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Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance Committee Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2021-22

Director of Bureau : Director of Administration

Session No. : 6

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CSO001****(Question Serial No. 0014)**

Head: (142) Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) CSO - Administration Wing

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Daniel CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

Please list the estimated expenditure on the emoluments and allowances for the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary in 2021-22.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 14)

Reply:

The provisions earmarked for the salary and allowance of the Chief Secretary for Administration (CS) and Financial Secretary (FS) in 2021-22 are as follows:

2021-22 (Draft Estimates)	Salary (\$ million)	Non-accountable entertainment allowance (tied to official residence) (\$ million)
CS	4.52	0.49
FS	4.36	0.38

Apart from the abovementioned non-accountable entertainment allowance (tied to official residences), no other allowances are paid to CS and FS.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CSO002

(Question Serial No. 2814)

Head: (142) Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Government Records Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Daniel CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

Please list the following information for last year:

1. the number of cases on the loss of confidential records of bureaux/departments and the number of records lost;
2. the titles of missing non-confidential programme files of bureaux/departments;
3. the number of cases where it was impossible to identify who should be held accountable for the loss of records and the bureaux/departments involved; and
4. bureaux/departments involved in the cases of unauthorised destruction of records and non-confidential programme files.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)

Reply:

In accordance with the General Circular No. 2/2009 "Mandatory Records Management Requirements" issued by the Government in April 2009, any loss or unauthorised destruction of records should be immediately reported to the Departmental Records Manager (DRM) of the bureau/department (B/D) concerned and a copy of such report sent to the Government Records Service (GRS) simultaneously. Upon receipt of the report, the DRM should:

- (a) ascertain the facts (including the types, numbers and storage media, etc. of the records involved) and identify the circumstances leading to the loss or unauthorised destruction of records;
- (b) reconstruct the records where necessary;
- (c) take steps to prevent recurrence;
- (d) consider whether any disciplinary action or other administrative measure is necessary; and
- (e) report his findings and actions on (a) to (d) above to GRS within 3 months.

The above measures enable GRS to monitor whether the follow-up actions taken by B/Ds for investigating cases of loss or unauthorised destruction of records are appropriate, and to make recommendations for improvement from the perspective of records management. As revealed from the cases handled, loss or unauthorised destruction of records is mainly due to negligence, insufficient monitoring or improper handling of records, etc.

Our reply in response to the request for information in the question is as follows:

- (1) GRS did not receive any report on loss of confidential records from B/Ds in 2020.
- (2) In 2020, GRS received 3 cases of loss of non-confidential programme files of B/Ds and completed processing 1 of them. The case in question involved the loss of 1 case file relating to child abuse, 1 programme file relating to seminar on fall prevention of elders and 1 loose minute of the Social Welfare Department (SWD).
- (3) Upon receipt of a report of the loss of records, the relevant DRM will ascertain the facts and identify the circumstances leading to the loss under the mechanism set out in the first paragraph of this reply, and consider whether disciplinary action or other administrative measure is necessary. If a government officer is found to have violated the mandatory records management requirements and/or displayed negligence in records management duties, the B/D concerned will take disciplinary action or other administrative measures commensurate with the circumstances and gravity of the case. GRS will also review the decisions made by B/Ds.

In 2020, GRS received 56 cases of loss of records of B/Ds. Among the 28 cases which had been processed, the officers responsible for the loss were identified in 7 cases in which disciplinary action or other administrative measures were taken against 4 officers in 4 cases. In another case involving a staff of a contractor and 2 other cases in which the losses were attributed to factors beyond the control of the government officers concerned, no disciplinary action or administrative measure was taken. Among the remaining 21 cases, 20 were related to the loss of stores vouchers of the Fire Services Department (FSD), and 1 related to the loss of non-confidential programme files of SWD. As no responsible officers could be identified after investigation, no disciplinary action or administrative measure was taken in these 21 cases. Nevertheless, the B/Ds concerned had taken appropriate improvement measures (such as regular checks) and reminded staff members to perform records management duties properly and ensure safe custody of records. As for the remaining 28 outstanding cases, GRS will maintain close liaison with relevant B/Ds to complete the investigation as soon as possible.

- (4) Under the mandatory records management requirements, B/Ds should, in carrying out the disposal of time-expired records, assign a senior officer not below the rank of Senior Executive Officer or equivalent to consider and endorse in writing the disposal decision. B/Ds must obtain the prior agreement of the GRS Director before they destroy any government records. Upon receiving a report on unauthorised destruction of records, the DRM will investigate into the case according to the procedures set out in the first paragraph of this reply. In 2020, GRS received 6 cases of unauthorised destruction of records and completed processing 3 of them. These 3

cases were related to the Hong Kong Police Force and FSD without involving any non-confidential programme file.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CSO003****(Question Serial No. 2815)**

Head: (142) Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) CSO - Administration Wing

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Daniel CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

In respect of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary, please set out the details of their respective expenditures on overseas duty visits, reception of guests, official entertainment and bestowal of gifts, as well as the total amount of various external donations and the largest amount of donation they received respectively in the past year.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 21)

Reply:

In 2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021), the expenses on overseas duty visits and official entertainment incurred by Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary are as follows:

	Expenses on overseas duty visits	Expenses on official entertainment
Office of the Chief Secretary for Administration	About \$5,000	About \$26,000
Office of the Financial Secretary	About \$2,000	About \$60,000

The Chief Secretary for Administration (CS) and the Financial Secretary (FS) are eligible for an annual non-accountable entertainment allowance for meeting expenses on official entertainment at their official residences. In 2020-21, the allowances for CS and FS were \$491,500 and \$376,700 respectively.

In line with the Government's green policy, public officers should as far as possible refrain from bestowing gifts or souvenirs to others during the conduct of official activities. According to the existing guidelines, where bestowal of gifts or souvenirs is necessary or unavoidable due to operational, protocol or other reasons, such items should not be extravagant and the number should be kept to a minimum, and the exchange should only be

made from organisation to organisation. We do not maintain separate accounts for the expenses on the procurement of gifts and souvenirs. In 2020-21, CS and FS did not procure gifts or souvenirs for overseas duty visits or official activities.

Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary did not receive external donations.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CSO004****(Question Serial No. 2816)**

Head: (142) Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (5) Subvention: Duty Lawyer Service and Legal Aid Services Council

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Daniel CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

Regarding the free legal advice services provided by the Administration Wing, please provide the following information:

1. the average waiting time for the public to receive free legal advice services at district offices in the past 3 years by district;
2. the numbers of beneficiaries and cases handled, as well as participating lawyers in the past 3 years; and
3. the details of promotion and publicity work this year, as well as the manpower and expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)

Reply:

1. The Government provides the Duty Lawyer Service (DLS) with subvention to implement the Free Legal Advice Scheme (FLAS) at 9 District Offices (DOs) of the Home Affairs Department. In 2020, the average waiting time between the submission of an application and the arrangement for an advice session was 23.3 days, which was 12.4% shorter than that in 2019 (26.6 days). The waiting time at each DO for the past 3 years is as follows:

DO	Average waiting time (day)		
	2018	2019	2020
Central & Western	36.2	20.4	19.3
Eastern	34.3	17.4	17.8
Islands	35.1	18.4	17.2
Kwun Tong	41.7	24.9	23.5
Sha Tin	61.4	42.9	33.7
Tsuen Wan	49.4	31.5	26.6

DO	Average waiting time (day)		
	2018	2019	2020
Wan Chai	36.6	20.0	19.9
Wong Tai Sin	48.5	27.9	24.9
Yau Tsim Mong	48.2	36.0	26.9

2. The number of cases handled under FLAS and the number of lawyers registered as volunteer lawyers in the past 3 years are as follows:

	2018	2019	2020
Number of cases handled	6 953	7 256	5 605
Number of lawyers registered as volunteer lawyers	1 126	1 217	1 262

3. In 2021-22, the Government will continue to work with DLS and 2 legal professional bodies to encourage more volunteer lawyers to participate in FLAS. Publicity information is available at relevant court registries and offices, non-governmental organisations and on the internet.

DLS has a total of 3 staff members responsible for providing administrative support to FLAS. The expenditure on FLAS in 2020 was \$1.4 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CSO005

(Question Serial No. 2817)

Head: (142) Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) CSO - Administration Wing

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Daniel CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

Please provide the numbers of visits made by Justices of the Peace (JPs) to individual Correctional Services Department (CSD) facilities in the past 3 years and the relevant expenditures; the numbers of complaints received during their visits and the proportion of substantiated complaints.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

One of the important functions of JP visits to correctional institutions is to ensure that complaints made to JPs by persons in custody are handled in a fair and transparent manner. The visiting JPs may either conduct investigations themselves by making personal inquiries into complaints made by persons in custody (such as seeking background information from staff of the institutions and examining relevant records and documents), or refer the complaints to the institutions concerned, the management of CSD, the Complaints Investigation Unit (CIU) of CSD, the Office of The Ombudsman or the Police or other related departments/organisations for their follow-up actions, having regard to the nature and severity of the complaints. Upon receipt of the referrals, the parties concerned will investigate into the complaints. On completion of the investigation, the result will be reported to the JPs. JPs are at liberty to conduct any further investigation or re-visit the institution in question for follow-up as they consider necessary. Before every JP visit, the JPs Secretariat provides visiting JPs with reports on outstanding complaints made to JPs by persons in custody of the institutions concerned during the past visits, so that the JPs may follow up those complaints or other issues during their upcoming visit. The number of JP visits to individual CSD facilities and the number of complaints received during these visits in the past 3 years are set out at **Annex A** and **Annex B** respectively.

The majority of complaints received by JPs during visits to institutions were related to treatment, welfare, services, staff attitude and conduct, facilities and equipment, and other government departments/organisations. All these complaint cases were followed up as

appropriate. Taking CSD as an example, a total of 155 complaints were received during JP visits to correctional institutions in 2019. The follow-up actions taken in respect of the complaints made to JPs are summarised in the table below:

Category of complaints	Actions	Number of complaints in 2019
Complaints against/related to CSD (total: 143)	- No further action to be taken as directed by JPs (2 due to contradictory nature of the allegations of the complainants, 45 due to lack of solid information for further investigation, and 20 due to the JPs being satisfied that the complaints had already been addressed or dealt with by the institutions before the JP visits)	67
	- Referred to institution management for investigation or follow-up (all cases resolved by improvement measures made or explanations given, of which both the JPs and complainants concerned were duly informed; and there was no further action as directed by JPs and no further request or other complaint raised by complainants)	30
	- Referred to the Police for investigation (complaint subsequently withdrawn by complainant)	1
	- Referred to CIU for investigation (2 cases referred by CIU to institution management for follow-up and resolved; 11 of the 43 complaints investigated by CIU found unsubstantiated or curtailed after investigation by CIU; 4 of the remaining 30 complaints withdrawn by complainants; and the complainants of 26 cases either declined to provide information to CIU or stated that they had no complaint to lodge during the interview with CIU investigators and thus no further action could be taken. JPs were duly informed of the above investigation results and directed no further action be taken; while the complainant of the last 2 cases lodged appeal to the Correctional Services Department Complaints Appeal Board (CSDCAB) against the investigation findings of CIU; after examining the cases and information provided by complainant for appeal, CSDCAB considered that there was no valid reason to overturn the investigation findings of CIU. Both JPs and the complainant were duly informed of the investigation or review results of the appeal of the above cases. No further action was directed by JPs and no further request or other complaint was raised by the complainant)	45

Category of complaints	Actions	Number of complaints in 2019
Complaint related to the personal issue of the complainant (total: 1)	- The complaint was raised by a person in custody with mental illness; JPs directed that continuous psychiatric assessment and treatment be provided to the person in custody and no further follow-up action was required	1
Complaints against other departments/ organisations (total: 11)	- JPs reviewed the complainants' allegations on site and/or examined relevant records and documents, and concluded that no further action was required (no concrete evidence to corroborate the complainants' allegations or complaints under criminal investigations by other law enforcement agencies)	7
	- Referred to other government departments/organisations for handling and follow-up	3
	- Referred to institution management for providing explanation to the complainant	1
Total:		155

The relevant expenditure on JP visits involved mainly travelling expenses. If visits are jointly conducted by Official JPs and Non-official JPs, transport is generally arranged by the former using the respective departmental resources and breakdown of travelling expenses involved is not available. If departmental transport is not available, the JPs Secretariat will hire commercial vehicles or pool cars of the Government Logistics Department (GLD) for the purpose. The relevant expenses incurred for hiring commercial vehicles or GLD vehicles for JP visits in the past 3 years are set out below:

Year	Relevant expenses incurred for hiring commercial vehicles or GLD vehicles (\$ million)
2018	0.94
2019	0.85
2020	0.58

Numbers of JP visits to individual CSD facilities in the past 3 years

No.	Name of institution	2018	2019	2020
1.	Cape Collinson Correctional Institution	12	12	10 ²
2.	Lai Chi Kok Reception Centre	24	24	23
3.	Hei Ling Chau Addiction Treatment Centre and Lai Sun Correctional Institution	24	21	21
4.	Hei Ling Chau Correctional Institution and Nei Kwu Correctional Institution	23	22	23
5.	Lai King Correctional Institution, Chi Lan Rehabilitation Centre and Custodial Ward of Queen Elizabeth Hospital	24	24	24 ³
6.	Lo Wu Correctional Institution	23	24	23
7.	Pak Sha Wan Correctional Institution ¹	10		
8.	Pak Sha Wan Correctional Institution and Custodial Ward of Queen Mary Hospital ¹	14	24	24 ³
9.	Phoenix House, Pelican House and Lai Hang Rehabilitation Centre	12	12	12
10.	Pik Uk Correctional Institution	24	23	22
11.	Pik Uk Prison	23	24	23
12.	Sha Tsui Correctional Institution and Lai Chi Rehabilitation Centre	24	24	23
13.	Shek Pik Prison	24	23	24
14.	Siu Lam Psychiatric Centre	24	24	21
15.	Stanley Prison	24	23	24
16.	Tai Lam Centre for Women, Bauhinia House and Wai Lan Rehabilitation Centre	24	24	22
17.	Tai Lam Correctional Institution	24	23	24
18.	Tong Fuk Correctional Institution	23	24	24
19.	Tung Tau Correctional Institution	24	24	24
20.	Tai Tam Gap Correctional Institution and Custodial Ward of Queen Mary Hospital ¹	10		
Total:		414	399	391

¹ Custodial Ward of Queen Mary Hospital and Tai Tam Gap Correctional Institution were jointly visited by JPs between March 2015 and May 2018 and Tai Tam Gap Correctional Institution was closed in early June 2018. From June 2018 onwards, Custodial Ward of Queen Mary Hospital has been jointly visited with Pak Sha Wan Correctional Institution by JPs.

