Committee on Access to the Legislature's Documents and Records of the Legislative Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

> Progress Report for the period from July 2020 to October 2021

> > 13 October 2021

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Purpose

This report gives an account of the work of the Committee on Access to the Legislature's Documents and Records ("the Committee") during the period from July 2020 to October 2021.

The Committee

2. At its meeting of 19 March 2014, the Legislative Council ("LegCo") adopted the Policy on Access to the Legislature's Documents and Records ("the Policy") at Schedule 2 to the Rules of Procedure ("RoP") of the Council and approved the establishment of the Committee under Rule 74A(10) of RoP. The functions of the Committee are (a) to determine whether a document or record of the Legislature or its committee should be made available for access earlier than the expiry of the closure period specified in the Policy; (b) to set guidelines for implementing the Policy; (c) to consider any objection against the denial of access to such a document or record by the Clerk to the LegCo; and (d) to consider any other matter relating to or arising from the Policy.

3. The Committee consists of the President (Chairman of the Committee), the Chairman of the House Committee (Deputy Chairman of the Committee), the Deputy Chairman of the House Committee and 10 other members elected at the meetings of the House Committee. The membership lists are in **Appendix I**.

Major work

Consideration of access requests for closed documents and records of the Legislature

4. The LegCo Secretariat follows the Committee's Practice and Procedure to conduct reviews and consider access requests for closed documents and records of the Legislature. In gist, the Committee's approval will be sought as to whether access to confidential documents or records should be granted or be granted with conditions. The Committee's approval is also required for access to closed documents and records before the expiry of their closure period. The Clerk to the LegCo, under delegated authority, may deny access to closed documents or records which fall within any of the exempted categories of documents and records of the Legislature, and approve access requests for closed documents or records of which the closure period has expired. To enhance transparency, the Committee publishes updated lists of approved and denied access requests on the LegCo Website.

5. A total of 13 access requests, including four requests with partial disclosure, were approved during the report period. Details of the access requests are in **Appendix II**.

Access review for time-expired documents and records

6. According to Rule 6(5A)(a) of RoP, the Clerk to LegCo shall conduct reviews to decide whether the Legislature's documents and records within 25 years of their existence can be disclosed for public inspection.

7. During the report period, the Clerk to LegCo conducted reviews and approved 57 sets of unclassified files under delegated authority. Details of the files, which have been uploaded onto the LegCo Website, are in **Appendix III**.

Acknowledgement

8. The Committee wishes to record its appreciation of the support rendered by Members of the Council for the work of the Committee.

Appendix I

Membership list (2019-2020) (From 12 June 2020 to 30 September 2020)

Chairman	Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen, GBM, GBS, JP
Deputy Chairman	Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, SBS, JP
Members	Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP
	Hon WONG Ting-kwong, GBS, JP
	Hon CHAN Hak-kan, BBS, JP
	Hon CHAN Kin-por, GBS, JP
	Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee, GBS, JP
	Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP
	Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming, SBS, JP
	Hon MA Fung-kwok, GBS, JP
	Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, BBS, JP
	Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan
	Hon Jimmy NG Wing-ka, BBS, JP
	(Total: 13 Members)
Clerk	Mr Matthew LOO
Legal Adviser	Mr Bonny LOO

Membership list (2020-2021) (From 1 October 2020 to 11 June 2021)

Chairman	Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen, GBM, GBS, JP
Deputy Chairman	Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, SBS, JP
Members	Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP
	Hon WONG Ting-kwong, GBS, JP
	Hon CHAN Hak-kan, BBS, JP
	Hon CHAN Kin-por, GBS, JP
	Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee, GBS, JP
	Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP
	Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming, SBS, JP
	Hon MA Fung-kwok, GBS, JP
	Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, BBS, JP
	Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan
	Hon Jimmy NG Wing-ka, BBS, JP
	(Total: 13 Members)
Clerk	Mr Matthew LOO
Legal Adviser	Mr Bonny LOO

Membership list (2020-2021) (From 11 June 2021)

Chairman	Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen, GBM, GBS, JP
Deputy Chairman	Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, SBS, JP
Members	Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP Hon WONG Ting-kwong, GBS, JP Hon CHAN Hak-kan, SBS, JP Hon CHAN Kin-por, GBS, JP Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee, GBM, GBS, JP Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming, SBS, JP Hon MA Fung-kwok, GBS, JP Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, BBS, JP Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan
	Hon Jimmy NG Wing-ka, BBS, JP (Total: 13 Members)
Clerk	Mr Matthew LOO
Legal Adviser	Miss Rachel DAI

