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Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance Committee Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2015-16

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Session No. : 20

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB001

(Question Serial No. 2358)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

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

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Will the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau provide in the table below expenditure details of the duty visits outside Hong Kong made by the Director of Bureau and Deputy Director of Bureau in the past 3 years (2012-13 to 2014-15), including the date of visit, place of visit, officers joining the visit, purpose of visit, expenses on hotel accommodation, air tickets and meals and total expenditure for each visit? Please provide the amounts and names of the sponsors of the sponsorships received (if any) of each visit.

Date of visit	Place of visit	Officers joining the visit	Purpose of visit	Hotel accommodation expenses	Air ticket expenses	Meal expenses	Total expenditure

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. 14)

Reply:

From 2012-13 to 2014-15, the relevant information on duty visits outside Hong Kong made by the Director of Bureau and Deputy Director of Bureau is provided below –

Date of duty visits (Number of visits)	Place of visits	No. of officers in Director of Bureau's Office joining the visits	Objectives of duty visits	Hotel accommodation expenditure ^{Note1}	Flight/train/vessel ticket expenditure ^{Note2}	Other expenses ^{Note3}	Total expenditure
				(\$) (A)	(\$) (B)	(\$) (C)	(\$) (A)+(B)+(C)
2012-13 (11)	Mainland (Beijing, Hainan, Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Sichuan, Tianjin), Taipei, Switzerland (Geneva)	0-1 officer per duty visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● promoting regional co-operation with the Mainland ● enhancing further co-operation and exchanges with Macao and Taiwan ● participating in international conferences and United Nations hearings concerning equal opportunities and human rights 	14,900	142,000	16,700	173,600
2013-14 (11)	Mainland (Beijing, Zhuhai, Fuzhou, Guangzhou, Shenzhen) and Macao, Taipei, Switzerland (Geneva)	0-1 officer per duty visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● promoting regional co-operation with the Mainland ● enhancing further co-operation and exchanges with Macao and Taiwan ● participating in international conferences and United Nations hearings concerning equal opportunities and human rights 	33,050	179,340	24,490	236,880
2014-15 (13)	Mainland (Shanghai, Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Beijing, Fuzhou, Quanzhou, Xiamen) and Macao, Switzerland (Geneva)	0-3 officers per duty visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● promoting regional co-operation with the Mainland ● enhancing further co-operation and exchanges with Macao and Taiwan ● participating in international conferences and United Nations hearings concerning equal opportunities and human rights 	41,880	134,930	33,410	210,220

Notes:

- (1) The arrangement of hotel accommodation was provided to officers concerned in accordance with the relevant Civil Service Regulations and guidelines.
- (2) Proper class of air passages was provided to officers concerned in accordance with the relevant Civil Service Regulations which take into account ranking of their offices, flying time, flight schedule and details.
- (3) Other expenses include subsistence allowance for duty outside Hong Kong and local transportation expenses, but exclude the expenditure which was sponsored by the hosting government (if any).

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB002

(Question Serial No. 2387)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

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

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

It is stated in this Programme that the Office of the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs is responsible for providing support to the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs in undertaking political work. This includes the support provided by the Under Secretary and the Political Assistant. The work includes the planning, co-ordination and implementation of all arrangements for the Secretary's public, media and community functions. Will the Bureau set out in table form the dates and venues of public and community functions attended by the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs in the past 3 years, as well as the number of officers accompanying the Secretary, the expenditure involved and details of the functions?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. 43)

Reply:

The Director of Bureau will attend public and community functions on the basis of operational need. We do not keep a separate account to capture the related expenses and details.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2388)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

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

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

It is stated that there is an estimated 153 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2015 rising by 3 posts to 156 posts as at 31 March 2016 in the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau. What are the types and nature of jobs in respect of the new posts? In the meantime, there are 21 directorate posts in the Bureau. Will the Government advise this Committee of the types, salaries, allowances and job nature in respect of these 21 directorate posts, as well as the types, numbers, salaries, allowances and job nature in respect of the 156 non-directorate permanent posts?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. 44)

Reply:

In 2015-16, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) will create 3 new posts, the details of which are as follows:

- (a) 1 Senior Executive Officer post for supporting work on promotion of regional co-operation; and
- (b) 2 posts at the liaison unit to be set up in the Central Region of the Mainland, namely 1 Senior Administrative Officer post and 1 Trade officer post.

2. The respective directorate establishment and non-directorate establishment of this Bureau in 2015-16 by Programmes are as follows:

Programme	No. of directorate posts	No. of non-directorate posts
(1)	1	4
(2)	10	75

Programme	No. of directorate posts	No. of non-directorate posts
(3)	8	64
(4)	2	13
(5)	No government staff under this Programme	
Total	21	156

Ranks of the above directorate posts range from Administrative Officer Staff Grade C to Administrative Officer Staff Grade A1, while non-directorate posts include those of Administrative Officer, Executive Officer, Analyst/Programmer, Official Languages Officer, Immigration Officer, Trade Officer, Information Officer, Personal Secretary, Confidential Assistant, Supplies Supervisor, Clerical Officer, Assistant Clerical Officer, Office Assistant and Chauffeur grades at different ranks. Each post has its distinct areas of responsibility and the job nature varies from planning, execution, management to review to ensure that the initiatives of CMAB under various Programmes are taken forward smoothly.

3. The estimated expenditure on personal emoluments for the above establishment of 21 directorate posts and 156 non-directorate posts in 2015-16 is around \$181 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB004

(Question Serial No. 2389)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

It is stated in this programme that the Bureau will continue to promote equal opportunities for people of different sexual orientations/gender identities. In this connection, will the Bureau:

- (1) set out in table form the education and publicity programmes conducted in the past year (2014), including the nature, objective of, and promotion platform for the programmes, as well as the manpower, resources and expenditure involved?
- (2) set out in table form the education and publicity programmes to be conducted in the coming year (2015), including the nature, objective of, and promotion platform for the programmes, as well as the manpower, resources and expenditure involved?
- (3) advise on the number of public and private sector organisations that have adopted the Code of Practice against Discrimination in Employment on the Ground of Sexual Orientation as a result of the Bureau's promotion effort and provide a list of organisations that have pledged to adopt the Code of Practice; the estimated manpower, resources and expenditure for promoting the Code of Practice, as well as the number of public and private sector organisations targeted at in the coming year (2015). In case of contravention of the Code of Practice, what follow-up actions will be taken?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. 45)

Reply:

The Government's education and publicity measures for promoting equal opportunities for people of different sexual orientations/gender identities in 2014-15 and 2015-16 are as follows:

Programme	Activities/Promotion platform	2014-15 Revised estimated expenditure	2015-16 estimated expenditure
Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme	Community projects organised by non-government organisations	\$0.97 million	\$1.25 million
Various publicity measures such as Announcement in the Public Interest and advertisement to promote equal opportunities for sexual minorities (including promotion of the Code of Practice against Discrimination in Employment on the Ground of Sexual Orientation (Code of Practice))	Television, radio, train stations and other public transport network, Internet, seminars, briefings, etc.	\$3.79 million (including the staff cost of the Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Unit (GISOU))	\$2.63 million (including the staff cost of the GISOU)
Total		\$4.76 million	\$3.88 million

The above work is undertaken mainly by the GISOU.

2. As at February 2015, over 140 public and private sector organisations have pledged to adopt the Code of Practice, and a list of these organisations can be downloaded from the website of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (web address: http://www.cmab.gov.hk/doc/issues/Bilingual_List_of_Organisations.pdf). In 2015, we will continue with our promotion and appeal efforts to encourage more public and private sector organisations to adopt the Code of Practice through different means. The Code is of a voluntary nature; no information about any breach of the Code of Practice has been received by the GISOU.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB005

(Question Serial No. 2390)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Unit (GISOU) was established in May 2005 to manage and monitor the Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme, and maintain a hotline for enquiries and complaints on issues relating to sexual orientation and gender identity. In this connection, will the Bureau please advise on:

- (1) the existing establishment, staff salary and nature of work of the GISOU;
- (2) the GISOU's actual expenditure in 2014 and estimated expenditure for 2015;
- (3) the total amount of sponsorship granted to community organisations under the Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme in the past year, the details of the sponsored community projects, including the actual amount of sponsorship approved for each community organisations;
- (4) the estimated total amount of sponsorship to be granted under the Funding Scheme in the coming year, and whether the sponsorship will cover or is allowed to cover the sponsored organisations' salary expenses for at least one full-time staff;
- (5) the quantities and kinds of promotional items produced by the GISOU in the past year and the production cost involved;
- (6) the GISOU's expenses on posters, pamphlets, Announcements in the Public Interest (APIs) on television and radio as well as mobile publicity in relation to elimination of discrimination against sexual minorities in the past year, including the promotion platform, time slots and frequencies;
- (7) the manpower involved in the production of APIs on television in relation to elimination of discrimination against sexual minorities and the production cost;
- (8) set out in table form the number of enquiries and complaints received by the GISOU through the hotline in the past year, and advise on the number of cases being processed, followed up or have completed investigation, the number of cases related to discrimination on the ground of gender identity or sexual orientation, the

substance of the complaints and the domains that the discrimination occurred (including workplace; education; provision of services and goods; premises; public services; religious sites; etc.) as well as the manpower and resources involved?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. 46)

Reply:

The establishment of the GISOU comprises 1 officer at Executive Officer I-equivalent rank and 1 officer at Executive Officer II rank. The revised estimate of its staff cost in 2014-15 is \$0.93 million, while the estimate for 2015-16 is \$0.97 million.

2. The GISOU carries out education and promotion programmes to promote equal opportunities for people of different sexual orientations/gender identities. The relevant expenditures in 2014-15 and 2015-16 are as follows:

Programme	Activities/Promotion platform	2014-15 Revised estimated expenditure	2015-16 estimated expenditure
Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme (Funding Scheme)	Community projects organised by non-government organisations	\$0.97 million	\$1.25 million
Various publicity measures such as API and advertisement to promote equal opportunities for sexual minorities (including promotion of the Code of Practice against Discrimination in Employment on the Ground of Sexual Orientation)	TV, radio, train stations and other public transport network, Internet, seminars, briefings, etc.	\$2.86 million	\$1.66 million

3. In 2014-15, \$0.97 million has been granted to eligible organisations under the Funding Scheme to organise community projects to promote equal opportunities for people of different sexual orientations and transgenders, or provide support services for sexual minorities. The sponsored projects are as follows:

Name of Applicant	Nature of Activities	Approved Amount (\$)
Association of World Citizens Hong Kong China	Support group for transgenders	19,500
BigLove Alliance	Seminars, song composing competition and concert	79,700
Bravo Theatre	Drama performances	122,300
Dynamic Art Theatre	Drama performances	111,700
G.A.S. Theatre	Drama performances	104,100
Gay Harmony	Training for volunteers, workshops, outreaching service for sexual minorities and production of leaflets	47,700
Gay Harmony and Women Coalition of HKSAR	Training for volunteers, workshops and production of booklets	61,000
Hong Kong Women Christian Council	Workshops, support group and talk	27,200
Post Gay Alliance	Training for volunteers, workshops, competition and award presentation ceremony cum carnival	35,700
Rainbow of Hong Kong	Counselling service for sexual minorities and production of booklets	76,200
Rainbow of Hong Kong Queer Teen Force	Training for volunteers, outreaching service for young sexual minorities and workshops	67,000
Rainbow of Hong Kong Transgender Team	Talks and counselling service for transgenders	18,300
The Society for Truth and Light	Talks, production of booklets and short film	75,400
Transgender Resource Center	Hotline and counselling services for transgenders and production of booklets	45,700
Tung Wah Group of Hospitals CEASE Crisis Centre	Training for volunteers, outreaching service for sexual minorities and production of leaflets	74,600

The sponsorship may be used to meet the cost of necessary additional manpower recruited directly for the project on the condition that the maximum sponsorship of manpower cost incurred for administering/coordinating the project shall not exceed 15% of the total budget of the project. In 2015-16, the estimate for the Funding Scheme is \$1.25 million, but the amount of approved sponsorship will ultimately depend on the result of assessment of applications.

4. In 2013-14, the Government produced and launched TV and radio APIs to promote the message of “Eliminate Discrimination, Embrace Inclusion; Equal opportunities for people of different sexual orientations and transgenders” to the general public. The APIs were produced by a contractor selected by tender at a cost of \$0.4 million. In 2014-15, the TV and radio APIs have been broadcast about 24 000 times on various platforms, including TV, radio, shopping malls and public transport network, at different time slots; in addition, they have also been viewed on the Internet and other new media about 2.11 million times.

5. In 2014-15, the GISOU did not produce any promotional souvenirs.

6. The GISOU received a total of 31 enquires and 2 complaints in 2014. Both complaints were about dissatisfaction with the Government’s broadcast of the above-mentioned TV API. The handling of the two cases were completed following the GISOU’s explanation to the complainants that the purpose of broadcasting the TV API was to promote equal opportunities for people of different sexual orientations and transgenders.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB006

(Question Serial No. 2391)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau is responsible for co-ordinating attendance of the HKSAR Government delegations at meetings of the monitoring bodies of the United Nations human rights conventions. In this connection, will the Government:

- (1) set out in table form the number and position of the members of the HKSAR delegation attending the hearing on report under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in 2014 and the expenditure involved;
- (2) set out in table form the number and position of the members of the HKSAR delegation attending the hearing on report under the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in 2015 and the expenditure involved; and
- (3) set out in table form the manpower and expenditure requirements for preparation of the sixth report under the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, including the number of copies of report to be published and the cost for printing?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. 47)

Reply:

The number and position of the members of the HKSAR delegations attending the hearing on report under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in 2014, and the expenditure involved are set out below:

Hearing	Number and position of delegation members	Flight ticket expenditure (\$) (A)	Hotel accommodation expenditure (\$) (B)	Total expenditure (\$) ^{note} (A)+(B)
International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	<p>7 officers</p> <p><u>Expenses for the following 3 officers were met by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Under Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs; - Senior Government Counsel, Department of Justice; and - Assistant Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs <p><u>Expenses for the following 4 officers were met by the respective bureau/department</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Principal Assistant Secretary for Security; - Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare; - Assistant Commissioner for Labour; and - Principal Education Officer, Education Bureau 	146,100	10,600	156,700

- Note: (1) The above expenditure excludes overseas subsistence allowance provided to members, communication expenses, etc.
- (2) The arrangement of hotel accommodation was provided to officers concerned in accordance with the relevant Civil Service Regulations and guidelines.
- (3) Proper class of air passages was provided to officers concerned in accordance with relevant Civil Service Regulations which take into account ranking of their offices, flying time, flight schedule and other details.

2. As the actual date of the hearing by the United Nations Committee Against Torture in 2015 has yet to be finalised, we are not able to provide the number and position of and the estimated expenditure for government officials of the HKSAR attending that hearing.

3. On the basis of environmental consideration, in addition to disseminating HKSAR's human rights reports through the Government's website, after consulting relevant parties, hard copies are distributed upon request. In 2014-15, the expenditure on publishing the sixth report under the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (including 900 hard copies in Chinese, 850 hard copies in English and 1 000 CD-ROM copies) was \$91,000. Staff cost for the preparation of human rights reports constitutes an integral part of the CMAB's overall expenditure, and a separate breakdown of the expenditure is not available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB007

(Question Serial No. 3165)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Secretary for Security

Question:

In this Programme, the Government has set up a number of offices in the Mainland and Taiwan to assist in enhancing liaison and communication with the Central People's Government, the provincial and municipal governments and other local authorities in the Mainland, and relevant authorities and organisations in Taiwan. In this connection, will the Government:

- (1) set out in table form the respective operating expenditure of the Beijing Office, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu, Wuhan, Liaoning Liaison Unit and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan in the past year, as well as the estimated expenditure of each office for the coming year (2015);
- (2) set out the types of posts in these offices and their respective numbers, salaries, allowances and job nature;
- (3) set out in table form the number of requests for assistance "relating to immigration matters", "relating to personal safety matters" and "other assistance cases" received by each office in the past year (2014), and advise on the number of cases to be followed up, being processed and resolved;
- (4) set out the operating expenditure of the Liaoning Liaison Unit and its staff establishment, including the types of posts in the liaison unit and their respective numbers, salaries, allowances and job nature;
- (5) in respect of the liaison unit to be set up in Shandong Province in the first half of this year as stated in the Policy Address, set out the estimated expenditure of the liaison unit for the coming year and its staff establishment, including the types of posts in the liaison unit and their respective numbers, salaries, allowances and job nature;

- (6) in respect of the liaison unit to be set up in the central region upon the full operation of the Wuhan ETO as stated in the Policy Address, set out the proposed location of the liaison unit, its estimated expenditure and staff establishment?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. 49)

Reply:

The Mainland and Taiwan Offices (namely the Beijing Office (BJO), the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan, and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan (HKETCO)) serve as important bridges between Hong Kong and the Mainland/Taiwan. Their major responsibilities include enhancing liaison and communication with the counterparts in the areas under their coverage; representing and promoting Hong Kong's trade and commercial interests; encouraging and attracting investments to Hong Kong, promoting Hong Kong's many advantages as an investment and business hub in Asia; promoting the strengths of Hong Kong through appropriate channels; providing information and other appropriate support to Hong Kong residents in the Mainland/Taiwan; and providing assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress.

2. The revised estimated expenditure of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices for 2014-15 and estimated expenditure for 2015-16 are set out in the table below:

Office	Revised estimated expenditure for 2014-15 (\$ million)	Estimated expenditure for 2015-16 (\$ million)
BJO	69.75	74.33
Guangdong ETO	54.78	54.92
Shanghai ETO	34.78	39.49
Chengdu ETO	36.72	40.94
Wuhan ETO	20.67	23.77
HKETCO	24.59	24.49

3. The establishment of the BJO for 2015-16 will comprise 3 directorate officers (i.e. 1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade A, 1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade B1 and 1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade C) and 16 non-directorate officers (i.e. 2 Senior Administrative Officers, 1 Principal Trade Officer, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer, 3 Immigration Officers, 1 Chief Information Officer, 1 Information Officer, 1 Executive Officer I and 1 Senior Personal Secretary). The estimated expenditure on salaries and allowances for the above posts in 2015-16 will be \$27.15 million.

4. The establishment of the Guangdong ETO for 2015-16 will comprise 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade B) and 14 non-directorate officers (i.e. 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 4 Principal Trade Officers, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer, 2 Immigration Officers and 1 Principal Information Officer). The estimated expenditure on salaries and allowances for the above posts in 2015-16 will be \$19.25 million.

5. The establishment of the Shanghai ETO for 2015-16 will comprise 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade B) and 8 non-directorate officers (i.e. 2 Senior Administrative Officers, 1 Principal Trade Officer, 4 Trade Officers and 1 Senior Information Officer). The estimated expenditure on salaries and allowances for the above posts in 2015-16 will be \$11.34 million. The above figure has included the additional manpower for the liaison unit intended to be set up in Shandong Province this year.

6. The establishment of the Chengdu ETO for 2015-16 will comprise 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade C) and 11 non-directorate officers (i.e. 2 Senior Administrative Officers, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Senior Information Officer, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer and 2 Immigration Officers). The estimated expenditure on salaries and allowances for the above posts in 2015-16 will be \$13.87 million.

7. The establishment of the Wuhan ETO for 2015-16 will comprise 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade C) and 8 non-directorate officers (i.e. 2 Senior Administrative Officers, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Senior Information Officer and 1 Executive Officer I). The estimated expenditure on salaries and allowances for the above posts in 2015-16 will be \$7.93 million. The above figure has included the additional manpower for the liaison unit intended to be set up in the central region next year upon the full operation of the Wuhan ETO.

8. The establishment of the HKETCO for 2015-16 will comprise 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade B) and 7 non-directorate officers (i.e. 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Principal Trade Officer, 2 Trade Officers, 1 Senior Information Officer, 1 Executive Officer I and 1 Personal Secretary I). The estimated expenditure on salaries and allowances for the above posts in 2015-16 will be \$10.37 million.

