated spots” are allocated by way of mutual consent of all the candidates of the constituency or by the drawing of lots.

2. On the other hand, candidates may apply for temporary occupation of government land at public place for holding electioneering activities during the election period. If candidates intend to conduct electioneering activities at premises or buildings where electors

reside, work or frequent, they must consult the relevant government departments or management bodies in advance to obtain permission for the conduct of electioneering activities in the places within their jurisdiction. The Lands Department and the Housing Department will issue detailed guidelines to candidates to set out the arrangements and deadlines for submission of such applications. Besides, to ensure that all elections are conducted in an open, honest and fair manner, the EAC has, in the Guidelines on Election-related Activities, appealed to all management bodies of the organisations or buildings concerned to provide equal opportunity to all candidates for the purposes of electioneering. If it is decided not to allow a particular candidate to conduct electioneering activities at the premises of the organisation or in the common parts of the building, no other candidate in the same constituency should be allowed to do so, for it is important to provide fair and equal treatment for all candidates. The EAC has also reminded candidates that different organisations/buildings may have their own guidelines to allow or disallow the conduct of electioneering activities on the premises under their management. Candidates and their supporters should respect the decisions of the organisation/building management concerned.

3. Candidates who wish to display EAs on private land or property must obtain by themselves the prior written permission of the owner or occupier of the private land/property. The obtaining of written permission or authorisation from the owner or occupier of the private land/property is solely a matter for private arrangement between the candidates and the owner or occupier of the private land/property concerned.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB155

(Question Serial No. 4929)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The actual numbers of new electors registered in 2017 and 2018 were 89 838 and 84 672 respectively. However, the estimated number of new electors registered in this year is 178 800, representing an increase of more than 45%. What is the reason? Please inform this Committee of the measures and manpower deployment adopted to achieve such an increase.

Asked by: Hon YEUNG Alvin (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) set the relevant indicators for the 2019 voter registration (VR) cycle based on the actual numbers of newly registered electors in geographical constituencies, functional constituencies and Election Committee subsectors as well as the numbers of electoral records updated in the VR cycles in previous election years. The Government will continue to adopt diversified means to appeal to persons of all ages and different backgrounds in order to encourage eligible persons to register as electors, remind electors to update their registration particulars in a timely manner while strengthening public awareness and knowledge of VR.

2. The REO will continue to strengthen publicity measures in 2019-20 to encourage eligible persons to register as electors, remind existing electors to submit address proofs when applying for change of registered residential addresses, remind the electors under checking to update or confirm their registered residential addresses with the REO before the deadline and encourage electors to use the Online Voter Information Enquiry System to verify their registration status and particulars. During the peak period of the VR cycle, the above work will be carried out by a team comprising 131 civil servants (including 20 time-limited civil service posts) and around 500 contract staff. The expenditure on staff remuneration and the related operational expenses is estimated to be around \$161 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB156

(Question Serial No. 4930)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please advise this Committee, in tabular form, of the detailed expenditure for Plant, Equipment and Works under the Capital Account, including the sub-items under:

- (I) Minor plant, vehicles and equipment;
- (II) Plant, Equipment and Works; and
- (III) Total Capital Account,

and the respective expenditures for each of these sub-items, which add up to \$600,000 for each of the above 3 items.

Asked by: Hon YEUNG Alvin (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

Reply:

The total estimated expenditure of the Registration and Electoral Office in 2019-20 under the capital account is \$600,000, and the provision, which is under Subhead 661 "Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)", will be used for acquisition of a document folding and insertion system.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB157

(Question Serial No. 4931)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The estimated expenditure on Salaries under Subhead 000 Operational expenses is \$30.84 million higher than the revised estimate for 2018-19 due to the creation of 30 posts in 2019-20. Please advise this Committee, in tabular form, of the following:

- (I) the ranks of the posts to be created; and
- (II) the respective reasons for creating each of these posts.

Asked by: Hon YEUNG Alvin (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

The provision for the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) on the estimated expenditure on salaries in 2019-20 is higher than the revised estimate for 2018-19. This is mainly due to our plan to create 30 civil service posts in 2019-20, including 4 Senior Executive Officer, 15 Executive Officer I, 3 Executive Officer II, 2 Clerical Officer and 6 Assistant Clerical Officer posts to cope with the workload arising from the preparation and conduct of the 2019 District Council Ordinary Election and the 2020 Legislative Council General Election, and to fill the vacant civil service posts.

- End -