² Cape Collinson Correctional Institution was closed in early November 2020. No JP visit to that institution was arranged since then.

³ In view of the development of COVID-19 epidemic and public health considerations, JP visits to Custodial Ward of Queen Elizabeth Hospital and Custodial Ward of Queen Mary Hospital have been temporarily suspended since January 2020.

**Numbers of complaints received during JP visits to
individual CSD facilities in the past 3 years**

No.	Name of institution	2018	2019	2020
1.	Custodial Ward of Queen Elizabeth Hospital	-	1	-
2.	Hei Ling Chau Correctional Institution	5	1	-
3.	Lai Chi Kok Reception Centre	2	4	7
4.	Lo Wu Correctional Institution	4	6	18
5.	Nei Kwu Correctional Institution	2	-	-
6.	Pik Uk Correctional Institution	2	-	-
7.	Pik Uk Prison	2	-	3
8.	Shek Pik Prison	26	11	13
9.	Siu Lam Psychiatric Centre	14	9	3
10.	Stanley Prison	115	115	69
11.	Tai Lam Centre for Women	4	2	-
12.	Tai Lam Correctional Institution	-	5	-
13.	Tong Fuk Correctional Institution	4	1	1
14.	Tung Tau Correctional Institution	7	-	-
Total:		187	155	114

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CSO006

(Question Serial No. 2848)

Head: (142) Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) CSO - Administration Wing

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Daniel CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

Please set out the actual expenditures on the subscriptions for Apple Daily and Next Magazine from 2012 to 2020, and the estimated expenditures for this year.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 114)

Reply:

As the Administration Wing does not maintain separate accounts for the subscriptions paid for individual newspapers or publications, we are unable to provide the relevant information.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CSO007

(Question Serial No. 2849)

Head: (142) Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) CSO - Administration Wing

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Daniel CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

Please advise on the actual additional expenditure incurred by the Central Government Offices and various government buildings since the launch of work-from-home arrangement for government employees last year.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 115)

Reply:

As far as the Central Government Offices (CGO) are concerned, following the Government's announcement of the implementation of special work arrangements for government employees, the number of government employees required to return to office to work has reduced. The arrangement did not incur additional expenditure for the CGO building (including building management, security, etc.).

We do not have the relevant information of other government buildings.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CSO008

(Question Serial No. 2854)

Head: (142) Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) CSO - Administration Wing

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Daniel CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

Please advise on the number of saloon cars purchased for the 2 Secretaries, the actual expenditure on maintenance and the frequency of use last year; and the number of saloon cars to be purchased and the estimated expenditure this year.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 242)

Reply:

In 2020-21, the Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration (CS) and the Financial Secretary (FS) did not purchase any new vehicles for CS or FS, and there is no plan to purchase new vehicles in 2021-22. The expenditure on repair and maintenance of the vehicles currently used by CS and FS (as at 28 February 2021) was about \$70,000 and \$40,000 respectively. The estimated expenditure on repair and maintenance in 2021-22 will be more or less the same as that in 2020-21.

CS and FS use their office vehicles to get to various destinations to attend official functions, etc. according to operational needs. A large number of trip records are involved. The Offices of CS and FS do not compile statistics on the frequency of use.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CSO009

(Question Serial No. 2910)

Head: (142) Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) CSO - Administration Wing

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Daniel CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

Please set out the destinations, dates and number of duty visits outside Hong Kong made by the two Secretaries last year and the actual expenditures incurred.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 243)

Reply:

The relevant information on the duty visits of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary last year is as follows:

Date of visit (Number of visits)	Place of visit	Total expenditure [#]
From 1 March 2020 to 28 February 2021 (3)	Shenzhen	About HK\$7,000

Remarks:

[#] Including charges for transportation, hotel accommodation and required testing fees. For some of the visits, hotel accommodation and in-town transportation were sponsored by the hosting government. The actual amount of sponsorship is not known to us.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CSO010

(Question Serial No. 2216)

Head: (142) Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary

Subhead (No. & title): (700) General non-recurrent

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Daniel CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

1. Please set out the numbers of applications and approved applications of the Retail Sector Subsidy Scheme under the 4 rounds of the Anti-epidemic Fund (AEF), as well as the amounts of subsidy involved in the Scheme in 2020;
2. Of the successful applications for the AEF, what is the average time taken to have the first tranche of subsidy received upon approval?
3. What is the number of applications still pending approval at present?
4. What are the number of approved applications with subsidy not yet disbursed, and the reason for it?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan (LegCo internal reference no.: 21)

Reply:

The Retail Sector Subsidy Scheme under the AEF does not fall within the scope of the Appropriation Bill nor the Estimates of Expenditure of the Government's General Revenue Account. Nonetheless, the information sought is provided below:

To provide relief to retailers hard hit by the pandemic, the Government launched the Retail Sector Subsidy Scheme (the Scheme) under the AEF in March last year. Close to 93 000 applications were received during the three-week application period. Together with successful appeal cases, a total of some 69 000 applications were approved, involving about \$5.5 billion of subsidies. The Scheme was concluded in September last year. All the relevant arrangements (including vetting and subsidy disbursement) have already been completed.

If the bank account information provided by the applicant was accurate, he/she would be able to receive the relevant subsidy within 7 working days after receiving the email and SMS notifying that his/her application was approved.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CSO011****(Question Serial No. 1515)**

Head: (142) Government Secretariat : Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) CSO - Administration Wing

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Daniel CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

In recent years, with more ethnic minorities settling in Hong Kong, there have been more non-Chinese speaking students and ethnic minorities in need of support. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of:

1. the work plan of the Steering Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs this year; and
2. whether the Government will consider devoting more resources to alleviating poverty among ethnic minorities; if yes, the details; if not, the reasons?

Asked by: Hon HO Kwan-yiu, Junius (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

With the \$500 million earmarked in the 2018-19 Budget, the Steering Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs (the Steering Committee), chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration, co-ordinated and formulated a series of new measures covering education, employment, health, social welfare and social integration to enhance support for ethnic minorities (at Annex). These measures were announced in “The Chief Executive’s 2018 Policy Address” and “The Chief Executive’s 2019 Policy Address”, details of which can be found in the relevant leaflet (https://www.policyaddress.gov.hk/2018/eng/pdf/Leaflet_support.pdf) and Chapter 6 of the 2019 Policy Address Supplement (https://www.policyaddress.gov.hk/2019/eng/pdf/supplement_6.pdf). All these measures have been put to implementation.

The work of the Steering Committee this year will focus on monitoring the implementation of these measures and reviewing their effectiveness. In addition, the Steering Committee will continue to engage with stakeholders for their views on enhancing the relevant measures.

The Government has all along attached great importance to the poverty situation of ethnic minorities. The Office of the Government Economist and the Census and Statistics Department compile the “Hong Kong Poverty Situation Report on Ethnic Minorities” on a regular basis to better understand the characteristics and situation of poor ethnic minority households, so as to facilitate the formulation of related policies and support measures by bureaux and departments. Ethnic minorities are part of the Hong Kong community and can enjoy all the support services and social security assistance provided by the Government to needy families. This notwithstanding, they may face difficulties when accessing public services and seeking assistance owing to cultural and language differences. In view of this, the Government has formulated the two rounds of measures as mentioned in paragraph 1 above to enhance support to them, and the measures have all been put to implementation. The total estimated expenditure for these measures amounts to over \$800 million in the four financial years starting from the 2019-20 financial year. The Government will continue to closely monitor the needs of ethnic minorities and provide timely and suitable assistance.

Measures to Strengthen Support for Ethnic Minorities

<i>Recurrent Measures</i>
<u>Education</u>
1. Enhance the subsidy for kindergartens admitting non-Chinese speaking students
2. Provide additional funding support to public sector mainstream schools admitting non-Chinese speaking students with special educational needs
3. Provide all schools admitting a relatively small number of non-Chinese speaking students with a new two-tiered subsidy with additional funding
<u>Employment</u>
4. Launch a pilot programme in conjunction with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to provide employment services for ethnic minority job seekers through a case management approach
<u>Social Welfare</u>
5. Commission NGOs to set up designated outreaching teams to connect ethnic minorities in need to mainstream welfare services
6. Enhance manpower support for the Social Welfare Department (SWD) to facilitate better service planning and co-ordination on welfare service support for ethnic minorities
7. Strengthen prevention and support service for ethnic minorities against domestic and sexual violence
8. Provide additional subsidy for special child care centres and early education and training centres with pre-school ethnic minority children with special needs admitted
9. Set up specialised ethnic minority units in 5 parents/relatives resources centres for persons with disabilities
<u>Social Integration</u>
10. Improve the “Administrative Guidelines on Promotion of Racial Equality” for application to all Government bureaux and departments and related organisations providing services to ethnic minorities
11. Enhance interpretation and translation services in the CHEER Centre and introduce new services in Vietnamese
<i>Time-Limited Recurrent and Non-Recurrent Measures</i>
<u>Education</u>
12. Support non-Chinese speaking students in their learning of Chinese History using the Chinese language, and continue to commission tertiary institutions to provide professional support services for schools on Chinese language learning and teaching of non-Chinese speaking students
13. Strengthen parent education of parents of non-Chinese speaking students to help them support their children’s learning

<p><u>Employment</u></p> <p>14. Enhance recruitment promotion and outreaching efforts to encourage ethnic minorities to consider a career in the disciplined forces, and provide a short-term internship programme in the Government for non-ethnic Chinese university students</p>
<p>15. Enhance manpower support for the Labour Department to implement the pilot programme</p>
<p><u>Health</u></p> <p>16. Arrange translation and production of more publicity and education materials to enable ethnic minorities to make better use of services offered by the Department of Health and enhance the effectiveness of health education on communicable diseases, non-communicable diseases and mental health, etc.</p>
<p><u>Social Welfare</u></p> <p>17. Launch an “Ethnic Minority District Ambassador” pilot scheme to employ more ethnic minorities in SWD and subvented NGOs to enhance services for ethnic minorities provided by district centres/service units</p>
<p><u>Social Integration</u></p> <p>18. Strengthen services of support service centres for ethnic minorities and organise more district-based activities to encourage interaction and exchange between ethnic minorities and local communities</p>
<p>19. Strengthen engagement of ethnic minority children and youth through outreaching to schools by the disciplined forces and Junior Police Call programmes</p>
<p>20. Provide more cultural sensitivity/equal opportunities training for civil service new recruits and front-line staff</p>

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CSO012

(Question Serial No. 1516)

Head: (142) Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (5) Subvention: Duty Lawyer Service and Legal Aid Services Council

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Daniel CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

District Offices under the Home Affairs Department have been providing Free Legal Advice Service (FLAS) to members of the public. Please advise on the following:

1. a breakdown of the average waiting time for FLAS by members of the public over the past year by District Office;
2. the information on the scope of FLAS, the numbers of beneficiaries and cases over the past year;
3. the number of lawyers participating in the scheme over the past year; the policy for the promotion and publicity of the scheme in this financial year; and the manpower and expenditure involved; and
4. whether the Government has any plan or measures to encourage more young lawyers who possess degrees in Law or practicing certificates to join FLAS to benefit more members of the public.