9. We set up the Liaoning Liaison Unit under the BJO in December 2014 and its establishment comprises 1 Senior Administrative Officer and 1 Trade Officer. The revised estimated expenditure of the BJO for 2014-15 has included the manpower and expenses of the Liaoning Liaison Unit. We plan to set up a liaison unit in Shandong Province under the Shanghai ETO this year, and a liaison unit in the central region next year upon the full operation of the Wuhan ETO. In deciding the location of the liaison unit to be set up in the central region, we will take into account relevant factors, including the positioning, development situation and potential of the provinces/municipalities concerned; their economic and trade relations with Hong Kong and room for complementarities; and views

of the industries. We have set aside \$7.07 million under Programme (3) “Mainland and Taiwan Offices” for meeting the recurrent expenditure of the above two liaison units in 2015-16. The setting up of these two liaison units involves creation of 4 posts, namely 2 Senior Administrative Officer and 2 Trade Officer posts.

10. Staff of the above liaison units will assist the BJO, the Shanghai ETO and the Wuhan ETO in liaising with a province under the coverage of the respective Offices, and their main functions include strengthening liaison and communication with the relevant local government authorities, enhancing economic and trade relations, fostering co-operation between Hong Kong and the relevant provinces/municipalities and promoting Hong Kong, and supporting Hong Kong residents and enterprises in the service area, etc.

11. The number of requests for assistance received by the Mainland Offices in 2014 is set out in the table below:

2014	Requests for assistance relating to immigration and personal safety matters	Other assistance cases
BJO	136	24
Guangdong ETO	166	79
Shanghai ETO	Covered by BJO	20
Chengdu ETO	38	7
Wuhan ETO[#]	Covered by BJO	14

[#] The Wuhan ETO was set up on 1 April 2014.

As the nature and complexity of the cases vary greatly, further breakdown on the basis of whether the cases have been resolved is not available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB008

(Question Serial No. 2031)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Will the Government advise on the following:

- (a) In each of the past 3 years, the Mainland and Taiwan Offices have called on senior officials/personnel/organisations on over 2 000 occasions. Will the Government give a detailed account of the types of senior officials/personnel/organisations visited, the ways in which the visits are conducted, as well as the manpower and expenditure involved?
- (b) Given that there will be an increasing number of Hong Kong students pursuing studies in the Mainland or Taiwan, will the Mainland and Taiwan Offices undertake any initiatives to render support to these students? If they will, what are the manpower and expenditure involved? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Han-pan (Member Question No. 34)

Reply:

The Mainland and Taiwan Offices proactively serve as important bridges between Hong Kong and the Mainland/Taiwan, and, from time to time, call on senior officials/personnel/organisations, including paying courtesy calls or conducting general meetings or working meetings with local government departments, industrial and commercial organisations/enterprises, cultural groups, Hong Kong people and enterprises, and student associations, etc.

2. The Mainland and Taiwan Offices proactively liaise with Hong Kong students pursuing studies in the Mainland and Taiwan to render support to them. The initiatives taken include visiting the universities in the Mainland and Taiwan in which Hong Kong students are studying, maintaining close contact with student groups to understand their

living conditions and their studies, assisting them in organising activities to promote Hong Kong, and holding student gatherings and career talks for them. The Mainland and Taiwan Offices also issue messages about education, employment, living and entry arrangements to Hong Kong students, and actively invite and encourage various organisations and enterprises to open up more exchange and internship opportunities for Hong Kong students.

3. As the above two areas of work are an integral part of the duties and functions of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices, the manpower and expenditure involved cannot be singled out and separately quantified.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB009

(Question Serial No. 0203)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

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

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

What are the respective estimated provisions for the salary and allowances of the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, the Under Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs and Political Assistant to the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs for 2015-16? Please provide a breakdown by positions.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth (Member Question No. 200)

Reply:

For budgetary purposes, the provisions for the salary in respect of the positions of Director of Bureau, Deputy Director of Bureau and Political Assistant to Director of Bureau in the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau for 2015-16 are \$3.58 million, \$2.33 million and \$1.25 million respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB010

(Question Serial No. 0204)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

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

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the first stage of public consultation on the methods for selecting the Chief Executive in 2017 and for forming the Legislative Council in 2016, will the Government advise this Committee of:

- a) the cost incurred for the production of related TV Announcements in the Public Interest (APIs), their broadcast frequencies and the total expenditure involved;
- b) the cost incurred for the production of related radio APIs, their broadcast frequencies and the total expenditure involved;
- c) the cost incurred for the design and production of related newspaper advertisements, the number of times for which the advertisements were placed in newspapers or magazines as well as the total advertising expenditure involved;
- d) the cost incurred for the design and production of related publicity leaflets, pamphlets, souvenirs, Internet and non-Internet advertisements as well as the quantities of various materials produced;
- e) the dates, venues, target audiences, numbers of participants of district consultation sessions for various sectors or organisations and the expenses incurred? Please provide a breakdown by consultation sessions.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth (Member Question No. 201)

Reply:

In 2013-14 and 2014-15, the expenditures on and revised estimates of the public consultations on constitutional development (excluding staff cost) are respectively as follows:

	Million (\$)	
	2013-14	2014-15
Printing	0.9	2.0
Publicity	6.1	9.4
Others (including postage, delivery, website development and maintenance, etc.)	0.2	0.7
Total	7.2	12.1

Note: The above-mentioned printing and publicity expenses already include the expenses incurred in the production and broadcast of the television and radio Announcements in the Public Interest (APIs), the printing of about 181 400 copies of consultation document and report, as well as the production of about 2.27 million publicity and souvenir items; no expenditure on promotion in newspaper and magazines was incurred.

2. During the period from 4 December 2013 to 7 March 2015, a total of 8 TV and 8 radio APIs relating to constitutional development were broadcast on 5 local TV stations and 5 radio stations, taking up 5.26% and 5.1% of the total free air time for broadcasting APIs on TV stations and radio stations during the same broadcast period respectively.

3. Details of the relevant consultation sessions are set out in Annex I and Annex II to the Report on the Public Consultation on the Methods for Selecting the Chief Executive in 2017 and for Forming the Legislative Council in 2016. As the Government attended most of these events on invitation, no additional expenses were involved.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB011

(Question Serial No. 0205)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

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

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the second stage of public consultation on the methods for selecting the Chief Executive in 2017 and for forming the Legislative Council in 2016 conducted in 2014-15, will the Government advise this Committee:

- a) of the cost incurred for the production of related TV Announcements in the Public Interest (APIs) and the number of times they were broadcast on individual television channels;
- b) of the cost incurred for the production of related radio APIs and the number of times they were broadcast on individual radio channels;
- c) of the number of copies of related leaflets and pamphlets produced and the cost incurred;
- d) whether advertisements were placed in newspapers or magazines for the second stage public consultation exercise; if yes, the newspapers/magazines in which advertisements were placed and the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth (Member Question No. 202)

Reply:

In 2014-15, the revised estimates of the public consultations on constitutional development (excluding staff cost) are as follows:

	Million (\$)
Printing	2.0
Publicity	9.4
Others (including postage, delivery, website development and maintenance, etc.)	0.7
Total	12.1

Note: The above-mentioned printing and publicity expenses already include the expenses incurred in the production and broadcast of the television and radio Announcements in the Public Interest (APIs), the printing of about 120 900 copies of consultation document and report, as well as the production of about 1.47 million publicity and souvenir items; no expenditure on promotion in newspaper and magazines was incurred.

2. During the period from 4 December 2013 to 7 March 2015, a total of 8 TV and 8 radio APIs relating to constitutional development were broadcast on 5 local TV stations and 5 radio stations, taking up 5.26% and 5.1% of the total free air time for broadcasting APIs on TV stations and radio stations during the same broadcast period respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB012

(Question Serial No. 0206)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

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

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Will resources be set aside by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau for 2015-16 to conduct a large scale public opinion poll or even referendum on the resolution to amend Annex I to the Basic Law to be introduced by the Government to the Legislative Council? If yes, what is the relevant work plan, timetable and estimated expenditure? Will the Government make public the findings of the poll? If not, what are the reasons? If no public opinion poll or referendum on the above resolution will be conducted by the Government, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth (Member Question No. 203)

Reply:

The Government reiterates that the constitutional and legal system of Hong Kong does not provide for any so-called "referendum" mechanism. As regards public opinion polls, the Government notes that various polls have been conducted from time to time by academic, non-governmental and media organisations on issues related to constitutional development. We do not rule out the possibility of conducting public opinion polls as needed; we will allocate resources from within the departmental vote for the purpose.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB013

(Question Serial No. 0207)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

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

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

If the Government insists to introduce to the Legislative Council (LegCo) a resolution on amendments to Annex I to the Basic Law drafted in accordance with the decision of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress on amendment to Annex I to the Basic Law adopted on 31 August 2014, the resolution will most likely be vetoed by the LegCo. Has resources been set aside by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs for 2015-16 to take forward work to restart the process of amending Annex I and Annex II to the Basic Law? If yes, what are the relevant work plan, timetable and estimated expenditure? If no such work will be taken forward, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth (Member Question No. 204)

Reply:

The Decision of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress on Issues Relating to the Selection of the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region by Universal Suffrage and on the Method for Forming the Legislative Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in the Year 2016 (Decision) adopted by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress on 31 August 2014 provides that "if the specific method of universal suffrage for selecting the Chief Executive is not adopted in accordance with legal procedures, the method used for selecting the Chief Executive for the preceding term shall continue to apply." Moreover, according to the Decision, the existing formation method and voting procedures for the Legislative Council (LegCo) as prescribed in Annex II to the Basic Law will not be amended. The formation method and procedures for voting on bills and motions of the fifth term LegCo will continue to apply to the sixth term LegCo of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in 2016. Therefore, the Government has not set aside resources in 2015-16 for the so-called restart of the process to amend Annex I and Annex II to the Basic Law.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB014

(Question Serial No. 1640)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

It is stated in the Estimates that (the relevant Mainland Offices will) “continue to improve the network of the Mainland Offices by setting up more liaison units” this year. Please advise on the number of liaison units planned to be set up this year, their locations and the provision set aside for taking forward the relevant work?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kam-lam (Member Question No. 35)

Reply:

We plan to set up a liaison unit in Shandong Province under the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (ETO) in Shanghai in 2015, and a liaison unit in the central region next year upon the full operation of the Wuhan ETO.

2. In 2015-16, we have set aside \$7.07 million under Programme (3) “Mainland and Taiwan Offices” for meeting recurrent expenditure of the above two liaison units.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB015

(Question Serial No. 3276)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Will the Government advise this Committee of the respective provision earmarked for the Beijing Office, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan, and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office to meet the operational expenses, as well as the staff establishment and estimated provision for salaries of these offices in 2015-16?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Wai-yip, Albert (Member Question No. 55)

Reply:

A breakdown of the provision earmarked for the Beijing Office (BJO), the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan, and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office (HKETCO) under Programme (3) for 2015-16, and the estimated expenditure on salaries for Hong Kong-based staff posted to the offices is provided below:

Office	Provision earmarked (\$ million)	Estimated expenditure on salaries for Hong Kong-based staff (\$ million)
BJO	74.33	20.2
Guangdong ETO	54.92	15.1
Shanghai ETO	39.49	9.52
Chengdu ETO	40.94	11.45
Wuhan ETO	23.77	6.28
HKETCO	24.49	8.43

2. The establishment of the Beijing Office for 2015-16 will comprise 3 directorate officers (i.e. 1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade A, 1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade B1 and 1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade C) and 16 non-directorate officers (i.e. 2 Senior Administrative Officers, 1 Principal Trade Officer, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer, 3 Immigration Officers, 1 Chief Information Officer, 1 Information Officer, 1 Executive Officer I and 1 Senior Personal Secretary).

3. The establishment of the Guangdong ETO for 2015-16 will comprise 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade B) and 14 non-directorate officers (i.e. 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 4 Principal Trade Officers, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer, 2 Immigration Officers and 1 Principal Information Officer).

4. The establishment of the Shanghai ETO for 2015-16 will comprise 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade B) and 8 non-directorate officers (i.e. 2 Senior Administrative Officers, 1 Principal Trade Officer, 4 Trade Officers and 1 Senior Information Officer). The above figure has included the additional manpower for the liaison unit intended to be set up in Shandong Province this year.

5. The establishment of the Chengdu ETO for 2015-16 will comprise 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade C) and 11 non-directorate officers (i.e. 2 Senior Administrative Officers, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Senior Information Officer, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer and 2 Immigration Officers).

6. The establishment of the Wuhan ETO for 2015-16 will comprise 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade C) and 8 non-directorate officers (i.e. 2 Senior Administrative Officers, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Senior Information Officer, and 1 Executive Officer I). The above figure has included the additional manpower for the liaison unit planned to be set up in the central region next year upon the full operation of the Wuhan ETO.

7. The establishment of the HKETCO for 2015-16 will comprise 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade B) and 7 non-directorate officers (i.e. 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Principal Trade Officer, 2 Trade Officers, 1 Senior Information Officer, 1 Executive Officer I and 1 Personal Secretary I).

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB016

(Question Serial No. 0695)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

It is stated in Brief Description under this Programme that the Bureau will promote equal opportunities on the ground of gender, family status, race and sexual orientation. In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee:

- a. whether such work includes initiatives to promote women's rights and encourage women employment; if so, of the specific plan; and
- b. of the provision and staff establishment for such initiatives?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yuen-han (Member Question No. 1)

Reply:

Promoting women's rights and encouraging women employment are not under the purview of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB). Nevertheless, the CMAB has been promoting that everyone is born equal and should not be discriminated against for any reasons (including sex). For instance, the CMAB introduced the Sex Discrimination (Amendment) Ordinance 2014 to the Legislative Council and was passed by the Council last year, to protect service providers (including female) from sexual harassment by their customers.

2. Besides, the CMAB has provided resources to the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) to carry out promotion and education programmes and enforcement work within its statutory framework to eliminate discrimination and promote equal opportunities. As advised by the EOC, it has been, over the years, advancing the Equal Pay for Work of Equal Value principle and enforcing the Family Status Discrimination Ordinance to protect employees (including female) against discrimination at work. The EOC's estimated expenditure on publicity and public education (including manpower expenditure) in 2015-16 is \$19.53 million, about 25% of which is related to publicity and educational efforts on eliminating sex discrimination.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB017

(Question Serial No. 1045)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please list the estimated expenditures and actual expenditures of the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan (HKETCO) in the next year, this year and the past year respectively. According to the statistics of the Security Bureau, the number of cases of Hong Kong people moving to reside in Taiwan last year is 7 498, hitting a record high since Hong Kong's return to China. Some immigration consulting companies anticipate that there will be more Hong Kong people moving to Taiwan in the coming 2 years. In view of the increase in the number of emigrating Hong Kong people, would the Government inform this Committee what assistance the HKETCO will provide to Hong Kong immigrants in Taiwan? Did the HKETCO receive any requests for assistance from Hong Kong immigrants in Taiwan in the past 3 years? If so, please list the details of the assistance cases. Has the Government considered deploying more staff to provide support and assistance for Hong Kong people in Taiwan more effectively?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher (Member Question No. 23)

Reply:

The estimated expenditures and actual expenditure of the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan (HKETCO) are as follows:

Actual expenditure in 2013-14: \$24,934,000

Revised estimate for 2014-15: \$24,586,000

Estimated expenditure in 2015-16: \$24,494,000

2. We note that some media deduce from the statistics of Hong Kong and Macao residents applying for "residence permits" from the Taiwan authorities that the number of Hong Kong people emigrating to Taiwan has increased. According to the information

from the Taiwan authorities, the number of Hong Kong and Macao residents granted “residence permits” in 2014 was 7 498. Applications for “residence permits” include entry applications for work or study in Taiwan (such as Hong Kong and Macao students who study in tertiary institutions in Taiwan). These are not for permanent residency purpose.

3. On supporting Hong Kong residents in Taiwan, the HKETCO collects practical information such as medical care, education, legal services etc., and disseminates such information through production of information booklets and the office’s website to assist Hong Kong residents to adapt to living in Taiwan. Besides, the HKETCO also actively maintains close liaison with organisations of Hong Kong residents, Hong Kong business associations, Hong Kong enterprises and student groups in Taiwan to better understand the situations of Hong Kong residents working, studying and living in Taiwan, and to provide assistance when necessary.

4. In the past 3 years, the numbers of requests for assistance (excluding general enquiries) received by the HKETCO are as follows:

2012: 35

2013: 30

2014: 35

Those who requested assistance included Hong Kong tourists and Hong Kong residents staying or settling in Taiwan. Generally speaking, the requests for assistance are related to loss of travel documents, enquiries about the progress of judicial cases involving Hong Kong residents, requests for legal assistance in Taiwan or injuries/deaths due to accidents. Upon receipt of the requests, the HKETCO will provide assistance in light of the actual circumstances.

5. The existing establishment of the HKETCO is able to cope with delivering the above work in Taiwan. We will review the resources for the HKETCO regularly to ensure the smooth performance of its functions.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB018

(Question Serial No. 1046)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

- (1) What were the efforts made by the Mainland Offices and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan in 2014-15 to “promote Hong Kong’s many advantages as an investment and business hub in Asia”? What were the efforts undertaken to promote Hong Kong’s financial services industry? What is the promotional plan for 2015-16?
- (2) In his budget speech, the Financial Secretary, Mr John Tsang, has pledged to “work with the industry to stage roadshows in the Mainland to promote Hong Kong’s securities market to Mainland investors”. Will the Government please advise whether the Mainland Offices have any plans to complement this initiative? If they have, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher (Member Question No. 24)

Reply:

In 2014-15, the Mainland and Taiwan Offices continued to adopt a multi-pronged approach in promoting the strengths of Hong Kong, strengthening Hong Kong's economic and trade liaison with and enhancing the investment promotion function in the Mainland, and promoting economic and cultural exchanges with Taiwan through appropriate channels. These include attending meetings and calling on the Mainland/Taiwan counterparts; organising/participating in seminars, exhibitions and workshops; organising/participating in public relations, cultural exchange functions and events; giving public speeches, media interviews and briefings; as well as gathering relevant information on new laws and regulations, policies and latest economic developments in the Mainland and disseminating

such information to the Hong Kong business sector through circulars/newsletters/press releases, etc.

2. In 2015-16, the Mainland and Taiwan Offices will continue to promote the economic interest of Hong Kong, enhance investment promotion in the Mainland and Taiwan, and promote economic and cultural exchanges with Taiwan through various channels. These include attending meetings and calling on the Mainland/Taiwan counterparts, as well as organising/participating in seminars, exhibitions and workshops.

3. The Mainland and Taiwan Offices also work closely with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (TDC), which conducts thematic studies on investment environment in the Mainland and Taiwan. The related reports are available online at TDC's website, which is hyperlinked to the websites of Mainland and Taiwan Offices for easy access by the public. The Mainland and Taiwan Offices will also assist Hong Kong businessmen operating in the Mainland and Taiwan in liaising with the relevant local authorities if they wish to obtain more in-depth information about the investment potential of a particular city in the Mainland or Taiwan.

4. In promoting inward investment, the Investment Promotion Units of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices, working together with Invest Hong Kong, will continue to identify potential Mainland and Taiwan enterprises in the areas that they cover; proactively approach and visit the enterprises identified; provide one-stop information and consultation services; and assist in organising incoming visits to facilitate the Mainland and Taiwan enterprises to set up or expand their business operations in Hong Kong.

5. As commercial relations and investment promotion activities all aim to showcase and promote Hong Kong's strengths, they complement each other. General promotion work conducted by the Investment Promotion Units also supports the Mainland and Taiwan Offices' work on liaison and economic and trade affairs.

6. According to the Financial Services and Treasury Bureau (FSTB), the FSTB plans to join hands with the Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited (HKEx) to work with the industry to stage roadshows in the Mainland to promote Hong Kong's securities market to Mainland investors. The FSTB is now working out the arrangements with the HKEx. When further details are available, the Mainland Offices will be pleased to offer necessary support.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB019

(Question Serial No. 1047)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Will the Government please advise on the specific work planned for promoting public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law in the coming financial year? What are the resources and manpower involved for such work?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher (Member Question No. 25)

Reply:

In 2015-16, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau will continue to set aside about \$16 million for organising various promotional activities to enhance public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law. The 4th of April 2015 marks the 25th anniversary of the promulgation of the Basic Law. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government will organise different types of large-scale activities during this period to promote a more in-depth understanding of the “one country, two systems” principle and the Basic Law in the community.

