Panel on Security

List of outstanding items for discussion

(position as at 10 March 2025)

Proposed timing for discussion

1. Visa and immigration facilitation measures for ASEAN April 2025 visitors

The Administration intends to brief the Panel on measures to facilitate visa applications by ASEAN visitors and the implementation of the Immigration Facilitation Scheme for Invited Persons.

2. Replacement of Radio Communications System for the Customs Drug Investigation Bureau of the Customs and Excise Department

April 2025

The Administration intends to consult the Panel on the proposed replacement of Radio Communications System for the Customs Drug Investigation Bureau of the Customs and Excise Department.

3. Replacement of Very High Frequency Radio Communication System for Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre of Marine Department

May 2025

The Administration intends to consult the Panel on the funding proposal for replacement of Very High Frequency Radio Communication System for Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre of Marine Department.

4. Developing the Next Generation Communications June 2025 System

The Administration gave the Panel a preliminary briefing on this proposed item at the regular meeting in April 2023.

The Administration intends to consult the Panel on the funding proposal for developing the Next Generation Communications System by the Hong Kong Police Force.

5. Operation of land boundary control points and latest progress of redevelopment projects

June 2025

The Panel discussed, at its regular meeting in October 2024, the Administration's policy measures to enhance the infrastructure of land boundary control points ("BCP") and to improve the clearance efficiency, as well as the operation and the latest progress of redevelopment works of BCPs.

Hon Dominic LEE Tsz-king, Ir Hon LEE Chun-keung and Prof Hon CHOW Man-kong suggested, at the meeting on 14 January 2025, that ways to further enhance the operation of land BCPs be discussed by the Panel, including reviewing the opening hours and accessibility of land BCPs, the cross-boundary arrangements for Guangdong-Hong Kong cross-boundary private cars, as well as the use of technology and innovative modes of clearance to enhance clearance efficiency.

As agreed at the work plan meeting for the 2025 session held on 24 January 2025¹, the Administration intends to brief the Panel on the operation and the latest progress of redevelopment projects of land BCPs.

6. Drug situation in Hong Kong in 2024 and anti-drug Second half of efforts by the Government 2025

The Administration intends to brief the Panel on the drug situation in Hong Kong, its various anti-drug efforts and the way forward in response to the latest drug situation.

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The Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Panel normally meet with the Secretary for Security in each session to discuss the Panel's work plan for the session.

7. Strategies and measures to deal with emerging new See Note drugs

Prof Hon CHOW Man-kong suggested, at the meeting on 14 January 2025, that the Administration's strategies and measures to deal with emerging new drugs be discussed by the Panel.

[Note: As agreed at the work plan meeting for the 2025 session held on 24 January 2025, this item would be discussed in the context of "Drug situation in Hong Kong in 2024 and anti-drug efforts by the Government" (item 6 above).]

8. Overall review of substantive sexual offences

To be confirmed

The Law Reform Commission of Hong Kong ("LRC") published the Report on Review of Substantive Sexual Offences² and the Report on Sentencing and Related Matters in the Review of Sexual Offences³ in December 2019 and May 2022 respectively.

When the tenth annual report submitted by the LRC implementation Secretariat the of on recommendations made by LRC (LC Paper No. CB(4)686/2022(02)) was circulated to members of the Panel in August 2022, the then Chairman of the Panel instructed that this item be included in this list to facilitate members' follow-up to the recommendations of these reports in a comprehensive manner as appropriate. Pursuant to the discussion at the work plan meeting for the 2023 session on 31 January 2023, this item was

offences relating to children and mentally impaired persons, and sexual offences relating to abuse of a position of trust); and (c) miscellaneous sexual offences. A total of 69 final recommendations were proposed in the Report for the Administration's consideration.

The review covered (a) offences based on sexual autonomy (i.e. rape and other non-consensual sexual offences); (b) offences based on the principle of protection (i.e. sexual

The review covered a review of the penalties for the offences recommended in the Report on Review of Substantive Sexual Offences; a study on how to reform and improve the treatment and rehabilitation of sex offenders in Hong Kong; and a review of Sexual Conviction Record Check Scheme.

2024. scheduled for discussion originally in Subsequently, the Panel discussed, at its regular meeting 2024. the Administration's proposed arrangement to expand the coverage of the Sexual Conviction Record Check Scheme in response to the recommendations for the Scheme put forth in the Report on Sentencing and Related Matters in the Review of Sexual Offences.

The Security Bureau advised in December 2024 that its plan was to conduct a public consultation within 2025 on the legislative amendment proposals to implement the recommendations of the two Reports and would submit the legislative amendment proposals to the Legislative Council as and when appropriate.

9. Joining hands on the road to rehabilitation

Second half of 2025

The Administration intends to brief the Panel on the latest development in the provision of rehabilitation services to persons in custody by the Correctional Services Department, including the setting up of the Ethic College.

10. Latest situation of the handling of non-refoulement claims in Hong Kong

Second half of 2025

The Panel discussed, at its regular meetings in April and December 2022, December 2023 and December 2024, the Administration's work on handling non-refoulement claims.

Hon Elizabeth QUAT, Hon Doreen KONG Yuk-foon, Hon Dominic LEE Tsz-king, Ir Hon LEE Chun-keung and Hon TANG Ka-piu suggested, at the meeting on 14 January 2025, that the Panel should continue to discuss in the 2025 session ways to enhance the Administration's work on handling non-refoulement claims to prevent the abuse of the non-refoulement claims system.

11. Development of integrated correctional facilities

To be confirmed

At the meeting on 17 January 2023, Hon Elizabeth QUAT suggested the discussion of issues relating to the development of a "super prison".

At the work plan meeting for the 2023 session on 31 January 2023, the Administration advised that it would brief the Panel on the subject of the development of integrated correctional facilities in due course.

12. Proposals to further open up the Frontier Closed To be confirmed Area

Hon LAM San-keung suggested, at the meeting on 14 January 2025, that the Panel should discuss how to further open up the Frontier Closed Area, with a view to facilitating the flow of people in Hong Kong and Shenzhen and promoting the development of boundary economy.

13. Proposed amendments to the Prison Rules To be confirmed (Cap. 234A) and the Post-Release Supervision of Prisoners Regulation (Cap. 475A)

The Administration intends to consult the Panel on the following proposals:

- (a) Amendments to the provisions in the Prison Rules concerning letters, visits by legal advisers, the procurement or receipt of private food and drinks by prisoners awaiting trial and the handling of unclaimed properties of deceased persons in custody; and
- (b) Amendments to the provisions in the Post-Release Supervision of Prisoners Regulation regarding specified sentences that are subject to release under supervision.

Pursuant to the discussion at the work plan meeting for the 2022 session on 28 January 2022, this item was originally proposed for discussion in the second half of 2022. The Administration revised the proposed timing for discussion to the first quarter and third quarter of 2023 respectively in September 2022 and January 2023. At the work plan meeting for the remainder of the 2023 session on 4 September 2023, the Administration further revised the proposed timing for discussion to April 2024. The Administration advised in early 2024 that the timing for discussion of this item was to be confirmed.

In early February 2025, this item was originally scheduled for discussion at the March regular meeting, while the Administration advised later in the same month that this item be rescheduled for discussion at a future meeting.

Council Business Divisions
<u>Legislative Council Secretariat</u>
10 March 2025