

# **立法會**

## ***Legislative Council***

LC Paper No. CB(2)1328/18-19

(These minutes have been seen  
by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/SE

### **Panel on Security**

#### **Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday, 5 March 2019, at 2:30 pm in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex**

#### **Members present**

: Hon CHAN Hak-kan, BBS, JP (Chairman)  
Hon James TO Kun-sun (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon CHAN Kin-por, GBS, JP  
Hon WONG Kwok-kin, SBS, JP  
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP  
Hon Claudia MO  
Hon YIU Si-wing, BBS  
Hon Charles Peter MOK, JP  
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen  
Hon CHAN Han-pan, BBS, JP  
Hon Kenneth LEUNG  
Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, BBS, JP  
Hon KWOK Wai-keung, JP  
Hon Dennis KWOK Wing-hang  
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung  
Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, BBS, JP  
Hon POON Siu-ping, BBS, MH  
Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan  
Hon Alvin YEUNG  
Hon CHU Hoi-dick  
Hon Jimmy NG Wing-ka, JP  
Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP  
Hon LAM Cheuk-ting  
Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding  
Hon SHIU Ka-chun  
Hon YUNG Hoi-yan  
Hon CHAN Chun-ying, JP  
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan, JP

Hon HUI Chi-fung  
Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai  
Hon AU Nok-hin

**Members  
absent**

: Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, GBS, JP  
Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, SBS, JP  
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP  
Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP  
Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming, SBS, JP  
Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP  
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP  
Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung, SBS, JP  
Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen, BBS

**Public Officers  
attending**

: Item III

Mr Sonny AU Chi-kwong, PDSM, PMSM, JP  
Under Secretary for Security

Mr Alex CHAN Yuen-tak  
Principal Assistant Secretary for Security B

Mr Andy YEUNG Yan-kin  
Assistant Director (Headquarters)  
Fire Services Department

Dr CHOI Yu-fai  
Medical Director (Post-dispatch Advice)  
Fire Services Department

Ms TSUI Ka-lai  
Senior Station Officer (Special Project Unit)  
Fire Services Department

Item IV

Mr Sonny AU Chi-kwong, PDSM, PMSM, JP  
Under Secretary for Security

Mr Parson LAM Chun-wah  
Principal Assistant Secretary for Security D

Mr Raymond LOK Wai-man  
Assistant Director (Information Systems)  
Immigration Department

Mr Philip LEUNG Kin-hung  
Principal Immigration Officer (Information Systems)  
(Development)  
Immigration Department

Item V

Mr Sonny AU Chi-kwong, PDSM, PMSM, JP  
Under Secretary for Security

Mr Andrew TSANG Yue-tung  
Principal Assistant Secretary for Security E

Mr Patrick Douglas Gerard HODSON  
Regional Commander of Police (Marine)

Mr Simon IP Che-man  
Senior Superintendent of Police (Support) (Marine Region  
Support Bureau)

Ir MAN Kwok-fung  
Acting Chief Telecommunications Engineer of Police  
(Communications Branch) (Information Systems Wing)

Ir Fred LAM Wing-chak  
Senior Telecommunications Engineer of Police  
(Communications Branch) (Information Systems Wing)

**Clerk in attendance** : Miss Betty MA  
Chief Council Secretary (2) 1

**Staff in attendance** : Mr Timothy TSO  
Senior Assistant Legal Adviser 1

Mr Raymond LAM  
Senior Council Secretary (2) 7

Ms Gloria TSANG  
Council Secretary (2) 1

Miss Lulu YEUNG  
Clerical Assistant (2) 1

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Action

**I. Information paper issued since the last meeting**  
(LC Paper No. CB(2)885/18-19(01))

Members noted that a referral from the Public Accounts Committee ("PAC") regarding recoverability of outstanding advances to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees had been issued since the last meeting.

2. Being a member of PAC, Mr LAM Cheuk-ting elaborated the concern that no progress had been made in the matter despite PAC had repeatedly written to the Secretary for Security, and the outstanding advances had remained since 1998.

3. Dr Elizabeth QUAT suggested that the issue be discussed by the Panel. The Chairman said that more information regarding the issue should be collected from PAC before considering the corresponding follow-up action. The Clerk to the Panel was requested to liaise with the Clerk to PAC accordingly.