2. We have been adopting the following promotional strategies:

- (a) using electronic media targeted at the general public, such as Announcements in the Public Interest on television and radio, radio quiz programmes, Internet and smart-phone applications;
- (b) enhancing public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law through promotional activities at the district level, such as roving exhibitions and mobile resource centre; and
- (c) strengthening co-operation with community organisations in staging various promotional activities, such as seminars, talks and debate competitions, in order to reach a wider audience through their extensive community networks.

The above work is undertaken by a team responsible for the promotion of the Basic Law headed by a Principal Assistant Secretary and supported by 4 officers.

3. Besides, the HKSAR Government will also continue to promote the Basic Law through civic education, school education and training for civil servants. The HKSAR Government has set up the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (BLPSC) to provide steer on the overall programme and strategy for promoting the Basic Law. Under the steer of the BLPSC and its working groups (namely Local Community; Teachers and Students; Civil Servants; Industrial, Commercial and Professional Sectors; and Overseas Community Working Groups), relevant bureaux/departments, including the Home Affairs Bureau, Education Bureau, Civil Service Bureau, Trade and Industry Department and Information Services Department, assist in organising related Basic Law promotional activities in their respective sectors.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1396)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the Bureau's operational expenses on activities to promote equal opportunities and human rights in 2014-15, there is a significant increase in the revised estimate over the original estimate. Please advise:

- on the reasons for the significant increase in revised estimate over the original estimate, and list out the activities that have overspent and the expenses involved;
- whether the Bureau could set out the planned activities in 2015-16 to promote equal opportunities and human rights and the expenses involved as per following table?

Activities	Date of activities	Estimated expenses

Asked by: Hon FAN Kwok-wai, Gary (Member Question No. 17)

Reply:

The increase in expenditure under Programme (4) in 2014-15 is mainly due to deployment of extra resources within the year to enhance promotion of the Code on Access to Information and equal opportunities for people of different sexual orientations and transgenders. The revised estimated expenditures for promotions in these two areas are \$3.12 million and \$3.79 million respectively.

- Estimated expenditures on activities for promoting rights of the individual in 2015-16 (the dates of activities are yet to be fixed) are as follows:

Activity / Programme	Estimated expenditure
Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Programme	\$1.25 million
Various publicity measures such as Announcement in the Public Interest (API) and advertisement to promote equal opportunities for sexual minorities	\$1.66 million
Various publicity measures such as API and advertisement to promote the Code on Access to Information	\$0.7 million
Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme, public education and promotional programmes and Children's Rights Forum	\$3.32 million

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB021

(Question Serial No. 2819)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In respect of public opinion surveys on subjects such as constitutional matters conducted/to be conducted by the Bureau and the Central Policy Unit, will the Bureau advise this Committee:

- (a) of the surveys conducted in the past 2 years and planned to be conducted in the coming year, including the title, subject, and the expenditure and institution engaged for each survey;
- (b) whether findings of the surveys have been/will be made public; if no, of the reasons?

Asked by: Hon FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick (Member Question No. 25)

Reply:

The Central Policy Unit (CPU) commissions academic and commercial research institutes to conduct opinion polls on different public policy issues as it deems necessary. The findings are for the Government's internal reference; the CPU normally will not make public information about its opinion polls.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB022

(Question Serial No. 2834)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In respect of the second round public consultation on constitutional development launched in January 2015, will the Government: (1) give a detailed account of events in relation to constitutional development attended by relevant officials during the consultation period (in chronological order), including the organisers and forms of events (seminars/talks/street interviews, etc.), and advise whether press releases have been issued to inform the public or media of the activities in advance, whether the events are open to the public or conducted in closed door; (2) advise on various expenses incurred during the consultation period (including public relations and publicity expenses) and the manpower involved; and (3) set out the timetable for submission of a package of proposals to the Legislative Council and the proposals being put to vote, etc.

Asked by: Hon FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick (Member Question No. 40)

Reply:

The HKSAR Government conducted, from 7 January 2015 to 7 March 2015, the public consultation on the method for selecting the Chief Executive (CE) by universal suffrage. During the consultation period, members of the Task Force on Constitutional Development and other related politically appointed officials attended a number of consultation sessions, including meetings with the Legislative Council, political parties, District Councils, various organisations and individuals, and visited various districts to publicise the public consultation on constitutional development, etc. Regular updates on the details of relevant events have been uploaded to the website on constitutional development for public information.

2. In 2014-15 and 2015-16, the revised estimates and estimates of expenditure on publicity for the public consultations on constitutional development (excluding staff cost) are respectively as follows:

	Million (\$)	
	2014-15	2015-16
Printing	2.0	1.2
Publicity	9.4	3.5
Others (including postage, delivery, website development and maintenance, etc.)	0.7	0.3
Total	12.1	5.0

3. In 2014-15, we created 1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade C post for about 2 months and 6 time-limited posts (including 1 Administrative Officer, 1 Senior Executive Officer, 1 Executive Officer II and 3 Assistant Clerical Officers) for the public consultation exercise on constitutional development. In 2015-16, the above 6 time-limited posts will be extended.

4. The HKSAR Government will consolidate and summarise the views received as soon as possible with a view to publishing in April 2015 the consultation report and subsequently submitting to the Legislative Council a motion to amend Annex I to the Basic Law regarding the method for selecting the CE.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB023

(Question Serial No. 1796)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Provision for 2015-16 is \$16.6 million (6.9%) higher than the revised estimate for 2014-15. This is mainly due to the increased provision for continuing to improve the network of the Mainland Offices by setting up more liaison units. Will the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. How many additional liaison units will be set up in 2015-16 and where are they located?
2. The Chief Executive has stated in his 2014 Policy Address that each Mainland office would ultimately be linked with one or two liaison units. At present, only Guangdong ETO has two liaison units, one in Shenzhen and another in Fujian, while other Mainland Offices have only one or even no liaison unit. What are the Government's specific plan and timetable for setting up liaison units in the Mainland?

Asked by: Hon IP Kwok-him (Member Question No. 3)

Reply:

Currently, the HKSAR Government has four liaison units in the Mainland, namely the Shenzhen Liaison Unit and Fujian Liaison Unit under the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (ETO) in Guangdong, the Chongqing Liaison Unit under the Chengdu ETO, and the Liaoning Liaison Unit set up in December 2014 under the Beijing Office. To further improve the network of the Mainland Offices, we plan to set up a liaison unit in Shandong Province under the Shanghai ETO this year, and a liaison unit in the central region upon the full operation of the Wuhan ETO next year, so that each Mainland Office will be linked with one or two liaison units.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB024

(Question Serial No. 1817)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

The major responsibilities of the Mainland Offices include encouraging and attracting investments to Hong Kong, and promoting the strengths of Hong Kong. As such, maintaining Hong Kong's image as an open, accommodating and friendly city is of vital importance. Recent actions against the tourists from the Mainland in individual districts might have tarnished the image of Hong Kong. In this connection, will the Government put in resources to study the perception of the Mainland people about Hong Kong and explain to them Hong Kong still welcomes investors to come here to do business. If it will, what are the additional resources, staffing and work initiatives? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon IP Kwok-him (Member Question No. 44)

Reply:

The Mainland Offices, together with Invest Hong Kong, will continue to proactively serve as important bridges between Hong Kong and the Mainland, including enhancing liaison and communication with the counterparts in the areas under their coverage; representing and promoting Hong Kong's trade and commercial interests; encouraging and attracting investments to Hong Kong and promoting Hong Kong's many advantages as an investment and business hub in Asia; and promoting the strengths of Hong Kong through appropriate channels. The above areas of work complement each other in showcasing the positive image and attractions of Hong Kong in the Mainland. In 2015-16, the Mainland Offices will continue to adopt a multi-pronged approach in promoting Hong Kong through appropriate channels, including attending meetings and calling on the Mainland counterparts; organising/participating in seminars, exhibitions and workshops; organising/participating in public relations, cultural exchange functions and events; giving

public speeches, media interviews and briefings; and issuing circulars, newsletters and press releases.

2. In promoting inward investment, the Investment Promotion Units of the Mainland Offices, working together with Invest Hong Kong, will continue to identify potential Mainland enterprises in the areas that they cover; proactively approach and visit the enterprises identified; provide one-stop information and consultation services; and assist in organising incoming visits to facilitate the Mainland enterprises to set up or expand their business operations in Hong Kong.

3. As commercial relations and investment promotion activities all aim to showcase and promote Hong Kong's strengths, they complement each other. General promotion work conducted by the Investment Promotion Units also supports the Mainland Offices' work on liaison and economic and trade affairs.

4. Invest Hong Kong has earmarked around \$5.4 million for promoting investment in the Mainland through the Investment Promotion Units in 2015-16. The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau has earmarked a sum of \$203 million under Programme (3) for the Mainland Offices to enhance trade opportunities, promote the strengths of Hong Kong and undertake investment promotion work, etc.

5. The above work is an integral part of the roles and functions of the Mainland Offices, the manpower and resources involved cannot be singled out and will be absorbed within the above provision.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB025

(Question Serial No. 1818)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

1. Please give a detailed account of the 174 new projects expected to be generated in 2015. What are the reasons for the increase in new projects over the past two years?
2. The "Occupy Movement" occurred last year has seriously tarnished the image of Hong Kong. Its damage to the social order and rule of law in Hong Kong is particularly profound. Investment promotion efforts of Hong Kong have been affected. In this connection, how many of the above new investment promotion projects are generated in the light of the above situation? If none, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon IP Kwok-him (Member Question No. 45)

Reply:

In 2015, Invest Hong Kong, with the support of the Investment Promotion Units of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices, aims to generate 174 new investment projects, with the potential of becoming completed investment projects in Hong Kong, from the Mainland and Taiwan markets. The new projects are expected to be related to financial services, creative industries, as well as industrial and logistics services, etc. The increase in the number of new projects to be generated in 2015 as compared with the past two years is mainly due to the anticipated increase in enterprises intending to set up or extend their business operations in Hong Kong under the national policy of "going global".

2. The Mainland and Taiwan Offices, together with Invest Hong Kong, will continue to proactively serve as important bridges between Hong Kong and the Mainland/Taiwan, including enhancing liaison and communication with the counterparts in the areas under their coverage; representing and promoting Hong Kong's trade and commercial interests;

encouraging and attracting investments to Hong Kong and promoting Hong Kong's many advantages as an investment and business hub in Asia; and promoting the strengths of Hong Kong through appropriate channels. The above areas of work complement each other in showcasing the positive image and attractions of Hong Kong in the Mainland and Taiwan. In 2015-16, the Mainland and Taiwan Offices will continue to adopt a multi-pronged approach in promoting Hong Kong through appropriate channels, including attending meetings and calling on the Mainland/Taiwan counterparts; organising/participating in seminars, exhibitions and workshops; organising/participating in public relations, cultural exchange functions and events; giving public speeches, media interviews and briefings; and issuing circulars, newsletters and press releases.

3. In promoting inward investment, the Investment Promotion Units of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices, working together with Invest Hong Kong, will continue to identify potential Mainland and Taiwan enterprises in the areas that they cover; proactively approach and visit the enterprises identified; provide one-stop information and consultation services; and assist in organising incoming visits to facilitate the Mainland and Taiwan enterprises to set up or expand their business operations in Hong Kong.

4. As commercial relations and investment promotion activities all aim to showcase and promote Hong Kong's strengths, they complement each other. General promotion work conducted by the Investment Promotion Units also supports the Mainland and Taiwan Offices' work on liaison and economic and trade affairs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB026

(Question Serial No. 3120)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

- (1) The revised estimate of the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD) for 2014-15 is \$73.9 million, which is 8% higher than the original estimate. Separately, the PCPD issued a total of 90 enforcement notices in 2014. The marked increase in the number of enforcement notices issued in the past year is due to the conduct of 71 self-initiated investigations against blind recruitment advertisements in April 2014 which resulted in the issuance of 69 enforcement notices. In this connection, is the additional financial provision of 8% in the revised estimate attributed to the substantial increase in workload arising from the abovementioned self-initiated investigations and issuance of enforcement notices? If not, does it mean no additional resources and manpower provision are needed despite an increase in workload of the PCPD?
- (2) If the PCPD does not need any additional resources and manpower provision despite an increase in workload, how come the PCPD cannot maintain the same performance level as in the previous year in respect of the relevant work in 2015?

Asked by: Hon IP Kwok-him (Member Question No. 43)

Reply:

The Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD) has the discretion to deploy its operating expenditure. As advised by the PCPD, there was a significant increase in the numbers of self-initiated investigations and issuance of enforcement notices as a result of the investigations in 2014. Most of these cases were similar and related to blind recruitment advertisements. In 2015 there may not be a similar special situation; in any event the PCPD will continue to discharge its functions and duties effectively by flexibly deploying its resources.

2. The revised estimate for the PCPD in 2014-15 is \$5.48 million higher than the original estimate, of which \$2.48 million is an increased provision arising from the 2014-15 civil service pay adjustment, while the remaining \$3 million is a non-recurrent subvention for commissioning the Radio Television Hong Kong to produce a television docudrama on protection of personal data privacy. The revision in the estimate is unrelated to the increase in the numbers of self-initiated investigations and issuance of enforcement notices.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB027

(Question Serial No. 1583)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

It is stated in this Programme that during 2015-16, the relevant Mainland and Taiwan Offices will continue to improve the network of the Mainland Offices by setting up more liaison units. In this connection, will the Government advise this Committee:

- (1) of the cities in which liaison units are planned to be set up and the reasons;
- (2) of, in table form, the number of new posts to be created for and the estimated additional recurrent expenditure arising from the new liaison units; and
- (3) whether the enhanced efforts as a result of the setting up of new liaison units has been reflected in the indicators for 2015; if yes, of the figures in respect of these new liaison units and the percentage of such figures against the respective total numbers; if no, of the figures in respect of these new liaison units expected to be included in various indicators and the percentage of such figures against the respective total numbers?

Asked by: Hon IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina (Member Question No. 14)

Reply:

To further improve the network of the Mainland Offices so that each office will be linked with one or two liaison units, we plan to set up a liaison unit in Jinan City of Shandong Province under the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (ETO) in Shanghai this year to undertake liaison work with Shandong Province. Shandong Province, which borders the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei Metropolis Circle to the north and the Yangtze River Delta Region to the south, is an important economic growth pole in the eastern coastal areas of the Mainland. Jinan is the capital city of Shandong Province. Setting up a liaison unit there will help strengthen liaison and communication with the provincial government, and facilitate Hong Kong people and enterprises to capitalise on the opportunities brought about by the development of the eastern region. We also plan to set up a liaison unit in the central region next year upon the full operation of the Wuhan ETO.

2. These two liaison units will assist the Shanghai ETO and the Wuhan ETO in liaising with a province under the coverage of the respective Offices, and their main functions include strengthening liaison and communication with the relevant local government authorities, enhancing economic and trade relations, fostering co-operation between Hong Kong and the relevant provinces/municipalities and promoting Hong Kong, and supporting Hong Kong residents and enterprises in the service area, etc.

3. In 2015-16, we have set aside \$7.07 million under Programme (3) “Mainland and Taiwan Offices” for meeting recurrent expenditure of the above two liaison units. The setting up of these two liaison units involves creation of 4 posts, namely 2 Senior Administrative Officer and 2 Trade Officer posts.

4. The 2015 indicators have reflected the enhanced efforts of the liaison unit planned to be set up in Shandong Province. Given the work to be undertaken by the liaison unit is to support the overall efforts of the Shanghai ETO in taking forward various initiatives, the indicators of the liaison unit cannot be computed individually. As the liaison unit in the central region is planned to be set up next year, the enhanced efforts of the liaison unit have not been reflected in the indicators for 2015.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB028

(Question Serial No. 1584)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

It is stated in this programme that the Government will pay special attention in 2015-16 to promote the strengths of Hong Kong in the Mainland and Taiwan as well as to strengthen economic and trade liaison with and enhance the investment promotion function in the Mainland, and promote economic and cultural exchanges with Taiwan. In this connection, will the Government:

- (1) set out in table form the programmes of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices conducted in 2014-15, including the nature, objective of and promotion platform for the programmes, as well as the manpower, resources and expenditures involved; and
- (2) set out in table form the programmes of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices to be conducted in 2015-16, including the nature, objective of and promotion platform for the programmes as well as the anticipated manpower, resources and expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina (Member Question No. 15)

Reply:

In 2014-15, the Mainland and Taiwan Offices continued to adopt a multi-pronged approach in promoting the strengths of Hong Kong, strengthening economic and trade liaison with and enhancing the investment promotion function in the Mainland, and promoting economic and cultural exchanges with Taiwan through appropriate channels. These include attending meetings and calling on the Mainland/Taiwan counterparts; organising/participating in seminars, exhibitions and workshops; organising/participating in public relations, cultural exchange functions and events; giving public speeches, media interviews and briefings; as well as gathering relevant information on new laws and regulations, policies and latest economic developments in the Mainland and disseminating such information to the Hong Kong business sector through circulars/newsletters/press releases, etc.

2. In 2015-16, the Mainland and Taiwan Offices will continue to promote the economic interest of Hong Kong, enhance investment promotion in the Mainland and Taiwan, and promote economic and cultural exchanges with Taiwan through various channels. These include attending meetings and calling on the Mainland/Taiwan counterparts, as well as organising/participating in seminars, exhibitions and workshops.

3. The Mainland and Taiwan Offices also work closely with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (TDC), which conducts thematic studies on investment environment in the Mainland and Taiwan. The related reports are available online at TDC's website, which is hyperlinked to the websites of Mainland and Taiwan Offices for easy access by the public. The Mainland and Taiwan Offices will also assist Hong Kong businessmen operating in the Mainland and Taiwan in liaising with the relevant local authorities if they wish to obtain more in-depth information about the investment potential of a particular city in the Mainland or Taiwan.

4. In promoting inward investment, the Investment Promotion Units of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices, working together with Invest Hong Kong, will continue to identify potential Mainland and Taiwan enterprises in the areas that they cover; proactively approach and visit the enterprises identified; provide one-stop information and consultation services; and assist in organising incoming visits to facilitate the Mainland and Taiwan enterprises to set up or expand their business operations in Hong Kong.

5. As commercial relations and investment promotion activities all aim to showcase and promote Hong Kong's strengths, they complement each other. General promotion work conducted by the Investment Promotion Units also supports the Mainland and Taiwan Offices' work on liaison and economic and trade affairs.

6. Invest Hong Kong has earmarked around \$6.4 million for promoting investment in the Mainland and Taiwan through the Investment Promotion Units in 2015-16. The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) has earmarked a sum of \$227 million under Programme (3) for the Mainland and Taiwan Offices to enhance trade opportunities, promote the strengths of Hong Kong and undertake investment promotion work, etc. The revised estimated expenditure of Invest Hong Kong and CMAB on the relevant work for 2014-15 is \$6.6 million and \$212 million respectively.

7. The above work is an integral part of the roles and functions of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices. The manpower, resources and expenditure involved cannot be singled out and will be absorbed within the above provision.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB029

(Question Serial No. 1585)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

It is stated that the Bureau will continue to promote equal opportunities for people of different sexual orientations/gender identities in 2015-16. In this connection, will the Bureau set out in table form the details of activities for promoting equal opportunities for people of different sexual orientations/gender identities in which government employees and public funds are involved, including the type and objective of the programmes, the promotion platform, manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina (Member Question No. 16)

Reply:

Education and promotion programmes for promoting equal opportunities for people of different sexual orientations/gender identities to be conducted by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau in 2015-16 are as follows:

Programme	Activities / Promotion platform	2015-16 estimated expenditure
Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme	Community projects organised by non-government organisations	\$1.25 million
Various publicity measures such as Announcement in the Public Interest and advertisement to promote equal opportunities for sexual minorities (including promotion of the Code on Practice against Discrimination in Employment on the Ground of Sexual Orientation)	Television, radio, train stations and other public transport network, Internet, seminars, briefings, etc.	\$1.66 million

The relevant work is undertaken by the Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Unit, the establishment of which comprises 1 officer at Executive Officer I-equivalent rank and 1 officer at Executive Officer II rank. The estimate of the Unit's staff cost in 2015-16 is \$0.97 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1586)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

I noticed that during Occupy Central, several police officers who participated in rendering assistance to bailiffs in executing injunctions in Mong Kok were cyber-profiled by some Internet users. By disclosing online the personal data (such as names, photos, UI numbers, residential addresses, telephone numbers) of these police officers and their family members, the Internet users vented their dissatisfaction with the ways individual police officers assisted the bailiffs in executing injunctions. In fact, many members of the public have suffered from this conduct of non-consensual disclosure of personal data on online platforms well before the onset of Occupy Central. In 2015-16, will the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data allocate resources to conduct review and study on the relevant existing legislation and to explain to the public the conducts that are not covered under the existing legislation? If so, what are the relevant work plan, timetable and estimated expenditure? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina (Member Question No. 17)

Reply:

Cyber-bullying may involve different areas of law depending on the actual activities involved. In particular, if the conduct constitutes criminal intimidation, blackmail, obtaining access to computer with criminal or dishonest intent, etc. which are criminal offences under the Crimes Ordinance, the Theft Ordinance or other legislation, the Police will follow up in accordance with the law.

