

立法會
Legislative Council

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Tel : 3919 3003
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From : Secretary General
Legislative Council Secretariat
To : All Members of the Legislative Council

**Matters relating to the first meeting of the Bills Committee
on Fugitive Offenders and Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal
Matters Legislation (Amendment) Bill 2019 held on 17 April 2019**

I note that at the first meeting of the above Bills Committee, some Members expressed concern about the date for calling the first meeting and the deadline for signifying membership of the Bills Committee. By this circular, I would like to explain the relevant House Rules and meeting arrangements:

- (a) At the House Committee ("HC") meeting on Friday, 12 April 2019, Members agreed to form a Bills Committee to scrutinize the Fugitive Offenders and Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Legislation (Amendment) Bill 2019;
- (b) According to Rule 21(c) of the House Rules ("HR 21(c)"), Members may join a Bills Committee by a show of hands at the HC meeting at which a bill is allocated to that Bills Committee, and the Member who has the highest precedence among these Members who have raised their hands to indicate their intention (rather than the one who has raised his/her hand first) is responsible for calling the first meeting of the Bills Committee. The deadline for signifying membership of a Bills Committee shall normally be one clear day before the day of the first meeting of the Bills Committee;

- (c) At the aforesaid HC meeting, Hon Abraham SHEK was the Member who had the highest precedence in the Council among Members on the preliminary list of members who had raised their hands forthwith to indicate their intention to join the Bills Committee. The Secretariat has also checked the relevant video recording immediately after that HC meeting and confirmed that Hon Abraham SHEK was the Member who had the highest precedence in the Council among Members on the preliminary membership list. As for the two Members who are of a higher precedence than Hon Abraham SHEK, Hon James TO was not present at the material time, and Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung, who was present then, did not raise his hand to indicate his wish to join the Bills Committee; and
- (d) The Secretariat sought Mr SHEK's view in accordance with HR 21(c) on the date for calling the first meeting of the Bills Committee. Mr SHEK decided that the first meeting of the Bills Committee be held on Wednesday, 17 April 2019 (at 8:45 am). The deadline for signifying membership of the Bills Committee was set at 12:00 midnight on Monday, 15 April 2019, since such a deadline shall be one clear day before the day of the first meeting of the Bills Committee. In deciding on the date and time of the first meeting of the Bills Committee, Mr SHEK was aware that a meeting of the Public Works Subcommittee had been scheduled to be held at 8:30 am on that day.

2. I must reiterate that the Secretariat, as always, provides service to the Legislative Council in a professional and impartial manner in accordance with the Rules of Procedure and the House Rules.



(Kenneth CHEN)
Secretary General