

Legislative Council

Agenda

Wednesday 21 July 2021 at 11:00 am

I. Laying of Papers on the Table of the Council

9 items of subsidiary legislation and 3 other papers to be laid on the Table of the Council set out in **Appendix 1**

II. Questions

Members to ask 22 questions (6 for oral replies and 16 for written replies)

Questions for oral replies to be asked by

1. Hon Vincent CHENG
(Promoting sports development)
2. Hon Kenneth LAU
(Transport services for and infrastructure of South Lantau)
3. Hon CHAN Hak-kan
(An incident of a woman sustaining eye injury)
4. Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai
(Tenants affected by the demolition of factory estates)
5. Hon Mrs Regina IP
(A topside property development project at a railway station)
6. Hon Elizabeth QUAT
(MTR fares)

Public officers to reply

Secretary for Home Affairs

Secretary for Transport and Housing
Under Secretary for Development

Secretary for Home Affairs
Under Secretary for Food and Health

Secretary for Transport and Housing

Secretary for Transport and Housing
Under Secretary for Development

Secretary for Transport and Housing

Contents of 22 questions, Members to ask such questions and public officers to reply set out in **Appendix 2**

III. Government Bills

First Reading and Second Reading (debate to be adjourned)

1. Personal Data (Privacy) (Amendment) Bill 2021 : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
2. Financial Reporting Council (Amendment) Bill 2021 : Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury

IV. Government Motions

Joint debate (covering the following 2 motions on raising the maximum amount of borrowings under the two bond programmes with a view to promoting the sustainable development of the local bond market)

1. Proposed resolution under the Loans Ordinance

Mover : Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury

Wording of the motion : Appendix 3

2. Proposed resolution under the Loans Ordinance

Mover : Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury

Wording of the motion : Appendix 4

(Debate and voting arrangements set out in LC Paper No. CB(3) 764/20-21 issued on 8 July 2021)

V. Members' Motions on Subsidiary Legislation

1. Proposed resolution to extend the period for amending subsidiary legislation (L.N. 106 of 2021)

Mover : Hon Holden CHOW

Wording of the motion : Appendix 5

2. Proposed resolution to extend the period for amending subsidiary legislation (L.N. 110 of 2021)

Mover : Hon Starry LEE

Wording of the motion : Appendix 6

VI. Members' Other Motions

1. Motion on “Enacting legislation to combat false information on the Internet”

Mover : Hon Elizabeth QUAT

Wording of the motion : **Appendix 7**

2 amendment movers : Hon KWOK Wai-keung and Hon Tommy CHEUNG
(Amendments set out in LC Paper No. CB(3) 803/20-21
issued on 16 July 2021)

Public officers to attend : Secretary for Home Affairs
Secretary for Security
Under Secretary for Home Affairs

2. Motion on “Promoting public health policy to let the elderly enjoy a quality life”

Mover : Hon CHAN Kin-por

Wording of the motion : **Appendix 8**

Public officers to attend : Secretary for Food and Health
Under Secretary for Food and Health
Under Secretary for Home Affairs
Under Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Clerk to the Legislative Council

Council meeting of 21 July 2021

Laying of Papers on the Table of the Council

Subsidiary legislation	Legal Notice No.
1. <u>Administrative Appeals Board Ordinance (Amendment of Schedule) Order 2021</u>	115 of 2021
2. <u>Small Unmanned Aircraft Order</u>	116 of 2021
3. <u>Air Transport (Licensing of Air Services) (Amendment) Regulation 2021</u>	117 of 2021
4. <u>Air Navigation (Hong Kong) Order 1995 (Amendment) Order 2021</u>	118 of 2021
5. <u>Civil Aviation (Insurance) (Amendment) Order 2021</u>	119 of 2021
6. <u>Registration of Persons (Application for New Identity Cards) Order 2018 (Amendment) (No. 2) Order 2021</u>	120 of 2021
7. <u>Antiquities and Monuments (Declaration of Monuments and Historical Buildings) (Consolidation) (Amendment) Notice 2021</u>	121 of 2021
8. <u>Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirements and Directions) (Business and Premises) (Amendment) (No. 4) Regulation 2021</u>	126 of 2021
9. <u>Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Group Gathering) (Amendment) (No. 5) Regulation 2021</u>	127 of 2021

Other papers

10. Report of changes made to the approved Estimates of Expenditure during the fourth quarter of 2020-21
Public Finance Ordinance : Section 8(8)(b)
 (to be presented by Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury)

11. Hong Kong Deposit Protection Board
Annual Report 2020-2021 (including Statement of Accounts and Independent
Auditor's Report)
(to be presented by Financial Secretary)

12. Report No. 23/20-21 of the House Committee on Consideration of Subsidiary
Legislation and Other Instruments
(to be presented by Hon Starry LEE, Chairman of the House Committee)