2. Where Cyber-bullying activities involve wrongful collection and misuse of personal data, regulation under the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (PDPO) is applicable. In this regard, the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD) issued in October 2014 a leaflet entitled “Cyber-bullying – What you need to know” to inform users of social media networks of different forms of cyber-bullying and the legal protection available, and to explain the risks of sharing information online and the remedial measures or responses the victims of cyber-bullying can take. The leaflet can be downloaded from the website of the PCPD and is also available at the office of the PCPD. Any relevant complaints to the PCPD will be handled in accordance with the PDPO. The PCPD considers there is at present no need to set aside resources specifically for studying or reviewing the privacy issues in cyber-bullying in 2015-16.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB031

(Question Serial No. 1587)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Under this Programme, it is stated that the Equal Opportunities Commission will promote equal opportunities in education and employment for ethnic minorities in 2015-16. In this connection, will the Government:

- (1) set out, in table form, programmes launched in 2014-15 to promote equal opportunities in education and employment for ethnic minorities, including the nature of, objective of, promotional platform for and the manpower, resources and expenditure involved for such programmes; and
- (2) set out, in table form, programmes to be launched in 2015-16 to promote equal opportunities in education and employment for ethnic minorities, including the nature of, objective of, promotional platform for and the estimated manpower, resources and expenditure involved for such programmes?

Asked by: Hon IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina (Member Question No. 18)

Reply:

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) enforces the Race Discrimination Ordinance (RDO) and implements outreach, publicity and public education programmes to promote public awareness of the RDO and racial equality. As advised by the EOC, information on relevant programmes launched by the EOC to promote equal opportunities in education and employment for ethnic minorities in 2014-15 is set out as follows:

Programme	Nature	Objective	Promotional platform
Community Participation Funding Scheme on Equal Opportunities	Funding scheme	To provide funding support to community groups for organising activities to promote equal opportunities and racial integration	Community
Roving exhibition on “An Inclusive Society Starts with Respect”	Roving exhibition	To increase public awareness and understanding of equal opportunities, facilitating the public to have a better understanding of the rights enshrined in the 4 anti-discrimination ordinances	Community
Community outreach services for ethnic minorities	Outreach services	To promote understanding by the public, employers, employees and ethnic minorities of the work of the EOC and the 4 anti-discrimination ordinances	Community
Ethnic minority youth mentorship programme	Mentorship programme	To allow participants to learn from the mentors’ successful experience in overcoming difficulties	Schools
Roving drama performances	Drama performance	To encourage students to get acquainted with the concept of equal opportunities and ethnic minorities and to promote racial integration through interesting and vivid drama performances	Schools
Co-operation programmes with community groups	Partnership programme	To allow the public to have a better understanding of the advantages of a diverse and inclusive society through co-operation programmes with various community groups	Community groups
Radio programmes	Radio promotional programme	To promote racial integration and encourage employers to employ more ethnic minorities through radio programmes	Members of the public

2. As advised by the EOC, information on relevant programmes to be launched by the EOC to promote equal opportunities in education and employment for ethnic minorities in 2015-16 is set out as follows:

Programme	Nature	Objective	Promotional platform
School promotional programme on equal opportunities in education	Training workshop	To encourage educators to create a racially harmonious and equal learning environment for students	Schools
Online education programme on racial integration	Online training	To encourage educators to provide training on cultural sensitivity to students	Internet
Multi-ethnic workplace promotional programme	Promotional programme	To encourage local employers to employ ethnic minorities	Employers and business associations
Survey on employment situation of ethnic minorities	Survey	To study the problems and situations of ethnic minorities in employment and to put forward recommendations	Employers and ethnic minority groups
Outreach programme on equal opportunities for ethnic minorities	Outreach and training workshop	To increase ethnic minorities' awareness and understanding of their rights to education and employment and the RDO	Ethnic minority groups
Roving promotion programme on equal opportunities for ethnic minorities	Roving exhibition	To enhance the awareness by members of the community of the RDO and encourage them to accept ethnic minorities as an equal part of the community	Community
Partnership programme on equal opportunities	Partnership promotional programme	To partner with non-governmental organisations and encourage people of Chinese descent and ethnic minorities to study and work together	Non-governmental organisations and tertiary education institutions
Community Participation Funding Scheme on Equal Opportunities	Funding scheme	To provide funding support to community groups for organising activities to promote equal opportunities and racial integration	Community
Ethnic minority youth mentorship programme	Mentorship programme	To allow participants to learn from the mentors' successful experience in overcoming difficulties	Schools
Roving drama performances	Drama performance	To encourage students to get acquainted with the concept of equal opportunities and ethnic minorities and to promote racial integration through interesting and vivid drama performances	Schools
Radio programmes	Radio promotional programme	To promote racial integration and encourage employers to employ more ethnic minorities through radio programmes	Members of the public

3. The EOC's expenditure on publicity and public education (including manpower expenditure) in 2014-15's revised estimate is \$22.12 million, and the estimated expenditure for 2015-16 is \$19.53 million; about 25% of both figures are used for publicity and public education programmes on racial discrimination. Separately, starting from 2014-15, the Government has been providing a funding of \$4.69 million to the EOC for enhancing publicity and public education on the RDO. To this end, the EOC has set up a multi-ethnic taskforce to promote equal opportunities in education and employment for ethnic minorities through advocacy, training and promotional efforts. Besides, the Government also provided an additional funding of \$2 million to the EOC in 2014-15 for promoting the RDO.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB032

(Question Serial No. 1588)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In respect of the Equal Opportunities Commission's indicators for promotional/training activities, the hit rates of online resource centre are down from 30 411 646 in 2013 to 25 889 665 in 2014 (-14.9%) and is estimated to be further reduced to 23 282 912 in 2015 (-10.1%), representing a year-on-year decrease of more than 10% for two consecutive years. In its 2014-15 Estimates, the Government explained that the reason for the decrease in the hit rates of the online resource centre was that the centre was revamped in 2012 to enhance the efficiency of accessing information and thereby reducing the number of hits required to search information, and the number of hits was used in compiling the hit rates. In this connection, will the Government advise this Committee of whether other objective criteria are available to measure the utilisation of online resource centre; if yes, of the details; if no, of how the effectiveness of online resource centre is evaluated.

Asked by: Hon IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina (Member Question No. 19)

Reply:

The purpose of the online resource centre of the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) is to provide the public with information on equal opportunities. EOC has started to revamp the layout of its website since 2012 to facilitate the public to retrieve information more efficiently with fewer clicks. Through the decline in hit rates of the online resource centre, EOC considers that the public can retrieve information more efficiently after revamping the design of the website.

2. As the online resource centre is a major component of the EOC website, the number of visits to the website is also a major indicator in accessing the efficiency of the resource centre; the indicator was included in the report of the controlling officer. From 2012 to

2014, the visits to the website of EOC are 1 044 131, 1 330 694 and 1 644 787 respectively with an annual increase of approximately 20%. This shows that there is an upward trend in the number of visitors to EOC's website in the past 3 years.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB033

(Question Serial No. 2205)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

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

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please give a breakdown of the actual expenditure on salaries, regularly-paid allowances, job-related allowances and non-accountable entertainment allowance payable to the Director of Bureau in 2014-15, as well as the estimate for salaries, regularly-paid allowances, job-related allowances and non-accountable entertainment allowance payable to the Director of Bureau in 2015-16.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 1)

Reply:

The provision for the salary in respect of the position of Director of Bureau in the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau in 2014-15 is \$3.42 million. For budgetary purposes, we have set aside \$3.58 million for the salary in respect of this position for 2015-16.

2. In 2014-15 and 2015-16, we do not have any expenditure or estimate of expenditure on regularly-paid allowances, job-related allowances and non-accountable entertainment allowance for the Director of Bureau.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB034

(Question Serial No. 2213)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

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

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please give a breakdown of the actual expenditure on salaries, regularly-paid allowances, job-related allowances and non-accountable entertainment allowance payable to the Deputy Director of Bureau in 2014-15, as well as the estimate for salaries, regularly-paid allowances, job-related allowances and non-accountable entertainment allowance payable to the Deputy Director of Bureau in 2015-16.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 10)

Reply:

The provision for the salary in respect of the position of Deputy Director of Bureau in the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau in 2014-15 is \$2.22 million. For budgetary purposes, we have set aside \$2.33 million for the salary in respect of this position for 2015-16.

2. In 2014-15 and 2015-16, we do not have any expenditure or estimate of expenditure on regularly-paid allowances, job-related allowances and non-accountable entertainment allowance for the Deputy Director of Bureau.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB035

(Question Serial No. 2220)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

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

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please give a breakdown of the actual expenditure on salaries, regularly-paid allowances, job-related allowances and non-accountable entertainment allowance payable to the Political Assistant in 2014-15, as well as the estimate for salaries, regularly-paid allowances, job-related allowances and non-accountable entertainment allowance payable to the Political Assistant in 2015-16.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 17)

Reply:

The provision for the salary in respect of the position of Political Assistant to Director of Bureau in the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau in 2014-15 is \$1.2 million. For budgetary purposes, we have set aside \$1.25 million for the salary in respect of this position for 2015-16.

2. In 2014-15 and 2015-16, we do not have any expenditure or estimate of expenditure on regularly-paid allowances, job-related allowances and non-accountable entertainment allowance for the Political Assistant to Director of Bureau.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2761)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

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

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office
(2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

What is the expenditure for overseas duty visits made by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau in the past year? What is the estimated expenditure for such visits for 2015-16? If visits have been made/planned, please set out in table form the place of visit, officers joining the visit, results and follow-up actions.

Asked by: Hon LAM Tai-fai (Member Question No. 16)

Reply:

In 2014-15, a total of 57 official duty visits outside Hong Kong were undertaken by officers of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) on matters relating to constitutional and Mainland affairs and rights of the individual. The relevant information is provided below –

Place of visit/Objective	Officers joining the duty visit	Expenditure (\$)^{Note}
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> promoting regional co-operation with the Mainland in places including Beijing, Shanghai, Yunnan, Gansu, Sichuan, Hubei, Liaoning, Hainan, Guangdong, Fujian, etc. 	1-14 officers of different ranks per duty visit and led by a senior officer or directorate officer.	654,120

Place of visit/Objective	Officers joining the duty visit	Expenditure (\$)^{Note}
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enhancing further co-operation and exchanges with Macao and Taiwan • attending Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation Data Privacy Sub-group Meetings in Beijing and the Philippines • participating in hearing of the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Switzerland 		

Note:

- (1) The above expenditure includes expenditure on hotel accommodation and flight tickets, but excludes –
 - (a) overseas subsistence allowance provided to officers concerned, expenses on communication, etc.; and
 - (b) the expenditure which was sponsored by the hosting government.
- (2) The arrangement of hotel accommodation was provided to officers concerned in accordance with the relevant Civil Service Regulations and guidelines.
- (3) Proper class of air passages was provided to officers concerned in accordance with the relevant Civil Service Regulations which take into account ranking of their offices, flying time, flight schedule and other relevant details.

By conducting the above official duty visits, CMAB achieved the intended objectives and expected results, i.e., attending the meetings as planned or enhancing liaison between Hong Kong and the places of visit, and fostering co-operation and exchanges. CMAB will continue to follow up with relevant authorities and organisations on the co-operation initiatives, with a view to implementing the relevant policies and projects smoothly.

2. In 2015-16, officers of CMAB will undertake official duty visits outside Hong Kong on the basis of operational needs including promoting regional co-operation with the Mainland, enhancing further co-operation and exchanges with Macao and Taiwan, and participating in concerned meetings. We do not have any specific plan for the time being.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB037

(Question Serial No. 2762)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

During 2015-16, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau will conclude the public consultation on the method for selecting the Chief Executive by universal suffrage and submit to the Legislative Council a package of proposals to amend Annex I to the Basic Law. Please list out the expenditure incurred during the consultation period and the estimated expenditure for the coming year, including publicity expenditure (expenses on electronic media and public venues, transportation expenses, etc.), expenditure for holding forums, entertaining guests, etc.

Asked by: Hon LAM Tai-fai (Member Question No. 17)

Reply:

In 2014-15 and 2015-16, the revised estimates and estimates of expenditure for the public consultations on constitutional development (excluding staff cost) are respectively as follows:

	Million (\$)	
	2014-15	2015-16
Printing	2.0	1.2
Publicity	9.4	3.5
Others (including postage, delivery, website development and maintenance, etc.)	0.7	0.3
Total	12.1	5.0

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB038

(Question Serial No. 2763)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

An incumbent legislator has indicated his intention to resign to trigger by-election for the purpose of initiating the so-called "referendum" for future constitutional development. Have provision and manpower been earmarked by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau to cope with the above situation? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LAM Tai-fai (Member Question No. 18)

Reply:

If there is a need to conduct Legislative Council (LegCo) by-election, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) will work closely with the Electoral Affairs Commission (EAC) on the necessary preparatory work. These tasks are CMAB's routine election-related work and will be carried out by the staff in the existing establishment of the Bureau.

2. The EAC has the statutory responsibility for the conduct and supervision of elections. If there is a need to conduct LegCo by-election, the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) will provide the EAC with the necessary support in conducting the by-election. The costs for conducting the LegCo by-election will be met by the REO.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB039

(Question Serial No. 2764)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

One of the main responsibilities of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau is to promote public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law. Will the Government give a detailed account of the promotion work undertaken in the past year and to be undertaken in 2015-16, the expenditure involved and the staffing arrangements? Has effectiveness of such work been evaluated? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LAM Tai-fai (Member Question No. 19)

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) has spent/set aside about \$16 million in 2014-15 and 2015-16 for organising various promotional activities to enhance public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law. The 4th of April 2015 marks the 25th anniversary of the promulgation of the Basic Law. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government will organise different types of large-scale activities during this period to promote a more in-depth understanding of the “one country, two systems” principle and the Basic Law in the community.

2. We have been adopting the following promotional strategies:

- (a) using electronic media targeted at the general public, such as Announcements in the Public Interest on television and radio, radio quiz programmes, Internet and smart-phone applications;
- (b) enhancing public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law through promotional activities at the district level, such as roving exhibitions and mobile resource centre; and

- (c) strengthening co-operation with community organisations in staging various promotional activities, such as seminars, talks and debate competitions, in order to reach a wider audience through their extensive community networks.

The above work is undertaken by a team responsible for the promotion of the Basic Law headed by a Principal Assistant Secretary and supported by 4 officers.

3. The CMAB evaluates the effectiveness of the promotional activities through different means, such as activity reports, number of visits to the Internet website, number of downloads of the smart-phone applications, participation rates at events and public feedback, etc.

4. Besides, the HKSAR Government will also continue to promote the Basic Law through civic education, school education and training for civil servants. The HKSAR Government has set up the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (BLPSC) to provide steer on the overall programme and strategy for promoting the Basic Law. Under the steer of the BLPSC and its working groups (namely Local Community; Teachers and Students; Civil Servants; Industrial, Commercial and Professional Sectors; and Overseas Community Working Groups), relevant bureaux/departments, including the Home Affairs Bureau, Education Bureau, Civil Service Bureau, Trade and Industry Department and Information Services Department, assist in organising related Basic Law promotional activities in their respective sectors.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB040

(Question Serial No. 3110)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

During 2015-16, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau will continue to deepen regional co-operation with the Mainland, targeting in particular at Guangdong, Beijing, Shanghai, Fujian and other provinces and regions in the Pan-Pearl River Delta Region. Please give a detailed account of the work done in this respect in the past and to be undertaken in 2015-16. What are the expenditure and staff arrangement involved?

Asked by: Hon LAM Tai-fai (Member Question No. 20)

Reply:

Policy matters on deepening regional co-operation under Programme (2) "Constitutional and Mainland Affairs" are mainly handled by 2 divisions of staff in the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB). In addition, the Beijing Office and the 4 Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan (Mainland Offices) respectively under Programme (3) "Mainland and Taiwan Offices" play a leading and co-ordinating role in fostering closer ties with the Mainland at various levels. As the work on deepening regional co-operation is an integral part of the duties and functions of the officers concerned in the CMAB and the Mainland Offices, the manpower provision cannot be singled out or separately quantified. Generally speaking, an estimated financial provision of about \$149 million (excluding staff cost) under the 2 said Programmes is for the CMAB and the Mainland Offices to take forward the work to deepen regional co-operation with the Mainland in 2015-16.

2. With the above provision, CMAB and the Mainland Offices will deepen regional co-operation with the Mainland, including organising and providing logistic support for co-operation fora (such as conferences and meetings) in Hong Kong; participating in bilateral and multilateral co-operation fora in the Mainland; enhancing liaison and communications with the Central People's Government, the provincial and municipal governments and other local authorities in the Mainland; and organising events (such as seminars, exhibitions and workshops) to promote Hong Kong's strengths and trade and commercial interests.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB041

(Question Serial No. 2124)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

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

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please give a breakdown of the estimated provisions for the salary in respect of the Director of Bureau, Deputy Director of Bureau and Political Assistant to Director of Bureau in 2015-16.

Asked by: Hon LAU Wai-hing, Emily (Member Question No. 19)

Reply:

For budgetary purposes, the provisions for the salary in respect of the positions of Director of Bureau, Deputy Director of Bureau and Political Assistant to Director of Bureau in the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau for 2015-16 are \$3.58 million, \$2.33 million and \$1.25 million respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB042

(Question Serial No. 2125)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. In engaging the Taiwan-Hong Kong Economic and Cultural Co-operation Council in the negotiation of priority co-operation areas, have any agreements been reached last year? If yes, what are the co-operation areas concerned?
2. Which areas of activities are expected to be included as priority co-operation areas in 2015-16?

Asked by: Hon LAU Wai-hing, Emily (Member Question No. 20)

Reply:

Since their establishment in 2010, the Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic and Cultural Cooperation Promotion Council (ECCPC) and the Taiwan-Hong Kong Economic and Cultural Co-operation Council (THEC) have convened annual joint meetings to promote Hong Kong-Taiwan co-operation in various priority areas on the economic and trade, cultural, tourism, social livelihood, city management and law enforcement exchange fronts. After each annual joint meeting, the ECCPC and THEC will hold a press conference and issue press releases to report on the discussion topics and outcomes.

