

Legislative Council Panel on Constitutional Affairs

**Practical Arrangements for the
2021 Legislative Council General Election**

PURPOSE

The 2021 Legislative Council (“LegCo”) General Election will be held on 19 December 2021 to return Members for the seventh term LegCo. This paper sets out the key electoral arrangements proposed by the Electoral Affairs Commission (“EAC”) for the election.

BACKGROUND

2. The EAC is an independent statutory body responsible for the conduct and supervision of elections. The EAC, supported by the Registration and Electoral Office (“REO”), is making preparations for the 2021 LegCo General Election. The key electoral arrangements regarding polling stations, electoral staff, vote counting, public inspection of election advertisements (“EAs”), facilitation measures for electors with special needs, Media Centre (“MC”), security and contingency planning, and the Guidelines on Election-related Activities are set out in paragraphs 3 to 46 below.

PROPOSED ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

(A) Voter Registration (“VR”)

3. Under the Improving Electoral System (Consolidated Amendments) Ordinance 2021 (“the Amendment Ordinance”) which was published in the Gazette and came into effect on 31 May 2021, a special VR arrangement was put in place from 1 June to 5 July 2021 to allow newly eligible and affected individuals and bodies to handle their VR matters. In accordance with sections 13 and 20 of the Electoral Affairs Commission (Registration of Electors) (Geographical Constituencies) (Legislative Council) Regulation (Cap. 541A) and sections 29 and 38 of the

Electoral Affairs Commission (Registration) (Electors for Legislative Council Functional Constituencies) (Voters for Election Committee Subsectors) (Members of Election Committee) Regulation (Cap. 541B), under the special arrangement for the 2021 VR cycle, the provisional registers for Geographical Constituency (“GC”) and Functional Constituency (“FC”) will be published on 26 September 2021, while the Final Registers for GC and FC will be published on 29 October 2021.

(B) Nomination Period

4. Section 7 of the Electoral Affairs Commission (Electoral Procedure) (Legislative Council) Regulation (Cap. 541D) (“EAC(EP)(LC) Regulation”) provides that the nomination period must not be less than 14 days or more than 21 days, and that it must end not less than 28 days and not more than 42 days before the date on which the election is to be held. It is an established practice to set a 14-day nomination period and, also, allow roughly five weeks for candidates’ canvassing activities between the close of nomination and the polling day. Following this practice, we plan to set the nomination period for the coming LegCo General Election from 30 October 2021 (Saturday) to 12 November 2021 (Friday), and the period will be published in the Gazette in early October 2021.

5. In accordance with the law, candidates are required to submit the nomination forms in person to the Returning Officer (“RO”)’s office of the relevant constituency during the nomination period, except where the Chief Electoral Officer (“CEO”) has authorised any other manner of submission.

(C) Number and Allocation of Polling Stations

6. To facilitate electors to cast their votes, the REO will set up over 620 ordinary polling stations (“OPSs”) for the 2021 LegCo General Election. 90% of the polling stations are set up at venues with facilities for electors with mobility difficulties. For the convenience of the electors and to minimise confusion, it has been our established practice to use the same venues for setting up polling stations, as far as possible, for all elections in the same election cycle.

7. To reduce the difficulty of the REO in borrowing venues for use as polling stations, the Amendment Ordinance added a new section 28A under the EAC(EP)(LC) Regulation which empowers the CEO to require certain premises for use as polling stations or counting stations. Currently, we have secured sufficient venues as the OPSs. Moreover, to facilitate school managements to release their venues for use as polling stations, the Education Bureau has designated the day after the polling day as a school holiday.

8. Other than OPSs, we shall set up dedicated polling stations (“DPSs”) at the penal institutions so that registered electors who are imprisoned or remanded under the custody of the Correctional Services Department (“CSD”) can cast their votes. Depending on the actual number and distribution of such electors on the polling day, a maximum of 20 DPSs will be set up at penal institutions. We also plan to set up three DPSs at police stations (one on Hong Kong Island, one in Kowloon and one in the New Territories) for registered electors who are remanded or detained on the polling day by law enforcement agencies other than CSD, such as the Police, the Independent Commission Against Corruption and the Customs and Excise Department, to cast their votes.

9. Besides, an Election Committee Constituency (“ECC”) polling station will be set up at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (“HKCEC”) for ECC electors to cast their ECC, GC and FC (if any) votes.

(D) Polling Hours

10. With the implementation of Electronic Poll Register (“EPR”) System and other improvement measures in the upcoming LegCo General Election, the REO considers it necessary to allow more time for the polling staff to conduct a final checking of the equipment and other set-up including data network connection. The REO therefore proposes to revise the polling hours as 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m..¹ As for DPSs set up at CSD penal institutions, the polling hours will continue to run from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m..

¹ In previous LegCo elections, the polling hours of OPSs would run from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m..

(E) Recruitment of Electoral Staff and Training

11. For the 2021 LegCo General Election, we plan to recruit some 36 000 civil servants for carrying out polling and/or counting duties on the polling day. The polling-cum-counting staff at the OPSs will perform polling duties and counting of GC votes, while staff deployed to the Central Counting Station (“CCS”) at the HKCEC will be responsible for counting votes for the FCs and the ECC. With the assistance of Heads of Department, recruitment of electoral staff is underway as scheduled.

12. We shall arrange briefing sessions on the polling and counting procedures for all staff, with emphasis on the new arrangements (including special queue and EPR System) and the safety measures to be adopted amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Hands-on practice of the EPR System and counting duties will also be provided. Besides, Polling Management Training will be organised for the relevant electoral staff on maintaining the order of the polling and counting stations, responding to crises and handling complaints, handling determination of questionable ballot papers and re-counting as well as experience sharing. Staff being designated to compile statistical returns on the polling day will receive specialised statistical training. Besides, staff working in the CCS need to attend an on-site final briefing cum rehearsal of counting duties on the day before the polling day in addition to the training on counting procedures.

(F) Polling Arrangements

13. As in past elections, combined polling arrangement will be adopted to facilitate electors to cast all the votes they are entitled to cast at the same polling station. The EPR System will be implemented in all polling stations in the 2021 LegCo General Election except those OPSs without network coverage and all DPSs. With the adoption of the EPR System, an elector can be directed to any ballot paper issuing desk in the allocated polling station to obtain the ballot paper(s). This would help to even out the workload among the issuing desks, thereby shortening the queuing time of electors.

14. Besides, the Presiding Officer (“PRO”) will set up a special queue for electors in need, namely electors who are aged 70 or above, pregnant women, and persons who are unable to queue for a long time or have difficulty in queuing due to illness, injury, disability or dependence on mobility aids. The PRO will also designate a seating area inside the polling station for such electors to take a rest if they so wish before being directed to the ballot paper issuing desks.