Asked by: Hon HO Kwan-yiu, Junius (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)

Reply:

1. The Government provides the Duty Lawyer Service (DLS) with subvention to implement the Free Legal Advice Scheme (FLAS) at 9 District Offices (DOs) of the Home Affairs Department. In 2020, the average waiting time between the submission of an application and the arrangement for an advice session was 23.3 days, which was 12.4% shorter than that in 2019 (26.6 days). The waiting time at each DO over the past year is as follows:

DO	Average waiting time in 2020 (day)
Central and Western	19.3
Eastern	17.8
Islands	17.2
Kwun Tong	23.5
Sha Tin	33.7
Tsuen Wan	26.6
Wan Chai	19.9
Wong Tai Sin	24.9
Yau Tsim Mong	26.9

2. FLAS provides free preliminary legal advice without means testing to members of the public as to their legal position in genuine cases relating to the laws of Hong Kong. A total of 5 605 cases were handled under FLAS in 2020.
3. A total of 1 262 lawyers have registered as volunteer lawyers under FLAS over the past year. In 2021-22, the Government will continue to work with DLS and the 2 legal professional bodies to encourage more volunteer lawyers to participate in FLAS. Publicity information is available at relevant court registries and offices, non-governmental organisations and on the internet.

DLS has a total of 3 staff members responsible for providing administrative support to FLAS. The administrative expenditure on FLAS in 2020 was \$1.4 million.

4. DLS has always been committed to expanding its volunteer lawyer team. In 2020, a total of 112 lawyers, including 61 barristers and 51 solicitors, newly joined as volunteer lawyers under FLAS.

DLS does not maintain any statistics on the age of volunteer lawyers participating in FLAS. For reference, 48% of the currently participating volunteer lawyers have been qualified for practice for less than 10 years.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CSO013

(Question Serial No. 0411)

Head: (142) Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Policy Innovation and Co-ordination Office

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Daniel CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

The aim of the Policy Innovation and Co-ordination Office (PICO), which was established in 2018, is to conduct policy research and enhance policy innovation. In this connection, will the Government advise this Committee of the following:

- (1) The overall situation of PICO (including staff establishment and salary structure, recruitment and wastage figures, actual total expenditure and performance indicators) for each year from 2018 to 2020.
- (2) A special round of applications under the Public Policy Research Funding Scheme (PPRFS) was launched in 2020-21 to support research studies on topics relating to the underlying causes of the social incidents taken place in the second half of 2019, as well as important political, economic, cultural and societal issues relating to the deep-seated problems of society. What was the actual situation of this special round of applications (including the manpower, miscellaneous expenses and overall actual expenditure involved)?
- (3) Further to the above question, has any performance indicator been established for the PPRFS, and has any review been conducted to assess whether the targets have been met with the money spent? If yes, what are the details and whether the performance indicators have been achieved? If not, what are the reasons?
- (4) What are the estimated recruitment figure, breakdown of expenditure, estimated spending and performance indicators for 2021-22?

Asked by: Hon IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

(1) and (4)

The details of the establishment and salary band of civil servants in the Policy Innovation and Co-ordination Office (PICO) for the past 3 financial years are as follows:

Rank	Number (2018-19)	Number (2019-20)	Number (2020-21)	Salary Point
Administrative Officer Staff Grade A1 [Note]	1	1	1	Directorate Pay Scale Point 8
Administrative Officer Staff Grade B1	1	1	1	Directorate Pay Scale Point 4
Administrative Officer Staff Grade B	2	2	2	Directorate Pay Scale Point 3
Administrative Officer Staff Grade C/Principal Economist	4	4	4	Directorate Pay Scale Point 2
Directorate Civil Servant	8	8	8	
Senior Administrative Officer/ Senior Statistician/ Senior Economist/ Senior Town Planner/ Chief Executive Officer	9	9	10	Master Pay Scale Points 45-49
Senior Executive Officer/ Executive Officer I/ Statistical Officer I	7	7	8	Master Pay Scale Points 22-44
Clerical and Secretarial Grades Staff/Chauffeur/Motor Driver	22	23	23	Master Pay Scale Points 1-33
Non-Directorate Civil Servant	38	39	41	
Total Civil Service Establishment	46	47	49	

[Note] The Director of Administration, under delegated authority, created 1 supernumerary post of Administrative Officer Staff Grade A on 18 January 2021 for a period of 12 months until 17 January 2022 for the incumbent to take up the post of Head/PICO. During the said period, the supernumerary post concerned was created by holding against a temporarily vacant permanent post of Administrative Officer Staff Grade A1.

In addition, PICO employed 28 contract staff both in 2018-19 and 2019-20. In 2020-21, 19 contract staff were employed.

During the period from July 2017 to March 2021, the Task Force on Central Policy Unit Re-organisation and PICO conducted a total of 6 recruitment exercises for 4 types of non-civil service contract positions, including Systems Analyst, Senior Policy and Project Co-ordination Officer, Policy and Project Co-ordination Officer, and General Clerk. A total of 22 applicants were offered employment, and 10 of them have left the service.

The actual expenditure incurred by PICO in 2018-19 and 2019-20 was \$88.7 million and \$128.1 million respectively, and the revised estimate for 2020-21 was \$144.4 million. As the effectiveness of PICO's work in respect of conducting evidence-based policy research, co-ordinating the work for the Chief Executive's Policy Address and co-ordinating major policies and programmes across bureaux and departments is reflected in the support provided to the senior echelon of the Government and the relevant policy bureaux/departments, it is difficult to set quantifiable performance indicators. On the other hand, under **Programme (1) Policy Innovation and Coordination Office** in the Controlling Officer's Report, we have set out the relevant performance indicators for 2 main responsibilities, including implementing the Public Policy Research Funding Scheme (PPRFS) and the Strategic Public Policy Research Funding Scheme (SPPRFS), and

providing “first-stop and one-stop” project consultation and co-ordination services for innovative projects.

For 2021-22, the estimated operating expenditure of PICO is \$134.2 million, of which \$67.8 million and \$16.1 million are for meeting the remuneration and relevant expenditures of 49 civil servants and 18 contract staff members respectively. The remaining amount mainly covers \$33 million earmarked for the PPRFS and SPPRFS.

(2) and (3)

A total of 210 applications were received under the special round of the PPRFS (special round) launched by PICO in November 2019. The assessment of applications under the special round was conducted by the Assessment Panel, which is chaired by and comprises experienced academics. On the advice of the Assessment Panel, a total funding of about \$31 million was granted to 79 research projects. Except for 1 withdrawn project, all research projects under the special round have been completed. The Assessment Panel is reviewing the relevant research projects, including assessing the effectiveness of the project by comparing the project results against the original objectives and targets as set out in the project proposals. The relevant work of the PPRFS (including the special round) and the SPPRFS is handled by 6 officers in the Public Policy Research Funding Scheme Unit under PICO.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CSO014

(Question Serial No. 1813)

Head: (142) Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary

Subhead (No. & title): (700) General non-recurrent

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Daniel CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

Several rounds of relief measures have been rolled out under the Anti-epidemic Fund (AEF) to support industries affected by the epidemic and relieve people's burden. Would the Government please advise this Committee on the total AEF funding commitment approved by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council? How many AEF measures have been approved so far? What is the total funding commitment for these measures? What is the amount of subsidy already paid/disbursed? How many people and enterprises/businesses have benefited from these measures? What is the progress of various measures?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 31)

Reply:

The Anti-epidemic Fund (AEF) does not fall within the scope of the Appropriation Bill nor the Estimates of Expenditure of the Government's General Revenue Account. Nonetheless, the information sought is provided below:

The Government established AEF in February last year to enhance Hong Kong's capability in combating the pandemic and provide suitable relief to businesses and individuals hard hit by the pandemic or more seriously affected by the anti-epidemic measures. Thus far, the Legislative Council Finance Committee has approved a total commitment of \$162.3 billion for AEF. As of 26 March 2021, 121 measures were approved under AEF, with the total commitment amounting to over \$160 billion. Over \$140 billion of funding has been deployed/disbursed, benefitting over 6.5 million persons and 850 000 applications from enterprises/businesses, etc. At present, around 50 measures are still under implementation.

Since the establishment of AEF, the Government has submitted regular reports on the implementation progress of the various AEF measures to the Legislative Council. The latest report was submitted on 19 February 2021 and can be found at www.legco.gov.hk/yr19-20/english/fc/fc/papers/fc20200221fc-115-1-e.pdf. Members

may make reference to the aforementioned report for the implementation progress of the individual measures.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CSO015

(Question Serial No. 1814)

Head: (142) Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Policy Innovation and Co-ordination Office

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Daniel CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

Please tabulate the research and promotional projects relating to ethnic minorities and/or non-Chinese speaking students approved by the Central Policy Unit (CPU) from 2014 to 2021 with the following details:

- a. name of institution(s) and/or consultancy;
- b. title of research project;
- c. objective and content;
- d. manpower and expenses involved;
- e. start date;
- f. progress of research (under planning/in progress/completed date);
- g. Administration's follow-up to the research report and the progress;
- h. for completed research, has the executive summary/full report been made publicly available; if yes, through which channels; if no, explain why.

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 32)

Reply:

In the 5 financial years from 2016-17 to 2020-21, the Public Policy Research Funding Scheme, administered by the former Central Policy Unit and the Policy Innovation and Co-ordination Office (PICO), approved a total of 6 research projects relating to ethnic minority students and/or non-Chinese speaking students. The details are provided below:

No .	Date of approval	Institution/ Think tank	Project title	Fund awarded (HK\$)	Commencement date of research	Progress of research (Completion date of research)
1	2016-17	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Knowledge and Perceptions towards Gender-Based Violence of Minority Girls in Hong Kong	200,000.00	6/2/2017	Research report has been uploaded onto PICO's website (5/8/2017)
2	2017-18	The University of Hong Kong	Opening Doors, Creating Pathways - A Qualitative Study of Social Harms and Service Access of Young People from Ethnic Minority Backgrounds in Hong Kong	400,000.00	11/12/2017	Research report has been uploaded onto PICO's website (11/8/2019)
3	2019-20	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Education as Soft Power: Hong Kong-trained Non-local University Students' Connections and Their Career Plan in Hong Kong	495,559.00	1/6/2019	Research report to be assessed by the Assessment Panel
4	2020-21	Hong Kong Baptist University	Understanding the Sociopolitical Participation of Ethnic Minority Youth in Hong Kong	306,866.00	17/4/2020	Research report to be assessed by the Assessment Panel

No .	Date of approval	Institution/ Think tank	Project title	Fund awarded (HK\$)	Commencement date of research	Progress of research (Completion date of research)
5	2020-21	The University of Hong Kong	A Sequential Qualitative Study to Examine the Changes of Social Identity and Belongingness of the South Asian Young Ethnic Minority in Hong Kong during the 2019 Social Unrest	270,661.70	17/4/2020	Research report to be assessed by the Assessment Panel
6	2020-21	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	The Development of Chinese Literacy Proficiency and its Relationship with Learning Motivation in Ethnic-minority Primary School Students	473,812.00	1/9/2020	In progress

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CSO016

(Question Serial No. 2479)

Head: (142) Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) CSO - Administration Wing

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Daniel CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

Please provide the numbers of (i) statutory visits and (ii) non-statutory visits made by Justices of the Peace (JPs) to each institution, the number of complaints received during the visits, and the follow-up position of the complaint cases in each of the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 107)

Reply:

One of the important functions of JP visits to institutions is to ensure that complaints made to JPs by inmates are handled in a fair and transparent manner. The visiting JPs may either conduct investigations themselves by making personal inquiries into complaints made by inmates (such as seeking background information from staff of the institutions and examining relevant records and documents), or refer the complaints to the institutions concerned or other parties for their follow-up actions, having regard to the nature and severity of the complaints. Upon receipt of the referrals, the parties concerned will investigate into the complaints. On completion of the investigation, the result will be reported to the JPs. JPs are at liberty to conduct any further investigation or re-visit the institution in question for follow-up as they consider necessary. Before every JP visit, the JPs Secretariat provides visiting JPs with reports on outstanding complaints made to JPs by inmates of the institutions concerned during the past visits, so that the JPs may follow up those complaints or other issues during their upcoming visit. The number of JP visits to institutions and the number of complaints received during these visits in the past 3 years are set out at **Annex A** and **Annex B** respectively.