2. The 5th joint meeting was held in December 2014 in Taipei. At the meeting, both sides discussed the latest progress of areas pursued on the ECCPC-THEC platform, which included: both sides signed an agreement last year to launch the Asia Cruise Fund, encouraging cruise lines to include Hong Kong and Taiwan in more cruise itineraries; deposit protection agencies on both sides signed a memorandum of understanding to enhance information sharing and co-operation in dealing with cross-region deposit matters; the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation and the Industrial Technology Research Institute in Taiwan signed a co-operation agreement to create a platform for

matching investors and business partners for high-tech enterprises in the two places; the leading Chinese orchestras of the two places signed a co-operation agreement to enhance artistic exchange and resource sharing etc. In addition, both sides agreed to establish a point-to-point communication mechanism on 4 fronts including communicable diseases, food safety, Chinese medicine and Western drugs, facilitating information exchange and responsive communication between relevant bodies on related matters. Hong Kong and Taiwan will enhance exchanges and co-operation in 2015-16 on the basis above. Both sides also agreed to explore 3 new co-operation areas, namely co-operation and exchanges in meteorological services, combating landslides and combating floods, through the ECCPC-THEC discussion platform.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB043

(Question Serial No. 2126)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

1. Regarding investment projects resulting in a Mainland or Taiwan company setting up or expanding its business in Hong Kong, please list out the titles of projects conducted in 2014-15 and the names of companies involved.
2. Regarding the efforts made in these projects, up to what level is the Government's participation considered to have facilitated the successful completion of such projects?
3. The Bureau states that it will set up more liaison units in the Mainland in 2015-16. Please list out the locations of such liaison units, and the set-up cost for each of these liaison units respectively.
4. Regarding office accommodation for the liaison units to be set up in 2015-16, please specify whether the accommodation is rented or purchased. Please list out the cost of renting (or purchasing) office accommodation for each of these liaison units.
5. What is the staff establishment of each liaison unit?

Asked by: Hon LAU Wai-hing, Emily (Member Question No. 21)

Reply:

In 2014, Invest Hong Kong completed 75 investment projects from the Mainland and 8 projects from Taiwan. These projects cover a wide range of business including transport and industrial services, innovation and technology, financial services, tourism and hospitality, business and professional services, creative industries, consumer products as well as information and communications technology. As consent of the companies concerned has not been obtained, we cannot provide information about the investment projects and names of the companies.

2. Invest Hong Kong organises marketing activities and seminars, and conducts investment promotion visits to attract and assist Mainland and Taiwan enterprises to set up or expand their business operations in Hong Kong. When an enterprise prepares to set up or expands its business in Hong Kong, Invest Hong Kong will provide a range of support services, including, inter alia, providing information on the targeted market and industry; analysing business strategy; assisting it in registration and application for licences; assisting the enterprise's staff and its families in applying for visas, seeking appropriate schools and finding accommodation; introducing relevant government departments and professional service providers; and providing networking opportunities, etc. Where an enterprise has set up an office and established a presence or expanded its business in Hong Kong after receiving the above services from Invest Hong Kong, it will be considered that the department has facilitated the successful completion of a project.

3. We plan to set up a liaison unit in Shandong Province under the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (ETO) in Shanghai in 2015, and a liaison unit in the central region next year upon the full operation of the Wuhan ETO. In 2015-16, we have set aside \$7.07 million under Programme (3) "Mainland and Taiwan Offices" for meeting the recurrent expenditure of the above two liaison units. The setting up of these two liaison units involves creation of 4 posts, namely 2 Senior Administrative Officer and 2 Trade Officer posts. As the exact locations of the liaison units are yet to be decided, we are not able to provide specific information on the set-up cost in respect of renting/purchasing office accommodation for the new liaison units.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB044

(Question Serial No. 2127)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. What are the actual, revised estimated expenditure and estimated expenditure of the Beijing Office and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan in 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 respectively?
2. What are the respective staff establishment of these offices in 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16?

Asked by: Hon LAU Wai-hing, Emily (Member Question No. 22)

Reply:

Regarding the Mainland Offices (namely the Beijing Office (BJO), the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan), the actual expenditure in 2013-14, the revised estimated expenditure for 2014-15 and estimated expenditure for 2015-16 are as follows:

Office	Actual expenditure in 2013-14 (\$ million)	Revised estimated expenditure for 2014-15 (\$ million)	Estimated expenditure for 2015-16 (\$ million)
BJO	64.54	69.75	74.33
Guangdong ETO	51.09	54.78	54.92
Shanghai ETO	29.85	34.78	39.49
Chengdu ETO	33.55	36.72	40.94
Wuhan ETO[#]	0.96 (expenditure for early preparatory work)	20.67	23.77

[#] The Wuhan ETO was set up on 1 April 2014.

2. The respective numbers of posts in the establishment of the Mainland Offices in 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 are as follows:

Office	Establishment in 2013-14 (Number of posts)	Establishment in 2014-15 (Number of posts)	Establishment in 2015-16 (Number of posts)
BJO	17	19	19
Guangdong ETO	15	15	15
Shanghai ETO	7	9	9
Chengdu ETO	12	12	12
Wuhan ETO[#]	0	7	9

The Wuhan ETO was set up on 1 April 2014.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB045

(Question Serial No. 2129)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. Please list out the expenditure items of, organisations responsible for and target groups of the activities for promoting human rights in 2014-15 as well as the estimated provision earmarked for activities for promoting human rights in 2015-16 and the main area of activities.
2. Are there any officers under the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau responsible for looking into the work and budget of other government departments for the promotion of human rights through channels like school education, community activities and other publicity activities? If yes, what are the ranks of the responsible officers?
3. What is the total expenditure of various government departments on the promotion of human rights in 2015-16?

Asked by: Hon LAU Wai-hing, Emily (Member Question No. 24)

Reply:

The Government's work on promoting human rights spans across a number of policy bureaux, notably the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB), the Education Bureau (EDB), the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) and the Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB).

2. The CMAB has been promoting the community's awareness of, respect for and protection of human rights through the allocations to the Programmes "Rights of the Individual" and "Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data". Under these 2 Programmes, the revised estimates of expenditure for 2014-15, and the estimated expenditure for 2015-16 are \$208.2 million and \$200.3 million respectively.
3. The CMAB launched a series of activities for promoting human rights in 2014-15, as set out at the Annex.

4. In 2015-16, the CMAB will continue its work on promoting the rights of the individual, equal opportunities irrespective of gender, family status, race and sexual orientation, and children's rights. The Equal Opportunities Commission and the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data will continue to carry out their publicity, promotion and education programmes and enforcement work for areas within their statutory framework.

5. The CMAB works closely with other government bureaux and departments for the promotion of human rights. For example, the EDB has been facilitating the promotion of human rights education in schools through measures such as embedding related learning elements in the curriculum, organising teacher professional development programmes, and developing learning and teaching resources, while the HAB has been promoting civic education (including human rights) outside schools, in collaboration with the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education (CPCE), through means such as providing sponsorship to community organisations to organise civic education activities and producing publicity programmes and materials. In tandem, the LWB organises territory-wide public education activities and provides sponsorship to the 18 District Councils and community organisations to organise publicity programmes in the community for promoting the spirit and core values enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as well as the message of building a barrier-free and inclusive society.

6. Regarding the expenditure to be incurred in 2015-16, after consulting relevant bureaux, the information provided by them is summarised as follows. Expenditure related to human rights education constitutes an integral part of the EDB's expenditures, and a separate breakdown of the expenditures for human rights education is not available from the EDB. Similarly, the CPCE does not maintain a separate breakdown on the promotion of specific civic values. LWB's expenditure on the aforementioned public education activities for 2015-16 is about \$13.5 million.

Activities on promoting rights of the individual in 2014-15 under the CMAB

Activities	Responsible organisation	Target
Publication of United Nations Human Rights reports	CMAB	Members of the public
Forums, e.g., Human Rights Forum and Children's Rights Forum	CMAB	Interested non-government organisations mainly, also open to interested members of the public
Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme	Sponsored organisations	Members of the public
Various publicity measures such as Announcement in the Public Interest (API) and advertisement to promote equal opportunities for sexual minorities	CMAB	Members of the public
Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme	Sponsored organisations	Members of the public, in particular children
Co-operate with the Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) to produce a television (TV) programme to promote the rights of children	CMAB and RTHK	Members of the public, in particular children
Co-operate with the RTHK to produce a TV series and conduct a school outreach programme on integration with ethnic minorities	CMAB and RTHK	Members of the public and secondary school students
Various publicity measures such as API and advertisement to promote the Code on Access to Information	CMAB	Members of the public

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB046

(Question Serial No. 2130)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

International human rights treaties applicable to Hong Kong include the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

In 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15, how much has been spent by the Government on publishing promotional booklets on the above human rights treaties to promote human rights? What is the total number of copies of booklets on the text of respective treaties as well as the number of copies in different languages that have been produced? What is the total number of booklets on the text of Concluding Observations made by respective Committees on human rights treaties on Hong Kong's report as well as the number of copies in different languages that have been produced?

What is the Government's expenditure on the promotion of various treaties on the Internet? Please provide details on the work of setting out translations of the texts of various treaties, Concluding Observations and general comments on the Internet.

Asked by: Hon LAU Wai-hing, Emily (Member Question No. 25)

Reply:

Hard copies of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region's (HKSAR) reports as required under the 7 United Nations (UN) human rights treaties are published in accordance with the reporting cycles of the respective treaties, and are distributed to the Executive Council, the Legislative Council, District Councils and stakeholders through various

channels; they are also available to members of the public upon request. Hard copies of the Concluding Observations made by UN treaty bodies on the reports of the HKSAR Government are attached to the papers for discussion at the relevant Legislative Council Panel meetings. To facilitate public access, the HKSAR Government's reports under these UN human rights treaties, the texts of these treaties, the HKSAR's respective reports, as well as the Concluding Observations by the relevant UN treaty bodies are available in bilingual versions on the websites of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau and (as necessary) the Labour and Welfare Bureau. The General Comments made by the UN treaty bodies are available in different official languages of the UN at those bodies' websites.

2. The expenditure on publishing promotional materials on the human rights treaties concerned in hard copy (including texts of the treaties, the HKSAR's reports and other promotional materials) was \$70,000, \$44,000 and \$91,000 in 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 respectively. (The relevant expenditures are incurred having regard to whether the HKSAR's reports have to be published in the concerned years and the length of the reports. Also, on the basis of environmental consideration, in addition to disseminating HKSAR's human rights reports through the Government's website, after consulting relevant parties, hard copies are distributed upon request.)

3. The Government's expenditure on the promotion of various treaties on the Internet for the past 3 years has mostly been absorbed in the expenditure for public education programmes as well as regular maintenance and updates of the websites of relevant bureaux. Separate breakdown of the expenditure is not available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB047

(Question Serial No. 2131)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

On the Sex Discrimination Ordinance, the Disability Discrimination Ordinance, the Family Status Discrimination Ordinance and the Race Discrimination Ordinance, please provide the following information:

1. The Equal Opportunities Commission's expenditure on and estimated expenditure for production of promotional booklets on the above ordinances to promote the message of everyone is equal in 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15.
2. What is the total number of copies and different language versions of introduction to the above ordinances that have been produced?
3. What is the Equal Opportunities Commission's expenditure on the promotion of the above ordinances in the Internet?

Asked by: Hon LAU Wai-hing, Emily (Member Question No. 26)

Reply:

According to information provided by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), its expenditure on publishing promotional booklets on the above ordinances in 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 is set out below:

Year	Expenditure on publishing promotional booklets on the above ordinances (\$'000)
2012-13	606
2013-14	334
2014-15 (revised estimate)	750

2. From 2012-13 to 2014-15, the total number of copies of introduction to the above ordinances that have been produced is set out below:

Different language version	Number of copies (‘000)
Bilingual in Chinese and English	400
Chinese	80
English	80
Hindi	24
Bahasa Indonesia	28
Nepali	24
Tagalog	24
Thai	26
Urdu	28
Total	714

The above publications are also uploaded to the EOC website for public access.

3. The EOC’s expenditure on the promotion of the above ordinances on the Internet, including placing online advertisements, developing mobile applications and organising video-clip production competition at social networking websites is set out below:

Year	Expenditure on online promotion (\$’000)
2012-13	989
2013-14	504
2014-15 (revised estimate)	650
2015-16 (estimate)	500

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB048

(Question Serial No. 2132)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC)'s promotion of equal opportunities in education and employment for ethnic minorities, please provide the following information:

1. the staff establishments of the EOC, the Education Bureau and the Labour and Welfare Bureau with respect to the said promotion work;
2. the details of the planned promotion work; and
3. the budget for the promotion work.

Asked by: Hon LAU Wai-hing, Emily (Member Question No. 27)

Reply:

Starting from 2014-15, the Government has been providing a funding of \$4.69 million to the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) for enhancing publicity and public education on the Race Discrimination Ordinance (RDO). It is understood that the EOC has set up a multi-ethnic taskforce to promote equal opportunities in education and employment for ethnic minorities through advocacy, training and promotional efforts. The taskforce comprises 7 full-time staff, including a Senior Equal Opportunities Officer, a Training Officer, a Community Outreach Officer, 2 Assistant Community Outreach Officers, an Assistant Information Technology Officer and an Assistant Equal Opportunities Officer (Operations).

2. As advised by the EOC, on advocacy, the taskforce will maintain close liaison with government bureaux and departments in charge of education and employment matters, relay to them the difficulties encountered by ethnic minority students, job seekers and employees

and advise on relevant measures. On training and public education, the taskforce will launch online training courses, workshops for teachers, roving exhibitions and partnership programmes with non-governmental organisations to enhance the cultural sensitivity of teachers and the general public and create an integrated learning environment for ethnic minority students. On promotion, the taskforce will actively reach out to ethnic minority groups, organise workshops for them to increase their awareness and understanding of their education/employment rights and the RDO; a multi-ethnic workplace promotional programme will also be launched to encourage local employers to employ ethnic minorities. In addition, the taskforce will also conduct a survey on the employment situation of ethnic minorities to gain an understanding of their employment problems and situation, and make recommendations on employment support measures.

3. Besides, as advised by the Labour Department (LD), it will continue to proactively help ethnic minority job seekers find work and promote the working abilities of ethnic minorities to employers. The LD launched a pilot project on Employment Services Ambassador Programme for Ethnic Minorities in September 2014 to employ ethnic minority trainees of the Youth Employment and Training Programme as Employment Services Ambassadors to provide services to job seekers, in particular ethnic minorities. A first batch of 15 ethnic minority trainees was employed to receive a 6-month on-the-job training. In 2015-16, the LD will continue to canvass suitable vacancies for ethnic minority job seekers and organise 2 large-scale and 12 district-based inclusive job fairs to enhance the employment opportunities of ethnic minorities. When inviting employers to participate, the LD will specifically request the employers to provide vacancies suitable for application by ethnic minorities and encourage employers to employ them. The work involved in providing employment support services for ethnic minorities is undertaken by existing staff in the LD in addition to their own duties, hence the manpower involved cannot be separately identified. As for the LD's employment services and district-based job fairs for ethnic minorities, the expenditures involved will be absorbed in the operating costs of the LD, while the estimated expenditure for organising large-scale job fairs for 2015-16 is \$0.48 million. The LD will continue to implement the pilot project on Employment Services Ambassador Programme for Ethnic Minorities in 2015-16; the estimated expenditure on the pilot project for 2015-16 is about \$1.65 million.

4. On education, the Government is committed to supporting the integration of non-Chinese speaking (NCS) students, notably ethnic minority students, into the community including facilitating their early adaptation to the local education system and mastery of the Chinese language. The Education Bureau (EDB) has, starting from the 2014/15 school year, allocated about \$200 million per year to step up the education support for NCS students in learning the Chinese language through, among others, facilitating schools' implementation of the "Chinese Language Curriculum Second Language Learning Framework" ("Learning Framework"), provision of the Applied Learning Chinese (for NCS students) subject and the creation of an inclusive learning environment in schools. Developed from the perspective of second language learners, the "Learning Framework" seeks to further address the concern about NCS students' learning of Chinese as a second language with a view to enabling them to bridge over to mainstream Chinese Language classes, and to ensure equal opportunities for all NCS students in learning Chinese on par with their Chinese-speaking counterparts.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2133)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In respect of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance, please set out the respective expenditure of the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data for promoting the Ordinance to the public sector organisations, the business sector and the public from 2012-13 to 2014-15, as well as the estimated provision and the detailed promotion plan for 2015-16.

Asked by: Hon LAU Wai-hing, Emily (Member Question No. 28)

Reply:

Expenditure of the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD) on promotion, publicity and education activities to enhance awareness and understanding of, and compliance with the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance is as follows:

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2012-13	5.18* (actual)
2013-14	2.77 (actual)
2014-15	2.50 (revised estimate)
2015-16	5.74^ (estimate)

* including non-recurrent expenditure for production of a television docudrama "Privacy Beyond Price" and for promotion and publicity of the Ordinance as amended in 2012

^ including non-recurrent expenditure for special activities referred to in paragraphs 2(a) and (j)

2. The PCPD's planned promotion, publicity and education activities in 2015-16 include:

- (a) a television docudrama for education and promotion to the general public;
- (b) free talks for the public on the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance and on privacy concerns arising from the use of information technology and enhancement of the online platform for educational resources;
- (c) strengthening and updating the contents of the thematic websites "Think Privacy! Be Smart Online" and the "Youth Privacy Portal";
- (d) dissemination of educational messages on privacy protection in daily life to the public through various channels, including roving exhibitions, the mass media, Youtube channel and Facebook page;
- (e) Privacy Awareness Week 2015 – an annual regional promotional event in Asia Pacific;
- (f) Student Ambassador Programme – a learning opportunity for secondary school students to foster a culture of respect for personal data privacy, together with an Inter-school Quiz Contest on Online Privacy and Data Protection;
- (g) University Privacy Campaign – promoting privacy protection to students around the campuses of universities in Hong Kong and organising seminars for the teaching staff;
- (h) platforms for exchange and training as well as activities for Data Protection Officers' Club members, including regular meetings, briefing sessions, seminars and designated websites;
- (i) professional workshops on personal data protection – the contents are tailored for the needs of professionals in public and private sectors who handle personal data in different fields;
- (j) an international conference on "Big Data from a Privacy Perspective" for data users in the public and business sectors;
- (k) a campaign titled "Developing Mobile Apps: Privacy Matters" to help developers of mobile applications understand and comply with their legal obligations under the legislation; and
- (l) hosting the 43rd Asia Pacific Privacy Authorities Forum – representatives from over 10 countries/regions will exchange views on matters relating to cross-border policies, education and law enforcement. There will be a half-day open session for overseas privacy authorities to exchange views with local privacy advocates.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB050

(Question Serial No. 2137)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the networking and co-operation between the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) and equivalent bodies in the Mainland and overseas, please provide the following information:

- (1) the names of equivalent bodies in the Mainland and overseas which networked and co-operated with the EOC in 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15;
- (2) the details of such networking and co-operation;
- (3) how such networking and co-operation helps with promoting the awareness of equal opportunities among the public; and
- (4) the estimated provision for such networking and co-operation between the EOC and equivalent bodies in the Mainland and overseas.

Asked by: Hon LAU Wai-hing, Emily (Member Question No. 32)

Reply:

As advised by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), networking with equivalent bodies in the Mainland and overseas is important, as this provides a valuable platform for exchanges of knowledge and ideas, which is the key to development and enhancement of the EOC's work.

2. In 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15, the EOC has received 38, 42 and 22 Mainland and overseas equivalent bodies respectively, and introduced to them the anti-discrimination ordinances in Hong Kong and the EOC's work in implementing the law and promoting equal opportunities. These bodies include the Xinle Employment Equality Promotion Commission of Hebei Province, the Association for Supervision & Curriculum

Development of the United States, and the China Disabled Persons' Federation and the State Bureau for Letters and Calls of the Mainland. Moreover, the EOC has also maintained contact and relationships with organisations of a similar nature in the Mainland and overseas. The expenditure incurred in the above work is absorbed in the operational expenses and staff costs of the EOC and no separate breakdown is available.

3. Representatives of the EOC have also participated in various international conferences and meetings relating to equal opportunities, such as meeting with the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the 18th Annual Meeting and Biennial Conference of the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions and hearings under the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women etc.

4. In 2015-16, the EOC will continue to network and co-operate with equivalent bodies in the Mainland and overseas. While meeting with and calling on equivalent bodies in the Mainland and overseas are part of the EOC's daily work, at this stage it has no plan to take part in overseas conferences or meetings, or engage in large-scale co-operation initiative and hence no specific estimate is available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB051

(Question Serial No. 2000)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Complaint investigations and self-initiated investigations are expected to increase in 2015. Has consideration been given to increasing the manpower or resources to cope with the increasing workload so as to speed up investigation? If yes, what are the details, the manpower requirement and expenditure involved? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEE Kok-long, Joseph (Member Question No. 46)

Reply:

There are currently 25 staff in the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) principally responsible for handling complaints. The existing manpower is considered to be sufficient to handle the work. Besides, the EOC will deploy manpower to undertake investigation work in the light of actual need, and will continue to study the streamlining of investigation procedures to shorten the time required for investigation.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB052

(Question Serial No. 2508)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. What is the funding earmarked for the Basic Law Promotion Sponsorship Scheme in 2014-15?
2. Please set out in table form the names of non-profit-making organisations that have submitted application under the Basic Law Promotion Sponsorship Scheme in 2014-15, results of the applications and reasons for unsuccessful application, as well as the details of activities successfully applied for sponsorship and the expenditure incurred.
3. What is the funding earmarked for the Basic Law Promotion Sponsorship Scheme for 2015-16? What are the Sponsorship Scheme's direction in promoting the Basic Law, details of the Sponsorship Scheme and criteria for assessing applications?