Clerk

**II. Date of next meeting and items for discussion**  
(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)897/18-19(01) and (02))

Regular meeting in April 2019

4. Members agreed that the following items would be discussed at the next regular meeting on 2 April 2019 at 2:30 pm:

- (a) Central Military Dock;
- (b) Development of "Smart Prison" by the Correctional Services Department; and
- (c) The "Animal Watchers" Scheme of the Police and the Government's cooperation with multiple agencies in the prevention of cruelty to animals.

Action

5. Regarding paragraph 4(a) above, Mr CHU Hoi-dick said that the Administration should be requested to provide the relevant discussion paper as soon as possible.

Cooperation between Hong Kong and other places on juridical assistance in criminal matters

6. Members noted a joint letter dated 4 March 2019 from Mr Dennis KWOK and Mr Alvin YEUNG, which was tabled at the meeting, suggesting the Panel to hold a meeting to receive public views on the subject of cooperation between Hong Kong and other places on juridical assistance in criminal matters.

7. In view of the wide public concern and controversy of the Administration's proposed legislative amendments to the Fugitive Offenders Ordinance (Cap. 503) ("FOO") and the Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Ordinance (Cap. 525) ("MLAO"), Mr Alvin YEUNG considered that a meeting held by the Panel to receive public views would enable members to better understanding the diverse views of the community on the proposals and would definitely facilitate the future scrutiny work of the Bills Committee to be formed. Moreover, the discussions of a Bills Committee would be confined to the scope of the Bill concerned.

8. The Chairman said that members had discussed the subject for over two hours at the last regular meeting. It was decided not to invite public views by the Panel as the Bills Committee to be formed to study the relevant Bill would probably do so. Besides, the Administration had invited public views on the proposals through its website which was ended on 4 March 2019. Mr Holden CHOW, Mr WONG Kwok-kin, Mr CHEUNG Kwok-kwan and Ms Alice MAK supported the decision.

9. Mr Holden CHOW stressed the needs of the family members of the victim in the Taiwan homicide case and hoped that the proposed legislative amendments could help uphold justice by plugging the loopholes of FOO and MLAO. Mr WONG Kwok-kin said that the holding of a meeting to receive public views by the Panel would delay the provision of juridical assistance in the case. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-kwan said that the holding of such a Panel meeting was redundant as public views would probably be invited by the Bills Committee so formed to scrutinize the relevant Bill. Ms Alice MAK shared a similar view.

Action

10. Mr Charles MOK, Mr LAM Cheuk-ting, Ms Claudia MO, Mr CHAN Chi-chuen and Mr AU Nok-hin, however, held the view that the Panel should hold a meeting to receive public views on the proposals before the relevant legislative amendments were drawn up by the Administration.

11. Mr Charles MOK said that although the Administration had invited public views on the proposals through its website, the period for submission of views was too short. Mr LAM Cheuk-ting said that many people in Hong Kong lacked confidence in the judicial system of the Mainland. Ms Claudia MO said that the Administration should liaise with the relevant Taiwan authorities before proceeding with the proposals as the legislative amendments were based on the premise that Taiwan was a part of People's Republic of China. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen said that the Mainland Affairs Council had expressed concern and worries about the proposed amendments. Mr AU Nok-hin said that the Administration had set a bad precedent not to conduct a public consultation over such a controversial issue.

12. The Chairman maintained his decision that it was unnecessary for the Panel to invite public views on the subject. He considered that members of the public could submit their views on the proposals in writing to the Panel and/or the Administration at any time. Individual Members could also propose amendments to the Bill, if any, for the consideration of the relevant Bills Committee.

Clerk

13. The Chairman directed that the Clerk should provide members' views on the suggestion of receiving public views on the legislative proposals to the relevant Bills Committee for consideration.

An incident within the restricted area of the Hong Kong International Airport involving two female Saudi Arabian Passport holders

14. Members noted a letter dated 5 March 2019 from Mr CHU Hoi-dick, which was tabled at the meeting, suggesting the Panel to discuss issues relating to media reports about an incident within the restricted area of the Hong Kong International Airport involving two female Saudi Arabian Passport holders. At the Chairman's invitation, Mr CHU briefly explained his concern and request stated in the letter.

15. Mr Charles MOK considered that the concern of aviation security raised by Mr CHU an important policy matter and the Panel should discuss the policy concerned.

Action

16. Mr WONG Kwok-kin, however, considered that Mr CHU Hoi-dick should first find out the fact of the incident before suggesting the Panel to discuss the specific policy area.