The majority of complaints received by JPs during visits to institutions were related to treatment, welfare, services, staff attitude and conduct, facilities and equipment, and other government departments/organisations. All these complaint cases were followed up as appropriate. Taking the Correctional Services Department (CSD) as an example, a total of 155 complaints were received during JP visits to correctional institutions in 2019. The

follow-up actions taken in respect of the complaints made to JPs are summarised in the table below:

Category of complaints	Actions	Number of complaints in 2019
Complaints against/related to CSD (total: 143)	- No further action to be taken as directed by JPs (2 due to contradictory nature of the allegations of the complainants, 45 due to lack of solid information for further investigation, and 20 due to the JPs being satisfied that the complaints had already been addressed or dealt with by the institutions before the JP visits)	67
	- Referred to institution management for investigation or follow-up (all cases resolved by improvement measures made or explanations given, of which both the JPs and complainants concerned were duly informed; and there was no further action as directed by JPs and no further request or other complaint raised by complainants)	30
	- Referred to the Police for investigation (complaint subsequently withdrawn by complainant)	1
	- Referred to Complaints Investigation Unit (CIU) of CSD for investigation (2 cases referred by CIU to institution management for follow-up and resolved; 11 of the 43 complaints investigated by CIU found unsubstantiated or curtailed after investigation by CIU; 4 of the remaining 30 complaints withdrawn by complainants; and the complainants of 26 cases either declined to provide information to CIU or stated that they had no complaint to lodge during the interview with CIU investigators and thus no further action could be taken. JPs were duly informed of the above investigation results and directed no further action be taken; while the complainant of the last 2 cases lodged appeal to the Correctional Services Department Complaints Appeal Board (CSDCAB) against the investigation findings of CIU; after examining the cases and information provided by complainant for appeal, CSDCAB considered that there was no valid reason to overturn the investigation findings of CIU. Both JPs and the complainant were duly informed of the investigation or review results of the appeal of the above cases. No further action was directed by JPs and no further request or other complaint was raised by the complainant)	45

Category of complaints	Actions	Number of complaints in 2019
Complaint related to the personal issue of the complainant (total: 1)	- The complaint was raised by a person in custody with mental illness; JPs directed that continuous psychiatric assessment and treatment be provided to the person in custody and no further follow-up action was required	1
Complaints against other departments/ organisations (total: 11)	- JPs reviewed the complainants' allegations on site and/or examined relevant records and documents, and concluded that no further action was required (no concrete evidence to corroborate the complainants' allegations or complaints under criminal investigations by other law enforcement agencies)	7
	- Referred to other government departments/organisations for handling and follow-up	3
	- Referred to institution management for providing explanation to the complainant	1
Total:		155

Numbers of JP visits to institutions in the past 3 years

(i) Statutory visits

I. Institutions of CSD

No.	Name of institution	2018	2019	2020
1.	Cape Collinson Correctional Institution	12	12	10 ²
2.	Lai Chi Kok Reception Centre	24	24	23
3.	Hei Ling Chau Addiction Treatment Centre and Lai Sun Correctional Institution	24	21	21
4.	Hei Ling Chau Correctional Institution and Nei Kwu Correctional Institution	23	22	23
5.	Lai King Correctional Institution, Chi Lan Rehabilitation Centre and Custodial Ward of Queen Elizabeth Hospital	24	24	24 ³
6.	Lo Wu Correctional Institution	23	24	23
7.	Pak Sha Wan Correctional Institution ¹	10		
8.	Pak Sha Wan Correctional Institution and Custodial Ward of Queen Mary Hospital ¹	14	24	24 ³
9.	Phoenix House, Pelican House and Lai Hang Rehabilitation Centre	12	12	12
10.	Pik Uk Correctional Institution	24	23	22
11.	Pik Uk Prison	23	24	23
12.	Sha Tsui Correctional Institution and Lai Chi Rehabilitation Centre	24	24	23
13.	Shek Pik Prison	24	23	24
14.	Siu Lam Psychiatric Centre	24	24	21
15.	Stanley Prison	24	23	24
16.	Tai Lam Centre for Women, Bauhinia House and Wai Lan Rehabilitation Centre	24	24	22
17.	Tai Lam Correctional Institution	24	23	24
18.	Tong Fuk Correctional Institution	23	24	24
19.	Tung Tau Correctional Institution	24	24	24
20.	Tai Tam Gap Correctional Institution and Custodial Ward of Queen Mary Hospital ¹	10		
Total:		414	399	391

II. Hospitals of the Hospital Authority (HA)

No.	Name of institution	2018	2019	2020
1.	Castle Peak Hospital	12	11	1
2.	Kowloon Psychiatric Observation Unit of Kowloon Hospital	12	12	1
3.	Kwai Chung Hospital	12	12	1
4.	New Territories East Psychiatric Observation Unit of Tai Po Hospital	12	12	1

No.	Name of institution	2018	2019	2020
5.	Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Psychiatric Observation Unit of the Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital	12	12	1
Total:		60	59	5⁴

III. Detention centre of Independent Commission Against Corruption

No.	Name of institution	2018	2019	2020
1.	Independent Commission Against Corruption Detention Centre	24	24	23

IV. Detention centres of Immigration Department (ImmD)

No.	Name of institution	2018	2019	2020
1.	Castle Peak Bay Immigration Centre	24	24	21
2.	Ma Tau Kok Detention Centre	4	4	4
Total:		28	28	25

V. Institutions of Social Welfare Department (SWD) / Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs)

No.	Name of institution	2018	2019	2020
1.	Po Leung Kuk Wing Lung Bank Golden Jubilee Sheltered Workshop and Hostel	4	4	3
2.	Tuen Mun Children and Juvenile Home	12	12	12
Total:		16	16	15

(ii) Non-statutory visits

I. Hospitals of HA

No.	Name of institution	2018	2019	2020
1.	Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Hospital	2	2	-
2.	Bradbury Hospice	2	2	-
3.	Caritas Medical Centre	4	2	-
4.	Cheshire Home, Chung Hom Kok	2	2	-
5.	Cheshire Home, Shatin	2	2	-
6.	The Duchess of Kent Children's Hospital at Sandy Bay	2	2	-
7.	Grantham Hospital	2	2	-
8.	Haven of Hope Hospital	2	2	-
9.	Hong Kong Buddhist Hospital	2	2	-
10.	Hong Kong Eye Hospital	2	2	-
11.	Kowloon Hospital	4	2	-
12.	Kwong Wah Hospital	4	2	-
13.	MacLehose Medical Rehabilitation Centre	2	2	-
14.	North District Hospital	2	2	-
15.	North Lantau Hospital	2	2	-

No.	Name of institution	2018	2019	2020
16.	Our Lady of Maryknoll Hospital	2	2	-
17.	Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital	4	2	-
18.	Pok Oi Hospital	2	2	-
19.	Prince of Wales Hospital	4	2	-
20.	Princess Margaret Hospital	4	2	-
21.	Queen Elizabeth Hospital	4	2	-
22.	Queen Mary Hospital	4	2	-
23.	Ruttonjee Hospital/Tang Shiu Kin Hospital	2	2	-
24.	Shatin Hospital	2	2	-
25.	Siu Lam Hospital	2	2	-
26.	St. John Hospital	2	2	-
27.	Tai Po Hospital	2	2	-
28.	Tseung Kwan O Hospital	2	2	-
29.	Tuen Mun Hospital	4	2	-
30.	Tung Wah Eastern Hospital	2	2	-
31.	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Fung Yiu King Hospital	2	2	-
32.	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Wong Tai Sin Hospital	2	2	-
33.	Tung Wah Hospital	2	2	-
34.	United Christian Hospital	4	2	-
35.	Wong Chuk Hang Hospital	2	2	-
36.	Yan Chai Hospital	4	2	-
Total:		94	72⁵	0⁴

II. Po Leung Kuk

No.	Name of institution	2018	2019	2020
1.	Po Leung Kuk	4	4	0 ⁴

III. Institutions for Drug Abusers operated by NGOs under the purview of the Department of Health

No.	Name of institution	2018	2019	2020
1.	The Society for the Aid and Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers Adult Female Rehabilitation Centre	2	2	0
2.	The Society for the Aid and Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers Au Tau Youth Centre	2	2	1
3.	The Society for the Aid and Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers Shek Kwu Chau Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre	4	2	1
4.	The Society for the Aid and Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers Sister Aquinas Memorial Women's Treatment Centre	4	2	0
Total:		12	8⁶	2⁴

IV. Institutions of SWD/NGOs

No.	Name of institution	2018	2019	2020
1.	Caritas-Hong Kong - Caritas Jockey Club Lai King Rehabilitation Centre	2	2	-
2.	Caritas-Hong Kong - Caritas Li Ka Shing Care and Attention Home	2	2	-
3.	Caritas-Hong Kong - Caritas Pelletier Hall	2	2	1
4.	Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong - Home of Love – Yung Shing Hostel ⁷		2	-
5.	Evangelical Lutheran Church Hong Kong - Kwai Shing Hostel	2	2	1
6.	Fu Hong Society - Fu Hong Society Rehabilitation Centre	2	2	-
7.	Haven of Hope Christian Service - Haven of Hope Hang Hau Care and Attention Home for Severely Disabled	2	2	1
8.	Heung Hoi Ching Kok Lin Association - Buddhist Li Ka Shing Care and Attention Home for the Elderly	2	2	1
9.	Heung Hoi Ching Kok Lin Association - Buddhist Po Ching Home for the Aged Women	2	2	1
10.	Hong Kong Juvenile Care Centre - Bradbury Hostel	2	2	1
11.	Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council - Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Li Ka Shing Care and Attention Home for the Elderly	2	2	-
12.	Hong Kong Society for the Blind - Jockey Club Centre for the Blind	2	2	1
13.	Hong Kong Society for the Blind - Jockey Club Tuen Mun Home for the Aged Blind	2	2	1
14.	Hong Kong Student Aid Society - Holland Hostel	2	2	1
15.	Hong Kong Student Aid Society - Island Hostel	2	1 ⁹	1
16.	New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association - New Life Building Long Stay Care Home	2	2	-
17.	New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association - Tuen Mun Long Stay Care Home	2	2	1
18.	Po Leung Kuk - Y C Cheng Centre	2	1 ¹⁰	-
19.	Sik Sik Yuen - Ho Yam Care and Attention Home for the Elderly	2	2	1
20.	Sisters of the Good Shepherd - Marycove Centre	2	2	1
21.	Society of Boys' Centres - Chak Yan Centre	1 ⁸	2	-
22.	Society of Boys' Centres - Cheung Hong Hostel	2	2	1
23.	Society of Boys' Centres - Shing Tak Centre	2	2	1
24.	Society of Boys' Centres - Un Chau Hostel	2	2	1
25.	The Mental Health Association of Hong Kong - Jockey Club Building	2	2	1

No.	Name of institution	2018	2019	2020
26.	The Salvation Army - Cheung Hong Community Day Rehabilitation and Residential Service	2	2	1
27.	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Ho Yuk Ching Workshop cum Hostel	2	2	1
28.	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals - Jockey Club Rehabilitation Complex	2	2	1
29.	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals - Wing Yin Hostel	2	2	-
30.	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals - Wong Cho Tong Care and Attention Home	2	2	-
	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals - Wong Cho Tong Integrated Vocational Rehabilitation Centre cum Hostel			
31.	Yan Chai Hospital - Chinachem Care and Attention Home	2	2	1
Total:		59	60	21⁴

- ¹ Custodial Ward of Queen Mary Hospital and Tai Tam Gap Correctional Institution were jointly visited by JPs between March 2015 and May 2018 and Tai Tam Gap Correctional Institution was closed in early June 2018. From June 2018 onwards, Custodial Ward of Queen Mary Hospital has been jointly visited with Pak Sha Wan Correctional Institution by JPs.
- ² Cape Collinson Correctional Institution was closed in early November 2020. No JP visit to that institution was arranged since then.
- ³ In view of the development of COVID-19 epidemic and public health considerations, JP visits to Custodial Ward of Queen Elizabeth Hospital and Custodial Ward of Queen Mary Hospital have been temporarily suspended since January 2020.
- ⁴ In view of the development of COVID-19 epidemic and public health considerations, JP visits to the institutions concerned have been temporarily suspended since late January 2020.
- ⁵ The frequency of JP visits to 11 hospitals has been adjusted from quarterly to half-yearly since 1 January 2019.
- ⁶ The frequency of JP visits to 2 institutions for drug abusers has been adjusted from quarterly to half-yearly since 1 January 2019.
- ⁷ Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong - Home of Love - Yung Shing Hostel has been included under the JP visit programme since January 2019.
- ⁸ JP visits to Society of Boys'Centres - Chak Yan Centre were temporarily suspended from October 2017 to June 2018 due to renovation work at the Centre. The Centre has been re-opened for JP visits in July 2018.
- ⁹ JP visits to the Hong Kong Student Aid Society - Island Hostel were temporarily suspended from July to December 2019 due to reprovisioning of the Hostel to Tuen Mun District. The reprovisioned Hostel was opened for JP visits in January 2020.
- ¹⁰ JP visits to Po Leung Kuk - Y C Cheng Centre were temporarily suspended from July to December 2019 due to renovation work at the Centre. The Centre was re-opened for JP visits in January 2020.

