

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(4)1202/20-21(05)

Ref: CB4/PL/PS

Panel on Public Service

Meeting on 12 July 2021

Background brief on the Job Creation Scheme

Purpose

This paper provides background information and gives a brief account of the past discussions of the Panel on Public Service ("the Panel") on the Job Creation Scheme ("the Scheme").

Background

2. To relieve the worsening unemployment situation due to the Coronavirus Disease-2019 ("COVID-19") epidemic and the anti-epidemic measures, the Administration has earmarked \$6.6 billion under the Anti-epidemic Fund¹ in 2020 to implement the Scheme to create around 30 000 time-limited jobs in the public and private sectors within two years for people of various skill sets and academic qualifications. In view of the persistently high unemployment rate, the Administration announced in the 2021-2022 Budget to further earmark \$6.6 billion to create an additional 30 000 time-limited jobs.

3. Under the Scheme, in addition to bearing the salary of the jobs created in various government departments, the Administration subsidises part of the cost of the jobs created in the non-government sector. The Civil Service Bureau ("CSB") is responsible for co-ordinating with other bureaux and departments ("B/Ds") the implementation of the Scheme. Relevant B/Ds will liaise with the non-governmental organizations or relevant associations under their purview to formulate details of the additional jobs.

¹ The Anti-epidemic Fund was established in early 2020 to enhance the capability of government bureaux and departments ("B/Ds") as well as other relevant parties in combating the pandemic and provide assistance or relief to enterprises and members of the public hard hit by the epidemic or affected by anti-epidemic measures. The Administration has already launched a few rounds of measures under the Anti-epidemic Fund to assist the affected industries and the public.

4. From April 2020 to early May 2021, around 31 000 jobs have been created under the Scheme, which include around 15 800 jobs in the Government and around 15 600 jobs in the non-governmental sector. Among the jobs already created, around 22 300 jobs have been filled. The recruitment of the remaining 9 100 jobs is in progress or will commence shortly. As at end April 2021, a total expenditure of \$1,523 million has been incurred for the Scheme. The remaining provision will be used to meet the expenditure involved in the jobs created in the coming year.

Deliberations of the Panel

5. Members in general welcomed the Scheme. At the Panel meeting on 10 July 2020, members requested the Administration to take prompt action to start the recruitment exercises of the time-limited government jobs to relieve the short-term unemployment situation. The Administration advised that it had started phasing the recruitment of time-limited positions and sought assistance from public or quasi-government bodies, professional bodies and trade associations to create more job openings in non-governmental sector. The central recruitment exercises of Executive Service Assistants and Support Service Assistants were coordinated by CSB. Successful applicants would be deployed to the relevant B/Ds for providing necessary administrative, executive and clerical support.

6. Some members called on the Administration to work with various industries to create more jobs under the Scheme. Some members were concerned whether the number of jobs created under the Scheme for the grassroots was adequate.

7. The Administration advised that more than 40% of the positions created under the Scheme were for the grassroots, including cleansing and supporting staff, workers for carrying out anti-mosquito measures and staff for performing anti-epidemic related duties. The Administration further advised that, for the jobs created under the Scheme in 2020-2021, around 60% of the jobs required tertiary education or above and the remaining jobs required secondary education or below. The monthly pay of around 60% and 40% of jobs ranged from \$10,000 to \$20,000 and at \$20,000 or above respectively. Each job placement normally lasted from 6 to 12 months while extension of duration beyond 12 months would be considered based on the merits of individual cases.

8. Some members considered that providing young people with jobs for general administrative and clerical work would not be conducive to their long-term career development. The Administration explained that apart from Executive Service Assistant/Executive Assistant/Administrative Assistant

positions, other positions such as Arts Administration/Museum/Stage Management positions were created in the Government for young people under the Scheme. Moreover, jobs with training elements were created under the Scheme to facilitate the long-term career development of young people. For example, a training-cum-job placement subsidy scheme was implemented in collaboration with the Hong Kong Jockey Club for first-time job seekers.

9. Noting that as at end February 2021, 13 000 jobs created under the Scheme in 2020-2021 were yet to be filled, members asked whether the Administration had encountered any difficulties in the recruitment process and the measures to be taken by the Administration to fill up the job positions in a timely manner.

10. The Administration advised that it aimed to complete the recruitment exercises in 2021. With a view to facilitating the recruitment process of the jobs created in the Government, CSB had coordinated the central recruitment exercises of Executive Service Assistants and Support Service Assistants in the Government and deployed successful applicants to various B/Ds. As regards the jobs created in other public and private sectors, CSB would coordinate with relevant B/Ds so as to expedite the recruitment process.

Relevant questions raised at Council meeting

11. A number of Council questions on measures to support employment, assisting the youth in securing employment and creation of time-limited jobs were raised in 2020 and 2021. The hyperlinks to the questions and the Administration's responses are in the **Appendix**.

Latest position

12. The Administration will brief members on the implementation progress of the Scheme at the Panel meeting on 12 July 2021.

Relevant papers

13. A list of relevant papers is in the Appendix.

Job Creation Scheme

List of relevant papers

Meeting	Date of meeting	Paper
Panel on Public Service	10 July 2020	Administration's paper Minutes
	28 December 2020	Administration's paper Notes
	15 March 2021	Administration's paper Minutes
Council meeting	3 June 2020	Questions raised by Hon Tony TSE on "Creation of time-limited jobs for architectural, surveying, town planning and landscape sectors"
	24 June 2020	Question raised by Hon Charles MOK on "Job creation for information technology sector "
	8 July 2020	Question raised by Hon Alice MAK on "Creation of time-limited jobs "
	15 July 2020	Question raised by Hon Vincent CHENG on "Measures to support employment"
	18 November 2020	Question raised by Hon Starry LEE on "Assist the youth in securing employment"
	20 January 2021	Question raised by Hon Holden CHOW on "Creation of time-limited jobs"

Meeting	Date of meeting	Paper
	12 May 2021	<u>Question raised by Hon YIU Si-wing on "Creation of time-limited jobs"</u>