15. The ballot papers for GCs, FCs and the ECC will be of different sizes, colours, colour patterns and codes for easy differentiation. To ensure that ballot papers are put in the right ballot boxes, each type of ballot papers would bear the same colour to match the colour of the corresponding ballot boxes. Furthermore, depending on the number and types of ballot papers to be issued to individual electors, dedicated cardboards of different colours would be used for holding the ballot papers upon issuance.

16. On the other hand, we will set up one ECC polling station for use by ECC electors to cast their ECC, GC and FC (if any) votes. Since an elector voting for the ECC must vote for a number of candidates that is equal to the number of members to be returned for the ECC (i.e. 40), the REO has commissioned a contractor to develop a Ballot Paper Checking and Vote Counting System. Before inserting their ECC ballot papers into the ballot box, electors may choose to use the ballot paper checking system installed in the ECC polling station to check whether the number of candidates marked by him/her on the ballot paper is equal to the number of members to be returned for the ECC at the election. The ballot paper checking system installed in the polling station will not record or count electors’ choices marked on their ballot papers. Whether or not an elector uses the installed system is entirely voluntary.

(G) Vote Counting Arrangements

Vote Counting Arrangements for GCs

17. For GCs, we will continue to adopt the same poll-cum-count practice, with vote counting to be conducted at individual polling stations

after the close of poll. Under this arrangement, a polling station (other than a small polling station (“SPS”), a DPS and the ECC polling station (as explained in paragraph 18 below)) will be converted into a counting station immediately after the close of poll. Candidates and their agents, the media and members of the public are allowed to be present in the counting station to observe the count. The count will be conducted manually, and during the count, questionable ballot papers will first be separated for later determination of validity by the PROs. Candidates, their election or counting agents may make representations during the determination process but the decision of the PROs on the validity of ballot papers is final under the electoral law.

18. To ensure the secrecy of ballot, GC ballot papers of the SPSs (with fewer than 500 registered electors), all DPSs as well as the ECC polling station (after sorting by GCs at the Ballot Paper Sorting Stations) will be delivered to the respective main counting stations (“MCSs”) under police escort and accompanied by not more than two candidates and/or their agents, for mixing with the ballot papers cast in the MCSs before counting.

19. Upon completion of the count at a counting station, the PRO will make known the counting results to the candidates or their agents present who will then have the opportunity to request a re-count of votes. If there is such a request which is accepted by the PRO, a re-count will be conducted on the spot immediately. When there is no request for a re-count², the PRO will report the counting result to the Statistical Information Centre (“SIC”) for consolidation. After consolidating all the counting results of a GC, the SIC will report the aggregate counting result of the GC to the RO of the GC concerned in the CCS, who will make known the aggregate counting result to the candidates concerned or their agents present. The candidates or their agents will at that time have the opportunity to request a re-count of votes at all the counting stations of the GC. If there is such a request which is accepted by the RO, a re-count will be conducted at all the counting stations concerned immediately.

² Or when such request is rejected by the PRO as being unreasonable in accordance with section 79A(2) of EAC(EP)(LC) Regulation.

When there is no request for a re-count³, the RO will formally announce the election result at the MC in the CCS.

Vote Counting Arrangements for FCs and the ECC

FCs

20. The central vote counting arrangements for FCs largely follow those adopted in the past and votes will be counted manually in the CCS. After the close of poll, polling staff (including those in SPSs, the ECC polling station and DPSs) will deliver the FC ballot boxes to the CCS under police escort and accompanied by not more than two candidates and/or their agents.

21. The CCS will be divided into a number of counting zones for the sorting and counting of ballot papers of individual FCs. The Chief Returning Officer will supervise all the counting zones in the CCS and a designated RO/Assistant Returning Officer (“ARO”) will be assigned to take charge of each FC counting zone. Throughout the counting process, candidates and their agents, the media and members of the public are allowed to be present in the designated areas of the CCS to observe the count.

The ECC

22. Central counting arrangements will also be adopted for the ECC. After the close of poll, polling staff will deliver the ECC ballot boxes in the ECC polling station to the CCS⁴ under police escort. Candidates and/or their agents may be allowed to accompany the delivery. ECC ballot papers cast at the DPSs, if any, will also be delivered to the CCS. Two ECC ROs will be assigned to take charge of the counting zone. Throughout the counting process, candidates and their agents, the media and members of the public are allowed to be present in the designated areas of the CCS to observe the count.

³ Or when such request is rejected by the RO as being unreasonable in accordance with section 79A(6) of EAC(EP)(LC) Regulation.

⁴ Both the CCS for FC and the CCS for ECC will be located at the same venue (i.e. HKCEC).

23. Similar to the arrangement for the Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections, vote counting for the ECC will be conducted in an automated mode with the aid of an Optical Mark Recognition (“OMR”) system (i.e. the Ballot Paper Checking and Vote Counting System as mentioned in paragraph 16 above). The REO will commission three independent quality assurance services for the Ballot Paper Checking and Vote Counting System to safeguard its reliability, including (a) a quality assurance audit on the programmes employed by the Ballot Paper Checking and Vote Counting System; (b) a computer audit on the integrity of the ballot paper checking and the entire automated counting process; and (c) an IT security risk assessment and audit on the whole system.

Other Arrangements

24. The procedure on the determination of questionable ballot papers for individual FCs and the ECC are essentially the same. Questionable ballot papers will first be separated during the counting process for subsequent determination by the ROs/AROs. Candidates, their election or counting agents may make representations during the determination process but the decision of the ROs/AROs on the validity of ballot papers is final under the electoral law.

25. Upon completion of the count, the RO will make known the counting results to the candidates or their agents present in the CCS. The candidates or their election agents will then have the opportunity to request a re-count of votes. If there is such a request which is accepted by the RO, the re-count will be conducted on the spot. When there is no request for a re-count⁵, the RO will formally announce the election results at the MC in the CCS.

(H) Design of Ballot Papers and Ballot Boxes

26. Same as past elections, candidates will be allowed to have certain specified particulars relating to their candidature printed on the ballot papers in the 2021 LegCo General Election. The design of the

⁵ Or when such request is rejected by the RO as being unreasonable in accordance with section 79(2) of EAC(EP)(LC) Regulation.

ballot papers for GCs and FCs are similar to that in the past elections. Regarding the design of the ballot papers for the ECC, it must conform to both the requirements as prescribed under the EAC(EP)(LC) Regulation and the technical requirements for employing OMR scanning machines to conduct vote counting, as well as be able to accommodate a sizeable number of candidates. The REO will conduct a full-scale checking on the ballot papers to ensure that they are correctly and properly printed. The candidates⁶ will be invited to check the final proofs of the ballot papers to ensure that the information contained therein is accurate before the ballot papers are printed.