**Numbers of complaints received during JP visits to
institutions in the past 3 years**

(i) Statutory visits**I. Institutions of CSD**

No.	Name of institution	2018	2019	2020
1.	Custodial Ward of Queen Elizabeth Hospital	-	1	-
2.	Hei Ling Chau Correctional Institution	5	1	-
3.	Lai Chi Kok Reception Centre	2	4	7
4.	Lo Wu Correctional Institution	4	6	18
5.	Nei Kwu Correctional Institution	2	-	-
6.	Pik Uk Correctional Institution	2	-	-
7.	Pik Uk Prison	2	-	3
8.	Shek Pik Prison	26	11	13
9.	Siu Lam Psychiatric Centre	14	9	3
10.	Stanley Prison	115	115	69
11.	Tai Lam Centre for Women	4	2	-
12.	Tai Lam Correctional Institution	-	5	-
13.	Tong Fuk Correctional Institution	4	1	1
14.	Tung Tau Correctional Institution	7	-	-
Total:		187	155	114

II. Hospitals of HA

No.	Name of institution	2018	2019	2020
1.	Castle Peak Hospital	-	1	-
2.	Kowloon Psychiatric Observation Unit of Kowloon Hospital	2	3	1
3.	Kwai Chung Hospital	-	1	-
4.	New Territories East Psychiatric Observation Unit of Tai Po Hospital	7	7	-
5.	Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Psychiatric Observation Unit of the Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital	5	10	3
Total:		14	22	4

III. Detention centre of ImmD

No.	Name of institution	2018	2019	2020
1.	Castle Peak Bay Immigration Centre	3	12	16
Total:		3	12	16

(ii) Non-statutory visit

I. Hospital of HA

No.	Name of institution	2018	2019	2020
1.	Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital	-	1	-
Total:		0	1	0

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CSO017

(Question Serial No. 2576)

Head: (142) Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) CSO - Administration Wing

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Daniel CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

How many meetings were held by the Steering Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs over the past 3 years? What measures for supporting ethnic minorities have been/will be formulated and implemented with the \$500 million earmarked in the 2018-19 Budget? What is the expenditure involved for each of the measures?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 108)

Reply:

The Steering Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs (the Steering Committee) is chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration and has held 3 formal meetings since its establishment. Apart from the formal meetings, the Chairman meets with relevant bureaux/ departments to discuss ethnic minority-related issues as necessary. In addition, as part of our ongoing effort, the Chairman and officials of relevant bureaux convened working meetings and focus groups with ethnic minority organisations, service providers and stakeholders from time to time to understand their needs and feel their pulse first hand. The Steering Committee has met with close to 70 such organisations thus far. The Chief Secretary for Administration had a virtual meeting with a group of ethnic minority representatives on 18 March to discuss topical subjects including anti-epidemic measures, employment and support services. The Chief Secretary for Administration also personally chaired or attended the Policy Address consultation sessions from 2018 to 2020 to gauge the views of ethnic minority stakeholders on improvement of the existing support network for ethnic minorities.

On the basis of effectively deploying the \$500 million earmarked in the 2018-19 Budget, the Steering Committee co-ordinated and formulated a series of new measures covering education, employment, health, social welfare and social integration to enhance support for ethnic minorities. These measures were announced in “The Chief Executive’s 2018 Policy Address” and “The Chief Executive’s 2019 Policy Address”, details of which can be found in the relevant leaflet (https://www.policyaddress.gov.hk/2018/eng/pdf/Leaflet_support.pdf)

and Chapter 6 of the 2019 Policy Address Supplement (https://www.policyaddress.gov.hk/2019/eng/pdf/supplement_6.pdf). The Government will continue to closely monitor the need of ethnic minorities and provide timely and suitable assistance.

The 2 rounds of new measures as mentioned in paragraph 2 above have all been put to implementation. In the 4 financial years from 2019-20 to 2022-23, the estimated expenditure on these new measures is set out as follows:

Measures	Approximate Amount (\$ million)
<i>Recurrent Measures</i>	
<u>Education</u>	
1. Enhance the subsidy for kindergartens admitting non-Chinese speaking students	139.7
2. Provide additional funding support to public sector mainstream schools admitting non-Chinese speaking students with special educational needs	79.7
3. Provide all schools admitting a relatively small number of non-Chinese speaking students with a new two-tiered subsidy with additional funding	145.7
<u>Employment</u>	
4. Launch a pilot programme in conjunction with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to provide employment services for ethnic minority job seekers through a case management approach	15.1
<u>Social Welfare</u>	
5. Commission NGOs to set up designated outreaching teams to connect ethnic minorities in need to mainstream welfare services	71.3
6. Enhance manpower support for the Social Welfare Department (SWD) to facilitate better service planning and co-ordination on welfare service support for ethnic minorities	3.3
7. Strengthen prevention and support service for ethnic minorities against domestic and sexual violence	6.8
8. Provide additional subsidy for special child care centres and early education and training centres with pre-school ethnic minority children with special needs admitted	26.3

Measures	Approximate Amount (\$ million)
9. Set up specialised ethnic minority units in 5 parents/relatives resources centres for persons with disabilities	21.6
<u>Social Integration</u>	
10. Improve the “Administrative Guidelines on Promotion of Racial Equality” for application to all Government bureaux and departments and related organisations providing services to ethnic minorities	4.3
11. Enhance interpretation and translation services in the CHEER Centre and introduce new services in Vietnamese	48.4
<i>Time-Limited Recurrent and Non-Recurrent Measures</i>	
<u>Education</u>	
12. Support non-Chinese speaking students in their learning of Chinese History using the Chinese language, and continue to commission tertiary institutions to provide professional support services for schools on Chinese language learning and teaching of non-Chinese speaking students	75.0
13. Strengthen parent education of parents of non-Chinese speaking students to help them support their children’s learning	9.0
<u>Employment</u>	
14. Enhance recruitment promotion and outreaching efforts to encourage ethnic minorities to consider a career in the disciplined forces, and provide a short-term internship programme in the Government for non-ethnic Chinese university students	5.3
15. Enhance manpower support for the Labour Department to implement the pilot programme	10.4
<u>Health</u>	
16. Arrange translation and production of more publicity and education materials to enable ethnic minorities to make better use of services offered by the Department of Health and enhance the effectiveness of health education on communicable diseases, non-communicable diseases and mental health, etc.	8.9

Measures	Approximate Amount (\$ million)
<p><u>Social Welfare</u></p> <p>17. Launch an “Ethnic Minority District Ambassador” pilot scheme to employ more ethnic minorities in SWD and subvented NGOs to enhance services for ethnic minorities provided by district centres/service units</p>	24.3
<p><u>Social Integration</u></p> <p>18. Strengthen services of support service centres for ethnic minorities and organise more district-based activities to encourage interaction and exchange between ethnic minorities and local communities</p>	57.2
<p>19. Strengthen engagement of ethnic minority children and youth through outreaching to schools by the disciplined forces and Junior Police Call programmes</p>	69.0
<p>20. Provide more cultural sensitivity/equal opportunities training for civil service new recruits and front-line staff</p>	2.3

Looking forward, the Steering Committee will focus on monitoring the implementation of these measures and reviewing their effectiveness. In addition, the Steering Committee will continue to engage with stakeholders for their views on enhancing the relevant measures.

– End –

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CSO018

(Question Serial No. 1277)

Head: (142) Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Policy Innovation and Co-ordination Office

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Daniel CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

In 2020-21, the Policy Innovation and Co-ordination Office (PICO) assisted the Chief Executive and the Secretary for Labour and Welfare in administering the Employment Support Scheme under the Anti-epidemic Fund. It is stated in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021-22 that PICO will continue to administer the Public Policy Research Funding Scheme (PPRFS) and the Strategic Public Policy Research Funding Scheme, and develop closer networks with the policy research community to promote evidence-based policy research. However, this statement is merely a broad-brush summary of PICO's aim.

Please inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) Will PICO assist in co-ordinating major policies and programmes across bureaux and departments in 2021-22? If so, what are the details of the policies/programmes and the manpower and expenditure involved? If not, what are the reasons?
- (2) A special round of applications under PPRFS was launched in November 2019 to support research studies on topics relating to the underlying causes of the social incidents taken place in the second half of 2019, as well as important political, economic, cultural and societal issues relating to deep-seated problems of society. The 79 approved research projects were completed within 2020. What are the findings of these 79 projects? Does PICO have any proposals to solve the aforesaid problems in accordance with the findings? If so, what are the proposals and the follow-up actions? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (LegCo internal reference no.: 77)

Reply:

- (1) In 2021-22, the Policy Innovation and Co-ordination Office (PICO) will, in addition to co-ordinating the 2021 Policy Address, support the Chief Executive by providing policy research and co-ordination support for major cross-bureaux policies. The bureaux and departments concerned will announce details of individual policies or

projects in due course depending on their progress. Co-ordinating major cross-bureaux policies and supporting relevant bureaux in formulating policies is one of the key functions of PICO and part of the daily work of its staff. Hence, we do not have a separate breakdown for the manpower and expenditure involved in the tasks.

- (2) A total of 210 applications were received under the special round of the PPRFS (special round) launched by PICO in November 2019. The assessment of applications under the special round was conducted by the Assessment Panel, which is chaired by and comprises experienced academics. On the advice of the Assessment Panel, a total funding of about \$31 million was granted to 79 research projects. Except for 1 withdrawn project, all research projects under the special round have been completed. The Assessment Panel is reviewing the relevant research projects, including assessing the effectiveness of the project by comparing the project results against the original objectives and targets as set out in the project proposals. Upon completion of the assessment by the panel, the Government will conduct a detailed analysis of the content and findings of the report, which will be considered holistically when formulating policies and measures in future.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CSO019****(Question Serial No. 2349)**

Head: (142) Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Government Records Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Daniel CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

1. Did the Government procure any archival records relating to Hong Kong from other places in 2020-21? If so, what are the contents of the records and the related expenditure?
2. What is the estimated expenditure for the procurement of archival records relating to Hong Kong from other places in 2021-22?
3. What are the plans to implement further the digitisation of archival records of Hong Kong, so that certain government records or reports open to the public can be made available for access on-line?

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 58)

Reply:

1. In 2020-21, the Government Records Service (GRS) procured 559 archival records relating to Hong Kong from The National Archives of the United Kingdom and the George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum, incurring about \$600,000. The details are set out as follows:

	Archival Institute	Number of records	Expenditure (HK\$)
1	The National Archives of the United Kingdom	549	599,000
2	George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum	10	3,900
	Total	559	602,900

These records cover a range of subjects relating to the history of Hong Kong, including the future of Hong Kong, politics and leaders, visits of Chinese and British principal officials, the Sino-British Joint Declaration, the Basic Law, economic and financial development of Hong Kong, nationality and citizenship, Vietnamese boat people, political environment and international relations, port and airport development,

etc. These records are subject to quality checking, handling and records description by GRS and are expected to be made available for public inspection gradually starting from the second quarter of 2021.

Besides, GRS has confirmed with the Second Historical Archives of China (SHAC) a list of records relating to Hong Kong. Discussions are now underway with SHAC on the drafting of terms and conditions for the procurement of copies of the records. Upon finalising the details, GRS will purchase the copies of these records in batches.

2. To enrich its holdings, GRS has earmarked \$600,000 in 2021-22 for the procurement of copies of archival records relating to Hong Kong from the archival institutes of other places. GRS is consolidating the list of records for procurement.
3. GRS has endeavoured to digitise its holdings with a view to enhancing their accessibility by the public and better protecting archival records. In 2020, GRS produced about 340 000 digital images of the holdings, bringing the total number of digital images to about 2.39 million.

Upon digitisation, GRS will gradually make available digital copies of those records that can be open for public access. Digital copies will also be uploaded onto GRS' on-line catalogue "@PRO" as far as possible subject to the principles of protecting copyright and personal privacy. Besides, GRS will regularly prepare digitised holdings/photo albums and on-line exhibitions on various topics, and upload them to GRS's website. A dedicated Facebook page was also launched for the Public Records Office in 2020 for sharing its holdings with the public. GRS will continue to strengthen the above work in the future.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CSO020

(Question Serial No. 2195)

Head: (142) Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary

Subhead (No. & title): Not Specified

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Daniel CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

A provision of \$8 billion has been made in the Budget to meet the expenditure for safeguarding national security in the next few years. Due to unavailability of details, there are misleading rumours in the community that the provision concerned is related to the Office for Safeguarding National Security of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. The Financial Secretary shall submit an annual report to the Legislative Council on the control and management of the relevant fund. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee when the Financial Secretary will submit the report to the Legislative Council to further confirm that such rumours are misleading?

Asked by: Hon MAK Mei-kuen, Alice (LegCo internal reference no.: 96)

Reply:

The funding arrangement for the expenditure for safeguarding national security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) is made in strict accordance with the relevant requirements in The Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (the National Security Law).

According to Article 19 of the National Security Law, the Financial Secretary of the HKSAR Government shall, upon approval of the Chief Executive, appropriate from the general revenue a special fund to meet the expenditure for safeguarding national security and approve the establishment of relevant posts, which are not subject to any restrictions in the relevant provisions of the laws in force in the HKSAR. The Financial Secretary shall submit an annual report on the control and management of the fund for this purpose to the Legislative Council of the HKSAR. To this end, the Financial Secretary has made a provision of \$8 billion to meet the expenditure for safeguarding national security in the next few years and will submit a report to the Legislative Council in due course.