17. The Chairman said that Panels were deliberative forums for policy matters instead of a specific incident. Mr CHU Hoi-dick's letter would be forwarded to the Administration for its response.

*(Post-meeting note: The joint letter from Mr Dennis KWOK and Mr Alvin YEUNG as well as the letter from Mr CHU Hoi-dick were circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)932/18-19 on 6 March 2019.)*

Local visit

18. The Chairman said that the visit to the Government Flying Service to understand operations of the new H175 Helicopters would be held on 1 April 2019. Members would be informed of the arrangement in due course.

**III. An update on the implementation of post-dispatch advice by the Fire Services Department**

(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)767/18-19(05) and (06))

19. With the aid of powerpoint presentation, Assistant Director (Headquarters), Fire Services Department ("AD(HQ)/FSD") briefed members on the latest progress of the provision of post-dispatch advice ("PDA") by the Fire Services Department ("FSD") to emergency ambulance service ("EAS") callers.

20. Members noted a background brief entitled "Provision of post-dispatch advice by the Fire Services Department" prepared by the Legislative Council ("LegCo") Secretariat.

Provision of post-dispatch advice

*Manpower support and training*

21. Mr AU Nok-hin noted that the provision of PDA by FSD had been successful. He asked whether the manpower support for providing PDA was sufficient and sought information on the time taken to receive a response when a person dialled the 999 emergency call. Dr CHENG

Action

Chung-tai sought details on the manpower support in the daily operation of the Fire Services Communications Centre ("FSCC").

22. Dr Elizabeth QUAT expressed support for the provision of PDA by FSD. She asked whether the additional posts in FSCC were adequate for providing PDA. Mr POON Siu-ping sought information on the manpower ratio of call-taker and dispatcher in FSCC.

23. Under Secretary for Security ("US for S") responded that to tie in with the full commissioning of the enhanced PDA service in October 2018, 18 additional operator posts were created for FSCC. Having regard to the average time required for an EAS caller to receive a response, which were 11 and 9.75 seconds respectively in 2017 and 2018, the manpower support was considered to be sufficient. AD(HQ)/FSD added that during day time, 24 operators were responsible for ambulance services calls and 12 operators were responsible for calls related to fire services.

24. Mr YIU Si-wing commended the provision of PDA by FSD. Noting that 18 additional operator posts were created, he asked about the manpower forecast in future for providing such service. US for S said that when the enhanced PDA was launched in October 2018, around 50% of EAS calls were provided with PDA. In February 2019, the relevant figure had increased to 90%, demonstrating that the public had become more receptive to PDA. While FSD's call-takers had been more skilled in discharging their duties, the Department would closely monitor the implementation of PDA and review the manpower requirements with a view to maintaining the operational efficiency of FSCC.

25. Dr Elizabeth QUAT sought information on the manpower deployment under emergency circumstances when many emergency calls were received simultaneously. Mr SHIU Ka-chun expressed concern about FSD's manpower deployment mechanism under large-scale emergency incidents.

26. AD(HQ)/FSD responded that under emergency circumstances with an influx of emergency calls received, FSD would deploy officers of the Administration Group to take the calls and dispatch resources as appropriate. Medical Director (Post-Dispatch Advice), Fire Services Department ("MD(PDA)/FSD") added that the relevant computer system had incorporated emergency rules such that PDA would only be provided to patients with critical conditions under emergency circumstances.



Action

27. Mr SHIU Ka-chun asked about the details of the Emergency Medical Dispatcher ("EMD") training. Mr POON Siu-ping sought information on the number of FSCC operators who had undergone EMD training.

28. AD(HQ)/FSD said that the training was divided into two parts. The first part was a three-day training conducted by the International Academies of Emergency Dispatch ("IAED"), and the second part covered a two-day training on the relevant computer system and software applications. Certificates would be issued upon passing of written examination at the end of the training. All the existing 250 FSCC operators had undergone EMD training. FSD would also provide EMD training for newly recruited operators.

*Complaints received and the legal responsibility*

29. Mr YIU Si-wing was concerned about the complaint cases in relation to the provision of PDA and sought information in this regard. Mr AU Nok-hin was concerned and asked about the legal responsibility and relevant risks borne by different parties.

30. US for S said that nil complaint in relation to the provision of PDA had been received thus far. He said that the court would take into account all relevant factors including the actual circumstances and the rescuers' abilities before making a fair judgment. AD(HQ)/FSD added that with the system in use worldwide for over 35 years, IAED was not aware of any successful litigation to claim for damages relating to provision of PDA.