27. In line with the established practice, ballot boxes of three different colours will be used in the 2021 LegCo General Election for receiving the three different types of ballot papers, namely a white ballot box for ECC ballot papers, a blue one for GC ballot papers and a red one for FC ballot papers. The back of the ballot papers will be printed with patterns bearing the same colours corresponding to that of their respective ballot boxes. This arrangement will facilitate easy identification for electors to insert the ballot papers into the correct ballot boxes and facilitate polling staff to monitor the vote casting process and provide assistance if necessary.

28. The REO will carefully and thoroughly test the capacity of the ballot boxes to be used in the 2021 LegCo General Election and will ensure that there will be sufficient ballot boxes to cater for a 100% turnout of the registered electors.

(I) Introduction to Candidates and Postage-free Election Mail

29. Under the present arrangement, candidates are free to make use of the Introduction to Candidates published by the REO for promoting their election and candidature. It is planned that the size of the Introduction to Candidates will be half of one A4 page for each candidate of GC, FC and

⁶ Candidates of GCs and FCs will be invited to check the final proofs of the ballot papers which will include particulars such as their personal photos, registered emblem(s), etc. For candidates of ECC, as only names and allocated number of candidates are printed on the ballot papers, they will not be invited to check the final proofs of the ballot paper.

the ECC. Candidates who wish to make use of the Introduction to Candidates must submit the content of their electoral messages and candidature to be printed therein, in a format specified by the EAC, to the REO before the end of the nomination period. The REO will mail the Introduction to Candidates, together with the poll cards, to the electors before the polling day.

30. On the other hand, under section 43 of the Legislative Council Ordinance (Cap. 542) (“LCO”), a validly nominated candidate is entitled to send free of postage one letter to each elector of the constituency for which the candidate is nominated. The purpose is to enable candidates to send election mail to promote or advertise themselves to electors. According to the existing electoral law, the maximum size of a postage-free election mail is 165 mm x 245 mm and the thickness of each mail must not exceed 5 mm.

31. The electoral law also allows specified categories of validly nominated candidates to send joint election mail free of postage. Under section 43(4A) to (4C) of the LCO, a letter sent by a candidate who is validly nominated for a GC may contain information on another candidate which is also validly nominated for that GC. A letter sent by a candidate who is validly nominated for the Labour FC may contain information on any other candidate who is also validly nominated for that constituency. A letter sent by a candidate who is validly nominated for the ECC may contain information on any other candidate who is also validly nominated for that constituency.

(J) Address Labels and Candidate Mailing Label System (“CMLS”)

32. To facilitate candidates to send out election mail by free postage, the REO will continue to provide, upon request, each validly nominated candidate with a set of address labels pertaining to the electors in the relevant constituency, except those electors who have provided REO with their email addresses for receiving electronic election mail and those who have requested no receipt of election mail.

33. The REO will also continue the practice of providing, upon request, each validly nominated candidate with the CMLS containing the mailing information of electors (including their names, addresses and, if provided by the electors, their email addresses) in the constituency. Candidates may make use of the information in the CMLS to post election mail or send out electronic election mail to the electors via their email addresses. There will be reminder messages on/in the cover, the user guide and the CMLS programme to remind candidates of the proper use of electors' personal information (including the use of "b.c.c." function or other proven means to prevent inadvertent disclosure of electors' email addresses) and the legal consequences of not taking heed of the reminder. Candidates are required to sign an undertaking on the proper use and disposal of electors' information before they are provided with the address labels and/or CMLS. Besides, to prevent the email containing the election mail from being mis-detected as spam email and blocked by the email system, the REO will remind candidates to understand the relevant policies and preventive measures adopted by the email service providers before arranging the sending of election mails to their electors through email in bulk. If necessary, candidates may consider first applying to the email service providers for raising the daily sending limit of their email accounts.

34. The REO will inform the validly nominated candidates to collect the electors' mailing information at the REO's office once such information is available.

(K) Public Inspection of EAs

35. To comply with the public inspection requirement stipulated in the electoral law, candidates may either deposit copies of their EAs and the relevant information and documents with the ROs, or upload the electronic copies onto an open platform maintained by the CEO (referred to as "Central Platform") or an open platform maintained by the candidate (referred to as "Candidate's Platform") for public inspection within one working day after the publication of the EAs. For those EAs of which uploading on the Central Platform or Candidate's Platform is not practicable (e.g. electioneering messages of interactive and spontaneous nature, video streaming or live broadcasting through social networking and

communication websites on the internet), candidates may upload the hyperlinks of the EAs onto the Central Platform or Candidate's Platform in order to satisfy the public inspection requirement.

(L) Facilitation Measures for Electors with Special Needs

36. As in previous elections, the REO will continue to make the best endeavours to facilitate electors with special needs to exercise their right to vote. In addition to the special queue for electors in need (as detailed in paragraph 14), the following facilitation measures will continue to be put in place in the 2021 LegCo General Election –

- (a) For electors with mobility difficulties, 90% of polling stations are set up in accessible venues. Where circumstances permit, the REO would install temporary ramps at the polling stations to facilitate wheelchair users. The REO will also remind electors who have mobility difficulties or are wheelchair-bound, through location maps attached to poll cards and various promotion channels, that if they have been allocated to an inaccessible polling station, they may apply to the REO no later than five days before the polling day for re-allocation to an accessible polling station. The REO, upon request, will approach the Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation for arrangement of Rehabuses to transport the above-mentioned electors to and from the polling stations;
- (b) For electors with hearing impairment, all polling stations are provided with a pictorial voting aid to assist them to understand the voting procedures. Sign language translation has been incorporated in the Announcements-in-the-Public-Interests relating to the voting procedures;
- (c) For electors with visual impairment, the REO will continue to appeal to candidates to provide the text version of their Introduction to Candidates for uploading onto the dedicated website to facilitate the online reading of the relevant information using software aids by electors with visual

impairment. At the same time, in addition to sending poll cards in accordance with the relevant electoral law, the REO will continue the arrangement to collect the email addresses of electors with visual impairment via the VR website (www.voterregistration.gov.hk) and to use email to send to them the relevant polling information (including hyperlinks to the text version of Introduction to Candidates) electronically. These electors would be informed through Short Message Service that the REO has issued the email to them and they can open the email and read the electronic polling information with software aids;