In addition, according to Article 48 of the National Security Law, the Central People's Government shall establish in the HKSAR an office for safeguarding national security, which shall perform its mandate for safeguarding national security and exercise relevant powers in accordance with the law. Article 51 of the same law stipulates that the Office for Safeguarding National Security of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR shall be funded by the Central People's Government.

Therefore, the aforementioned provision of \$8 billion does not fall under the estimated expenditure for Head 142 – Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary and is not directly related to this Head.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CSO021

(Question Serial No. 0941)

Head: (142) Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Policy Innovation and Co-ordination Office

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Daniel CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

In recent years, the Government has strived to remove unnecessary constraints for innovation and technology (I&T) development. It was also mentioned that the Policy Innovation and Co-ordination Office had started reviewing existing laws which were outdated and impeded I&T development. However, such work is not mentioned under the relevant Head in the Budget this year. Have such responsibilities been removed from the department? If yes, what are the reasons? What are the findings of the department's review on existing laws which are outdated and impeded I&T development? Please advise this Committee of the relevant details. What are the manpower and expenditure involved in the review?

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy (LegCo internal reference no.: 207)

Reply:

Reviewing legislation and regulations that impede innovation and technology (I&T) and economic development is one of the Government's 8 major directions for I&T development. As directed by the Chief Executive (CE), the Policy Innovation and Co-ordination Office (PICO) is responsible for co-ordinating the review work of relevant policy bureaux and departments (B/Ds), assisting policy bureaux in conducting research on individual projects and reporting to the Steering Committee on Innovation and Technology led by the CE.

Regarding individual projects, the work of PICO is to provide relevant bureaux with initial policy research support, such as studying and making reference to the regulatory regimes and arrangements adopted by other cities in addressing the issues concerned, and examining the relevance of such regimes and arrangements to local circumstances. PICO has also met with relevant B/Ds and stakeholders to gauge their views so as to provide the former with evidence-based research information to assist them in formulating feasible solutions and/or proposed amendments to legislation and regulations. Examples of research projects completed by PICO include: a study on the arrangements of advance directives and the relevant end-of-life care to assist the Food and Health Bureau in formulating proposals for

public consultation which was completed in late 2019; research on the Road Traffic Ordinance and the relevant subsidiary legislation to see whether they are capable of supporting the development of autonomous vehicles, and the research findings have been passed to the Transport and Housing Bureau and the Transport Department (TD) for reference and consideration of ways to promote the adoption of the technology in Hong Kong. We note that TD has commenced studying the necessary legislative amendments. To bring convenience to drivers/customers and drive the development of smart city, PICO has also conducted a study of cities abroad in respect of allowing the provision of mobile payment services at petrol filling stations (PFS) and made recommendations to the Fire Services Department (FSD) for reference. We understand that FSD has received an application from a PFS operator for provision of mobile payment services at its PFS. Approval has been granted to the relevant application after conducting a fire safety risk assessment and considering the safety factors involved.

PICO and the relevant B/Ds have used existing resources to conduct the above review. Since the commencement of the review in early 2019, PICO has completed its work in assisting the bureaux in conducting research on individual projects and co-ordinating the review of the relevant B/Ds. In light of the outcome of the review, B/Ds will introduce in a timely manner amendments to relevant legislation or regulations into the Legislative Council or formulate other solutions such as improvements to administrative measures.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CSO022

(Question Serial No. 2029)

Head: (142) Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Policy Innovation and Co-ordination Office

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Daniel CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

Under Programme (1), the Policy Innovation and Co-ordination Office (PICO) assists the Chief Executive and the Secretary for Labour and Welfare in administering the Employment Support Scheme (ESS) under the Anti-epidemic Fund and promotes evidence-based policy research. Please provide information on the manpower and expenditure involved in the above work. As businesses have been hard hit by the epidemic and many sectors are affected, will PICO take the initiative in exploring the feasibility of relaunching the ESS to help businesses tide over the current volatile situation? If yes, what are the details; if not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy (LegCo internal reference no.: 321)

Reply:

The Employment Support Scheme (ESS) under the Anti-epidemic Fund does not fall within the scope of the Appropriation Bill nor the Estimates of Expenditure of the Government's General Revenue Account. Nonetheless, the information sought is provided below:

To assist the Chief Executive and the Secretary for Labour and Welfare in implementing the ESS, the Policy Innovation and Co-ordination Office (PICO) set up the ESS Secretariat last year to process applications, disburse wage subsidies, and follow up on complaints about abuse or breaches of terms and conditions of the ESS by employers who have received subsidies. Wage subsidies amounting to some \$90.2 billion in total have been disbursed under the two tranches of the ESS. The estimated administrative costs earmarked for the ESS are about \$193.1 million in total, mainly provided under the Anti-epidemic Fund for covering the expenditure on the manpower of the Secretariat and the service charges for the Processing Agent and its outsourced contractors. As co-ordinating major cross-bureau policies and supporting relevant bureaux in formulating policies is one of the key functions of PICO and part of the daily work of its staff, we do not have a separate breakdown for the manpower and expenditure involved in the tasks.

Having considered factors including the capability of the public finance, a more prudent approach vis-à-vis implementing a new round of the ESS is to put in place supportive measures in a targeted manner, with a view to assisting businesses to restart. The Government will also continue to closely monitor the latest development of the pandemic and its impacts on various sectors, and review the supportive measures as appropriate so as to facilitate early recovery of businesses and Hong Kong's economy after the pandemic ends.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CSO023****(Question Serial No. 0164)**

Head: (142) Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Policy Innovation and Co-ordination Office

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Daniel CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

The Policy Innovation and Co-ordination Office (PICO) is responsible for the provision of “first-stop and one-stop” project consultation and co-ordination services for innovative projects. Please list the details of the 6 projects received and 4 projects completed in 2020, and provide updates on the 7 outstanding projects in 2019.

Other than passively waiting for incoming applications, will PICO be more proactive by adopting other channels, such as paying attention to media reports, promoting its services to organisations like business associations, and strengthening communication with departments that may need assistance, so as to provide consultation and co-ordination services for more innovative projects that are beneficial to Hong Kong's economy and people's livelihood?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chuen, Tony (LegCo internal reference no.: 117)

Reply:

In 2020-21, the Policy Innovation and Co-ordination Office (PICO) received a total of 6 requests from outside organisations for the provision of “first-stop and one-stop” project consultation and co-ordination services. The details of the 6 projects are provided in the following table:

	Project Title	Project Content and Progress
1	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) - Study of the Green Deck	The proponent is studying the construction of a green deck over the Toll Plaza (next to PolyU) at the entrance of the Hung Hom Cross-Harbour Tunnel to connect the podium of the MTR Hung Hom Station and the PolyU main campus. PICO is responsible for liaising and co-ordinating with relevant departments to assist with the study.

	Project Title	Project Content and Progress
2	Lamma Dogs and Cats Adoption & Education Centre	The proponent proposed to apply for the establishment of an animal adoption and education centre at the former Sok Kwu Wan Lo So Shing School in Lamma Island on short-term tenancy. PICO is responsible for liaising and co-ordinating with relevant departments to handle the project.
3	Community Rest Space in Prince Edward	The proponent proposed to apply for a government site at the junction of Nullah Road and Tung Choi Street in Mong Kok on short-term tenancy for community uses. The project will set up an information kiosk for the grassroots and carers and provide a community rest space and diverse shared facilities. PICO is responsible for liaising and co-ordinating with relevant departments to handle the project.
4	LIFEHAP	The proponent proposed to apply for a government site in Western Fire Services Street, the Central and Western District on short-term tenancy for community uses to promote the message of life and care in the community. PICO is responsible for liaising and co-ordinating with relevant departments to handle the project.
5	Community Environmental Storage Space	The proponent proposed to apply for an idle stall at Cadogan Street, the Central and Western District for serving as a community environmental storage space on short-term tenancy. The stall is located in the former Kennedy Town Vegetable Wholesale Market near Cadogan Street Temporary Garden. PICO is responsible for liaising and co-ordinating with relevant departments to handle the project.
6	FPV Drone Education Centre	The proponent proposed to apply for the opening of a drone education centre at a government site near Sha Tau Kok Road - Ma Mei Ha and Lau Shui Heung Road in Fanling, the North District on short-term tenancy. PICO is responsible for liaising and co-ordinating with relevant departments to handle the project.

In 2020-21, PICO completed a total of 4 requests from outside organisations for the provision of “first-stop and one-stop” project consultation and co-ordination services. The details of the 4 projects are provided in the following table:

	Project Title	Project Content
1	OneSky Global Centre for Early Childhood Development	The proponent proposed to set up a child care centre in Sham Shui Po, providing the community with an early childhood learning centre, parenting skills workshops, and services on community participation projects. The centre formally commenced services in May 2020.
2	Tin Shui Wai Neighbour-Wood	The proponent proposed to use an abandoned fish pond farmland in Tin Shui Wai on short-term tenancy for community farming, cultivation and promotion of agriculture and fisheries culture. The application has been approved by relevant departments.
3	Chuen Lung Photography Centre	The proponent proposed to apply for the setting up of a community photography centre at the former Koon Man School in Chuen Lung Village on short-term tenancy to promote community participation in photography arts activities. The application has been approved by relevant departments.
4	Hong Kong Lego Discovery Centre	The proponent proposed to build an indoor theme amusement park in Tsim Sha Tsui to bring a new tourist attraction to Hong Kong. The centre was opened in March this year.

In 2019-20, PICO received a total of 10 requests from outside organisations for the provision of “first-stop and one-stop” project consultation and co-ordination services, 3 of which were completed in the same year. Of the 7 outstanding projects at the time, 4 (i.e. the OneSky Global Centre for Early Childhood Development, Tin Shui Wai Neighbour-Wood, the Chuen Lung Photography Centre, and the Hong Kong Lego Discovery Centre set out in the above table) were completed in 2020-21. The details of the other 3 projects being handled are provided in the following table:

	Project Title	Project Content
1	Redevelopment of Sheng Kung Hui Kei Oi Primary School and Kei Oi Church	The proponent proposed to redevelop their existing facilities in Cheung Sha Wan to provide a well-equipped campus and new social welfare facilities. PICO is assisting in handling the project.
2	Tin Shui Wai House of Stories	The proponent proposed to apply for a piece of land in Tin Shui Wai Park on short-term tenancy as a community art space. PICO is assisting in handling the project.

	Project Title	Project Content
1	Redevelopment of Sheng Kung Hui Kei Oi Primary School and Kei Oi Church	The proponent proposed to redevelop their existing facilities in Cheung Sha Wan to provide a well-equipped campus and new social welfare facilities. PICO is assisting in handling the project.
2	Tin Shui Wai House of Stories	The proponent proposed to apply for a piece of land in Tin Shui Wai Park on short-term tenancy as a community art space. PICO is assisting in handling the project.
3	Tai Po Life Education Centre	The proponent proposed to set up a life education centre in the former Yan Hing School on short-term tenancy to promote the concepts of sustainable development, the “Use Less, Waste Less” message, and organic farming, etc. PICO is assisting in handling the project.

Apart from the projects above, PICO is handling 1 project received in 2018-19, namely the STEAM School by the Shaw Foundation. PICO is responsible for liaising and co-ordinating with relevant departments to assist the Shaw Foundation in setting up in Clearwater Bay the first school in Hong Kong with science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) as its main direction of curriculum planning, with the aim of nurturing students interested in innovation and technology.

The objectives, eligibility criteria and relevant details of the consultation and co-ordination services provided by PICO are set out in its “Guidance Notes for Proponents of Land Development Projects Requesting First-stop and One-stop Consultation and Co-ordination Services from the Policy Innovation and Co-ordination Office”. The Guidance Notes have been uploaded to PICO’s website for reference by project proponents interested in seeking such services. PICO has been promoting its project co-ordination services to the community through various means, such as meeting with chambers of commerce, professional bodies and non-governmental organisations.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CSO024

(Question Serial No. 2086)

Head: (142) Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Policy Innovation and Co-ordination Office

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Daniel CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

The Anti-epidemic Fund (AEF) was set up by the Government in 2020 to enhance Hong Kong's capability in combating the epidemic and provide relief for industries and members of the public hit hard by the epidemic. Among the relief measures, the Employment Support Scheme (ESS) helped enterprises retain their staff through the provision of a subsidy. In this connection, please advise this Committee on:

- (a) the overall situation of the ESS, including the total expenditure, number of organisations subsidised and number of staff benefited;
- (b) the number of complaints received by the Bureau so far regarding non-compliance by employers, such as failure to pay wages on time after receiving subsidies;
- (c) whether the Bureau has investigated, prosecuted and withdrawn subsidies from non-compliant employers; if it has, of the number of cases; if not, the reasons for that;
- (d) please list out separately the top 20 enterprises under the ESS which have cumulatively (i) received the most complaints, (ii) committed the most breaches, (iii) received the most subsidies, and (iv) employed the most staff.