Asked by: Hon LEONG Kah-kit, Alan (Member Question No. 27)

Reply:

In both 2014-15 and 2015-16, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau has set aside about \$16 million, including the provision for the Basic Law Promotion Sponsorship Scheme, to enhance public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law.

2. In 2014-15, eligible organisations have successfully applied for sponsorship amounting to a total of \$1.2 million under the Basic Law Promotion Sponsorship Scheme for organising activities to promote the Basic Law to different sectors of the community, with a view to enhancing public understanding on the "one country, two systems" principle and the Basic Law. Another four applications have failed to meet the assessment criteria.

3. Organisations who successfully applied for sponsorships are set out as follows:

Sponsored organisation	Content of activities	Amount of sponsorship applied (HK\$)
Joint Committee for the Promotion of the Basic Law *	Seminar	200,800
Joint Committee for the Promotion of the Basic Law	Debate competition for secondary school students	282,100
New Arrivals Services Foundation	Design competition, workshop and drama performance	115,300
www.gcyyouth.net	Debate competition for tertiary and secondary school students	208,900
www.gcyyouth.net	4 thematic talks	166,900
Joint Committee for the Promotion of the Basic Law	Debate competition for primary school students	221,700

* The Joint Committee for the Promotion of the Basic Law comprises 64 organisations.

4. The year 2015 marks the 25th anniversary of the promulgation of the Basic Law. The Basic Law Promotion Sponsorship Scheme will encourage non-profit-making organisations to organise activities incorporating elements of the 25th anniversary of the promulgation of the Basic Law. Applications for the 2015-16 Basic Law Promotion Sponsorship Scheme have not yet commenced.

5. Funding applications received under the Basic Law Promotion Sponsorship Scheme are considered and assessed by a Vetting Committee comprising both official and non-official members. The assessment criteria include:

- (a) objectives of the proposed activity;
- (b) content of the proposal (for example, scope of the project, the relevance of the content with the promotion of the Basic Law, the target and anticipated number of beneficiaries);
- (c) financial considerations (for example, overall financial estimates for the proposed project, budget and cost-effectives of the proposal);
- (d) feasibility of the activity;
- (e) background of the applicant (for example, its experience and management capability, its previous performance in the Sponsorship Scheme (if applicable), etc.);
- (f) publicity plan; and

- (g) other factors which the Vetting Committee considers relevant (for example, whether the activity is expected to generate revenue, involve other sponsorships, be held together with other projects, etc.)

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB053

(Question Serial No. 2509)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

- 1) What are the details of the study on the “right to be forgotten” and related efforts undertaken by the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data in 2014-15? What is the expenditure incurred for various activities?
- 2) What is the estimated provision for work in relation to the subject of the “right to be forgotten” in 2015-16?

Asked by: Hon LEONG Kah-kit, Alan (Member Question No. 8)

Reply:

The Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD) has not set aside dedicated resources for the subject of the “right to be forgotten”. In 2015-16, the Privacy Commissioner and the Information Technology Advisor of the PCPD will continue to closely monitor development on the subject and conduct related studies.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB054

(Question Serial No. 2511)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

It is stated in this programme that the Bureau will continue to promote equal opportunities for people of different sexual orientations/gender identities and the Code of Practice against Discrimination in Employment on the Ground of Sexual Orientation (Code of Practice) among the public. In this connection, will the Bureau advise the following:

1. What were the details of the different means, including activities, promotion platforms, expenditures involved and the number of public and private sector organisations participating in such activities, that the Bureau adopted in 2014 to promote the Code of Practice?
2. What are the details of the different means, including activities, promotion platforms, expenditures involved and the anticipated number of public and private sector organisations participating in such activities, that the Bureau will adopt in 2015 to promote the Code of Practice?
3. Will the Bureau follow up in case of contravention of the Code of Practice by any organisation? If yes, what was the number of organisations that the Government followed up in 2014 and what were the follow-up actions taken?
4. What are the direction, work plan, timetable and expenditure for reviewing the Code of Practice?

Asked by: Hon LEONG Kah-kit, Alan (Member Question No. 28)

Reply:

In 2014-15, the Government has promoted the Code of Practice to public and private sector organisations through various channels, including advertisements; seminars; briefings; letters to employers in local major public and private sector organisations appealing for their adoption of the Code of Practice; and publishing the list of organisations that have pledged to adopt the Code of Practice. The relevant expenditure is absorbed in the expenditure on publicity and education for promoting equal opportunities for people of different sexual orientations/gender identities, for which the revised estimate in 2014-15 is \$3.79 million (including the staff cost of the Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Unit and an enhanced provision for publicity in the year); the corresponding estimate in 2015-16 is \$2.63 million.

2. As at February 2015, over 140 public and private sector organisations have pledged to adopt the Code of Practice. In 2014-15, representatives of over 370 public and private sector organisations have participated in related seminars and briefings. In 2015-16, we will continue our promotion to public and private sector organisations through various means as mentioned above, and appeal for adoption of the Code of Practice by employers in different sectors and of different scales.

3. The Code of Practice is of a voluntary nature; no information about any breach of the Code has been received. We shall also review the Code of Practice from time to time as necessary. The resources required are absorbed in the recurrent expenditure of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau, and a separate breakdown of the expenditure is not available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB055

(Question Serial No. 3227)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

It is stated in this programme that the Bureau will continue to promote equal opportunities for people of different sexual orientations/gender identities and review the Code of Practice against Discrimination in Employment on the Ground of Sexual Orientation (Code of Practice). In this connection, will the Bureau advise:

- (1) in case of contravention of the Code of Practice by any organisation, whether the Bureau will follow-up; if yes, what were the number of cases of contravention that required follow-up action in 2014, the number of organisations involved and the follow-up actions taken?
- (2) the specific work plan for reviewing the Code of Practice in 2015-16, the expenditure involved and the timetable?

Asked by: Hon LEONG Kah-kit, Alan (Member Question No. 30)

Reply:

The Code of Practice is of a voluntary nature; no information about any breach of the Code has been received. We shall also review the Code of Practice from time to time as necessary. The resources required are absorbed in the recurrent expenditure of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau, and a separate breakdown of the expenditure is not available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB056

(Question Serial No. 3274)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. Please set out the list of non-profit-making organisations that have submitted application under the Basic Law Promotion Sponsorship Scheme in 2014-15, results of the applications and reasons for unsuccessful application, as well as the details of activities successfully applied for sponsorship and the expenditure incurred.
2. What is the funding earmarked for the Basic Law Promotion Sponsorship Scheme for 2015-16?
3. In 2015-16, what are the Scheme's direction in promoting the Basic Law and criteria for assessing application?

Asked by: Hon LEONG Kah-kit, Alan (Member Question No. 31)

Reply:

In both 2014-15 and 2015-16, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau has set aside about \$16 million, including the provision for the Basic Law Promotion Sponsorship Scheme, to enhance public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law.

2. In 2014-15, eligible organisations have successfully applied for sponsorship amounting to a total of \$1.2 million under the Basic Law Promotion Sponsorship Scheme for organising activities to promote the Basic Law to different sectors of the community, with a view to enhancing public understanding on the "one country, two systems" principle and the Basic Law. Another four applications have failed to meet the assessment criteria.

3. Organisations who successfully applied for sponsorships are set out as follows:

Sponsored organisation	Content of activities	Amount of sponsorship applied (HK\$)
Joint Committee for the Promotion of the Basic Law *	Seminar	200,800
Joint Committee for the Promotion of the Basic Law	Debate competition for secondary school students	282,100
New Arrivals Services Foundation	Design competition, workshop and drama performance	115,300
www.gcyyouth.net	Debate competition for tertiary and secondary school students	208,900
www.gcyyouth.net	4 thematic talks	166,900
Joint Committee for the Promotion of the Basic Law	Debate competition for primary school students	221,700

* The Joint Committee for the Promotion of the Basic Law comprises 64 organisations.

4. The year 2015 marks the 25th anniversary of the promulgation of the Basic Law. The Basic Law Promotion Sponsorship Scheme will encourage non-profit-making organisations to organise activities incorporating elements of the 25th anniversary of the promulgation of the Basic Law. Applications for the 2015-16 Basic Law Promotion Sponsorship Scheme have not yet commenced.

5. Funding applications received under the Basic Law Promotion Sponsorship Scheme are considered and assessed by a Vetting Committee comprising both official and non-official members. The assessment criteria include:

- (a) objectives of the proposed activity;
- (b) content of the proposal (for example, scope of the project, the relevance of the content with the promotion of the Basic Law, the target and anticipated number of beneficiaries);
- (c) financial considerations (for example, overall financial estimates for the proposed project, budget and cost-effectiveness of the proposal);
- (d) feasibility of the activity;

- (e) background of the applicant (for example, its experience and management capability, its previous performance in the Sponsorship Scheme (if applicable), etc.);
- (f) publicity plan; and
- (g) other factors which the Vetting Committee considers relevant (for example, whether the activity is expected to generate revenue, involve other sponsorships, be held together with other projects, etc.)

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB057

(Question Serial No. 0369)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

In what ways will the estimated provision for 2015-16 under this Programme be used to monitor and disseminate information to Hong Kong business sector on policies and regional development in the Mainland and Taiwan that have significant bearing on the business environment and opportunities to Hong Kong enterprises, as well as to promote the strengths of Hong Kong in the Mainland and Taiwan?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Kwan-yuen, Andrew (Member Question No. 6)

Reply:

To facilitate the Hong Kong business sector to keep abreast of the major developments in the Mainland and Taiwan and capitalise on the markets, the Mainland and Taiwan Offices (namely the Beijing Office, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan, and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan), in 2015-16, will continue to gather relevant information on new laws and regulations, policies and significant regional development, and disseminating such information to the Hong Kong business sector through various channels, such as issuance of special trade-related messages, webpages, workshops, seminars and exhibitions.

2. The Mainland and Taiwan Offices, together with Invest Hong Kong, will continue to proactively serve as important bridges between Hong Kong and the Mainland/Taiwan, including enhancing liaison and communication with the counterparts in the areas under their coverage; representing and promoting Hong Kong's trade and commercial interests; encouraging and attracting investments to Hong Kong and promoting Hong Kong's many advantages as an investment and business hub in Asia; and promoting the strengths of Hong Kong through appropriate channels. The above areas of work complement each other in

showcasing the positive image and attractions of Hong Kong in the Mainland and Taiwan. In 2015-16, the Mainland and Taiwan Offices will continue to adopt a multi-pronged approach in promoting Hong Kong through appropriate channels, including attending meetings and calling on the Mainland/Taiwan counterparts; organising/participating in seminars, exhibitions and workshops; organising/participating in public relations, cultural exchange functions and events; giving public speeches, media interviews and briefings; and issuing circulars, newsletters and press releases.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB058

(Question Serial No. 2163)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

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

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office
(2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices
(4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please advise this Committee, in tabular form, of the information on the directorate establishment, ranks, salaries and relevant allowances and staff-related expenses in respect of the following units in the Estimates of Expenditure 2015-16:

1. Office of the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs;
2. Permanent Secretary and Deputy Secretaries;
3. Division 1 of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB);
4. Division 2 of CMAB;
5. Division 3 of CMAB;
6. The Office of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in Beijing;
7. Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (ETO) in Guangdong;
8. Hong Kong ETO in Shanghai;
9. Hong Kong ETO in Chengdu; and
10. Hong Kong ETO in Wuhan.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung (Member Question No. 505)

Reply:

The directorate establishment of the following units in 2015-16 is as follows:

	Directorate rank
1. Office of the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs	1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade C
2. Permanent Secretary and Deputy Secretaries	1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade A1 1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade B1 2 Administrative Officer Staff Grade B
3. Division 1 of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB)	4 Administrative Officer Staff Grade C
4. Division 2 of CMAB	2 Administrative Officer Staff Grade C
5. Division 3 of CMAB	2 Administrative Officer Staff Grade C
6. The Office of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in Beijing	1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade A 1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade B1 1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade C
7. Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (ETO) in Guangdong	1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade B
8. Hong Kong ETO in Shanghai	1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade B
9. Hong Kong ETO in Chengdu	1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade C
10. Hong Kong ETO in Wuhan	1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade C

2. The estimated expenditure on personal emoluments for the above directorate establishment in 2015-16 is around \$46 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB059

(Question Serial No. 2164)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please advise this Committee in detail a breakdown of the increased provision of \$16.6 million for 2015-16 under Programme (3) by staff establishment, rank, salaries, relevant allowances and personnel related expenses in table form.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung (Member Question No. 506)

Reply:

Provision under Programme (3) "Mainland and Taiwan Offices" for 2015-16 is \$16.6 million higher than the revised estimate for 2014-15. The increased provision is mainly for continuing to improve the network of the Mainland Offices by setting up more liaison units. We set up the Liaoning Liaison Unit under the Beijing Office in December 2014. We also plan to set up a liaison unit in Shandong Province under the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (ETO) in Shanghai this year, and a liaison unit in the central region next year upon the full operation of the Wuhan ETO. In 2015-16, an additional provision of \$11.46 million has been allocated to Programme (3) "Mainland and Taiwan Offices" for meeting the recurrent expenditure of the above three liaison units, which covers the estimated expenditure on salaries, allowances and personnel related expenses arising from the net increase of 1 Senior Administrative Officer post and 1 Trade Officer post in 2015-16. The remaining increased provision of \$4.96 million is for the estimated expenditure on increased staff cost for staff posted to the other Mainland and Taiwan Offices.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB060

(Question Serial No. 1167)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

It is stated in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2015-16 that the Bureau will conclude the public consultation on the method for selecting the Chief Executive (CE) by universal suffrage and submit to the Legislative Council (LegCo) a package of proposals to amend Annex I to the Basic Law. However, the Government so far does not have full confidence in securing the passage of the proposals by the LegCo, making the public worry that universal suffrage for selecting the CE by "one person, one vote" cannot be implemented in 2017. In this connection, will the Government advise this Committee:

1. of the resource input for securing passage of the method for selecting the CE by universal suffrage in 2017 over the past 3 years, the amount of expenses and manpower involved;
2. whether effectiveness of its efforts has been evaluated and whether passage of the proposals by the LegCo is ensured; if yes, of the details; if no, of the reasons;
3. given that the Government's approach on the publicity of constitutional reform is considered to be passive and conservative, whether an aggressive publicity approach, say by speaking boldly and confidently with the knowledge that it is on the right side, or using the tactic of retreat for the sake of advance, or acting proactively to win the hearts and minds of Hong Kong people, will be adopted to lobby legislators and the public for their support of the Government's package of proposals?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (Member Question No. 22)

Reply:

The respective expenditures on, the revised estimates and estimates of the public consultations on constitutional development (excluding staff cost) in 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 are as follows:

	Million (\$)		
	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Printing	0.9	2.0	1.2
Publicity	6.1	9.4	3.5
Others (including postage, delivery, website development and maintenance, etc.)	0.2	0.7	0.3
Total	7.2	12.1	5.0

2. On staff establishment, 6 time-limited posts, including 1 Administrative Officer, 1 Senior Executive Officer, 1 Executive Officer II and 3 Assistant Clerical Officers posts, were created in 2013-14, 2014-15 and for 2015-16. In 2014-15, we also created 1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade C post for about 2 months.

3. The HKSAR Government will consolidate and summarise the views received during the public consultation on the method for selecting the Chief Executive (CE) by universal suffrage as soon as possible with a view to publishing in April 2015 the consultation report and subsequently submitting to the Legislative Council a motion to amend Annex I to the Basic Law regarding the method for selecting the CE. The HKSAR Government will continue to mobilise the support of different sectors of the community to implement universal suffrage for the CE election in 2017 in strict compliance with the Basic Law and the relevant Interpretation and Decisions of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB061

(Question Serial No. 1173)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Quite a number of people and religious groups have been subjected to verbal abuse for disagreeing with homosexuality and same sex marriage which has resulted in reverse discrimination, making the community worry that freedom of religious belief and freedom to preach in Hong Kong are being jeopardised. In this connection, will the Bureau advise this Council on the resource input for safeguarding freedom of religious belief and sexual orientation in Hong Kong over the past 3 years, and provide a detailed breakdown of the expenditure for various measures?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (Member Question No. 28)

Reply:

Like other fundamental rights, religious freedom is protected under the Basic Law, and is widely recognised and respected in Hong Kong. Over the past 3 years, the Government has not set aside itemised resources specifically for religious freedom.

2. The Government's expenditures on education and publicity measures for promoting equal opportunities for people of different sexual orientations/gender identities in the past 3 years are as follows:

Programme	2012-13 Actual expenditure	2013-14 Actual expenditure	2014-15 Revised estimated expenditure
Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme	\$0.64 million	\$0.81 million	\$0.97 million
Various publicity measures such as Announcement in the Public Interest and advertisement to promote equal opportunities for sexual minorities (including promotion of the Code of Practice against Discrimination in Employment on the Ground of Sexual Orientation)	\$2.05 million (including the staff cost of the Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Unit (GISOU))	\$2.2 million (including the staff cost of the GISOU)	\$3.79 million (including the staff cost of the GISOU)
	\$2.69 million	\$3.01 million	\$4.76 million

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB062

(Question Serial No. 0317)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please list out separately:

- (a) the expenditure on promotion of the Basic Law and strengthening the sense of national identity for each of the recent 5 years (including the estimated expenditure for 2015-16, which marks the 25th anniversary of the promulgation of the Basic Law);
- (b) details of the expenditure/estimated expenditure items;
- (c) the percentage of expenditure/estimated expenditure on promotion of the Basic Law against the total annual expenditure of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau; and
- (d) the percentage of expenditure/estimated expenditure on strengthening the sense of national identity against the total annual expenditure of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau.

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (Member Question No. 1)

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) has spent/set aside about \$16 million in each of the recent 5 financial years (including 2015-16) for organising various promotional activities to enhance public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law. The 4th of April 2015 marks the 25th anniversary of the promulgation of the Basic Law. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government will organise different types of large-scale activities during this period to promote a more in-depth understanding of the “one country, two systems” principle and the Basic Law in the community.

2. We have been adopting the following promotional strategies:
 - (a) using electronic media targeted at the general public, such as Announcements in the Public Interest on television and radio, radio quiz programmes, Internet and smart-phone applications;
 - (b) enhancing public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law through promotional activities at the district level, such as roving exhibitions and mobile resource centre; and
 - (c) strengthening co-operation with community organisations in staging promotional activities, such as seminars, talks and debate competitions, in order to reach a wider audience through their extensive community networks.

3. Besides, the HKSAR Government will also continue to promote the Basic Law through civic education, school education and training for civil servants. The HKSAR Government has set up the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (BLPSC) to provide steer on the overall programme and strategy for promoting the Basic Law. Under the steer of the BLPSC and its working groups (namely Local Community; Teachers and Students; Civil Servants; Industrial, Commercial and Professional Sectors; and Overseas Community Working Groups), relevant bureaux/departments, including the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB), Education Bureau (EDB), Civil Service Bureau (CSB), Trade and Industry Department (TID) and Information Services Department (ISD), assist in organising related Basic Law promotional activities in their respective sectors. Regarding non-government organisations, the CMAB receives applications from non-profit-making organisations for funding support under the Basic Law Promotion Sponsorship Scheme to organise various Basic Law promotional activities.