- (d) A 24-hour Interactive Voice Response System (“IVRS”) will be set up by the REO for electors with visual impairment to listen to the recording made from the text version of the Introduction to Candidates at any time. They can also be redirected to the operators of the REO’s enquiry hotline during the hotline’s operating hours to obtain other electoral information. On the polling day, the aforesaid electors will be allowed to use the telephones at the polling stations to access the IVRS through a dedicated telephone line without redirect function. Other facilitation measures such as provision of braille templates and braille list of candidates at the polling stations will continue. Given a Braille template contains only 30 candidates’ names with numbers at most, if there are more than 30 candidates in the relevant constituency, the electors with visual impairment can seek help from the PRO to mark the ballot paper on their behalf according to their choices; and
- (e) For electors of diverse race who cannot speak Chinese or English, all polling stations will be equipped with a voting guide compiled in eight languages (Bahasa Indonesia, Tagalog, Thai, Hindi, Nepali, Urdu, Punjabi and Vietnamese) commonly used by the people of diverse race in Hong Kong to facilitate them to understand the voting procedures. In addition, we shall collaborate with the Centre for Harmony and Enhancement of Ethnic Minority Residents (“CHEER”) to

provide interpretation service in these eight languages, through the REO telephone hotline service, to help electors of diverse race understand the voting procedures and to facilitate them to make enquiries on election-related matters during the two weeks prior to the polling day. Arrangement will also be made with the CHEER to provide interpretation service over the phone if electors of diverse race make a request to the PROs for language assistance at the polling stations.

— A summary list of the facilitation measures which the REO plans to put in place to serve electors with special needs is at **Annex I** for reference.

(M) Central Command Centre (“CCC”)

37. On the polling day, a CCC will be set up each at REO’s Office in Kowloonbay International Trade and Exhibition Centre (“KITEC”) and the CCS to oversee the conduct of the poll and vote counting, and to provide central command and helpdesk/support services.

(N) Statistical Information Centre

38. A SIC will be set up each inside the CCC at REO’s office in KITEC and the CCS. The former is to collect and consolidate voter turnout statistics in respect of GCs, FCs and the ECC, and counting results in respect of the GCs collected from the polling-cum-counting stations. Mobile Input System for Electoral Statistics will be used by all polling stations for inputting the statistics and transmitting the information to SIC to enhance efficiency and accuracy of the data. The latter is to consolidate counting results collected from the CCS in respect of FCs and the ECC. Similar arrangement was made in the past and had proven to be efficient and reliable. The voter turnout figures will be made available to the public through press releases and the dedicated website for the 2021 LegCo General Election on an hourly basis.

(O) Media Centre

39. A MC will be set up in the CCS to facilitate the dissemination of counting results to the candidates, the media and the public. Election results will be declared by the respective ROs at the MC. Inside the MC, there will be designated areas for use by candidates and their agents, the media and the public. If needed, media announcements will be made through the MC.

(P) Security Planning

40. In accordance with section 46 and section 69 of the EAC(EP)(LC) Regulation, the PRO must keep order at the polling station, and the Chief Returning Officer and the ROs in charge of a counting zone of the CCS must keep order at the CCS. If, on the polling day, in the polling-cum-counting stations, the CCS, or their vicinities, a person misconducts himself or herself, or fails to obey a lawful order of the Chief Returning Officer, RO or PRO, that officer may order the person to leave the polling-cum-counting station, CCS or their vicinity, as the case may be, immediately.

41. As in previous elections, in consultation with the law enforcement agencies and venue management, we will prepare security plan to ensure public order and safeguard government properties at the polling stations, CCS and the MC.

(Q) Contingency Planning

42. Section 44 of the LCO and Schedule 2 to the EAC(EP)(LC) Regulation provide for the postponement of a LegCo General Election or the adjournment of the poll or count under specified circumstances. As in previous elections, we shall set up a Crisis Management Committee (“CMC”) to provide professional advice, where necessary, to the EAC on the handling of all matters concerning postponement of the election or the adjournment of the poll or count under the specified circumstances. The EAC will decide how best the situation should be handled having regard to the circumstances at the material time and the advice of the CMC. The

CMC is chaired by the EAC Chairman and comprises the representatives of the relevant policy bureaux/departments depending on the issues under consideration.

43. Section 7(3) of Schedule 2 to the EAC(EP)(LC) Regulation requires that the postponed election or the adjourned poll or count should be held not later than 14 days from the date on which it would have been held. As it has been the established practice to hold the poll on a Sunday to facilitate electors to cast their votes, the postponed election or the adjourned poll would normally resume on the following Sunday as far as circumstances permit. For contingency planning, in the case of the 2021 LegCo General Election, the fallback date would then be 26 December 2021 if postponement or adjournment is required.

(R) Proposed Safety Measures for Election Amid COVID-19 Pandemic

44. Although the COVID-19 epidemic in Hong Kong has slightly stabilised recently, we anticipate that chances for the epidemic to be over when the 2021 LegCo General Election is being conducted is slim. To prevent the spread of COVID-19 pandemic, after consultation with the Food and Health Bureau and the Centre for Health Protection (“CHP”), we shall implement the following arrangements -

(a) Ordinary electors, candidates, agents, electoral staff and members of the public

Before entering the polling and counting stations (including the CCS), all persons should wear masks, have their body temperature checked, use instant hand sanitisers provided to clean their hands, and keep social distancing of one metre. If electoral staff, candidates, agents or members of the public are confirmed having fever, electoral staff will not be allowed to discharge electoral duties, while candidates and agents will not be allowed to enter the stations but the candidates can appoint other agents to observe the poll or the count, and members of the public will not be allowed entering the counting stations to observe the count.

(b) *Electors with fever/respiratory symptoms*

Electors with fever/respiratory symptoms will be assigned to vote at the designated compartments at the polling stations, which will be segregated from other electors as far as possible. Proper disinfection measures will also be put in place each time after the compartments are used.

(c) *Confinees in Quarantine Centres (“QCs”)*

Considering that confinees in QCs are required to stay there without being given any prior notice, and the Penny’s Bay QC has sufficient and suitable spaces for setting up as polling station, after consulting the CHP, REO will set up a polling station in the Penny’s Bay QC. As such, REO will implement a series of preventive measures in order to mitigate the risk of infection and spreading of COVID-19.