Asked by: Hon WONG Kwok-kin (LegCo internal reference no.: 81)

Reply:

The Employment Support Scheme (ESS) under the Anti-epidemic Fund (AEF) does not fall within the scope of the Appropriation Bill nor the Estimates of Expenditure of the Government's General Revenue Account. Nonetheless, the information sought is provided below:

- (a) For the ESS launched under the AEF, employers were provided with time-limited financial support to assist them to pay wages to their employees and to retain employees who might otherwise be made redundant. The first and the second tranche of the ESS respectively covers June to August 2020 and September to November 2020. There are respectively 151 800 and 152 100 employers who have successfully applied for wage

subsidies in the two tranches, covering about 1.95 million employees. In respect of expenses relating to wage subsidies, a total of about \$45.2 billion and \$45 billion have been respectively disbursed under the two tranches.

(b), (c), (d)(i) and (d)(ii) Since the first publishing of the list of employers who have received wage subsidies on 22 June 2020, a total of 1 105 complaint cases have been received by the ESS Secretariat (the Secretariat) (as at 9 March 2021). Among these complaints, the investigation of 1 069 cases has been completed. Apart from late payment of wages, the cases also involved unreasonable staff reductions and/or dismissal of employees, pay cuts and suspected company closures or changes of operators.

Appropriate monitoring and auditing mechanisms are in place under the ESS. Should complaints against employers be received, the Secretariat and the Processing Agent will take active follow-up actions closely. The Review Panel set up by the Policy Innovation and Co-ordination Office will examine the investigation report on each of the cases and the relevant Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) records of the employers to review their compliance with the terms and conditions of the ESS. The complainants will be notified of the result upon completion of the investigation. Of the 1 069 cases which have been concluded with investigations, the Secretariat has thus far confirmed that there are 608 employers who have not been complying with the terms and conditions of the ESS. The Secretariat will, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the ESS, request relevant employers to return the unspent balance of the subsidies and/or pay a penalty to the Government in respect of their failure to maintain the “committed headcount of paid employees”.

Moreover, the Secretariat has referred 274 cases of complaints concerning the Employment Ordinance or labour disputes relating to employment terms to the Labour Department for follow-up, and referred 2 cases to the Customs and Excise Department, as well as 1 case to the Immigration Department and 1 case to the Inland Revenue Department. Besides, the Secretariat has referred 23 complaints relating to MPF contributions made by employers to the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority. If employers are found to have committed breaches involving criminal elements, the Secretariat will refer the cases to the relevant law enforcement departments for follow-up action.

Classifying by the names of employers and information provided by the complainants etc, the sectors receiving the most complaints out of the above 1 105 complaints are the following: retail (32%), financial and professional services (19%), beauty and fitness services (12%), tourism (7%), food and beverage services (7%) and education services (6%). As for the 608 employers who were found to be non-complying thus far, they are mainly from the following sectors: retail (35%), financial and professional services (19%), beauty and fitness services (8%), tourism (8%), food and beverage services (8%) and construction, maintenance and engineering (6%).

(d)(iii) and (d)(iv)

The 20 employers receiving the highest amount of wage subsidies (total amount received under the first and second tranches):

	Name of employer	Total amount of wage subsidies (\$)
1	The Dairy Farm Company Limited	799,387,158
2	The Kowloon Motor Bus Company (1933) Limited	650,103,168
3	Maxim's Caterers Limited	643,015,104
4	HKT Services Limited	536,689,896
5	Café de Coral Group Limited	462,770,517
6	Cathay Pacific Airways Limited*	458,206,656
7	Hong Kong Aircraft Engineering Company Limited	330,359,052
8	PARKnSHOP (HK) Limited	323,919,648
9	Gammon Construction Limited	322,121,586
10	Hongkong International Theme Parks Limited	306,617,256
11	MHK Restaurants Limited	275,998,356
12	Kai Shing Management Services Limited	273,208,614
13	Jones Lang LaSalle Management Services Limited	237,929,040
14	Hong Yip Service Company Limited	235,498,146
15	Centaline Property Agency Limited	231,093,510
16	The Bank of East Asia Limited	229,606,950
17	China Overseas (Hong Kong) Limited	201,537,282
18	Fairwood Fast Food Limited	183,227,184
19	ISS Facility Services Limited	174,429,873
20	HKSH Medical Group Limited	172,014,948

* Application submitted and wage subsidies approved in the first tranche only

The 20 employers with the highest committed headcount of paid employees:

	Name of employer	Committed headcount of paid employees
1	The Dairy Farm Company Limited	21 611
2	Cathay Pacific Airways Limited*	17 703
3	Maxim's Caterers Limited	13 456
4	MHK Restaurants Limited	12 984
5	Café de Coral Group Limited	12 640
6	The Kowloon Motor Bus Company (1933) Limited	12 590
7	HKT Services Limited	11 465
8	PARKnSHOP (HK) Limited	8 215
9	Hongkong International Theme Parks Limited	7 092
10	Gammon Construction Limited	6 066
11	Hong Kong Aircraft Engineering Company Limited	6 053
12	Kai Shing Management Services Limited	5 780
13	Centaline Property Agency Limited	5 612
14	Hong Yip Service Company Limited	5 215
15	ISS Facility Services Limited	4 806
16	Jones Lang LaSalle Management Services Limited	4 804
17	The Bank of East Asia Limited	4 290
18	Nixon Cleaning Company Limited	4 171

	Name of employer	Committed headcount of paid employees
19	Fairwood Fast Food Limited	4 138
20	Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (Management) Limited	3 800

** Application submitted and wage subsidies approved in the first tranche only*

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CSO025****(Question Serial No. 1810)**

Head: (142) Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) CSO - Administration Wing

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Daniel CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

1. What are the numbers of non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff members employed by the Financial Secretary's Office and the relevant expenditures in the past 3 years?
2. Are there any establishment and expenditure ceilings on the NCSC staff members employed by the Financial Secretary? If yes, what are the relevant establishment and expenditure ceilings?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ting-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 75)

Reply:

1. The numbers of staff employed on non-civil service contract (NCSC) terms by the Financial Secretary's Private Office (FSPO) in 2018, 2019 and 2020 (Note) are as follows:

2018	2019	2020
2	2	1

(Note: The above figures reflect the situation as at 30 June of the year.)

The expenditures on remuneration (including salaries, contribution to the Mandatory Provident Fund and contract gratuities) of NCSC staff employed by the FSPO in the past 3 financial years are as follows:

2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
about \$1.56 million	about \$1.93 million	about \$0.96 million

2. Under the NCSC Staff Scheme, Heads of Bureaux/Departments (B/Ds) may engage NCSC staff to cope with changing operational and service needs (a) which may be time-limited, seasonal or subject to market fluctuations; or (b) which require staff to work less than the conditioned hours; or (c) which require tapping the latest expertise in

a particular area; or (d) where the mode of delivery of the services involved is under review or likely to be changed. The Civil Service Bureau (CSB) has set a ceiling on the number of NCSC staff for individual B/Ds in the light of their specific operational needs, and B/Ds are required to seek prior approval from the CSB for employment of NCSC staff over and above the prescribed ceiling.

The FSPO engages NCSC staff to cope with its operational needs having regard to the requirements of the NCSC Staff Scheme stated above and the budget for operational expenses.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CSO026

(Question Serial No. 3027)

Head: (142) Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Policy Innovation and Co-ordination Office

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Daniel CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

Regarding the Policy Innovation and Co-ordination Office (PICO):

1. What are the actual and estimated manpower establishment, and the estimated annual salary expenditure, broken down by rank, post, terms of appointment and salary band, in 2020-21 and 2021-22 respectively?
2. Regarding the 82 projects funded by the Public Policy Research Funding Scheme and the Strategic Public Policy Research Funding Scheme in 2020, what are the specific contents of each project, including the project title, nature and content of the project, amount of subsidy involved and progress?
3. Regarding the 6 innovative projects provided with “first-stop and one-stop” consultation and co-ordination services by PICO in 2020, what are the specific contents of each project, including the project title, nature and content of the project, major services provided by PICO and progress?
4. Apart from the research projects funded by the research funding schemes, has PICO conducted any policy research in 2020-21, in particular those relating to the epidemic and involving people’s livelihood and the economic aspect? If yes, what are the research projects involved and the title, research content, cost and manpower involved, progress and follow-up position of each project? If no, what are the reasons and will there be such research in future?

Asked by: Hon YUNG Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

1. The full-year remuneration and relevant expenditure of civil servants of the Policy Innovation and Co-ordination Office (PICO) in the revised estimates for 2020-21 and the estimates for 2021-22 are around \$63.2 million and \$67.8 million respectively.

The details of the establishment and salary band of civil servants for the 2 financial years are as follows:

Rank	Number (2020-21)	Number (2021-22)	Salary Point
Administrative Officer Staff Grade A1 [Note]	1	1	Directorate Pay Scale Point 8
Administrative Officer Staff Grade B1	1	1	Directorate Pay Scale Point 4
Administrative Officer Staff Grade B	2	2	Directorate Pay Scale Point 3
Administrative Officer Staff Grade C/Principal Economist	4	4	Directorate Pay Scale Point 2
Directorate Civil Servants	8	8	
Senior Administrative Officer/ Senior Statistician/ Senior Economist/ Senior Town Planner/ Chief Executive Officer	10	10	Master Pay Scale Points 45-49
Senior Executive Officer/ Senior Information Officer/ Executive Officer I/ Information Officer/ Statistical Officer I	8	10	Master Pay Scale Points 22-44
Clerical and Secretarial Grades Staff/ Chauffeur/ Motor Driver	23	21	Master Pay Scale Points 1-33
Non-Directorate Civil Servants	41	41	
Total Civil Service Establishment	49	49	

[Note] The Director of Administration, under delegated authority, created 1 supernumerary Administrative Officer Staff Grade A post on 18 January 2021 for a period of 12 months until 17 January 2022 for the incumbent to take up the post of Head/PICO. During the said period, the supernumerary post concerned was created by holding against a temporarily vacant permanent post of Administrative Officer Staff Grade A1.

In addition, PICO employed a total of 19 contract staff in 2020-21. The revised estimate of the full-year remuneration and relevant expenditure was around \$11.5 million. It is expected that 18 contract staff will be employed in 2021-22 and the full-year remuneration and relevant expenditure will be around \$16.1 million.

- In 2020-21, PICO provided a total funding of about \$44.30 million to 30, 3 and 49 research projects under the Public Policy Research Funding Scheme (PPRFS), the Strategic Public Policy Research Funding Scheme (SPPRFS) and the special round of the PPRFS (special round) respectively. All 33 research projects under the PPRFS and the SPPRFS are still in progress. Please see their details on PICO's website

(<https://www.pico.gov.hk/en/PRFS/ppr-granted.html?period-from=2020-21-1&period-to=2020-21-4> and <https://www.pico.gov.hk/en/PRFS/sppr-granted.html?period-from=2020-21&period-to=2020-21>). Except for 1 withdrawn application, all research projects under the special round have been completed. The Assessment Panel is reviewing the relevant research projects, including assessing the effectiveness of the projects by comparing the project results against the original objectives and targets as set out in the project proposals. Please see PICO's website (<https://www.pico.gov.hk/en/PRFS/srppr-granted.html>) for the details of the 49 projects approved under the special round in 2020-21 as well as the remaining 30 research projects approved under the special round in 2019-20 respectively.

3. In 2020-21, PICO received a total of 6 requests from outside organisations for the provision of “first-stop and one-stop” project consultation and co-ordination services. The details of the 6 projects are provided in the following table:

	Project Title	Project Content and Progress
1	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) - Study of the Green Deck	The proponent is studying the construction of a green deck over the Toll Plaza (next to PolyU) at the entrance of the Hung Hom Cross-Harbour Tunnel to connect the podium of the MTR Hung Hom Station and the PolyU main campus. PICO is responsible for liaising and co-ordinating with relevant departments to assist with the study.
2	Lamma Dogs and Cats Adoption & Education Centre	The proponent proposed to apply for the establishment of an animal adoption and education centre at the former Sok Kwu Wan Lo So Shing School in Lamma Island on short-term tenancy. PICO is responsible for liaising and co-ordinating with relevant departments to handle the project.
3	Community Rest Space in Prince Edward	The proponent proposed to apply for a government site at the junction of Nullah Road and Tung Choi Street in Mong Kok on short-term tenancy for community uses. The project will set up an information kiosk for the grassroots and carers and provide a community rest space and diverse shared facilities. PICO is responsible for liaising and co-ordinating with relevant departments to handle the project.
4	LIFEHAP	The proponent proposed to apply for a government site in Western Fire Services Street, the Central and Western District on short-term tenancy for community uses to promote the message of life and care in the community. PICO is responsible for liaising and co-ordinating with relevant departments to handle the project.