22 questions to be asked at the Council meeting of 21 July 2021

	Subject matters	Public officers to reply
Questions for oral replies		
1	Hon Vincent CHENG <u>Promoting sports development</u>	Secretary for Home Affairs
2	Hon Kenneth LAU <u>Transport services for and infrastructure of South Lantau</u>	Secretary for Transport and Housing Under Secretary for Development
3	Hon CHAN Hak-kan <u>An incident of a woman sustaining eye injury</u>	Secretary for Home Affairs Under Secretary for Food and Health
4	Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai <u>Tenants affected by the demolition of factory estates</u>	Secretary for Transport and Housing
5	Hon Mrs Regina IP <u>A topside property development project at a railway station</u>	Secretary for Transport and Housing Under Secretary for Development
6	Hon Elizabeth QUAT <u>MTR fares</u>	Secretary for Transport and Housing
Questions for written replies		
7	Hon CHAN Kin-por <u>Specialist outpatient services of the Hospital Authority</u>	Secretary for Food and Health
8	Hon Steven HO <u>Speed Restricted Zones</u>	Secretary for Transport and Housing
9	Hon LAU Kwok-fan <u>Sites for public housing</u>	Secretary for Development
10	Hon Martin LIAO <u>Impacts of hot nights' weather conditions</u>	Secretary for the Environment
11	Hon SHIU Ka-fai <u>Large-scale compressed gases depots</u>	Secretary for Security
12	Hon KWOK Wai-keung <u>Deception cases involving renovation works or custom-made furniture</u>	Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development
13	Hon Wilson OR <u>Support for elderly residents of public housing estates</u>	Secretary for Transport and Housing
14	Hon CHAN Chun-ying <u>Cross-boundary Wealth Management Connect</u>	Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury
15	Hon Paul TSE <u>Hong Kong people's sense of belonging towards the Chinese people and the nation</u>	Secretary for Education
16	Hon Starry LEE <u>English proficiency of students</u>	Secretary for Education
17	Hon CHAN Han-pan <u>Encouraging and facilitating members of the public to receive vaccination</u>	Secretary for Food and Health
18	Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG <u>Voluntary Health Insurance Scheme and health expenditures</u>	Secretary for Food and Health
19	Hon Frankie YICK <u>Supporting the transport sector</u>	Secretary for Transport and Housing
20	Hon Holden CHOW <u>Economic development in New Territories North</u>	Secretary for Security
21	Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok <u>Encouraging members of the public to receive vaccination</u>	Secretary for Food and Health
22	Hon Tony TSE <u>Tree management work</u>	Secretary for Development

Question 1
(For oral reply)

(Translation)

Promoting sports development

Hon Vincent CHENG to ask:

The Tokyo Summer Olympic Games (“TOG”) will start soon. Some members of the sports community have pointed out that a craze for TOG and sports is expected to sweep throughout Hong Kong, but the Government has not made sports development a priority in policy implementation, and there is much room for improvement in respect of its promoting sports development on a regular basis and through TOG. On promoting sports development, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) given that the Government has acquired the Hong Kong broadcasting rights for TOG and entrusted five television broadcasters to broadcast the various events of TOG for viewing by the public free of charge, whether the Government has, apart from setting up “Olympics Live Zones” in the 18 Districts across the territory, planned to organize, during and immediately after TOG, more community involvement activities and sports activities (e.g. inviting members of the national team for TOG to visit Hong Kong), and whether it has considered acquiring the Hong Kong broadcasting rights for the Beijing Winter Olympic Games and the World Cup finals to be held next year, so as to enhance public interest in sports activities, thereby promoting sports development; if so, of the details;
- (2) given that the Kai Tak Sports Park, a major sports facility, will be completed in the second half of 2023, whether the Government will, in the coming five years, consider bidding to host major international sports events such as the Universiade and the Asian Youth Games, so as to promote Hong Kong as a centre for major international sports events; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that; and
- (3) given that in 2017, the Government announced a Five-Year Plan for Sports and Recreation Facilities to launch a number of projects between 2017 and 2022 for increasing and improving sports and recreation facilities, of the latest progress of such projects, and whether the Government will commence a new five-year plan or other plans to further promote sports in the community, support elite sports, promote Hong Kong as a centre for major international sports events, and facilitate the industrialization of sports?

Question 2
(For oral reply)

(Translation)

Transport services for and infrastructure of South Lantau

Hon Kenneth LAU to ask:

At present, South Lantau Road is the only road connecting various places of South Lantau, and Tung Chung Road is the only road that links North and South Lantau. During holidays, a large number of countryside visitors queue up at Mui Wo and Tung Chung for franchised buses to travel to various places of South Lantau. On the other hand, the Government commenced a Study on Traffic, Transport and Capacity to Receive Visitors for Lantau in 2017. Regarding the transport services for and infrastructure of South Lantau, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) whether it has reviewed the demand and supply situation of the franchised bus services travelling to and from South Lantau on holidays and during peak hours; if so, of the outcome; if not, the reasons for that;
- (2) of the progress of the aforesaid Study as well as that of the improvement works for the local roads and pier facilities in South Lantau; and
- (3) given that the local and external transport of South Lantau will be paralyzed whenever landslides or traffic accidents occur in South Lantau Road or Tung Chung Road, whether the Government will construct a new trunk road linking North and South Lantau; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that?

Question 3
(For oral reply)

(Translation)

An incident of a woman sustaining eye injury

Hon CHAN Hak-kan to ask:

On 11 August 2019, a woman at the scene of a demonstration for opposition to the proposed legislative amendments was injured in her right eye. Immediately afterwards, there were media reports that the woman's eye injury was serious, and the injury had allegedly been caused by a bean bag round fired by the Police hitting her in the eye. Also, the incident was greatly played up on the Internet, causing more widespread and intense unrest in society. However, it was uncovered by the press in May this year that the woman's eye injury had in fact not been serious, and yet the Hospital Authority ("HA") had not, on grounds of protecting patients' privacy, made any clarification on the false reports for over one year. On the other hand, the Police had, pursuant to a search warrant, obtained from HA the woman's medical records. Subsequently, the woman was granted legal aid for filing an application for judicial review in respect of the Police's refusal to produce the search warrant to her. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) whether it has investigated if any person or organization had deliberately made use of the said incident to disseminate false information in order to incite hatred and discontent in society against the Government; if it has investigated, of the outcome; of the progress of the Government's study on enacting legislation to combat the acts of disseminating false information, and the expected time for enacting such legislation;
- (2) whether it will request HA to revise its information dissemination policy to permit, on public interest considerations, limited disclosure of patients' medical conditions, so as to quash any rumour; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that; and
- (3) whether the scope of the review on the legal aid system currently undertaken by the Government includes the process for the vetting and approval of the legal aid application made by the woman, with a view to preventing abuse of the legal aid system?

