

Panel on Constitutional Affairs

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 8 October 2018)

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

1. Role and development of political parties

The Panel held a discussion on the need to introduce a political party law at its meeting on 21 February 2005 and received views from deputations on the role and development of political parties at a special meeting on 26 February 2005. The Administration's position was that the introduction of a political party law would hinder the development of political parties.

To be confirmed

As one of the means to facilitate the development of political party and political talent, the Administration introduced the financial assistance scheme for candidates of Legislative Council ("LegCo") election in 2004. The scheme was extended to District Council ("DC") elections in 2007. The financial assistance subsidy rate to candidates in the DC election and LegCo election is \$14 per vote starting from the 2015 DC ordinary election and the 2016 LegCo general election respectively.

2. Submission of reports by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government to the United Nations under international human rights treaties

The Panel discussed the outline of the second report of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region ("HKSAR") under the Convention on the Rights of the Child on 20 April 2009, and met with deputations on 18 May 2009. The second report was submitted to United Nations ("UN") in July 2010 (as part of the combined third and fourth report of China) and published in May 2012. The related hearing was conducted on 26 and 27 September 2013. The Panel received public views on the second report on 18 March 2013, and discussed the relevant concluding observations with deputations and the Administration on 18 November 2013.

As and when those reports are submitted by the People's Republic of China ("China") to UN and published [Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau ("CMAB") & Labour and Welfare Bureau ("LWB")]

At the Panel meeting on 18 January 2010, the Administration briefed the Panel on the outline of the topics to be included in HKSAR's third report under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The Panel received public views on the outline of topics on 10 February 2010. The third report which forms part of the second report of China was

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submitted to UN in June 2010 and published on 21 October 2010. The Panel discussed the third report on 20 December 2010. The related hearing was conducted on 8 May 2014. The Panel further discussed the third report with deputations on 17 February 2014 and the relevant concluding observations on 16 June 2014.

The Administration has issued an outline of topics for HKSAR's fourth report in the light of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights for public consultation. The Panel received public views on the outline of topics to be included in the fourth report on 4 January 2018.

The Panel received public views on the outline of topics to be included in the third report of HKSAR under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination on 16 November 2015. The third report, which has been submitted as part of China's combined 14th to 17th reports to UN, was published on 3 April 2017. The Panel received public views on the third report on 16 July 2018. The related hearing was conducted on 10 and 13 August 2018. The Administration will brief the Panel about the outcome of the hearing at its meeting in November 2018.

November 2018

UN Human Rights Council has initiated a Universal Periodic Review ("UPR") of all UN member states. The Panel received public views on the outline of topics in the HKSAR report for the third UPR on 30 April 2018. The third UPR on China was scheduled to take place in November 2018.

The reporting responsibility of the fourth report of HKSAR under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women falls under the purview of LWB. The Administration has issued an outline of topics for HKSAR's fourth report for public consultation. The Panel received public views on the outline of topics on 21 May 2018.

The Administration has issued an outline of topics for HKSAR's second report under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for public consultation. The Panel received public views on the outline of topics on 30 April 2018.

3. Post-office employment control of former Chief Executives and former politically appointed officials

The Panel on Public Service ("the PS Panel") discussed the Report of the Committee on Review of Post-Service Outside Work for Directorate Civil Servants ("the Review Committee") at its special meeting on 13 July 2009. The Review Committee has recommended to the Chief Executive ("CE") in its Report that a separate review should be carried out on the post-office employment control of politically appointed officials. The PS Panel has referred the subject to this Panel for follow-up and requested that its members be invited to join the future discussion of the subject.

To be confirmed

Panel Chairman has directed that the scope of this item should also cover the post-office employment control for former CEs.

4. Press freedom

At the meeting on 17 October 2011, members agreed to discuss the Administration's initiatives to safeguard press freedom at a future meeting. The Administration undertook to co-ordinate its response in respect of the media's concerns about their reporting work.

To be confirmed

5. Report of the Independent Review Committee for the Prevention and Handling of Potential Conflicts of Interests

At the meeting on 4 June 2012, the Administration undertook to provide a paper on its plan to implement the recommendations of the "Report of the Independent Review Committee for the Prevention and Handling of Potential Conflicts of Interests" and the relevant time-table. The Administration provided a paper on the implementation progress [LC Paper No. FC136/11-12(01)] on 18 June 2012. The Panel agreed to discuss the implementation of the recommendations at a future meeting.