4. Taking 2015-16 as an example, the CMAB has set aside about \$16 million among its total allocation of \$580 million for organising Basic Law promotional activities. Riding on the 25th anniversary of the promulgation of the Basic Law, we will focus on organising more in-depth and diverse activities, such as seminars, large-scale exhibition, exhibition booth in the Flower Show, commemorative stamps and territory-wide promotional programmes like giant wall banners, bunting and advertisements and Internet publicity. Relevant bureaux/departments will also stage special promotional activities this year to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the promulgation of the Basic Law. For example, the EDB will produce visual teaching kits on the Basic Law for primary and secondary schools, the CSB will conduct thematic talks on the Basic Law, the TID will organise thematic seminars on the Basic Law and souvenir design competition, and the ISD will assist in the making of Basic Law promotional videos. Besides, Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education (CPCE) under the HAB has also written to the Chairmen of 18 District Councils to encourage commemorative activities for the districts be organised under the CPCE's Co-operation Scheme with District Councils, to mark the 25th anniversary of the promulgation of the Basic Law at district level.

5. The CMAB has not earmarked specific provision for national education or for promoting the sense of national identity.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB063

(Question Serial No. 0319)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please list out the respective expenditure of the Beijing Office, the four Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan (Mainland Offices) and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan for discharging each of the following major responsibilities in the past three years, as well as the percentage of such expenditure against the total expenditure of the offices:

- (a) liaise and communicate with governments and organisations in the areas under their coverage;
- (b) represent and promote Hong Kong's trade and commercial interests in the areas under their coverage;
- (c) encourage and attract investments to Hong Kong;
- (d) promote the strengths of Hong Kong to the areas under their coverage;
- (e) provide information and other appropriate support to Hong Kong residents.

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (Member Question No. 3)

Reply:

The total expenditure of the Beijing Office and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Guangdong, Shanghai and Chengdu in 2011-12 was \$125 million. The total expenditure of the above offices and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan in 2012-13 and 2013-14 was \$176 million and \$205 million respectively. The total expenditure of Wuhan ETO, which was set up on 1 April 2014, is not covered in the above figures.

2. As the responsibilities of the above offices and the activities held are inter-related, the expenditure involved in each responsibility cannot be singled out and separately quantified.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB064

(Question Serial No. 0320)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

With respect to the Mainland and Taiwan Offices, the revised estimate in 2014-15 (\$241.3 million) is 4.1% lower than the original estimate (\$251.6 million). What are the reasons for that?

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (Member Question No. 3)

Reply:

The revised estimate for the Mainland and Taiwan Offices (namely the Beijing Office, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan, and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan) in 2014-15 is \$10.3 million (about 4.1%) lower than the original estimate. The main reason is that the departmental expenses and other charges of Wuhan ETO in its first year of operation, as well as the actual expenditure on salaries and related allowances for officers posted to the office, were lower than the original estimate.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB065

(Question Serial No. 0321)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In 2015-16, more liaison units will continue to be set up to improve the network of the Mainland Offices. In this connection, please list out the estimated expenditure involved, including details of the expenditure items, as well as the number and locations of the units to be set up.

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (Member Question No. 4)

Reply:

We plan to set up a liaison unit in Shandong Province under the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (ETO) in Shanghai in 2015, and a liaison unit in the central region next year upon the full operation of Wuhan ETO.

2. In 2015-16, we have set aside \$7.07 million under Programme (3) "Mainland and Taiwan Offices" for meeting recurrent expenditure of the above two liaison units.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB066

(Question Serial No. 2674)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

- (a) Please list out the expenditure and manpower arrangement of the Beijing Office, other Mainland Offices and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan for promoting cultural exchanges in the past year, as well as the percentage of such expenditure against the total expenditure.
- (b) What specific plans do the Beijing Office, other Mainland Offices and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan have to promote cultural exchanges this year? What are the related expenditure and manpower arrangement?
- (c) Have local cultural organisations ever approached the Beijing Office, other Mainland Offices and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan, reflecting the need to engage in cultural exchanges with the Mainland and Taiwan as well as to promote local culture? If yes, what is the number of such requests made and how they are handled by the Government?

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (Member Question No. 1.31)

Reply:

The Beijing Office, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan, and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan (Mainland and Taiwan Offices) have taken continuous efforts to assist in enhancing cultural and arts exchanges between Hong Kong and the Mainland/Taiwan. Over the past year, the initiatives taken include organising, co-organising or supporting the launching of film festivals, dance performances, theatrical shows, concerts, arts exhibitions, photo exhibitions, book fairs, lantern carnivals, talks, radio programmes, etc., to showcase Hong Kong's unique culture and arts.

2. Over the past year, a number of Hong Kong cultural and arts organisations, such as the City Contemporary Dance Company, Asian Youth Orchestra, Chung Ying Theatre Company, Hong Kong Film Development Council, Hong Kong Publishing Federation, The Hong Kong Printers Association, Hong Kong Harmonica Association, etc. approached the Mainland and Taiwan Offices with a view to conducting cultural exchange activities in the areas under their coverage. Appropriate follow-up actions, such as assisting in promoting the performances, liaising and communicating with relevant authorities in the Mainland and Taiwan, have been taken by the Mainland and Taiwan Offices.

3. In 2015-16, the Mainland and Taiwan Offices will continue to assist relevant Hong Kong cultural and arts organisations in liaising with local authorities and bodies as necessary, and in promoting the related events as appropriate to support the performances of these cultural and arts organisations, and further promote Hong Kong's unique culture and arts.

4. As the work involved in promoting cultural exchanges is an integral part of the duties and functions of the offices, the expenditure and manpower involved cannot be singled out and separately quantified.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB067

(Question Serial No. 0905)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In respect of the estimated provision for the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data, will the Government advise this Committee of:

- a. the specific provision and manpower for investigating suspected breaches of the requirements of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance upon receipt of complaints from data subjects or on his own initiative; and
- b. the specific steps to be taken to improve protection of personal data privacy in the use of mobile applications as mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2015-16?

Asked by: Hon MAK Mei-kuen, Alice (Member Question No. 1)

Reply:

The Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD) estimates that in 2015 it will investigate on its own initiative 12 suspected breaches of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (the Ordinance) and conduct 180 compliance checks. As for complaints, the PCPD expects to receive 1 700 new cases in 2015. Together with the 280 cases carried forward from the past year, the PCPD estimates that the total number of complaints to be handled in 2015 is 1 980.

2. Self-initiated investigations and compliance checks are conducted by the Compliance and Policy Division of the PCPD. The establishment of the Division comprises 1 Chief Personal Data Officer, 3 Senior Personal Data Officers, 4 Personal Data Officers, 6 Assistant Personal Data Officers and 3 Executive Assistants. Complaints lodged by data subjects are handled by the Operations Division of the PCPD. The

establishment of the Division comprises 2 Chief Personal Data Officers, 6 Senior Personal Data Officers, 7 Personal Data Officers, 10 Assistant Personal Data Officers and 1 Executive Assistant. The provisions for staff remuneration for the Compliance and Policy Division and Operations Division in 2015-16 are \$10.66 million and \$17.79 million respectively.

3. In 2015-16, the PCPD will help developers of mobile applications understand and comply with their legal obligations under the Ordinance through a campaign titled “Developing Mobile Apps: Privacy Matters”. The campaign will be co-organised by 10 professional organisations and trade associations with support from 9 professional/academic institutions in the field of information and communications technology. The campaign will include the following training activities:

- Regular seminars (once to twice in every quarter) to explain the “Best Practice Guide for Mobile App Development”;
- Talks, seminars and exhibitions as part of the two-week “IT Fest 2015” for the industry to enhance their awareness of the protection of personal data privacy;
- Training courses and teaching materials relevant to the development of mobile applications and with enhanced content on privacy protection for students of universities and vocational training institutes and young entrepreneurs; and
- A one-stop website with online training courses and teaching resources for developers of mobile applications.

4. The PCPD will also strengthen the contents of the thematic website “Think Privacy! Be Smart Online” to disseminate educational messages, and provide handy guidelines to the public through television Announcements in Public Interest, social media and thematic websites to raise awareness of online privacy protection.

5. The PCPD has conducted random checks on mobile applications since 2013-14 and will continue to conduct such checks in 2015-16 to ascertain whether the mobile applications in question comply with the requirements under the Ordinance in handling personal data, and take enforcement actions where necessary.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB068

(Question Serial No. 0906)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In Matters Requiring Special Attention under this Programme, it is mentioned that the Bureau will continue to promote the rights of children. In this connection, will the Government advise this Committee of:

- a. the provision earmarked for this purpose;
- b. its plan to take forward the above work in this financial year to promote children's rights; and
- c. the specific reasons for the estimated reduction of 10 projects funded under the Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme in 2015 against 2014?

Asked by: Hon MAK Mei-kuen, Alice (Member Question No. 3)

Reply:

In 2015-16, the Government will continue to promote children's rights through, inter alia, the Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme (CREFS), the Children's Rights Forum, and continued efforts in publicity and public education, including co-operating with the Radio Television Hong Kong to produce a TV programme on promotion of children's rights. The estimated provision for the above work (excluding manpower expenditure) is about \$3.32 million.

2. Applications for the 2015 CREFS were accepted from 10 September to 24 October 2014. The CREFS received a total of 41 applications and approved sponsorship for 25 of them; the total amount of sponsorship approved in 2015 was \$1.13 million, similar to the amount approved in 2014. In assessing the applications, the Assessment Committee considers the project proposals on their individual merits and in accordance with a set of

assessment criteria like objectives and feasibility of the proposed projects; content of the proposal; financial consideration; experience and network of the organisation; publicity plan; project evaluation and assessment methodology. As such, the number of projects sponsored each year depends on the number of proposals and whether they meet the assessment criteria.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB069

(Question Serial No. 2411)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

(a) Please provide in the table below the number of complaints on discrimination lodged under the Race Discrimination Ordinance received by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC).

	No. of complaints on racial discrimination received	No. of complaints on racial discrimination handled	No. of complaints on racial discrimination substantiated	No. of cases successfully convicted
2012				
2013				
2014				
2015 (as at March)				

(b) Regarding complaints on racial discrimination, please provide information as per following table.

	No. of complaints on racial discrimination against public sector organisations	No. of complaints on racial discrimination against private sector organisations	No. of complaints on racial discrimination against actions of individuals	Others (please specify)
2012				
2013				
2014				
2015 (as at March)				

(c) What are the EOC's publicity and educational measures in relation to racial discrimination taken in the past 3 years and the expenditure involved? What is the expected expenditure on publicity and educational efforts in 2015-16?

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (Member Question No. 20)

Reply:

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) enforces the Race Discrimination Ordinance (RDO) and implements publicity and public education programmes to promote public awareness of the RDO and racial equality. The EOC advised that the number of complaints on discrimination it received under the RDO is set out as follows:

	No. of complaints on racial discrimination received	No. of complaints on racial discrimination handled (Note 1)	Outcome of complaint cases handled (Note 2)		No. of cases successfully convicted
2012	43	48	Conciliation attempted	11	0
			Investigation discontinued	32	
2013	28	46	Conciliation attempted	6	0
			Investigation discontinued	22	
2014	39	42	Conciliation attempted	15	0
			Investigation discontinued	14	
			Investigation in progress	10	
2015 (as at 8 March)	9	21	Conciliation attempted	0	0
			Investigation discontinued	1	
			Investigation in progress	8	

2. The number of complaints on racial discrimination against public and private sector organisations received under the RDO is set out below:

	No. of complaints on racial discrimination against public sector organisations (Note 3)	No. of complaints on racial discrimination against private sector organisations	No. of complaints on racial discrimination against actions of individuals	Others (please specify)
2012	6	27	10	0
2013	4	19	5	0
2014	4	18	17	0
2015 (as at 8 March)	0	6	3	0

Note 1: The number of cases handled includes the cases received in that year and those brought forward from the previous year.

Note 2: Cases which have been handled by the EOC are categorised as “Conciliation attempted” and “Investigation discontinued”; the figures provided reflect the follow-up situation/outcome of the cases received in that year.

Note 3: Public sector organisations include government departments.

3. Over the past 3 years, the major publicity and public education programmes relating to racial equality included a funding programme for non-profit-making organisations to organise programmes to promote equal opportunities, radio programmes, drama performances in schools, youth mentorship programmes, outreaching programmes for ethnic minorities, roving exhibitions, and seminars and trainings for employers, employees, non-governmental organisations and community groups, etc. The EOC’s expenditures on publicity and public education (including manpower expenditure) in 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 are \$24.67 million, \$18.33 million and \$22.12 million (revised estimate) respectively, and the estimated expenditure for 2015-16 is \$19.53 million; about 25% of the aforementioned expenditures are used for the publicity and public education programmes on racial discrimination. Separately, starting from 2014-15, the Government has been providing a funding of \$4.69 million to the EOC for enhancing publicity and public education on the RDO. To this end, the EOC has set up a multi-ethnic taskforce to promote equal opportunities in education and employment for ethnic minorities through advocacy, training and promotional efforts. Besides, the Government also provided an additional funding of \$2 million to the EOC in 2014-15 for promoting the RDO.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB070

(Question Serial No. 2434)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

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

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The current-term Government has attached great importance to “homeland relationship” and government officials at different ranks and public officers have made frequent visits to the Mainland. Please provide a list of gifts purchased with public funds for presentation to Mainland officials or authorities during the above visits in the past year with the cost of the gifts.

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (Member Question No. 44)

Reply:

In line with the Government's green policy, public officers should as far as possible refrain from bestowing gifts/souvenirs to others during the conduct of official activities. According to the existing guidelines, where bestowal of gifts/souvenirs is necessary or unavoidable due to operational, protocol or other reasons, the gift/souvenir items should not be lavish or extravagant and the number should be kept to a minimum. Also, the exchange of gifts/souvenirs should only be made from organisation to organisation. As the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau does not specifically maintain separate accounts for the expenses on the procurement of gifts and souvenirs, relevant breakdowns are not available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1466)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2015-16 under Programme (5), it is mentioned that the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data will take steps to improve protection of personal data privacy in the use of mobile applications. Please advise on the details, including the plan of activities, the relevant target groups, objectives and estimated expenditure.

Asked by: Hon MOK Charles Peter (Member Question No. 46)

Reply:

In 2015-16, the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD) will help developers of mobile applications understand and comply with their legal obligations under the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (the Ordinance) through a campaign titled "Developing Mobile Apps: Privacy Matters". The campaign will be co-organised by 10 professional organisations and trade associations with support from 9 professional/academic institutions in the field of information and communications technology. The campaign will include the following training activities:

- Regular seminars (once to twice every quarter) to explain the "Best Practice Guide for Mobile App Development";
- Talks, seminars and exhibitions as part of the two-week "IT Fest 2015" for the industry to enhance their awareness of the protection of personal data privacy;
- Training courses and teaching materials relevant to the development of mobile applications and with enhanced content on privacy protection for students of universities and vocational training institutes and young entrepreneurs; and

- A one-stop website with online training courses and teaching resources set up for developers of mobile applications.
2. The PCPD will also strengthen the contents of the thematic website “Think Privacy! Be Smart Online” to disseminate educational messages, and provide handy guidelines to the public through television Announcements in the Public Interest, social media and thematic websites to raise awareness of online privacy protection.
 3. In 2015-16, the PCPD has set aside \$2.63 million for promotion, publicity and educational activities. Expenditure on the aforementioned activities is included in this sum.
 4. The PCPD has conducted random checks on mobile applications since 2013-14 and will continue to conduct such checks in 2015-16 to ascertain whether the mobile applications in question comply with the requirements under the Ordinance in handling personal data, and will take enforcement actions where necessary. The PCPD will handle the work in this respect through deployment of its existing manpower and resources. No breakdown of the relevant expenditure is available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB072

(Question Serial No. 1467)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the work of the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD), please inform this Committee:

- (1) of the numbers of enquiries and complaints relating to the Police received in 2014-15; among them, how many had to be handled or investigated?
- (2) whether the PCPD will, in accordance with the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (the Ordinance), actively conduct compliance actions such as inspections or self-initiated investigations with regard to the recording, storage, access, use, transfer and deletion of the personal data collected by the Police in major events to evaluate whether the Police complies with the requirements of the Ordinance and make recommendations. If yes, what are the expenditure and manpower to be incurred?

Asked by: Hon MOK Charles Peter (Member Question No. 47)

Reply:

- (1) From April 2014 to February 2015, the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD) handled a total of 82 enquiries relating to the Police's handling of personal data. The number of relevant complaints to the PCPD was 16. One complaint led to a formal investigation which is still underway.
- (2) The PCPD has no plan at this juncture to conduct compliance checks in respect of video-recording by the Police in major events. In case of need, the PCPD will make suitable arrangements through deployment of existing manpower.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB073

(Question Serial No. 3169)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In respect of the work in relation to the Code on Access to Information (the Code), please advise on:

- (1) the total number of requests for information under the Code processed in the past 3 years and the number of requests met in full, in part or refused. Please provide statistics in relation to requests refused by bureaux/departments by reasons of refusal;
- (2) the work plans, targets, initiatives and timetable for promoting the Code in 2014-15 and 2015-16, as well as the manpower and expenditure involved; and
- (3) whether there are plans to revamp the content of the website on the Code in 2015-16 and release statistics in relation to requests for information under the Code and details of cases more frequently in machine-readable formats to enhance transparency and safeguard the public's right to know; if yes, of the details of the plans, the timetable, and the manpower and expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon MOK Charles Peter (Member Question No. 48)

Reply:

During the period from January 2012 to September 2014, bureaux and departments received and responded to 9 868 requests for information made under the Code on Access to Information (the Code). (The number excludes requests withdrawn and requests for information not held by relevant bureaux/departments.) Among these requests, 9 486 were met in full, 155 were met in part and 227 were refused. A breakdown of the 227 cases by reasons for refusal is as follows:

Reason for refusal (relevant paragraph of the Code)	No. of times quoted
Defence and security (para. 2.3)	3
External affairs (para. 2.4)	7
Nationality, immigration and consular matters (para. 2.5)	2
Law enforcement, legal proceedings and public safety (para. 2.6)	25
Management and operation of the public service (para. 2.9)	18
Internal discussion and advice (para. 2.10)	17
Public employment and public appointments (para. 2.11)	2
Improper gain or advantage (para. 2.12)	2
Research, statistics and analysis (para. 2.13)	17
Third party information (para. 2.14)	85
Privacy of the individual (para. 2.15)	44
Business affairs (para. 2.16)	23
Premature requests (para. 2.17)	3
Legal restrictions (para. 2.18)	25

Note: The total number of refusal cases is exceeded by the total number of times the reasons for refusal are quoted, as there may be more than one reason to refuse a request.

2. In 2014-15, we promoted the Code through different media and outdoor advertisement with the production of a new television Announcement in the Public Interest and posters, and commissioned a television broadcaster to produce a series of 5 one-minute episodes on the content of the Code for broadcast on television and on the Internet. The expenditure incurred was \$3.12 million. In 2015-16, we shall continue promoting the Code; the estimated expenditure in this regard is \$0.7 million.

3. We are planning to revamp the Code on Access to Information Website in 2015-16 to include such content as quarterly statistics on requests for information handled by bureaux/departments and their outcome. We shall study in detail whether the additional statistics will be suitable for publication in machine-readable formats. The revamp is expected to be completed in 2015. The work of revamping the website and promoting the Code as mentioned above will be undertaken with the Bureau's existing manpower.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0971)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In the introduction of the Policy Address announced by the Chief Executive in January 2015, it is stated that “On constitutional development, we have to be wary of suggestions that deviate from the Basic Law. Discussions on constitutional development over the past year or so have revealed that many fail to properly understand the relationship between the Central Authorities and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, and the constitutional requirements relating to constitutional development.They (university students and other young people) should be guided towards a full understanding of the constitutional relationship between our country and Hong Kong so that the discussion on constitutional development would not be fruitless.” This demonstrates the importance of promoting and letting the public to have a correct understanding of the Basic Law in taking forward Hong Kong’s constitutional development effectively. However, the 2015-16 estimate for Programme (2) where the above area of work falls under is lower than that of 2014-15.

Regarding the Bureau’s efforts in promoting public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law in 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16, please list out the specific work initiatives, resource input, manpower involved and government departments or non-government organisations that the Bureau has worked with or will work with.