Question 4
(For oral reply)

(Translation)

Tenants affected by the demolition of factory estates

Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai to ask:

The Hong Kong Housing Authority (“HA”) announced in May this year its decision to demolish four of its factory estates in order to rezone the sites concerned for residential use. It has been learnt that more than 2 000 tenants are affected and quite a number of them are small and medium enterprises which have been in operation for decades and supplying daily life commodities to the community. HA will disburse an ex-gratia allowance amounting to 15 months’ rent to each affected tenant and an additional cash sum of \$100,000 to each tenant who moves out by February next year. Some affected tenants have indicated that the amounts of such disbursements are too small, which are insufficient for them to find other places to continue their businesses or meeting the expenses to be incurred in winding up their businesses. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) of the criteria based on which HA set the aforesaid cash sum at the level of \$100,000; and
- (2) whether HA will discuss with the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau the formulation of a scheme of financial and administrative support to provide additional assistance to the affected tenants; if not, of the reasons for that?

Question 5
(For oral reply)

(Translation)

A topside property development project at a railway station

Hon Mrs Regina IP to ask:

The MTR Corporation Limited (“MTRCL”) and a real estate developer are jointly developing The Pavilia Farm, a topside property development project at MTR Tai Wai Station. On the 8th of this month, the developer announced its decision to demolish and rebuild two buildings under construction in Phase III of the project because the concrete of the wall bases of those buildings had not met the requirements of the approved design in the strength tests. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) given that the Secretary for Transport and Housing is a member of the Board of Directors of MTRCL, whether the Transport and Housing Bureau will conduct an investigation into the aforesaid incident, and submit the relevant report to this Council; if not, of the reasons for that;
- (2) whether it has assessed if MTRCL, being one of the developers of the project, has the responsibility for monitoring whether the construction works are carried out in compliance with the requirements; if it has assessed and the outcome is in the affirmative, of the details of the monitoring mechanism; if the assessment outcome is in the negative, the reasons for that; and
- (3) whether it knows the course of events leading to the exposure of this blunder in works implementation, and which units and personnel are to be held responsible for the blunder; what measures the Government will put in place to prevent occurrence of similar incidents in the future?

Question 6
(For oral reply)

(Translation)

MTR fares

Hon Elizabeth QUAT to ask:

The Tuen Ma Line (“TML”) of the MTR Corporation Limited (“MTRCL”) was fully commissioned on the 27th of last month. Some members of the public have pointed out that the fare structure of TML is unreasonable. For example, the fares for shorter journeys are conversely higher than those for longer journeys (a situation commonly known as “higher fares for shorter journeys”), and there is quite a great variance in the fares for different journeys of comparable lengths. Regarding MTR fares, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) whether it knows the current number of stations involved in those TML journeys having the situation of higher fares for shorter journeys; whether it has estimated the average daily number of passengers affected; if it has not, whether it will expeditiously make such estimation;
- (2) as it has been reported that it took MTRCL six years to implement distance-based charging for the entire West Rail Line, whether the Government will request MTRCL to provide a timetable for progressively rectifying, in accordance with the Fare Adjustment Mechanism each year, the situation of higher fares for shorter TML journeys; if so, of the details; if not, the alternative measures to rectify such situation; and
- (3) given that no uniform criteria for determining the fares of the various railway lines were drawn up at the time of the rail merger in 2007, whether the Government will request MTRCL to draw up the relevant criteria and determine afresh, in accordance with such criteria, the fares for the journeys along the various railway lines?

Question 7
(For written reply)

(Translation)

Specialist outpatient services
of the Hospital Authority

Hon CHAN Kin-por to ask:

Regarding the specialist outpatient (“SOP”) services of the Hospital Authority (“HA”), will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) whether it knows the respective numbers of new cases of various SOP services in each of the past three financial years;
- (2) given that new referral cases will be first screened by nurses and then reviewed by doctors of the relevant specialties for the purpose of classifying them into urgent, semi-urgent and stable cases, whether the Government knows the respective median waiting time of each classification of new cases of various SOP services, in each of the past three financial years;
- (3) whether it knows HA’s new measures to shorten the waiting time of new cases of SOP services; and
- (4) whether it knows if HA has assessed the extent to which SOP services has been affected by the epidemic, and HA’s new measures to mitigate the impacts?