(d) *Electors returning to Hong Kong (i.e. those under quarantine at designated places (home, self-arranged accommodation or in designated quarantine hotels))*

Considering that COVID-19 cases with mutant strain are of higher transmissibility, voters who intend to vote but are currently not in Hong Kong should take note of the quarantine measures for inbound travellers, and plan their itinerary as early as possible and allow sufficient time for quarantine arrangements, say returning to Hong Kong at least 21 days before the polling day, so as to exercise their voting right on the polling day at their designated polling stations. From the risk assessments perspective, CHP does not consider it appropriate to allow confinees in quarantine hotels to leave the hotels to cast votes at their designated polling stations. Besides, permitting electors undergoing home quarantine to temporarily leave their home and enter the community poses certain risks of contamination. As such, we do not recommend making special arrangements for this type of electors.

45. The REO will continue to closely monitor the development of COVID-19 in Hong Kong, and draw up details of the electoral arrangements and safety measures to ensure electors' safety, and prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the polling and counting stations as well as the CCS in consultation with the CHP.

(S) Guidelines on Election-related Activities

46. The EAC has been updating the Guidelines on Election-related Activities in respect of the LegCo Election (“the Guidelines”) on the basis of the edition issued in June 2020 with suitable alterations and adaptations, mainly to reflect the relevant legislative amendments under the Amendment Ordinance. We have provided advance copies of the updated Guidelines (Chinese version) to Members. We have also highlighted the major changes in the updated Guidelines as compared with the last edition at **Annex II** for reference. The EAC is refining the content of the Guidelines and preparing its English version, and will publish the finalised Guidelines in mid-October 2021.

ADVICE SOUGHT

47. Members are invited to express views on the proposed arrangements set out in this paper.

**Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Registration and Electoral Office
September 2021**

Facilitation Measures for Electors with Special Needs

(A) Either under the operation of the Electronic Poll Register System or the fallback mode (using printed-form Final Register), electors whose age is 70 or above, pregnant women, and persons who are unable to queue for a long time or have difficulty in queuing

1. The Presiding Officer (“PRO”) will set up a special queue to give priority to the following electors for obtaining their ballot paper(s) from the ballot paper issuing desk -
 - (a) electors who are 70 years old or above;
 - (b) pregnant women; or
 - (c) persons who are unable to queue for a long time or have difficulty in queuing due to illness, injury, disability or dependence on mobility aids.

(B) Electors with mobility difficulties

1. 90% of polling stations are set up at venues which are accessible to electors with mobility difficulties or who are wheelchair users. Where the circumstances permit, temporary ramps will be set up at polling stations for wheelchair users.
2. Telephone number of the polling station will be posted near the ramp leading to the station. If necessary, electors with mobility difficulties can contact the polling staff for assistance.
3. The Registration and Electoral Office (“REO”) will indicate in the polling station location map to be sent together with the poll card to electors whether the allocated polling station is accessible to electors with mobility difficulties or who are wheelchair users. If these electors are allocated to inaccessible polling stations, they may apply to the REO at least five days before the polling day for re-allocation to a polling station set up at an accessible venue.

4. Upon request, the REO will approach the Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation for arrangement of Rehabuses to transport electors with mobility difficulties to and from polling stations.
5. All accessible polling stations will be equipped with enlarged voting compartments with lower polling tables for electors who are wheelchair users.
6. If necessary, electors can seek help from the PRO to mark the ballot papers on their behalf according to their choice inside a voting compartment with a polling staff serving as a witness. Where space permits, one of the voting compartments at each polling station will be separated from the remaining compartments in order to prevent electors at the adjacent compartments from overhearing the conversation between the polling staff and the electors concerned.

(C) Electors with visual impairment

1. All the election websites have incorporated accessible designs. Most of the information or documents on the websites are convenient for browsing by persons with visual impairment with the aid of screen reading software.
2. Appeal will be made to candidates to provide a text version of their “Introduction to Candidates” for uploading onto the dedicated website (www.elections.gov.hk) to facilitate online reading of the relevant information using assistive software by persons with visual impairment.
3. Electors with visual impairment may provide/update their email addresses for receiving soft copy of electoral information from the REO by completing an electronic form at the Voter Registration website (www.voterregistration.gov.hk). They would be reminded through Short Message Service to read the email issued by the REO.
4. The telephone number of the enquiry hotline (2891 1001) will be read out in radio Announcements-in-the-Public-Interests (“APIs”) and TV APIs so that persons with visual impairment may obtain information relating to electoral arrangements through the hotline.

5. A web accessible version of the TV APIs will be available on the dedicated website to facilitate the browsing of election-related information by electors with visual impairment.
6. A 24-hour Interactive Voice Response System (“IVRS”) (2893 3762) will be provided for electors with visual impairment to listen to the recording made from the text version of the “Introduction to Candidates” at any time. They can also be redirected to the operators of the REO’s enquiry hotline during the hotline’s operating hours to obtain other electoral information. On the polling day, electors with visual impairment will be allowed to use the telephones at the polling stations to access the IVRS through a dedicated telephone line without redirect function.
7. A braille list of candidates with the candidate numbers, candidates’ names and the names of prescribed bodies will be available at polling stations to facilitate the access of electors with visual impairment to the relevant information.
8. Braille templates will be available at polling stations to facilitate the marking of ballot papers by electors with visual impairment themselves. Braille templates containing 30 candidates’ names (with numbers) at most are available. If there are more than 30 candidates in the relevant constituency subsector, the electors with visual impairment can seek help from the PRO to mark the ballot paper on their behalf according to their choices.
9. If necessary, electors can seek help from the PRO to mark the ballot papers on their behalf according to their choice inside a voting compartment with a polling staff serving as a witness. Where space permits, one of the voting compartments at each polling station will be separated from the remaining compartments in order to prevent electors at the adjacent compartments from overhearing the conversation between the polling staff and the electors concerned.
10. Electors with visual impairment may bring along their guide dogs into the polling stations.

11. Magnifying glasses will be made available in polling stations to facilitate the viewing of display of the elector's tablet of the Electronic Poll Register System at the issuing desks.

(D) Electors with hearing impairment

1. Sign language interpretation and subtitles will be included in all election-related TV APIs.
2. An "Illustration on Guidance on Voting Procedure" ("pictorial voting aid") is available at all polling stations to assist electors with hearing impairment in understanding the voting procedures. The pictorial voting aid will be uploaded onto the dedicated website for electors' reference before the poll.

(E) Electors of diverse race

1. Electoral information in eight languages of diverse race (Bahasa Indonesia, Hindi, Nepali, Punjabi, Tagalog, Thai, Vietnamese and Urdu) will be available on the dedicated website.
2. Electoral information in Bahasa Indonesia, Hindi, Nepali, Tagalog, Thai and Urdu will also be available on the homepage of the Home Affairs Department's Race Relations Unit (www.had.gov.hk/rru).
3. Information on the election will be broadcast in five languages (Bahasa Indonesia, Hindi, Nepali, Thai and Urdu) on radio.
4. Appeal will be made to candidates to provide election advertisements in English and/or languages of diverse race to facilitate understanding by electors who do not read Chinese.
5. Polling stations will be equipped with a Language Assistance Folder which will contain guides on voting procedures written in the aforesaid languages to assist electors of diverse race in casting their votes.