	Project Title	Project Content and Progress
5	Community Environmental Storage Space	The proponent proposed to apply for an idle stall at Cadogan Street, the Central and Western District for serving as a community environmental storage space on short-term tenancy. The stall is located in the former Kennedy Town Vegetable Wholesale Market near Cadogan Street Temporary Garden. PICO is responsible for liaising and co-ordinating with relevant departments to handle the project.
6	FPV Drone Education Centre	The proponent proposed to apply for the opening of a drone education centre at a government site near Sha Tau Kok Road - Ma Mei Ha and Lau Shui Heung Road in Fanling, the North District on short-term tenancy. PICO is responsible for liaising and co-ordinating with relevant departments to handle the project.

4. In 2020-21, PICO has, in addition to co-ordinating the 2020 Policy Address, supported the Chief Executive by providing policy research and co-ordination support for major cross-bureaux policies, such as co-ordinating measures of policy bureaux/departments under the second round of the “Anti-epidemic Fund” and assisting the Chief Executive and the Secretary for Labour and Welfare in implementing the “Employment Support Scheme”. Co-ordinating major cross-bureaux policies and supporting relevant bureaux in formulating policies is one of the key functions of PICO and part of the daily work of its staff. Hence, we do not have a separate breakdown for the manpower and expenditure involved in the tasks.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CSO027

(Question Serial No. 1978)

Head: (94) Legal Aid Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Processing of Legal Aid Applications

Controlling Officer: Director of Legal Aid (Thomas Edward KWONG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

Among the people prosecuted for having participated in the riots since June 2019, some might have received financial aid for legal costs from a third party; and among them, some might be eligible for legal aid. When assessing applications, did the Legal Aid Department check whether the applicants had received any financial aid from a third party? Had any such case been found and therefore rejected? Among those prosecuted, how many had applied for and granted legal aid?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 102)

Reply:

Legal Aid Department (LAD) assesses all criminal legal aid applications in accordance with the Legal Aid in Criminal Cases Rules. Any person who can satisfy both the merits test and the means test will be granted legal aid.

In relation to means test, the Director must consider the financial resources of the applicant for all legal aid cases in accordance with the Legal Aid (Assessment of Resources and Contributions) Regulations. When applying for legal aid, applicants should inform LAD of any financial aid received from a third party, whether by way of income or capital, which will be taken into account when calculating the applicant's financial resources. The aided persons should also inform LAD of any changes to their financial resources, including the provision of financial aid from any third party, during the course of the legally aided proceedings. Should any applicant fail the means test (i.e. financial resources exceeding the prevailing limit of \$420,400), the Director will refuse granting legal aid or discharge legal aid. So far, LAD has not rejected an applicant's application on the ground that his or her level of financial resources has exceeded the statutory limit because of financial aid received from a third party.

An applicant has a duty to make full and frank disclosure of his/her income and capital. According to the Legal Aid Ordinance, any person seeking or receiving legal aid who

knowingly furnishes false statement or false representation shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine of \$10,000 and imprisonment for 6 months.

The number of criminal legal aid applications and certificates granted ^{Note 1} related to the Fugitive Offenders and Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Legislation (Amendment) Bill 2019 are as follows:

Year	Applications received ^{Note 1}	Certificates granted ^{Note 2}
2019	70	48
2020	930	775
2021 (up to 28.2.2021)	59	80
Total	1 059	903

Note 1: Include appeal case(s).

Note 2: Legal aid certificates may not be granted in the same year when the respective applications were received.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CSO028****(Question Serial No. 0751)**Head: (94) Legal Aid DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: (1) Processing of Legal Aid Applications; (2) Litigation ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Legal Aid (Thomas Edward KWONG)Director of Bureau: Director of AdministrationQuestion:

Please set out the numbers (broken down by the outcomes of proceedings) of employees' compensation claims with legal aid granted and heard by the court in the past 3 years.

Please provide the numbers of cases in which legal aid was discharged by the Legal Aid Department in the course of proceedings; and the highest, lowest and median amounts of compensation granted in the cases ruled in favour of the claimants or in which settlement agreements were reached by both parties in the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 34)Reply:

The numbers of legal aid certificates granted by the Legal Aid Department (LAD) in respect of employees' compensation (EC) claims and the number of such certificates discharged / revoked in the course of proceedings, irrespective of whether they were heard by the court, from 2018 to 2020 are set out below. LAD does not maintain statistics on the number of such EC cases subsequently heard by the court:

Year	Number of legal aid certificates granted in respect of EC claims	Number of legal aid certificates discharged / revoked in respect of EC claims in the course of the proceedings ^{Note 1}
2018	1 157	23
2019	1 105	32
2020	933	20

Note 1: Legal aid certificates discharged / revoked in a year may not correspond to the legal aid certificates granted in that year.

From 2018 to 2020, the highest, lowest and median amounts of compensation received in legal aid cases in respect of EC claims that were closed in each year are appended below:

Year	Amounts of compensation received in EC claims (\$) ^{Note 2}		
	Highest	Lowest	Median
2018	3,031,120	1,800	145,800
2019	1,032,370	17,500	150,000
2020	4,638,930	5,000	200,000

Note 2: The amount of compensation received in some EC claims was low due to various reasons, e.g., the percentage of loss of earning capacity assessed was low or the final compensation was made after deducting a large amount of advance payment such as sick leave payment already received.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CSO029****(Question Serial No. 1777)**Head: (94) Legal Aid DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Processing of Legal Aid ApplicationsControlling Officer: Director of Legal Aid (Thomas Edward KWONG)Director of Bureau: Director of AdministrationQuestion:

1. For civil cases, the numbers of legal aid certificates granted in 2019 and 2020 were 5 406 and 4 754 respectively. Please set out the numbers (broken down by case types and public expenditures incurred) of legal aid certificates granted in those 2 years. Also, how many legal aid certificates granted in 2019 and 2020 involved judicial review cases? Among them, how many cases involved a lawsuit against the Government?
2. For criminal cases, the numbers of legal aid certificates granted by the Department in 2019 and 2020 were 2 328 and 2 751 respectively. Please set out the numbers (broken down by case types and public expenditures incurred) of legal aid certificates granted in those 2 years.
3. Please set out the amounts of legal aid costs and the numbers of cases granted in the past 3 financial years.

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)Reply:

1. For civil cases, the numbers of legal aid certificates granted in 2019 and 2020 and the public expenditure incurred in 2018-19 and 2019-20 broken down by case types are as follows -

Year	Number of civil legal aid certificates							
	Personal Injuries Claims	Matrimonial Cases	Land and Tenancy Disputes	Employment Disputes	Immigration Matters	Wage Claims	Others	Total
2019	2 646	2 385	110	5	7	19	234	5 406
2020	2 359	1 832	74	209	0	30	250	4 754

Financial Year	Expenditure of civil legal aid cases							
	Personal Injuries Claims	Matrimonial Cases	Land and Tenancy Disputes	Employment Disputes	Immigration Matters	Wage Claims	Others	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
2018-19	353,419	84,273	40,075	1,451	8,036	266	78,455	565,975
2019-20	487,711	126,251	64,155	2,230	5,026	340	119,942	805,655

The numbers of legal aid certificates granted in 2019 and 2020 involving judicial review cases are 81 and 82 respectively. The proceedings of judicial review cases may involve different government departments, public authorities or persons exercising public powers as respondents. The Legal Aid Department (LAD) does not maintain separate statistics of these cases in which the Government was the respondent.

- For criminal cases, the LAD does not maintain separate statistics of legal aid certificates or the public expenditure broken down by nature of the offences or the type of cases.

Expenditure of criminal legal aid cases	
Financial Year	(\$M)
2018-19	239.5
2019-20	327.3

- Legal aid costs involved in the past 3 financial years are as follows -

Financial Year	Legal Aid Costs		
	Civil ^{Note} (\$M)	Criminal (\$M)	Total (\$M)
2017-18	517.8	174.6	692.4
2018-19	567.0	239.5	806.5
2019-20	806.5	327.3	1,133.8

Note : The total civil legal aid costs in this column include civil legal aid expenditure, as well as legal costs incurred for the Official Solicitor's Office.

The number of legal aid certificates granted in the past 3 years are as follows -

Year	Number of legal aid certificates granted (civil and criminal)
2018	8 252
2019	7 734
2020	7 505

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CSO030

(Question Serial No. 3139)

Head: (94) Legal Aid Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Legal Aid (Thomas Edward KWONG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

Will the Bureau please provide the balance, government injection amount, investment or other income and total expenditure of the following funds in 2019-20? If there are other funds within the purview of the Bureau not being listed below, please also provide information as per the items above.

1. Supplementary Legal Aid Fund

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 72)

Reply:

The Supplementary Legal Aid Fund (SLAF) is administered by the Legal Aid Department under the Supplementary Legal Aid Scheme.

As at 30 September 2020, the fund balance, income and expenditure of SLAF for the 2019-20 financial year were \$213.0 million, \$13.6 million and \$5.6 million^{Note} respectively. There was no injection of fund from the Government in 2019-20.

Note: The figures have yet to be audited by the Director of Audit.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CSO031

(Question Serial No. 1489)

Head: (94) Legal Aid Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Support Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Legal Aid (Thomas Edward KWONG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

My office has received from time to time requests for assistance from members of the public regarding legal aid services. Many help-seekers said that they were unsure about how to fill in the legal aid application forms and the documents to be submitted when applying for legal aid.

Of the Legal Aid Department's Estimate of \$1,673.7 million in 2021-22, has provisions been made for measures, such as recruitment of staff, to help answer enquiries from members of the public and assist them to fill in application forms. If yes, please provide the details, the manpower and expenditure involved. If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (LegCo internal reference no.: 52)

Reply:

The Legal Aid Department (LAD) attaches great importance to customer service. To facilitate members of the public to apply for legal aid, the Application and Processing Division provides an information and enquiry service through the Information and Application Services Unit (IASU).

Applicants who have queries or need help in completing the application forms are advised to approach our staff at the reception counters of IASU for assistance. Guidance notes on how to complete an application form and a checklist setting out the necessary accompanying documents are provided to the applicants along with the application form. Samples of completed application forms are available from our staff at the reception counter and may also be viewed or downloaded from LAD's website. In addition, leaflets regarding the eligibility criteria for legal aid are available at the counter and LAD's website.

Completed application forms and documents received by LAD are vetted by our staff. Where information/documents in support of an application is found missing, an interview will be arranged for the applicants so that they would be assisted in completing the application process and advised on the documents required to be submitted.

The expenditure on support and clerical services provided to the applicants is absorbed within the existing resource provisions of LAD.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CSO032

(Question Serial No. 3097)

Head: (94) Legal Aid Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Support Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Legal Aid (Thomas Edward KWONG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

Despite the economic downturn, the costs of legal proceedings have been increasing instead of decreasing. Many people from the middle-income group or the sandwich class are unable to benefit from legal aid services due to the financial eligibility limits.

In the new financial year, is there any provision made for studying the feasibility of further adjusting upwards the financial eligibility limits for legal aid applicants, so as to benefit members of the public who cannot afford expensive legal costs? If yes, what will be the expenditure and manpower involved in the study?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (LegCo internal reference no.: 53)

Reply:

It has been the Government's policy to ensure that all those who comply with the provisions of the Legal Aid Ordinance (LAO) (Cap. 91) and have reasonable grounds for pursuing or defending a legal action in the courts of Hong Kong will not be denied access to justice because of a lack of means. To qualify for legal aid, a person has to satisfy both the means test and the merits test as stipulated in LAO.

For the purpose of means test, an applicant's financial resources comprising his/her disposable capital and annual disposable income must not exceed the relevant financial eligibility limits (FELs) under the Ordinary Legal Aid Scheme (OLAS) and the Supplementary Legal Aid Scheme (SLAS).

The FELs of OLAS and SLAS are subject to an annual review to take into account the changes in Consumer Price Index (C) (CPI(C)), as well as other ad hoc, one-off reviews and adjustments where the situations warranted. In fact, over the past 10 years, the FEL for OLAS has substantially increased by about 140% from \$175,800 to \$420,400, while the FEL for SLAS has substantially increased by about 330% from \$488,400 to \$2,102,000. The most recent adjustment was made on 26 June 2020, when an upward adjustment of FELs by 5.1% was made effective to reflect the accumulated changes in CPI(C) from July

2017 to July 2019. In addition, a one-off upward adjustment of FELs by about 30% was also made effective on the same date having regard to the higher increase in legal costs than that of general price movement since the last one-off adjustment in 2011, as well as the affordability of private litigation services to legal aid applicants.

The Government has completed its 2020 annual review on FELs and reported the outcome to the Legislative Council Panel on Administrative Justice and Legal Services (the Panel) recently in February 2021. In view of the insignificant change of -0.1% in CPI(C) recorded during the reference period from July 2019 to July 2020 and minimal corresponding impact on FELs, the time and administrative costs involved in the requisite legislative processes may not be commensurate with the need for keeping up with the market. We therefore see merits to reserve the 0.1% decrease and consider it together with the outcome of the next annual review. We will monitor the change in CPI(C) and report to the Panel when the result of the next review covering the period from July 2020 to July 2021 is ready. There are no separate breakdown figures on the expenditure and manpower for conducting the annual reviews, which are among the duties of existing staff.

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