31. Dr CHENG Chung-tai referred to a media report in October 2018 and asked whether it was true that EAS callers were unable to receive a response after waiting for eight to 12 minutes. The Chairman was also concerned about such media report. AD(HQ)/FSD said that FSD did not have any record showing that callers needed to wait for eight to 12 minutes before their calls were picked up by FSCC operators. He reiterated that it took 11 seconds and 9.75 seconds on average for an EAS caller to receive a response in 2017 and 2018 respectively.

*Issues related to the questioning protocols*

32. Dr Elizabeth QUAT asked whether the questioning protocols would be reviewed to cater for the needs of the local language environment, and whether the coverage of injuries and sicknesses would

Action

be expanded beyond 32 types. Mr YIU Si-wing sought details on the handling of different dialects in the provision of PDA.

33. US for S said that FSCC operators were proficient in Cantonese, English and Putonghua. FSD had also adopted the interpreting service for seven ethnic minority languages provided by the Centre for Harmony and Enhancement of Ethnic Minority Residents. As Hong Kong was a multi-cultural society, MD(PDA)/FSD added that the questioning protocols had been carefully reviewed so as to cater for the needs of the local culture and language environment. As the questioning protocols developed by IAED had covered all types of common injuries and sicknesses in Hong Kong, it was believed that the coverage would not be expanded for the time being.

34. Mr POON Siu-ping asked about the recommendations and improvements raised by the Quality Improvement Unit ("QIU") for the provision of PDA. MD(PDA)/FSD advised that QIU had been conducting audit checks on a daily basis to ensure that FSCC operators had strictly followed the questioning protocols.

Dispatch of ambulances

35. Mr AU Nok-hin asked whether the provision of PDA would affect the dispatch of ambulances. While the implementation of PDA had assisted to stabilize patients' conditions and increase their survival rates, Mr SHIU Ka-chun was concerned that the workload of ambulance crew had not been alleviated.

36. AD(HQ)/FSD said that to ensure no delay in rescue, the dispatch of ambulances and the provision of PDA were handled by two individual operators, one being the call-taker and the other the dispatcher. Once a call-taker had confirmed the basic information of an incident, ambulance resources would be immediately dispatched to the scene. While the call-taker would maintain communication with the caller on the phone and give appropriate PDA to the caller, the dispatcher would continue to monitor the resources dispatched and provide instant follow-up. In addition, supplementary information obtained during the provision of PDA would be transmitted to the ambulance dispatched. Such arrangement would facilitate ambulance crew to make early preparation for the immediate provision of appropriate treatment to patients upon arrival at the scene.

Action

Other issues

37. Mr AU Nok-hin sought information on the reasons behind those EAS calls without PDA provided. AD(HQ)/FSD explained that some EAS callers might have other tasks engaged after making the call and hence were not able to proceed with PDA. In some other cases, the EAS callers might be a third-party caller who were not at the incident scene and thus were unable to assist the patient direct with PDA.

38. Mr CHAN Chun-ying commended the provision of PDA by FSD. He asked whether there was an age requirement for EAS callers to follow PDA provided by the call-taker, and suggested that life-saving skills should be taught in primary and secondary schools. MD(PDA)/FSD stressed that basically anyone could follow PDA and be a rescuer. To build up students' capabilities in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of automated external defibrillators, AD(HQ)/FSD added that some 3 470 and 4 670 secondary school students had undergone "Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Training Programme in Campus" offered by FSD in 2017 and 2018 respectively.

39. Referring to a traffic accident involving a bus collided with a light goods vehicle that was stopped on West Kowloon Highway suspectedly due to breakdown on 4 March 2019, Ms Claudia MO asked whether FSD would provide assistance such as towing away vehicles which caused serious obstruction or posed danger to other road users. AD(HQ)/FSD responded that for better utilization of public resources, the main task of FSD was to provide effective and efficient rescue services after accidents.

**IV. Next generation electronic passport**

(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)897/18-19(03) and (04))

40. US for S briefed members on the latest progress of the Next Generation Electronic Passport System ("the e-Passport-2 system") and the Immigration Department ("ImmD")'s plan to issue the Next Generation Electronic Passport ("the new e-Passport"). With the aid of powerpoint presentation, Assistant Director (Information Systems), Immigration Department ("AD(IS)/ImmD") briefed members on the implementation plan and security features of the new e-Passport.