Question 8
(For written reply)

(Translation)

Speed Restricted Zones

Hon Steven HO to ask:

Kai Lung Wan Fish Culture Zone (“FCZ”) is located in East Kiu Tsui Chau, which has been zoned as a Speed Restricted Zone (“SRZ”). Some members of the sector have relayed that, over the years, there have often been vessels proceeding at a high speed in the waters near East Kiu Tsui Chau, and the swells so created have damaged the rafts in the FCZ, dealing a blow to the livelihood of mariculturists and seriously endangering the safety of operators in the FCZ. Although the Government extended the boundaries of East Kiu Tsui Chau SRZ last year, the situation has shown no improvement. Regarding SRZs, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) of the measures currently in place to ensure that vessels in the various SRZs will not proceed at a speed exceeding the statutory maximum permitted speed;
- (2) of the details of the law enforcement actions taken by the Marine Department (“MD”) in the various SRZs in each of the past five years, including the number of patrols, as well as the manpower and number of vessels involved;
- (3) of the number of reports of vessels speeding in SRZs received by the Government, and the respective numbers of persons arrested, prosecuted and convicted, in each of the past five years;
- (4) as quite a number of marine operators have relayed that it is difficult to accurately grasp the boundaries of SRZs, whether it has assessed if the existing guidelines issued by MD to the public are sufficient; if it has assessed and the outcome is in the negative, of the improvement measures to be put in place; and
- (5) whether it will adopt a multi-pronged approach to solve the problem of vessels speeding in SRZs, including reviewing the management measures related to SRZs, introducing measures for reducing the disturbance caused to FCZs by vessels speeding, and stepping up law enforcement actions; if so, of the details (including the implementation timetable); if not, the reasons for that?

Question 9
(For written reply)

(Translation)

Sites for public housing

Hon LAU Kwok-fan to ask:

As announced in the 2020 Policy Address, the Government has identified 330 hectares of land needed for constructing 316 000 public housing units to meet the demand for public housing units in the coming decade (i.e. the financial years from 2021-2022 to 2030-2031). In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) of the annual estimated number of public housing units to be supplied in the financial years from 2026-2027 to 2030-2031 (i.e. the second five-year period) (set out in a table);
- (2) whether the said 330 hectares of land can accommodate all relevant public facilities apart from being used for constructing 316 000 public housing units; if so, of the area to be occupied by residential sites; if not, the area of land in the shortfall; and
- (3) of the following details of each site of the 330 hectares of land (set out in a table):
 - (i) the location of the site/the name of the new development area in which the site is located,
 - (ii) the Outline Zoning Plan (“OZP”) Number to which the site belongs (if applicable),
 - (iii) the site area,
 - (iv) the residential use group(s) (i.e. Groups A to E) to which the site belongs, and the restriction(s) on development intensity (i.e. the maximum plot ratio) for the site, as set out in the OZP concerned,
 - (v) the estimated number of public housing units to be provided, and
 - (vi) the target completion date of the public housing project concerned?

Question 10
(For written reply)

(Translation)

Impacts of hot nights' weather conditions

Hon Martin LIAO to ask:

The number of hot nights (i.e. the daily minimum temperature being equal to or higher than 28°C) in Hong Kong as recorded by the Hong Kong Observatory in recent years has been on the increase, with a record high of 50 hot nights recorded last year. In May this year, 14 hot nights and the longest duration of consecutive hot nights (i.e. six nights) were recorded, breaking the past records for May. A study conducted by scholars of a local university has found that the health threats posed to members of the public by the weather conditions of hot nights (especially consecutive hot nights) were greater than those by the weather conditions of hot days, with the grass roots living in crowded, poorly-ventilated sub-divided flats and residential units being most affected. The study has suggested improving the city's and indoor natural ventilation through urban planning and building design as a starting point, as well as adopting measures such as increasing the greenery ratio, with a view to mitigating the impacts of hot nights. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) whether it has collected the following statistics: the monthly numbers of hot nights recorded in each of the 18 District Council districts in the past three years; if so, of the details;
- (2) whether it has studied the impacts of hot nights' weather conditions on the health and daily lives of members of the public (especially the grass roots); if so, of the details;
- (3) whether targeted measures were taken in the past three years to mitigate the impacts of hot nights' weather conditions on members of the public (especially those living in districts most affected by hot nights as mentioned in the aforesaid study, i.e. Yau Tsim Mong, Tsuen Wan, Central and Sheung Wan, Yuen Long and Tin Shui Wai); if so, of the details and effectiveness; if not, the reasons for that; and
- (4) (i) of the annual utilization situations of the various temporary night heat shelters under the Home Affairs Department ("HAD") (including the number of nights opened for service and the user-times in respect of each shelter), and (ii) whether HAD received suggestions on improving the service concerned, as well as reviewed and improved the arrangements for service provision at these shelters, in the past three years; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that?

Question 11
(For written reply)

(Translation)

Large-scale compressed gases depots

Hon SHIU Ka-fai to ask:

Under the Dangerous Goods Ordinance (Cap. 295), any person who manufactures, stores, conveys or uses dangerous goods under the Ordinance is required to obtain a licence. Compressed gases are classified as a category of dangerous goods. Some suppliers of compressed gases have relayed to me that the Government has not provided sufficient sites for lease under short-term tenancies (“STTs”) to the industry for setting up large-scale (i.e. with a storage capacity of 100 cubic metres of liquid, 100 tonnes of solid, or 15 000 cubic metres of gas or above) depots for imports and exports of compressed gases. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) of the policies, guidelines and requirements in respect of the granting and renewal of STTs for setting up compressed gases depots on government sites;
- (2) as a member of the public lodged a complaint with the Office of The Ombudsman (“the Office”) last year against the Lands Department (“LandsD”) for failing, over the years, to adhere to the departmental guidelines to conduct a tender exercise for letting anew a site, which had been leased under STTs for setting up dangerous goods depots, when the relevant leases expired, and the Office found the complaint substantiated upon investigation, of the reasons why the relevant officials of LandsD had failed to adhere to the departmental guidelines, and the follow-up actions taken by LandsD;
- (3) of the respective numbers of sites leased under STTs for setting up compressed gases depots for which tender exercises were (i) conducted and (ii) not conducted for letting anew the sites when the relevant leases expired in the past 10 years, and set out the relevant information in a table (including the reasons for not conducting tender exercises);
- (4) of the respective procedure and time needed for licence applications for setting up compressed gases depots on (i) government and (ii) private lands;
- (5) of the respective current numbers and locations of licensed compressed gases depots set up on (i) government and (ii) private lands in the territory; and

- (6) whether it assessed, in the past 10 years, the demand for sites for setting up compressed gases depots, and what measures it took to ensure sufficient supply of the relevant sites?