To be confirmed
[Admin Wing]

At the Council meeting of 5 December 2012, a LegCo question was raised by Hon Dennis KWOK on "Regulatory system for prevention and handling of potential conflicts of interests concerning CE". The Chief Secretary for Administration ("CS") replied that the Administration was actively following up the

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remaining recommendations and would consult LegCo on the recommendations on amending the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance (Cap. 201) ("POBO") once there was further progress.

Hon Emily LAU proposed to follow up on the above CS' reply, and the revisions already made to the Code for Officials Under the Political Appointment System in the light of the recommendations of the report.

At the request of Hon Emily LAU [LC Paper No. CB(2)1797/12-13(01)], members agreed on 18 November 2013 that the Panel should discuss the "Guidelines for CE in handling potential cases of conflict of interest and acceptance of advantages and entertainment concerning politically appointed officials" at a future meeting.

At the meeting on 20 March 2017, Hon LAM Cheuk-ting expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of progress of this item and requested the Panel to discuss the subject at the April meeting or convene a special meeting. The Chairman requested the Administration to advise on the appropriate timing for discussion of the subject. CMAB relayed the request to the Administration Wing. On 8 May 2017, the Administration Wing informed the Panel in writing that as the proposed amendments to POBO might have implications on the provisions about the political structure of HKSAR and the constitutional status of CE as prescribed in the Basic Law, the Administration had been studying comprehensively the relevant constitutional and legal requirements as well as operational issues concerned. Upon completion of the study, the Administration would report to LegCo and initiate legislative procedure at the appropriate juncture. The Chairman wrote to the Director of Administration ("D of Adm") on 21 June 2017 to make further enquiries. D of Adm's reply letter dated 7 July 2017 was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1847/16-17(01).

Hon Dennis KWOK has prepared two private bills to amend the Independent Commission Against Corruption Ordinance (Cap. 204) and POBO respectively.

**Proposed timing
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6. Reports published by the Law Reform Commission on various aspects of privacy

The Administration has considered the five reports published by the Law Reform Commission ("LRC") on the topics of : To be confirmed

Interception of communications (December 1996)

Stalking (October 2000)

Privacy and media intrusion (December 2004)

Civil liability for invasion of privacy (December 2004)

Regulation of covert surveillance (March 2006)

According to the Administration, these five reports touch on the sensitive and controversial policy and political issue of how to strike a balance between protection of individual privacy rights and freedom of the media. There were mixed responses and very divergent views from different sectors of the community. Given the complexity and sensitivity of the policy and political issues involved, the Administration would consider the five reports as and where appropriate and map out the way forward in consultation with relevant parties.

At its meetings on 16 December 2013 and 16 June 2014, the Panel discussed the LRC Report on Stalking with the Administration.

7. Follow up discussion on the computer theft incident of the Registration and Electoral Office during the Chief Executive election in March 2017

At the meeting on 12 October 2017, Hon Charles Peter MOK proposed to discuss the implementation progress of the recommendations made by the Task Force concerned and those by the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data, as well as the outcome of the internal investigation conducted by the Registration and Electoral Office. To be confirmed

8. Political reform

At the meeting on 12 October 2017, Dr Hon Helena WONG suggested that the Panel should revisit the issue of political reform. To be confirmed

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9. Nomination matters in Legislative Council elections

Hon Helena WONG and Hon LAM Cheuk-ting jointly wrote to the Panel Chairman on 5 February 2018 [LC Paper No. CB(2)881/17-18(01)] expressing concerns on matters relating to the Confirmation Form and the vetting of candidate eligibility in public elections. The Administration has provided a paper entitled "Nomination matters in LegCo elections" in response to the joint letter [LC Paper No. CB(2)903/17-18(01)]. On 23 February 2018, Hon Helena WONG and Hon LAM Cheuk-ting further wrote to the Panel Chairman [LC Paper No. CB(2)968/17-18(01)] proposing to discuss the above-mentioned Administration's paper. The Panel Chairman has agreed to include the item on this list.

To be confirmed

10. Briefing on the Chief Executive's 2018 Policy Address

To brief Members on the relevant policy initiatives in the CE's 2018 Policy Address.

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11. Practical arrangements for the 2018 Legislative Council Kowloon West Geographical Constituency By-election

The Electoral Affairs Commission will hold a LegCo by-election on 25 November 2018 to fill a vacant seat of the LegCo Kowloon West geographical constituency. The Registration and Electoral Office ("REO") is now making the necessary preparation for the by-election. The Administration will invite REO to brief Members on the practical arrangements for the upcoming by-election.

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