6. The REO will collaborate with the Centre for Harmony and Enhancement of Ethnic Minority Residents (“CHEER”) to provide free interpretation service in the aforesaid eight languages of diverse race, through the REO’s dedicated telephone line, to help electors of diverse race understand the voting procedures and to facilitate their making of enquiries on election-related matters.
7. Electoral information in the aforesaid eight languages of diverse race will be posted in eight support centres for the people of diverse race run by non-governmental organisations.

(F) Other electors with special needs

1. A pictorial voting aid explaining the voting procedures will be provided at all polling stations to assist electors in need (e.g. electors with intellectual differences, electors with speech or communication impairment and electors who are not familiar with Chinese or English, etc.) in understanding the voting procedures. The pictorial voting aid will be uploaded onto the dedicated website for electors’ reference before the poll.
2. Electors who are unable to cast their votes on their own can seek help from the PRO to mark the ballot papers on their behalf according to their voting choice. The whole process will be witnessed by another polling staff to ensure that the voting will be conducted in a fair manner. According to the current legislation, all polling staff (including the PRO) must sign a declaration of secrecy in the specified form and must comply with various requirements concerning voting secrecy. To further protect the privacy of the electors concerned, where space permits, one of the voting compartments at each polling station will be separated from the remaining compartments in order to prevent electors at the adjacent compartments from overhearing the conversation between the polling staff and the electors concerned.

**Major Changes in the Guidelines on
Election-related Activities in respect of the
Legislative Council Election
as Compared with the Previous Version Issued in June 2020**

The total number of chapters in this Guidelines on Election-related Activities in respect of the Legislative Council (“LegCo”) Election will be increased from 20 to 21 when compared with the previous version published in June 2020. This is due to the need to add a separate chapter (i.e. Chapter 4) on the composition and voting system for the Election Committee Constituency (“ECC”) to be established for LegCo elections.

Relevant Chapter	Major Changes
<p>Chapter 1 <i>Introduction</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● specifying that the sixth term of the LegCo will continue to discharge its duties after 30 September 2020 until the beginning of the seventh term of office of the LegCo (para. 1.3); ● updating the number of seats and composition of the LegCo members in accordance with the newly amended Annex II to the Basic Law (para. 1.4); and ● specifying the allocation of seats and voting system for Geographical Constituency (“GC”), Functional Constituency (“FC”) and ECC in accordance with the amendment made to sections 18, 19, 20, 21, 21A, 21B, 49, 51 and 52A of the Legislative Council Ordinance (Cap. 542) (“LCO”) in May 2021 (paras. 1.5 to 1.7).
<p>Chapter 2 and Appendix 3 <i>Composition, registration of electors and voting system for Geographical Constituencies</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● updating the composition of GC and FC in accordance with the amendment made to sections 18, 19, 20, 20A to 20ZD, 21 and 49 of the LCO in May 2021 (paras. 2.10, 2.11, 3.10 and Appendix 3); ● specifying the important dates in relation to registration under the special voter registration arrangement for 2021 and the regular arrangement of voter registration cycle in 2022 and thereafter in

Relevant Chapter	Major Changes
<p><i>and</i></p> <p>Chapter 3 and Appendix 3 <i>Composition, registration of electors and voting system for Functional Constituencies</i></p>	<p>accordance with the amendment made to sections 2AA, 4 and 10A of the Electoral Affairs Commission (Registration of Electors) (Legislative Council Geographical Constituencies) (District Council Constituencies) Regulation (Cap. 541A) (“EAC(ROE)(GC) Reg”) and sections 2AA, 19 and 26 of the Electoral Affairs Commission (Registration) (Electors for Legislative Council Functional Constituencies) (Voters for Election Committee Subsectors) (Members of Election Committee) Regulation (Cap. 541B) (“EAC(ROE)(FCSEC) Reg”) in May 2021 (paras. 2.12 and 3.12);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● updating the eligibility for registration as FC electors in accordance with the amendments made to section 25 of the LCO in May 2021 (paras. 3.17 to 3.21); ● specifying that the decision to appoint or replace an authorised representative (“AR”) of a corporate elector may only be made by the governing authority, by whatever name called, of the corporate elector, in accordance with the amendment made to section 26 of the LCO in May 2021 (para. 3.24); ● specifying that effective from 1 May 2022, an applicant is required to submit address proof together with the application form for new voter registration to prove that the address stated in the application is the principal residential address of the applicant, in accordance with the amendment made to section 4(1A) of the EAC(ROE)(GC) Reg and section 19(1D) of the EAC(ROE)(FCSEC) Reg in May 2021 (paras. 2.19 and 3.28); ● elaborating that in respect of eligibility for voter registration, in determining whether or not a person has been “ordinarily resided in Hong Kong”, multiple factors and the circumstances of the case should be taken into consideration with reference to relevant

Relevant Chapter	Major Changes
	<p>court cases (paras. 2.27 to 2.30);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● specifying that starting from the 2022 voter registration cycle, only specified persons may inspect the registers of electors containing the particulars of individual electors in accordance with the amendment made to sections 10, 13 and 20 of the EAC(ROE)(GC) Reg and sections 25, 29 and 38 of the EAC(ROE)(FCSEC) Reg in May 2021. Only the first character/word of the name of an individual elector (whether in Chinese or English) and his/her registered residential address will be shown on such registers of electors for inspection. Meanwhile, registers containing only entries of corporate electors are unaffected and will be made available for public inspection. Before the relevant legislation takes effect, the arrangement for inspection of registers of electors shall be made in compliance with the judgment and order issued by the Court of Appeal of the High Court in May 2020 (paras. 2.37, 2.38, 3.42, 3.43 and Appendix 2); ● specifying that in accordance with the amendment made to section 2A of the Registration of Electors (Appeals) Regulation (Cap. 542B) in May 2021, as a special arrangement for claims and objections lodged in relation to the provisional registers of electors for 2021, the Revising Officer will determine the claim or objection without a hearing on the basis of written submissions only (paras. 2.44 and 3.49); and ● setting out clearly the statutory arrangement in the case of death or disqualification of a validly nominated candidate in different periods of an election in accordance with the amendment made to sections 42B and 46A of the LCO in May 2021 (paras. 2.52, 2.53, 3.56 and 3.57).
Chapter 4 and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● specifying the composition of the ECC, methods for