Question 12
(For written reply)

(Translation)

Deception cases involving renovation works or custom-made furniture

Hon KWOK Wai-keung to ask:

I have recently received complaints from quite a number of members of the public who claimed that they had spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on hiring companies through online decoration platforms to carry out renovation works or produce custom-made furniture, but the works concerned had ended up unfinished, and the furniture had not matched the specifications. They have no way to recover their money and the swindlers continue to deceive others with the same tactics. Regarding deception cases involving renovation works or custom-made furniture, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) of the following information on the reported cases of violation of the Trade Descriptions Ordinance (Cap. 362) involving renovation works or custom-made furniture received by the authorities in the past three years: (i) the number of such cases, (ii) the unfair trade practices involved, (iii) the number of suspects involved in the cases, (iv) the number of persons prosecuted, and (v) the number of persons convicted;
- (2) of the number of law enforcement actions (including inspections) taken in the past three years by law enforcement agencies against such type of deception cases and, among such actions, the number of those involving online decoration platforms; whether the approach of officers posing as clients was adopted for law enforcement; if so, of the effectiveness, and whether this approach will be adopted more often for law enforcement; and
- (3) whether it will discuss with the Consumer Council and the Construction Industry Council the making of concerted efforts to combat such type of deception cases; whether it will consider making public a list of decoration companies which, and persons who, have been complained of having violated Cap. 362, so that members of the public may guard against being deceived; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that?

Question 13
(For written reply)

(Translation)

Support for elderly residents of public housing estates

Hon Wilson OR to ask:

It is learnt that the Hong Kong Housing Authority (“HA”) implemented, from 1990s to 2003, an Estate Social Services for the Elderly Scheme (commonly known as “the Estate Liaison Officer Scheme”) to provide appropriate support for elderly residents of public housing estates (“PHEs”) with special needs. Regarding the provision of support for elderly residents (i.e. residents aged 60 or above) of PHEs, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) of the current population of elderly residents of PHEs, with a breakdown by the number of elderly persons in the household and the District Council district to which the PHEs belong; if such figures are not available, whether it will compile the statistics;
- (2) whether HA provided appropriate support for elderly residents of PHEs in the past three years; if so, of the details, and the percentage that the expenditure incurred on such services in the 2020-2021 financial year represented in the Government’s total expenditure on elderly services in that year;
- (3) of the details and the implementation effectiveness of the Estate Liaison Officer Scheme; the reasons why HA discontinued the Scheme; as there are views that with an increasingly ageing population in Hong Kong in recent years, there are more and more elderly singletons residing in PHEs, whether HA will resume the Scheme to support the elderly residents on all fronts; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that; and
- (4) of other practicable measures in place to address the special needs of the elderly residents of PHEs?

Question 14
(For written reply)

(Translation)

Cross-boundary Wealth Management Connect

Hon CHAN Chun-ying to ask:

In June last year, the authorities of the Mainland, Macao and Hong Kong made a joint announcement on the decision to implement a two-way cross-boundary wealth management connect pilot scheme in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, which would allow residents in the Greater Bay Area to carry out cross-boundary investment in wealth management products distributed by banks in the area. They also signed a memorandum of understanding earlier this year on matters such as the principles of supervisory cooperation involved. On 6 May this year, the People's Bank of China Guangzhou Branch issued the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Cross-Boundary Wealth Management Connect Pilot Scheme implementation details (Consultation Paper) ("Consultation Paper"). In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) as the Consultation Paper has mentioned that Hong Kong and Macao investors carrying out businesses under the "Northbound Wealth Management Connect" should meet the relevant requirements set by the financial regulators in Hong Kong and Macao, whether the Hong Kong Monetary Authority ("HKMA") has drawn up the relevant requirements in this regard; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that;
- (2) as the Consultation Paper has mentioned that the investment products which may be purchased by Mainland investors under the "Southbound Wealth Management Connect" will be subject to the regulations set by the regulators in Hong Kong and Macao, whether HKMA has drawn up the regulations in this regard; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that; and
- (3) whether HKMA has discussed with the Mainland authorities, in order to tie in with the implementation of the "Southbound Wealth Management Connect", allowing banks in Hong Kong to make enquiries, through the credit information system of the People's Bank of China, about the credit reports of those Mainland investors who intend to purchase investment products offered in Hong Kong; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that?