Appendix II

List of approved cases

Full disclosure

No.	Title of files
1	Verbatim Transcripts for the enquire into the circumstances surrounding the termination of employment of Mr Alex TSUI, Senior Assistant Director holding the post of Deputy Director Operations, ICAC (Files: LAS 11/1/25-LAS 11/1/27)
2	Summary Offences (Amendment) Bill 1983 (File: Memorandum for Executive Council of LAS 40/2/62)
3	Bills Committee to study the Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) Bill (Files: LAS 33/1/221 and LAS 33/1/222)
4	Bills Committee to study the Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill 1993 (File: LAS 33/1/151)
5	Bills Committee on Social Workers Registration Bill (Files: LAS 33/1/1008-LAS 33/1/1010)
6	Bills Committee to study the New Territories Land (Exemption) Bill (File: Enclosure (27) of LAS 33/1/170)
7	LegCo Panel on Welfare Services - Meeting on 14 February 2000 (File: Enclosure (28a) of LAS 31/2/101)
8	LegCo Ad Hoc Group to study the Air Pollution Control (Fuel Restriction) Regulation 1990 (File: LAS 40/2/406)
9	Air Pollution Control (Fuel Restriction) Regulations 1989 (File: LAS 40/2/639)
10	LegCo In-house Meeting (9.11.90, 16.11.90, 23.11.90, 30.11.90 & 4.1.91) (File: Enclosure (7) in LAS 12/4/16)

Partial disclosure

Access to the following files has been approved with personal data of individual members of the public therein being redacted in accordance with the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (Cap. 486).

No.	Title of files
11	Select Committee to inquire into the circumstances leading to the problems surrounding the commencement of the operation of the new Hong Kong International Airport at Chek Lap Kok since 6 July 1998 and related issues - Correspondence with the Administration and other parties (Files: LAS 50/1/17 and LAS 50/1/18)
12	Select Committee to inquire into the circumstances leading to the problems surrounding the commencement of the operation of the new Hong Kong International Airport at Chek Lap Kok since 6 July 1998 and related issues - Correspondence with Witnesses (Files: LAS 50/1/53-LAS 50/1/59)
13	Bills Committee to study the Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) Bill (File: LAS 33/1/220)
14	Bills Committee on National Flag and National Emblem Bill and Regional Flag and Regional Emblem Bill (File: LAS 33/1/1560)

Appendix III

List of time-expired documents and records disclosed

No.	Title of files
1	LegCo Ad Hoc Group to study the Employment (Amendment) Bill 1989 (File: LAS 40/2/404)
2	LegCo Ad Hoc Group to study the Hospital Authority Bill 1990 (File: LAS 40/2/419)
3	LegCo Ad Hoc Group to study the Legislation on Chinese Illegal Immigrant Workers - Immigration (Amendment) Bill 1990 (File: LAS 40/2/424)
4	LegCo Ad Hoc Group to study the Town Planning (Amendment) Bill 1990 (File: LAS 40/1/105)
5	LegCo Ad Hoc Group to study the Town Planning (Amendment) Bill 1990 (File: LAS 40/1/106)
6	LegCo Ad Hoc Group to study the Town Planning (Amendment) Bill 1990 (File: LAS 40/2/426)
7	LegCo Ad Hoc Group to study the Town Planning (Amendment) Bill 1990 (File: LAS 40/2/427)
8	LegCo Ad Hoc Group to study the Town Planning (Amendment) Bill 1990 (File: LAS 40/2/428)
9	BOOKLETS on the Town Planning (Amendment) Bill 1990 (File: LAS 40/1/107)
10	LegCo Ad Hoc Group to study Subsidiary Legislation (General) (File: LAS 40/1/123)

No.	Title of files
11	LegCo Ad Hoc Group to study the Smoking (Public Health) (Amendment) Bill 1991 (File: LAS 40/2/457)
12	LegCo Ad Hoc Group to study the Smoking (Public Health) (Amendment) Bill 1991 (File: LAS 40/1/130)
13	LegCo Ad Hoc Group to study the Medical Registration (Amendment) Bill 1992 (File: LAS 40/1/132)
14	LegCo Ad Hoc Group to study the Employment (Amendment) Bill 1992 - Employment (Amendment) (No.2) Bill 1992 - Factories And Industrial Undertakings (Amendment) Bill 1992 - Factories And Industrial Undertakings (Amendment) (No.2) Bill 1992 - Contracts for Employment outside Hong Kong (Amendment) Bill 1992 - Employment (Amendment) (No.3) Bill 1992 (File: LAS 40/1/137)
15	LegCo Ad Hoc Group to study the Prevention of Bribery (Amendment) Bill 1992 - Independent Commission Against Corruption (Amendment) Bill 1992 (File: LAS 40/1/138)
16	LegCo Ad Hoc Group to study the Dangerous Drugs (A) (No.2) Bill 1992 - Acetylating Substances (Control) (A) Bill 1992 (File: LAS 40/1/139)
17	LegCo Ad Hoc Group to study the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine Bill (File: LAS 40/1/140)
18	House Committee Meeting of the Legislative Council (18.9.92, 7.10.92 & 9.10.92) (File: LAS 12/3/16)
19	House Committee Meeting of the Legislative Council (16.10.92 & 23.10.92) (File: LAS 12/3/17)