41. Members noted a background brief entitled "Next generation electronic passport" prepared by the LegCo Secretariat.

Action

Application and collection of the Next Generation Electronic Passport

42. Given that the territory-wide identity card ("ID card") replacement exercise was in progress and the launch of electronic identity ("eID") by the Innovation and Technology Bureau in mid-2020, Mr CHAN Chun-ying asked whether one-stop-service would be provided for eligible persons to apply for the new ID card, eID and new e-Passport concurrently.

43. Mr Kenneth LEUNG asked whether eligible persons could apply for the new e-Passports one to two years before the expiry of their current passports.

44. US for S said that the Administration recognized the importance of providing convenience to the public for the application of various new identity documents. ImmD had considered allowing members of the public to replace ID card and apply for new e-Passport in one go, but did not find it particularly meritorious. AD(IS)/ImmD added that there was no need for holders of existing passport to apply for new e-Passport before the expiry of their current passports. Hence, existing passport holders' application of new e-Passport might not tie in with the specified period for replacement of their ID cards under the call-up programme. Hence, ImmD did not provide for replacing ID card and applying new e-Passport in one go at present. Nevertheless, ImmD would consider providing one-stop-service for persons who needed to register new ID card and did not have passport to apply for both documents in one go in future. Given that a six-month passport validity period was normally required for entry of a country, eligible persons could apply for new e-Passports a bit earlier before the expiry of their current passports. Applications made much earlier before the expiry date would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

45. Mr POON Siu-ping queried why online application for passport replacement by Hong Kong Permanent Identity Card ("HKPIC") holders aged below 11 would be available only under the e-Passport-2 system. He further sought information on the estimated number of these holders and the manpower deployment in respect of the launch of the new e-Passport and new ID card. AD(IS)/ImmD said that the new e-Passport and new ID card were handled by different dedicated teams. In fact, the introduction of the online application arrangement for HKPIC holders aged below 11 together with the self-service kiosks for passport submission and collection would enhance the overall efficiency for

Action

processing passport application. Hence, relevant manpower support was considered to be sufficient. US for S remarked that the online application arrangement for HKPIC holders aged below 11 would be available only for passport replacement but not for first-time-application. As children aged under 11 were not required to register for HKPIC, they were required to apply for HKPIC at the same time when they applied for passport for the first time.

46. Mr Charles MOK asked about the exact date of the issuance of the new e-Passport. AD(IS)/ImmD said that the implementation timetable would depend on the progress of the user acceptance test. Mr MOK appealed to the Administration to make public the implementation timetable as early as practicable.

47. Noting that some of the existing self-service kiosks showed signs of aging, Mr Charles MOK asked whether they would be replaced under the e-Passport-2 system. He also asked whether extra funding was reserved for possible ageing of the system. AD(IS)/ImmD said that the existing self-service kiosks would be replaced. To provide more user friendly and convenient services to the public, all new self-service kiosks would be upgraded to provide self-service photo-taking function. Moreover, ImmD had reserved resources to cover the costs for system update and maintenance.

48. In response to Mr YIU Si-wing's enquiry regarding overseas publicity on the launch of the new e-Passport, AD(IS)/ImmD said that apart from informing the respective Consulate Generals in Hong Kong, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China would assist in disseminating information on the new e-Passport to other Consulate Generals. US for S added that a total of 165 countries and territories had granted visa-free access or visa-on-arrival to Hong Kong Special Administrative Region ("HKSAR") Passport holders. The Administration would continue to lobby for visa-free access for HKSAR passport holders to facilitate their travel to more countries and territories.

Security features

49. Mr CHAN Chun-ying sought information on the quality of the visa page of the new e-Passport. AD(IS)/ImmD responded that the paper for the visa page was selected having regard to its security features and durability, and a balance between the two factors had been struck.

Action

50. Mr YIU Si-wing and Mr POON Siu-ping asked about the figures in relation to forged passports. AD(IS)/ImmD said that four forged passports of low quality were identified in the past five years. Mr YIU expressed further concern about the security of personal data stored in the new e-Passports and the possibility of retrieval of such data by a third party.

51. Dr CHENG Chung-tai expressed concern about some media reports that a person could hold three HKSAR passports concurrently. He sought information on the enhancement in respect of the security standards and biometric features of the new e-Passport.