Question 15
(For written reply)

(Translation)

Hong Kong people's sense of belonging
towards the Chinese people and the nation

Hon Paul TSE to ask:

In 2000, the Government allowed schools to teach Chinese history not as an independent subject at the junior secondary level. Some members of the public have criticized that since then, quite a number of schools have combined Chinese history with other subjects, resulting in fragmented contents on Chinese history in the junior secondary curriculum and, consequently the new generation of young people “have forgotten about their history”, have insufficient knowledge of the history of the nation and lack a sense of belonging towards the Chinese people and the nation. The aforesaid members of the public have also pointed out that since the reunification of Hong Kong in 1997, members of the public are required to provide only their nationalities or places of birth, and are no longer required to provide their native places when they complete the forms of the various government departments, which have also made young people “forget about their roots” and lose the means of knowing their personal identities and their links with the Motherland. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) whether it has studied the aforesaid issues and formulated remedial measures; if so, of the details; if not, whether it will immediately conduct such a study;
- (2) apart from making, since the 2018-2019 school year, Chinese history an independent compulsory subject at the junior secondary level, of the new policies or measures put in place by the Government to help the new generation of young people develop correct historical perspectives and understand that they, as individuals, have inextricable relationship with Hong Kong and the Motherland; and
- (3) whether it will further study (i) the teaching of Chinese history as an independent compulsory subject at the senior secondary level, (ii) requiring afresh members of the public to fill in their native places on the forms of the various government departments, and (iii) organizing national education exchange tours, so as to enable young people to understand the history and customs of their native places and see for themselves the fast-developing industries in various provinces and municipalities on the Mainland in recent

years, with a view to enhancing their sense of national identity; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that?

Question 16
(For written reply)

(Translation)

English proficiency of students

Hon Starry LEE to ask:

An international language education institution conducted last year a survey on the English proficiency of adults around the world, the results of which showed that Hong Kong ranked the 33rd among the 100 countries and regions surveyed and the fifth in the Asia region. On the other hand, the Government has indicated that it is necessary for Hong Kong people to maintain excellent English proficiency in order to consolidate Hong Kong's status as a metropolis. Regarding the English proficiency of students, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) whether it compared, in the past five years, the English proficiency of Hong Kong students with that of the students in other regions; if so, of the outcome; if not, the reasons for that;
- (2) whether, in the past five years, it allocated additional resources to schools, strengthened training for teachers, assisted schools in enhancing the methods for teaching English, and implemented other measures, with a view to enhancing students' English proficiency; if so, of the details (including the expenditure involved); and
- (3) whether it has evaluated the effectiveness of the various measures mentioned in (2); if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that?

Question 17
(For written reply)

(Translation)

Encouraging and facilitating members of the public to receive vaccination

Hon CHAN Han-pan to ask:

Quite a number of members of the public have relayed that while they are very willing to receive vaccination against the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“vaccination”), they have not taken any action because they do not know whether it is suitable, given their health conditions, for them to do so. Besides, as some members of the public residing in remote areas have difficulty in travelling to and from the Community Vaccination Centres, they have not received the vaccination. On encouraging and facilitating members of the public to receive vaccination, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) whether it knows, since the 25th of last month when the general outpatient clinics under the Hospital Authority started providing vaccination assessment service to patients who are regularly followed up at such clinics, (i) among the total attendances at such clinics, the number and percentage of those who have been assessed, and (ii) among the people assessed, the number and percentage of those assessed to be unsuitable for receiving vaccination; the criteria adopted for assessing whether patients are suitable for receiving vaccination;
- (2) whether it will consider setting up mobile vaccination stations to vaccinate residents in remote areas (e.g. outlying islands); if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that; and
- (3) whether it will further discuss with the authorities of the Mainland and Macao shortening the quarantine periods for those Hong Kong residents who have received vaccination or granting them exemption from quarantine when they enter the Mainland and Macao, so as to encourage more members of the public to receive vaccination; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that?

Question 18
(For written reply)

(Translation)

Voluntary Health Insurance Scheme and health expenditures

Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG to ask:

The Government launched the Voluntary Health Insurance Scheme (“VHIS”) on 1 April 2019. Certified Plans offered under VHIS by insurance companies are categorized into Standard Plans and Flexi Plans. Regarding VHIS and health expenditures, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) whether it knows the following information about VHIS at present:
 - (i) the respective numbers of Standard Plans and Flexi Plans available, and
 - (ii) the number of insurance policies, with a breakdown by the category of plans under which the insurance policies fall and the age group to which the insured persons belong (i.e. 18 or below, 19 to 29, 30 to 44, 45 to 59, 60 to 79, and 80 or above);
- (2) whether, according to the projections based on the current trend in the number of policy holders under VHIS, the target of achieving an uptake of 1.5 million persons in the third year after the launch of VHIS can be met;
- (3) whether it knows the average standard premiums of those Standard Plans offered to the following groups of insured persons on 1 April in each of the years from 2019 to 2021: non-smoking (i) males and (ii) females aged between 60 and 95 (each group covering five years of age); whether there is an upward trend in such premiums; if so, whether it has examined if the increase is reasonable;
- (4) of the number of persons claiming tax deductions for qualifying premiums paid under VHIS policies in the year of assessment 2020-2021, and the total amount of qualifying premiums paid by them for which tax deductions are allowed;
- (5) of (i) a breakdown of the recurrent health expenditure by health financing scheme and (ii) the total amount of public and private health expenditures, in each of the past two financial years; and

- (6) given that one of the long-term goals of VHIS is to alleviate the pressure of healthcare service demand on public hospitals, whether the Government has formulated indicators based on (i) the number of persons insured under VHIS and (ii) the percentage of the total expenditure on premiums paid under VHIS in the recurrent health expenditure; if so, of the details; if not, whether it will expeditiously formulate such indicators, so as to facilitate public monitoring of the effectiveness of the policy?