Relevant Chapter	Major Changes
<p>Appendix 4 <i>Composition and voting system for ECC</i></p>	<p>returning its electors (i.e. Election Committee (“EC”) members) and their voting eligibility, as well as the voting system for the ECC in accordance with relevant provisions of the LCO and the Chief Executive Election Ordinance (Cap. 569) (“CEEEO”) (Chapter 4 and Appendix 4).</p>
<p>Chapter 5 <i>Nomination of candidates</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● reminding candidates that it is imperative for any candidate claiming to be “independent” or “non-affiliated” (or other similar descriptions) to have factual basis for the claim in accordance with previous court cases. Candidates should seek independent legal advice in advance if they have any doubts about the information on political affiliation to be provided for the nomination form and the Introduction to Candidates. Besides, it is an offence for a candidate to make a false statement about his/her political affiliation in an election-related document (paras. 5.7 to 5.9); ● specifying the eligibility for being nominated as a candidate in an election for the ECC in accordance with the new provision under section 37(3A) of the LCO added in May 2021 (para. 5.12); ● specifying that in respect of eligibility for being nominated as a candidate, in determining whether or not a person has been “ordinarily resided in Hong Kong”, multiple factors and the circumstances of the case should be taken into consideration with reference to relevant court cases (paras. 5.13 to 5.15); ● updating the circumstances in which a person shall be disqualified from being nominated as a candidate and from being elected as a LegCo member in accordance with the new provision under section 39(1A) of the LCO added in May 2021. It is specified that any person who, within 5 years before the polling day, vacates an office or is disqualified from entering on an

Relevant Chapter	Major Changes
	<p>office under the law for declining or neglecting to take a specified oath; or is declared or decided in accordance with any law to be in breach of a specified oath, or to have failed to fulfil the legal requirements and conditions on upholding the Basic Law and bearing allegiance to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China, shall be disqualified from being nominated as a candidate and from being elected as a LegCo member (para. 5.16(k));</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● updating the nomination methods for candidates in a LegCo election in accordance with the amendment made to section 7 of the Legislative Council (Subscribers and Election Deposit for Nomination) Regulation (Cap. 542C) (“LC Subscribers & Deposit Reg”) in May 2021 (paras. 5.20 to 5.27); ● specifying the amount of election deposit payable by each candidate of the ECC in accordance with the amendment made to section 2 of the LC Subscribers & Deposit Reg in May 2021 (para. 5.44(c)); ● updating the circumstances for the return of election deposit, and specifying that the deposit will be returned to the candidate if the election has failed in accordance with the amendment made to sections 3 and 4 of the LC Subscribers & Deposit Reg in May 2021 (para. 5.46(d)); ● setting out the composition of the Candidate Eligibility Review Committee (“CERC”), specifying that the CERC will review and confirm the eligibility of candidates, that it may request the opinion of Returning Officer and may also make decision based on the opinion of the Committee for Safeguarding National Security of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (“Committee on National Security”), and that no legal proceedings may be

Relevant Chapter	Major Changes
	<p>instituted in respect of a decision made by the CERC on the eligibility of a candidate pursuant to the opinion of the Committee on National Security, and specifying the procedures for determining the validity of nominations for candidates, variation of decision on validity of nominations and declaration of valid nominations by the CERC in accordance with the amendment made to section 9A of the CEEO, section 40 of the LCO and section 16 of the Electoral Affairs Commission (Electoral Procedure) (Legislative Council) Regulation (Cap. 541D) (“EAC(EP)(LC) Reg”) in May 2021 (Parts VI, VII and IX of this Chapter); and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● updating the deadline for submitting applications for the registration of names and emblems to the Electoral Affairs Commission in accordance with the amendment made to section 2 of the Particulars Relating to Candidates on Ballot Papers (Legislative Council and District Councils) Regulation (Cap. 541M) in May 2021 (para. 5.69).
<p>Chapter 6 and Appendix 5 <i>Polling and counting arrangements</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● specifying that an ECC polling station will be set up for the voting of ECC electors in accordance with the EAC(EP)(LC) Reg. Since only one GC ballot box will be set up in the ECC polling station for EC members of different GCs to cast votes for their respective GCs, the ECC polling station will be converted into a ballot paper sorting station after the close of poll for sorting GC ballot papers before they are delivered to the designated main counting stations and be mixed with the ballot papers of relevant GCs for counting. The ECC and FC ballot papers will be delivered to the central counting station for counting (paras. 6.13, 6.14, 6.79 and 6.80); ● specifying that the Chief Electoral Officer may, by written notice, require an owner or occupier of a building occupied by any school or

Relevant Chapter	Major Changes
	<p>organisation/association/body receiving grants from the Government to make available the premises for use as a polling station or counting station, and that a person who fails to comply with the requirement is liable to pay a financial penalty of \$50,000, in accordance with the new provision under section 28A of the EAC(EP)(LC) Reg added in May 2021 (para. 6.16);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● specifying that to facilitate the smooth conduct of elections and minimise the impact of the elections on schools' operation, the Government has designated the day following a major public election (i.e. LegCo general elections and District Council ordinary elections) as a school holiday (para. 6.16); ● revising the combined polling arrangements in light of the establishment of the ECC (paras. 6.19, 6.21 to 6.23, 6.36, 6.46, 6.51 and Appendix 5); ● specifying the procedures for issuing ballot papers under different situations in polling stations in accordance with the amendment made to section 53 of the EAC(EP)(LC) Reg in May 2021. For issuing ballot papers by using the electronic poll register ("EPR") system, an elector/AR may observe on the display screen of the EPR system his/her name, part of his/her Hong Kong Identity Card number and the type(s) of ballot paper(s) issued to ensure accurate record-keeping (para. 6.41); ● specifying that as a caring measure for electors/ARs with special needs (including senior citizens aged 70 or above, pregnant women and persons who, because of illness, injury, disability or dependence on mobility aids, are not able to queue for a long time or have difficulty in queuing), the Presiding Officer may make special queuing arrangement and specifying the practical arrangements to be made, having regard to

Relevant Chapter	Major Changes
	<p>the different ways of issuing ballot papers under different situations, in accordance with the new provision under section 49A of the EAC(EP)(LC) Reg added in May 2021 (para. 6.44);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● specifying how ballot papers should be marked and how they should be cast into the ballot boxes for the ECC elections in accordance with the amendment made to sections 54 and 58A of the EAC(EP)(LC) Reg in May 2021 (paras. 6.53(c) and 6.55); ● updating the types of invalid FC ballot papers, and specifying that a ballot paper will not be regarded as valid if the vote recorded thereon is for a deceased or disqualified candidate whose name and other information are crossed out, in accordance with the amendment made to section 80(1) of the EAC(EP)(LC) Reg in May 2021 (para. 6.117(f)); ● specifying the arrangements and procedures for counting ECC ballot papers in accordance with the amendment made to Divisions 2 and 3 of the EAC(EP)(LC) Reg in May 2021 (paras. 6.124 to 6.134); and ● specifying the procedures for the Returning Officer to declare election results after the counting of votes and re-counts, if any, in accordance with the amendment made to sections 83 and 84 of the EAC(EP)(LC) Reg in May 2021 (para. 6.135 to 6.137).
<p>Chapter 7 <i>Election petitions</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● specifying that in the case of an ECC election, an election petition may be lodged by 10 or more members of the EC entitled to vote at the election, or by a person claiming to have been a candidate in the election, in accordance with the new provision under section 62(3) of the LCO added in May 2021 (para. 7.3).