52. AD(IS)/ImmD responded that according to the International Civil Aviation Organization, only holder's image was required as a mandatory biometric feature. The new e-Passport was enhanced with up-to-date technologies in the market to uphold the security and global interoperability, and to minimize the risks of producing forged passports. For example, a secondary portrait of the holder was laser engraved onto the transparent window of the bio-data page and new multi-colour tones visa pages were adopted. Unauthorized access to information stored in the chip was impossible as it required a real time and one-off encryption key for establishing an one-to-one and exclusive encrypted communication channel between the chip of the e-Passport and the reader by means of "Supplementary Access Control". Advanced authentication was also adopted to detect any unlawful alteration of information stored in the chip.

Other issues

53. Mr Kenneth LEUNG sought details on the tendering procedure of the implementation of e-Passport-2 system. AD(IS)/ImmD said that open tender exercise, which was available for local and overseas companies, was conducted for the e-Passport-2 system under three categories, including the core system, bio-data page and contactless chip together with the Travel Document Personalisation and Management System, as well as the self-service kiosks. More than one company had submitted bids in each of the categories. The core system was awarded to PCCW Solutions Limited. The bio-data page and contactless chip together with the Travel Document Personalisation and Management System was awarded to Gemalto AG. The self-service kiosks was awarded to ATAL Technologies Limited.

Action

**V. Replacement of Marine Police Central Command System and its seven electro-optical sensors as well as the procurement of new electro-optical sensors**

(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)767/18-19(07) and (08))

54. The Chairman drew members' attention to Rule 83A of the Rules of Procedure concerning the requirement of disclosing personal pecuniary interest.

55. US for S briefed Members on the Administration's proposal to replace the Marine Police Central Command System ("CCS") as well as its seven land-based Electro-Optical Sensors ("EOS") and to procure two new EOS.

56. Members noted an information note entitled "Marine Police Central Command System" prepared by the LegCo Secretariat.

Operation of the Marine Police Central Command System

57. Mr POON Siu-ping expressed support for the Administration's proposal and asked about the projected lifespan of CCS and its EOS. Mr Charles MOK asked about the rationale for the phenomenon that almost every computer system or technology proposed by the Administration had a projected lifespan of approximately 10 years. Mr AU Nok-hin queried why the existing CCS and EOS had experienced increasing fatigue problems in recent years despite it had been in use for only eight years. He was concerned about the impact on marine security before the replacement of the new system.

58. US for S explained that EOS were placed at coastal places in frequent contact with salty water environment. As such, the system, in particular the thermal imagers inside EOS, had been showing clear signs of ageing with associated maintenance issues in recent years. Acting Chief Telecommunications Engineer of Police (Communications Branch) (Information Systems Wing) added that both CCS and EOS, being electronic products, were estimated to work for around 10 years based on previous operational experience. Overseas experience also indicated that there had not been much changes in the technology for monitoring the offshore waters and coordinating marine operations. As the maintenance contract of the existing system would expire in October 2021, the Police should start preparation work for replacement by

Action

mid-2019 to allow sufficient lead time for tendering, system development and testing. It was estimated that the proposed system would be commissioned in October 2021. Mr Charles MOK hoped that the Administration would include sufficient estimates and resources for subsequent update.

59. The Chairman noted with concern about the floating buoys at Starling Inlet to prevent smuggling activities. He asked whether EOS would cover that area and sought information on the image quality taken by EOS. US for S said that the existing EOS at Tung Ping Chau and Tai Long Au were able to cover the area around Starling Inlet. Regional Commander of Police (Marine) explained that while EOS would take clear images offshore, physical barriers at Sha Tau Kok were necessary to provide specific physical control due to its proximity to the boundary of administration. The Police maintained close communication with the local community with a view to ensuring that minimal disruption would be caused by marine operations.

Financial implications of the proposed system

60. Noting that the recurrent expenditure of the proposed system would be lower than that of the existing system, Mr POON Siu-ping sought information on the annual maintenance costs of the system.

61. US for S explained that due to advances in technology and increasing supply of EOS in recent years, the estimated non-recurrent and recurrent expenditure of the proposed system was lower when compared with that of the existing system. With the proposed system and the two new EOS, the Marine Police could quickly deploy and more effectively manage resources.

62. The Chairman concluded that members had no objection in principle to the Administration's submission of its proposal to the Finance Committee.

63. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 4:22 pm.