Question 19
(For written reply)

(Translation)

Supporting the transport sector

Hon Frankie YICK to ask:

In light of the blow dealt to the transport sector (“the sector”) by the epidemic, the Government launched a subsidy scheme last year to provide members of the sector with fuel subsidies or one-off subsidies to help relieve their operating pressure. Some members of the sector have relayed that as fuel subsidies have not only given breathing space to various public transport operators but also increased the income of self-employed drivers, such subsidies are conducive to attracting those drivers who have changed their occupation to return to the sector. However, the disbursement of fuel subsidies has ceased since the 30th of last month. While the epidemic has subsided lately, some anti-epidemic and social distancing measures have not yet been removed. As a result, the passenger volume of public transport is still lower than the pre-epidemic level by 20% to 30%, and various operators are still faced with severe financial problems. Given that fuel cost is a major expenditure item of the sector, and that oil prices have shown an upward trend recently, the cessation of fuel subsidy disbursement has put the sector under heavy financial pressure. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) of the latest situations regarding the claiming of fuel subsidies by and the disbursement of the subsidies to the sector, with a breakdown by type of transport mode; how such situations compare with those originally estimated by the Government;
- (2) whether, in light of the fact that the business environment of the sector remains difficult and the problems of wastages and insufficiency of self-employed drivers remain severe, the Government will consider providing the subsidies again; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that, and the measures in place to help the sector tide over the difficulties; and
- (3) given that some public transport modes have ceased running because most of the immigration control points are closed, and the operators concerned have thus been unable to claim fuel subsidies, whether the Government has considered offering an additional one-off subsidy to these operators; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that?

Question 20
(For written reply)

(Translation)

Economic development in New Territories North

Hon Holden CHOW to ask:

It is learnt that the Shenzhen Municipal Government is now pressing ahead in full steam with the planning and construction of a port economy belt on the Shenzhen side along the Shenzhen-Hong Kong boundary, and the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (“SAR”) has also put forward a development blueprint for New Territories North. Moreover, this Council passed a Member’s motion in May this year, urging the Government to drive the development of New Territories North with port economy, including opening up the Sha Tau Kok Closed Area. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) of the current population of usual residents in the Sha Tau Kok Closed Area;
- (2) of the total number of Closed Road Permits for access to the Sha Tau Kok Closed Area issued by the Hong Kong Police Force in the past five years;
- (3) as it has been reported that the Shenzhen Municipal Government has preliminarily completed a planning proposal for the redevelopment of the Shatoujiao Checkpoint in the Yantian District of Shenzhen, under which it plans to develop the Checkpoint into a landmark checkpoint in Shenzhen East mainly for facilitating traveller clearance which will be complemented with the functions of international tourism and consumption, whether the SAR Government will consider dovetailing with such planning by opening up the Sha Tau Kok Closed Area in the future, so as to take forward the economic development in New Territories North and increase the employment opportunities within the area; and
- (4) whether the SAR Government will consider discussing with the Mainland authorities the full implementation, at the Sha Tau Kok Boundary Control Point, of the arrangement of carrying out at the same place the customs, immigration and quarantine procedures of Hong Kong and those of the Mainland (i.e. the “co-location arrangement”), as well as the provision of relevant ancillary boundary-crossing facilities to further facilitate Hong Kong residents to commute between Shenzhen and Hong Kong for work and living, so that they can benefit from the policy of opening up and developing the frontier closed areas?

Question 21
(For written reply)

(Translation)

Encouraging members of the public to receive vaccination

Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok to ask:

In response to the “Early Vaccination for All” campaign launched by the Government, quite a number of commercial and community organizations have rolled out, one after another, various vaccination reward programmes (“reward programmes”) to encourage members of the public to receive vaccination against the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19”). However, members of the public need to fill in their personal data on different electronic platforms one by one in order to participate in the reward programmes. Some members of the public consider that such arrangement is time-consuming and cumbersome, undermining the effectiveness of the reward programmes. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) whether it will set up a unified platform to (i) enable members of the public to participate in the reward programmes they prefer by filling in their personal data just once and (ii) assist the organizations which organize the reward programmes in verifying the eligibility of the winners; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that; and
- (2) given that the Summer Olympic Games soon to be held in Tokyo have aroused the attention of members of the public in sports activities, whether the Government will distribute tickets or souvenirs of local sports matches to persons who have completed a COVID-19 vaccination course, so as to enhance the motivation of members of the public to receive vaccination; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that?

Question 22
(For written reply)

(Translation)

Tree management work

Hon Tony TSE to ask:

The Government currently adopts an “integrated approach” for tree management, under which the departments responsible for the government facilities or land concerned are also tasked with inspecting and taking care of those trees at the places under their purview (“tree management departments”). In October 2019, the Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section of the Development Bureau established a dedicated Inspection Squad, tasked with randomly checking and auditing the tree inspection reports completed annually by the tree management departments, as well as proactively inspecting every year the trees located in areas with high pedestrian and vehicular traffic flows (“heavy traffic areas”), and taking follow-up actions on problematic trees. However, tree failure incidents still happen every now and then. For example, during the heavy rainstorms on the 1st and 28th of last month, a number of trees located beside pavements or carriageways collapsed, crushing and damaging a number of vehicles and causing traffic jams. Regarding tree management work, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) of the current number of trees maintained by the Government and located in heavy traffic areas and, set out, by tree management department, a breakdown of such figure and the manpower involved;
- (2) of the following details of the tree inspection work undertaken by each tree management department (i) in each of the past three years and (ii) since January this year: the respective numbers of (a) inspections conducted, (b) trees inspected, (c) problematic trees identified, and (d) trees with risks of failure removed;
- (3) of the respective numbers of tree failure incidents which occurred (i) in each of the past three years and (ii) since January this year in which (a) casualties, (b) serious traffic jams and (c) damages to vehicles/facilities were caused; whether it has assessed if the inspection work undertaken by the tree management departments has been satisfactory and sufficient, and whether such departments will step up inspection work;
- (4) whether, in light of the recent tree failure incidents, it has reviewed if the work performance of the Inspection Squad has been satisfactory, and whether it will consider increasing the manpower for conducting inspections and the frequency of inspections;

