

Panel on Public Service

List of outstanding items for discussion

(Position as at 17 June 2020)

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

1. Progress of the study on the proposal on oath-taking by civil servants

The Administration proposes to brief members on the progress of the study on the proposal on oath-taking by civil servants.

July 2020

At the Panel meeting on 4 November 2019 when the Administration briefed members on the policy measures of the Civil Service Bureau in the 2019 Policy Address, Mrs Regina IP raised a motion urging the Chief Executive to issue an executive order under Article 48(4) of the Basic Law to require all civil servants, including new appointees, to swear to uphold the Basic Law and swear allegiance to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China. The motion was carried.

The Administration's response to the motion was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4)181/19-20(01) on 10 December 2019. The Administration advised that it had started looking into the issue of oath-taking by civil servants and was examining various feasible options; it would consult the Department of Justice and the staff sides, and report the progress to the Panel in due course.

2. Anti-epidemic Fund 2.0: Job Creation Scheme and Matching Grant Scheme for Skills Upgrading

The Administration proposes to brief members on the Job Creation Scheme and Matching Grant Scheme for Skills Upgrading under the second round of the Anti-epidemic Fund measures.

July 2020

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

3. An overview of the civil service establishment, strength, retirement, resignation, age profile and gender profile

The Administration proposes to brief members on the civil service establishment, strength, retirement, resignation, age profile and gender profile.

To be confirmed

4. Creation of a Principal Executive Officer Post in the General Grades Office under the Civil Service Bureau

The Administration proposes to consult members on the proposal to create a Principal Executive Officer post in the General Grades Office under the Civil Service Bureau.

To be confirmed

5. Grade structure review for Veterinary Laboratory Technician and Medical Laboratory Technician grades

The Administration briefed the Panel on the recommendations of the Standing Commission on Civil Service Salaries and Conditions of Service on the grade structure review for the Veterinary Laboratory Technician and Medical Laboratory Technician grades at the meeting on 4 November 2019. Members in general had no objection to the recommendations. The Administration proposes to brief members on the decisions of the Executive Council on the recommendations.

To be confirmed
(see *Note*)

(Note: At the work plan meeting on 11 November 2019, the Chairman requested the Administration to update the Panel on the Executive Council's decisions by circulation of an information paper.)

6. Proposed amendments to subsidiary legislation on discipline made under Disciplined Services Ordinances

The Administration proposes to update members on the proposed amendments to the subsidiary legislation on discipline made under Disciplined Services Ordinances.

To be confirmed

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

7. Enactment of legislation to prohibit acts of insulting public officers

Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan and Hon Elizabeth QUAT wrote a joint letter to the Panel Chairman on 21 March 2017 requesting that the Panel should discuss the enactment of dedicated legislation to prohibit acts of insulting public officers as early as possible.

To be confirmed

The Administration advised at the Panel meeting on 17 July 2018 that the Security Bureau was studying the issue, including carrying out research on practices in overseas jurisdictions. The Civil Service Bureau issued a set of guidelines to bureaux/departments in March 2018 on helping frontline civil servants understand and respond to verbal violence at work.

Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan and Hon Elizabeth QUAT proposed at various Panel meetings in the 2019-2020 session and in their joint letter dated 6 November 2019 that this issue should be discussed at a meeting in this session.

The Administration's response to the issues raised by Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan and Hon Elizabeth QUAT in their joint letter dated 6 November 2019 was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4)482/19-20(01) on 17 April 2020.

At the Panel meeting on 20 April 2020, members agreed to refer the joint letter wrote by Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan and Hon Elizabeth QUAT on 6 November 2019 and the Administration's reply to the Panel on Security for follow up. The Panel on Security issued the referral memorandum to its members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)907/19-20(01) on 4 May 2020.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

8. Spousal benefits to same-sex partners of civil servants

At the Panel meeting on 21 June 2019, Hon Mrs Regina IP expressed concern on the ruling made by the Court of Final Appeal in June 2019 in favour of a male Senior Immigration Officer requesting the granting of spousal benefits to his same-sex partner. She requested the Administration to update the Panel the implications of the ruling on the policies of civil service benefits and the relevant matters in due course.

To be confirmed

9. Political neutrality of civil servants and staff of Government-funded public bodies and the interdiction arrangements for civil servants

At the Panel meeting on 4 November 2019, Hon LAM Cheuk-ting proposed to discuss the issue of political neutrality of civil servants at a future meeting. Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan suggested that the political neutrality of staff of Government-funded public bodies should also be covered. Hon LAM Cheuk-ting requested at the subsequent Panel meetings that this issue should be discussed as soon as possible.

To be confirmed

Hon LAM Cheuk-ting also wrote letters to the Panel Chairman on 3 December 2019 and 17 January 2020 and requested at the subsequent Panel meetings that the Administration should brief the Panel on the policy relating to the political stances and interdiction arrangements of civil servants.

The Administration's response to the issues raised by Hon LAM Cheuk-ting in his letters dated 3 December 2019 and 17 January 2020 was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4)483/19-20(02) on 17 April 2020.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

10. Fringe benefits under the terms of appointment to the civil service

Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan proposed at the Panel special meeting on 4 May 2020 and in her letter dated 7 May 2020 that the Administration should review the fringe benefits under the terms of appointment to the civil service, including overseas education allowance and housing benefits, and the issue should be discussed in the 2019-2020 session.

To be confirmed

The Administration's response to the concerns raised by Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4)664/19-20(01) on 2 June 2020.

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