No.	Title of files
20	House Committee Meeting of the Legislative Council (30.10.92 & 6.11.92) (File: LAS 12/3/18)
21	House Committee Meeting of the Legislative Council (13.11.92 & 20.11.92) (File: LAS 12/3/19)
22	House Committee Meeting of the Legislative Council (18.12.92 & 8.1.93) (File: LAS 12/3/20)
23	LegCo Ad Hoc Group to study the Professional Accountant (Amendment) Bill 1991 (File: LAS 40/1/127)
24	LegCo Ad Hoc Group to study the Professional Accountants (Amendment) Bill 1991 (File: LAS 40/1/128)
25	LegCo Ad Hoc Group to study the Professional Accountant (A) Bill 1991 (File: LAS 40/1/129)
26	LegCo Ad Hoc Group to study the Bankruptcy (Amendment) Bill 1992 (File: LAS 40/1/141)
27	LegCo Ad Hoc Group to study the 4 Revenue Proposals for the 1992-93 Budget (File: LAS 40/1/142)
28	LegCo Ad Hoc Group to study the Human Organ Transplant Bill (File: LAS 40/1/143)
29	LegCo Ad Hoc Group to study the Human Organ Transplant Bill (File: LAS 40/1/144)
30	LegCo Ad Hoc Group to study the Protection of Woman and Juveniles (Amendment) Bill 1992 and the Protection of Women and Juveniles (Places of Refuge) (Amendment) Regulation 1992 (File: LAS 40/1/145)

No.	Title of files
31	LegCo Ad Hoc Group to study the Protection of Woman and Juveniles (Amendment) Bill 1992 and the Protection of Women and Juveniles (Places of Refuge) (Amendment) Regulation 1992 (File: LAS 40/1/146)
32	LegCo Ad Hoc Group to study the Banking (A) Bill 1992 (File: LAS 40/1/147)
33	LegCo Ad Hoc Group to study the Immigration (A) Bill 1992 (File: LAS 40/1/148)
34	LegCo Ad Hoc Group to study the Road Traffic (A) (No.2) Bill 1992 (File: LAS 40/1/152)
35	LegCo Ad Hoc Group to study the Building (Planning) (A) Regulation 1992 (File: LAS 40/1/153)
36	LegCo Ad Hoc Group to study the Crimes (A) Bill 1992 (File: LAS 40/1/161)
37	LegCo Ad Hoc Group to study the Employment (Amendment) (No.4) Bill 1992, Employees' Compensation (Amendment) Bill 1992 & the Employees' Compensation (Amendment) (No.2) Bill 1992 (File: LAS 40/1/162)
38	LegCo Ad Hoc Group to study the Societies (Amendment) Bill 1992 (File: LAS 40/1/163)
39	LegCo Ad Hoc Group to study the Employees Retraining Bill (File: LAS 40/1/178)
40	Civil Service Pay Adjustment 1992 (File: LAS 40/1/193)
41	Boilers and Pressure Receivers (Amendment) Bill 1988 (File: LAS 40/1/194)
42	Employment (Amendment) Bill 1992, Employment Agency (Amendment) Regulation 1992 (File: LAS 40/1/195)

No.	Title of files
43	Sailors Home and Missions to Seamen Incorporation (Amendment) Bill 1989 (File: LAS 40/1/196)
44	Merchant Shipping (Safety) (Navigational Equipment) (Amendment) Regulations 1992, Merchant Shipping (Safety) (Use of Signals of Distress) (Amendment) Regulations 1992 (File: LAS 40/1/197)
45	House Committee Meeting of the Legislative Council (29.1.93) (File: LAS 12/3/21)
46	House Committee Meeting of the Legislative Council (26.2.93 & 12.3.93) (File: LAS 12/3/23)
47	House Committee Meeting of the Legislative Council (26.3.93, 16.4.93 & 20.4.93) (File: LAS 12/3/24)
48	House Committee Meeting of the Legislative Council (23.4.93 & 30.4.93) (File: LAS 12/3/25)
49	House Committee Meeting of the Legislative Council (7.5.93 & 14.5.93) (File: LAS 12/3/26)
50	House Committee Meeting of the Legislative Council (21.5.93 & 28.5.93) (File: LAS 12/3/27)
51	House Committee Meeting of the Legislative Council (2.7.93 & 9.7.93) (File: LAS 12/3/30)
52	House Committee Meeting of the Legislative Council (16.7.93) (File: LAS 12/3/31)
53	House Committee Meeting (29.9.93) (File: LAS 12/3/32)

No.	Title of files
54	House Committee Meeting (8.10.93 & 15.10.93) (File: LAS 12/3/33)
55	House Committee Meeting (22.10.93 & 29.10.93) (File: LAS 12/3/34)
56	House Committee Meeting (5.11.93, 12.11.93 & 19.11.93) (File: LAS 12/3/35)
57	House Committee Meeting (26.11.93, 3.12.93 & 17.12.93) (File: LAS 12/3/36)