Relevant Chapter	Major Changes
<p>Chapter 9 <i>Election advertisements</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● reminding candidates to ensure they have a factual basis for the content of any election advertisement (“EA”) published by them in order to avoid disputes and lawsuits in accordance with a previous court case (para. 9.5); ● specifying, in accordance with the amendment made to section 104(4) of the EAC(EP)(LC) Reg in May 2021, that a document published by a candidate during the election period is regarded as an EA if it contains the details of the work done by the candidate in the capacity of the Chief Executive, an EC member, a member of the LegCo, a member of a District Council, a member of the Heung Yee Kuk, the Chairman/Vice-Chairman or a member of the Executive Committee of a Rural Committee or a Rural Representative (para. 9.14); ● informing candidates of previous court judgments on applications for relief of liability for EAs. If an applicant did not place enough significance on the obligation to file an election return, the court would require some good reason before it should exercise its discretion to grant relief. It is important that the discretion should be exercised in a manner which is consistent with the integrity of the election legislation (para. 9.75); and ● specifying that a candidate who is validly nominated for a GC, the Labour FC or the ECC may send a joint election mail to electors. The mail may contain the information of any other candidate who is also validly nominated for that GC, the Labour FC or the ECC, as the case may be, in accordance with the amendment made to section 43 of the LCO in May 2021 (para. 9.82).
<p>Chapter 10 and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● informing candidates, by attaching the latest version of

Relevant Chapter	Major Changes
<p>Appendix 10 <i>Electioneering activities at premises or buildings where electors reside, work or frequent</i></p>	<p>the “Guidance on Election Activities for Candidates, Government Departments, Public Opinion Research Organisations and Members of the Public” issued by the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data, of the importance of complying with the requirements under the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (Cap. 486) when they conduct electioneering activities that may involve the collection and use of personal data of an individual (para. 10.20 and Appendix 10);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● reminding candidates that to prevent an election mail from being mis-detected as a spam email and blocked by the email system, candidates may understand the sending limit imposed by the relevant email service provider before arranging the sending of election mails to their electors through email in bulk. If necessary, candidates may consider first applying to their email service providers for raising the daily sending limit of their email accounts (para. 10.21); and ● reminding candidates that any information relating to an individual contained in a register of electors or extract of the register can only be used for the election-related purposes specified under the electoral legislation, and that any abuse or misuse of such information, use of such information for other purposes, or disclosure of such information causing psychological harm to the elector is an offence (para. 10.22).
<p>Chapter 12 <i>Election Broadcasting, media reporting and election forums</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● specifying that for the ECC in a LegCo general election, due to the considerable number of seats and candidates involved, when producing and publishing news reports and feature reports related to the election of a candidate, broadcasters and the print media may have practical difficulties in mentioning all the other candidates of the constituency in the same programme or publication. Therefore, the media may provide in

Relevant Chapter	Major Changes
	<p>the programme or publication the viewers, listeners or readers with the total number of candidates in the constituency and the platform (such as the webpage of the organisation/programme/publication) in which the names of the other candidates of the constituency are mentioned by the media (paras. 12.9, 12.19 and 12.22).</p>
<p>Chapter 16 <i>Exit poll</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● reminding the persons or organisations conducting exit polls that collection and retention of any personal data of electors/ARs are not allowed (para. 16.12).
<p>Chapter 17 <i>Election expenses and election donations</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● specifying the permitted maximum amounts of election expenses to be incurred by candidates in accordance with the amendment made to sections 3, 4 and 4A of the Maximum Amount of Election Expenses (Legislative Council Election) Regulation (Cap. 554D) in May 2021 (para. 17.16); ● specifying the limits regarding the relief for minor errors in election returns which allow correction by candidates in accordance with the new provisions under Item 4A of the Schedule to the Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Conduct) Ordinance (Cap. 554) (“ECICO”) added in May 2021 (para. 17.38); ● specifying the amount of financial assistance payable to ECC election candidates in accordance with the amendment made to section 60E of the LCO in May 2021 (para. 17.45); and ● reminding candidates that those who fail to submit an election return as required by the law are liable to a fine and to imprisonment, and may be disqualified as with conviction of illegal conduct (para. 17.66).
<p>Chapter 18</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● specifying that a person engages in illegal conduct if

Relevant Chapter	Major Changes
<i>Corrupt and illegal conduct</i>	<p>he/she carries out any activity in public during the election period that incites another person not to vote or to cast an invalid vote, and setting out the activities that are regarded as “activity in public”, in accordance with the new provision under section 27A of the ECICO added in May 2021 (para. 18.17);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● reminding candidates to avoid any act that may be perceived as electoral bribery during the election period (para. 18.20); and ● specifying, in accordance with the amendment made to section 14 of the ECICO in May 2021, that a person engages in corrupt conduct if he/she, by means of deception, induces another person (or gets another person to induce a third person) not to vote at an election, or to vote or not to vote for a particular candidate or particular candidates at an election. Besides, a person also engages in corrupt conduct if he/she willfully obstructs or prevents another person (or gets another person to obstruct or prevent a third person) from voting at an election. In addition, it is also an offence to aid, abet, incite or attempt the said offence (para. 18.27).
Chapter 19 <i>Namedropping</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● reminding candidates, by citing judgments of relevant court cases as reference, to obtain before the publication of EAs the written consent from their supporters if the names of the supporters are to be included in the EAs. Besides, to comply with section 27(1A) of the ECICO, the written consent has to be a single document expressly stating the supporter’s consent to include his/her/its name, logo or pictorial representation in the candidate’s EAs. Regardless of the number of supporters, the written consent has to be a single document rather than a composite document comprising multiple letters, documents or a chain of correspondence messages (para. 19.4).