- (5) of the number of cases of inadequacies in tree management work identified during random checking and auditing of tree inspection reports and tree inspections, as well as what recommendations on improvement measures were made to the relevant departments, by the Inspection Squad since last year; and
- (6) whether it will review the current guidelines for planting trees in heavy traffic areas such as places beside pavements and carriageways (e.g. guidelines on species selection and the distance needed between a tree and a pavement/carriageway), so as to reduce the risks of tree failure; whether, in respect of those existing trees which are not in compliance with the relevant guidelines and may cause serious losses to lives and properties in case of tree failure, the Government will consider removing or carrying out strengthening works for such trees?

Loans Ordinance

Resolution

(Under section 3(1) of the Loans Ordinance (Cap. 61))

Resolved that—

- (a) the Government be approved to borrow from any person from time to time for the purposes of the Bond Fund established by the Resolution passed on 8 July 2009 (Cap. 2 sub. leg. S) sums not exceeding in total \$300 billion or equivalent, being the maximum amount of all sums borrowed under this paragraph that may be outstanding by way of principal at any time;
- (b) sums borrowed under paragraph (a) are to be credited to the Bond Fund; and
- (c) this Resolution is to replace the Resolution passed on 22 May 2013 (Cap. 61 sub. leg. E).

Loans Ordinance

Resolution

(Under section 3(1) of the Loans Ordinance (Cap. 61))

Resolved that—

- (a) the Government be approved to borrow from any person from time to time for the purposes of the Capital Works Reserve Fund established by the Resolution passed on 20 January 1982 (Cap. 2 sub. leg. A) sums not exceeding in total \$200 billion or equivalent, being the maximum amount of all sums borrowed under this paragraph that may be outstanding by way of principal at any time;
- (b) sums borrowed under paragraph (a) are to be credited to the Capital Works Reserve Fund; and
- (c) this Resolution is to replace the Resolution passed on 15 November 2018 (Cap. 61 sub. leg. F).

Interpretation and General Clauses Ordinance

Resolution

(Under section 34(4) of the Interpretation and
General Clauses Ordinance (Cap. 1))

Resolved that in relation to the Financial Institutions (Resolution) (Contractual Recognition of Suspension of Termination Rights—Banking Sector) Rules, published in the Gazette as Legal Notice No. 106 of 2021, and laid on the table of the Legislative Council on 7 July 2021, the period for amending subsidiary legislation referred to in section 34(2) of the Interpretation and General Clauses Ordinance (Cap. 1) be extended under section 34(4) of that Ordinance to the meeting of 25 August 2021.

Interpretation and General Clauses Ordinance

Resolution

(Under section 34(4) of the Interpretation and
General Clauses Ordinance (Cap. 1))

Resolved that in relation to the Peak Tramway (Safety) (Amendment) Regulation 2018 (Commencement) Notice, published in the Gazette as Legal Notice No. 110 of 2021, and laid on the table of the Legislative Council on 14 July 2021, the period for amending subsidiary legislation referred to in section 34(2) of the Interpretation and General Clauses Ordinance (Cap. 1) be extended under section 34(4) of that Ordinance to the meeting of 1 September 2021.

(Translation)

**Hon Elizabeth QUAT's motion on
“Enacting legislation to combat false information on the Internet”**

Wording of the Motion

That, in the age of growing popularity of Internet usage, rapid information flow may cause significant impacts; the prevalence of false information on the Internet not only misleads members of the public, but even brings about severe adverse impacts on the safety, stability and development of the international community; false information on the Internet has already become an issue of concern of the international community which warrants serious and immediate action; during the occurrence of the ‘black-clad violence’ incidents in Hong Kong in 2019, some individuals or organizations used voluminous false information on the Internet to incite public hatred against the Police, advocate violence and create social dissension in an endeavour to confront the Central Government and SAR Government; during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 epidemic, there has been lots of false information spreading maliciously on the Internet with an intent to hinder anti-epidemic work; in July this year, some people being suspectedly ‘self-radicalized’ under the influence of false information on the Internet hurled inflammable objects at the Government House and attacked police officers with sharpened objects, and some other people subsequently took advantage of these cases to disseminate false information to incite hatred and advocate terrorist activities, various sectors of the community therefore consider that the Government must formulate effective measures to address false information; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to expeditiously enact legislation to combat acts of spreading false information on the Internet.

(Translation)

**Hon CHAN Kin-por's motion on
"Promoting public health policy to let the elderly enjoy a quality life"**

Wording of the Motion

That, since the outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 epidemic, people in general, as compared with the past, have attached more importance to personal and public hygiene, done more exercise and participated more in different recreational activities, so as to prevent virus infection; with a heightened health awareness in society as a whole, the health level of Hong Kong people has also risen; in fact, Hong Kong is facing problems in healthcare, elderly care, etc. brought about by population ageing, and these problems have exerted pressure on public finance; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to formulate a public health policy with a new mindset, including motivating people of various age groups to do more exercise, providing more sports facilities, creating an environment for a healthy lifestyle, and raising the awareness of personal and public health among Hong Kong people, so as to let people enjoy a long, healthy and quality life in their twilight years and in turn alleviate the social and financial pressure brought about by population ageing.