Asked by: Hon NG Leung-sing (Member Question No. 7)

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) has spent/set aside about \$16 million in 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 for organising various promotional activities to enhance public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law. The 4th of April 2015 marks the 25th anniversary of the promulgation of the Basic Law. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government will organise different types of large-scale

activities during this period to promote a more in-depth understanding of the “one country, two systems” principle and the Basic Law in the community.

2. We have been adopting the following promotional strategies:

- (a) using electronic media targeted at the general public, such as Announcements in the Public Interest on television and radio, radio quiz programmes, Internet and smart-phone applications;
- (b) enhancing public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law through promotional activities at the district level, such as roving exhibitions and mobile resource centre; and
- (c) strengthening co-operation with community organisations in staging various promotional activities, such as seminars, talks and debate competitions, in order to reach a wider audience through their extensive community networks.

The above work is undertaken by a team responsible for the promotion of the Basic Law headed by a Principal Assistant Secretary and supported by 4 officers.

3. Besides, the HKSAR Government will also continue to promote the Basic Law through civic education, school education and training for civil servants. The HKSAR Government has set up the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (BLPSC) to provide steer on the overall programme and strategy for promoting the Basic Law. Under the steer of the BLPSC and its working groups (namely Local Community; Teachers and Students; Civil Servants; Industrial, Commercial and Professional Sectors; and Overseas Community Working Groups), relevant bureaux/departments, including the Home Affairs Bureau, Education Bureau, Civil Service Bureau, Trade and Industry Department and Information Services Department, assist in organising related Basic Law promotional activities in their respective sectors. Regarding non-government organisations, the CMAB receives applications from non-profit-making organisations for funding support under the Basic Law Promotion Sponsorship Scheme to organise various Basic Law promotional activities.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB075

(Question Serial No. 0972)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Estimate for 2015-16 under Programme (2) where initiatives to take forward Hong Kong's constitutional development fall under is \$5.6 million (4.8%) lower than the revised estimate for 2014-15. According to analysis, this is mainly due to the reduced provision arising from the conclusion of the public consultation on the methods for selecting the Chief Executive in 2017 and for forming the Legislative Council in 2016 in 2015-16.

Please list out the specific initiatives, resource input and allocation of manpower for taking forward Hong Kong's constitutional development in 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16.

Asked by: Hon NG Leung-sing (Member Question No. 8)

Reply:

The HKSAR Government conducted, from 4 December 2013 to 3 May 2014, the public consultation on the methods for selecting the Chief Executive (CE) in 2017 and for forming the Legislative Council (LegCo) in 2016. The HKSAR Government published on 15 July 2014 the Report on the Public Consultation on the Methods for Selecting the Chief Executive in 2017 and for Forming the Legislative Council in 2016. On the same day, the CE submitted his report to the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPCSC) to invite the NPCSC to make a determination on whether there is a need to amend the methods for selecting the CE in 2017 and for forming the LegCo in 2016. On 31 August 2014, the NPCSC adopted the Decision of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress on Issues Relating to the Selection of the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region by Universal Suffrage and on the Method for Forming the Legislative Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in the Year 2016. Subsequently, the HKSAR Government conducted, from 7 January 2015 to 7 March 2015, the public consultation on the method for selecting the CE by universal suffrage.

2. The respective expenditures on, the revised estimates and estimates of the above public consultations on constitutional development (excluding staff cost) in 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 are as follows:

	Million (\$)		
	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Printing	0.9	2.0	1.2
Publicity	6.1	9.4	3.5
Others (including postage, delivery, website development and maintenance, etc.)	0.2	0.7	0.3
Total	7.2	12.1	5.0

3. On staff establishment, 6 time-limited posts, including 1 Administrative Officer, 1 Senior Executive Officer, 1 Executive Officer II and 3 Assistant Clerical Officers posts were created in 2013-14, 2014-15 and for 2015-16. In 2014-15, we also created 1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade C post for about 2 months.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB076

(Question Serial No. 2459)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Will the Government list out the expenditure of the Office of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in Beijing, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu, Wuhan as well as the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan in 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15, and the estimated expenditure of these offices in 2015-16? Does the Government have any plan to set up an office in Fujian in the coming three years? If yes, what are the plan and expenditure involved? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon TAM Yiu-chung (Member Question No. 8)

Reply:

Regarding the Mainland and Taiwan Offices (namely the Beijing Office (BJO), the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan, and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan (HKETCO)), the actual expenditure in 2012-13 and 2013-14, the revised estimated expenditure for 2014-15 and estimated expenditure for 2015-16 are as follows:

Office	Actual Expenditure in 2012-13 (\$ million)	Actual Expenditure in 2013-14 (\$ million)	Revised estimated expenditure for 2014-15 (\$ million)	Estimated expenditure for 2015-16 (\$ million)
BJO	61.48	64.54	69.75	74.33
Guangdong ETO	43.71	51.09	54.78	54.92
Shanghai ETO	24.07	29.85	34.78	39.49
Chengdu ETO	22.92	33.55	36.72	40.94

Wuhan ETO[#]	-	0.96 (expenditure for early preparatory work)	20.67	23.77
HKETCO	23.86	24.93	24.59	24.49

The Wuhan ETO was set up on 1 April 2014.

2. The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region attaches great importance to our relations with the Fujian Province, especially on economic and trade co-operation. To leverage on the developments of the Fujian Province and the Economic Zone on the West Coast of the Taiwan Strait, the Fujian Liaison Unit was set up in 2012.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB077

(Question Serial No. 2460)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Will the Government list out the expenditure on promotion of the Basic Law in 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15? What are the specific initiatives and expenditure for promoting the Basic Law in 2015-16?

Asked by: Hon TAM Yiu-chung (Member Question No. 9)

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau has spent about \$16 million in 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 for organising various promotional activities to enhance public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law. In 2015-16, we will continue to set aside about \$16 million for organising various Basic Law promotional activities. The 4th of April 2015 marks the 25th anniversary of the promulgation of the Basic Law. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government will organise different types of large-scale activities during this period to promote a more in-depth understanding of the “one country, two systems” principle and the Basic Law in the community.

2. We have been adopting the following promotional strategies:
- (a) using electronic media targeted at the general public, such as Announcements in the Public Interest on television and radio, radio quiz programmes, Internet and smart-phone applications;
 - (b) enhancing public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law through promotional activities at the district level, such as roving exhibitions and mobile resource centre; and

- (c) strengthening co-operation with community organisations in staging various promotional activities, such as seminars, talks and debate competitions, in order to reach a wider audience through their extensive community networks.

3. Besides, the HKSAR Government will also continue to promote the Basic Law through civic education, school education and training for civil servants. The HKSAR Government has set up the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (BLPSC) to provide steer on the overall programme and strategy for promoting the Basic Law. Under the steer of the BLPSC and its working groups (namely Local Community; Teachers and Students; Civil Servants; Industrial, Commercial and Professional Sectors; and Overseas Community Working Groups), relevant bureaux/departments, including the Home Affairs Bureau, Education Bureau, Civil Service Bureau, Trade and Industry Department and Information Services Department, assist in organising related Basic Law promotional activities in their respective sectors.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB078

(Question Serial No. 2461)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

What is the expenditure for promoting universal suffrage for the Chief Executive (CE) election in 2017 in 2014-15, the specific promotional initiatives in 2015-16 and the expenditure involved? What is the expenditure for formulating the package of proposals on universal suffrage for the CE election in 2017?

Asked by: Hon TAM Yiu-chung (Member Question No. 10)

Reply:

In 2014-15 and 2015-16, the revised estimates and estimates of expenditure on publicity for the public consultations on constitutional development (excluding staff cost) are respectively as follows:

	Million (\$)	
	2014-15	2015-16
Printing	2.0	1.2
Publicity	9.4	3.5
Others (including postage, delivery, website development and maintenance, etc.)	0.7	0.3
Total	12.1	5.0

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB079

(Question Serial No. 2462)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual
(5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The estimated expenditure for the Programme: Rights of the Individual for 2015-16 is \$3.6 million lower than the revised estimate for 2014-15, representing a substantial decrease of 12.7%. What are the reasons for reduction in expenditure?

Asked by: Hon TAM Yiu-chung (Member Question No. 11)

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau's expenditure under Programme (4) in 2014-15 is higher than that in 2015-16 mainly due to deployment of extra resources in 2014-15 to enhance promotion of the Code on Access to Information and equal opportunities for people of different sexual orientations and transgenders.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB080

(Question Serial No. 1896)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau will continue to deepen regional co-operation with the Mainland, targeting in particular at Guangdong, Beijing, Shanghai, Fujian and other provinces and regions in the Pan-Pearl River Delta Region. In this connection, will the Government advise:

1. on the specific work plan in 2015-16 and provide a breakdown on estimate of expenditure, including estimated expenditure of each Mainland office; and
2. whether it has any plans to set up more offices in the Mainland; if it has; of the details?

Asked by: Hon TIEN Pei-chun, James (Member Question No. 36)

Reply:

Policy matters on deepening regional co-operation under Programme (2) "Constitutional and Mainland Affairs" are mainly handled by 2 divisions of staff in the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB). In addition, the Beijing Office and the 4 Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan (Mainland Offices) respectively under Programme (3) "Mainland and Taiwan Offices" play a leading and co-ordinating role in fostering closer ties with the Mainland at various levels. As the work on deepening regional co-operation is an integral part of the duties and functions of the officers concerned in the CMAB and the Mainland Offices, the manpower provision cannot be singled out or quantified by region. Generally speaking, an estimated financial provision of about \$149 million (excluding staff cost) under the 2 said Programmes is for the CMAB and the Mainland Offices to take forward the work to deepen regional co-operation with the Mainland in 2015-16.

2. With the above provision, CMAB and the Mainland Offices will deepen regional co-operation with the Mainland, including organising and providing logistic support for co-operation fora (such as conferences and meetings) in Hong Kong; participating in bilateral and multilateral co-operation fora in the Mainland; enhancing liaison and communications with the Central People's Government, the provincial and municipal governments and other local authorities in the Mainland; and organising events (such as seminars, exhibitions and workshops) to promote Hong Kong's strengths and trade and commercial interests.

3. We plan to set up a liaison unit in Shandong Province under the Shanghai ETO this year, and a liaison unit in the central region upon the full operation of the Wuhan ETO next year.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB081

(Question Serial No. 1897)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In 2015-16, the relevant Mainland and Taiwan Offices will continue to improve the network of the Mainland Offices by setting up more liaison units. In this connection, will the Government advise this Committee of the locations identified for setting up these units and the reasons for selecting the locations, as well as the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon TIEN Pei-chun, James (Member Question No. 37)

Reply:

We plan to set up a liaison unit in Shandong Province under the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (ETO) in Shanghai this year. Shandong Province, which borders the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei Metropolis Circle to the north and the Yangtze River Delta Region to the south, is an important economic growth pole in the eastern coastal areas of the Mainland. Setting up a liaison unit in Shandong Province will facilitate Hong Kong people and enterprises to capitalise on the opportunities brought about by the development of the eastern region. We also plan to set up a liaison unit in the central region next year upon the full operation of the Wuhan ETO. In deciding the location of the liaison unit to be set up in the central region, we will take into account relevant factors, including the positioning, development situation and potential of the provinces/municipalities concerned; their economic and trade relations with Hong Kong and room for complementarities; and views of the industries. In 2015-16, we have set aside \$7.07 million under Programme (3) "Mainland and Taiwan Offices" for meeting the recurrent expenditure of the above two liaison units.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB082

(Question Serial No. 1898)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

In 2015-16, the relevant Mainland and Taiwan Offices will promote the strengths of Hong Kong in the Mainland and Taiwan. In this connection, will the Government advise:

1. on the specific work plan and provide a breakdown of the estimated expenditure; and
2. whether the effectiveness or cost-effectiveness of the initiatives taken has been evaluated; if yes, of the details; if no, of the reasons?

Asked by: Hon TIEN Pei-chun, James (Member Question No. 38)

Reply:

The Mainland and Taiwan Offices (namely the Beijing Office, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan, and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan) proactively serve as important bridges between Hong Kong and the Mainland/Taiwan, including enhancing liaison and communication with the counterparts in the areas under their coverage; representing and promoting Hong Kong's trade and commercial interests; encouraging and attracting investments to Hong Kong and promoting Hong Kong's many advantages as an investment and business hub in Asia; and promoting the strengths of Hong Kong through appropriate channels. The above areas of work complement each other in showcasing the positive image and attractions of Hong Kong in the Mainland and Taiwan.

2. In 2015-16, the Mainland and Taiwan Offices will continue to adopt a multi-pronged approach in promoting Hong Kong through appropriate channels, including attending meetings and calling on the Mainland/Taiwan counterparts; organising/participating in seminars, exhibitions and workshops; organising/participating in public relations, cultural

exchange functions and events; visiting enterprises with potential and interest in investing in Hong Kong; giving public speeches, media interviews and briefings; and issuing circulars, newsletters and press releases.

3. The Mainland and Taiwan Offices will review the cost-effectiveness of various initiatives from time to time to improve the relevant promotional work. On cost-effectiveness, promotional activities organised by the Mainland and Taiwan Offices last year achieved the effect of extensively promoting Hong Kong in the Mainland and Taiwan, for example, the “Harbin Hong Kong Week 2014” launched in Harbin attracted over 60 000 participants; the “Hong Kong Week 2014” launched in Taiwan recorded an attendance of 120 000; the “Shanghai-Hong Kong Co-operation Summit” was attended by some 300 people from different sectors; and the “2014 Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic Co-operation Forum” was participated by some 250 representatives of the financial services, industrial and commercial sectors and academics from the two places.

4. The Mainland and Taiwan Offices’ work on promoting Hong Kong is an integral part of their roles and functions. The estimated expenditure involved cannot be singled out and separately quantified.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB083

(Question Serial No. 1120)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development
Secretary for Security

Question:

It is stated under this Programme that information and other appropriate support will be provided to Hong Kong residents in the Mainland and Taiwan. In this connection:

1. The number of cases of provision of practical assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland and the number of enquiries handled by the Immigration Divisions of the Beijing Office / the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong / the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Chengdu are provided, but the number of requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents in distress in Taiwan is not. What is the reason? Is there any difference between the mechanism or manner in handling requests from Hong Kong residents in the Mainland and that in Taiwan? If so, what are the details?
2. What were the number of requests for assistance received from Hong Kong residents in Taiwan, of cases resolved and of cases followed up in the past three years? What was the nature of such cases?
3. In 2015-16, what are the specific measures for promoting Hong Kong's edge? What are the respective expenditure, manpower and implementation schedule involved? What are the changes made as compared with those in 2014-15 and what are the reasons? Has the Government evaluated the effectiveness and reviewed whether the existing establishment could cope with the workload for promoting economic, trade and cultural exchange with Taiwan? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
4. Regarding the information disseminated to Hong Kong residents in the Mainland and Taiwan, what are the major areas covered and by which means or system is the information disseminated? What are the expenditures and manpower involved?

5. Will a new information platform be created in 2015-16 and will manpower be deployed to facilitate more speedy dissemination of information to users? If so, please provide details of the new information system, the provision involved, the number of staff to be increased, the relevant posts to be created and the terms of employment involved. If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chuen, Tony (Member Question No. 17)

Reply:

The Mainland and Taiwan Offices (namely the Beijing Office, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan, as well as the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan (HKETCO)) serve as important bridges between Hong Kong and the Mainland/Taiwan, and their responsibilities include providing assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress. The Mainland Offices and the HKETCO also submits to the Legislative Council annual work reports which include the statistics and an overview of such requests for assistance. At present, the Hong Kong Immigration Department has three immigration divisions in the Mainland, stationed in the Beijing Office as well as the Economic and Trade Offices in Guangdong and Chengdu respectively, which provide assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. In handling requests for assistance involving Hong Kong residents in distress in Taiwan, the HKETCO maintains close liaison with the Hong Kong Immigration Department and offers possible assistance in light of the circumstances, including providing advice on such matters as local administrative procedures, and on how to liaise with the relevant organisations or seek legal advice.

2. In the past 3 years, the numbers of requests for assistance (excluding general enquiries) received by the HKETCO are as follows:

2012: 35

2013: 30

2014: 35

Generally speaking, the requests for assistance are related to loss of travel documents, enquiries about the progress of judicial cases involving Hong Kong residents, requests for legal assistance in Taiwan or injuries/deaths due to accidents.

3. Promotion work on Hong Kong's comparative advantages by the Mainland and Taiwan Offices in 2015-16 is primarily based on that in 2014-15. In 2015-16, the Mainland and Taiwan Offices will continue to adopt a multi-pronged approach in promoting Hong Kong through appropriate channels, including attending meetings and calling on the Mainland/Taiwan counterparts; organising/participating in seminars, exhibitions and workshops; organising/participating in public relations, cultural exchange functions and events; giving public speeches, media interviews and briefings; and issuing circulars, newsletters and press releases. As for promoting economic, trade and cultural exchange with Taiwan, the existing establishment of the HKETCO is able to cope with delivering the above work in Taiwan. We will review the resources for the HKETCO regularly to ensure the smooth performance of its functions.

4. On supporting Hong Kong residents and enterprises, the Mainland and Taiwan Offices collect practical information such as medical care, education, legal services etc., and disseminate such information through production of information booklets and the offices' websites to assist Hong Kong residents to adapt to living in the area. In 2015-16, the Mainland and Taiwan Offices will continue to disseminate practical information to Hong Kong residents in the Mainland and Taiwan through producing information booklets and updating the offices' websites.

5. As promoting Hong Kong's comparative advantages and disseminating information are integral parts of the functions of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices, the estimated expenditure and manpower provision cannot be singled out and separately quantified.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB084

(Question Serial No. 0249)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Under this Programme, it is mentioned that the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau will conclude the public consultation on the method for selecting the Chief Executive by universal suffrage. In this connection, will the Government advise this Committee:

- a. of the expenditure on publicity (e.g. advertisement, public events, etc.) since the launch of the public consultation;
- b. whether it has set aside or allocated additional provision for the publicity of the public consultation in 2015-16; and
- c. whether it has mapped out any specific plans or directions for the above publicity work; if yes, of the details?

Asked by: Hon WONG Kwok-hing (Member Question No. 1)

Reply:

In 2014-15 and 2015-16, the revised estimates and estimates of expenditure on publicity for the public consultations on constitutional development (excluding staff cost) are respectively as follows:

	Million (\$)	
	2014-15	2015-16
Printing	2.0	1.2
Publicity	9.4	3.5
Others (including postage, delivery, website development and maintenance, etc.)	0.7	0.3
Total	12.1	5.0

2. In 2015-16, we will continue the publicity work to mobilise the support of different sectors of the community to implement universal suffrage for the Chief Executive election in 2017 in strict compliance with the Basic Law and the relevant Interpretation and Decisions of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB085

(Question Serial No. 0250)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Under Brief Description of this Programme, it is mentioned that the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau promotes public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law. Will the Government advise on:

- a. its plan to promote public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law;
- b. the specific programmes launched under the strategies of using electronic media, organising promotional activities and strengthening co-operation with community organisations respectively in undertaking the above work in the past year; and
- c. the provision set aside for the above work?

Asked by: Hon WONG Kwok-hing (Member Question No. 3)

Reply:

In 2015-16, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau will continue to set aside about \$16 million for organising various promotional activities to enhance public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law. The 4th of April 2015 marks the 25th anniversary of the promulgation of the Basic Law. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government will organise different types of large-scale activities during this period to promote a more in-depth understanding of the “one country, two systems” principle and the Basic Law in the community.

2. Besides, the HKSAR Government will also continue to promote the Basic Law through civic education, school education and training for civil servants. The HKSAR Government has set up the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (BLPSC) to provide steer on the overall programme and strategy for promoting the Basic Law. Under the steer

of the BLPSC and its working groups (namely Local Community; Teachers and Students; Civil Servants; Industrial, Commercial and Professional Sectors; and Overseas Community Working Groups), relevant bureaux/departments, including the Home Affairs Bureau, Education Bureau, Civil Service Bureau, Trade and Industry Department and Information Services Department, assist in organising related Basic Law promotional activities in their respective sectors.

3. In 2014-15, we have adopted the following promotional strategies:

- (a) using electronic media targeted at the general public, such as Announcements in the Public Interest on television and radio, radio quiz programmes, Internet and smart-phone applications;
- (b) enhancing public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law through promotional activities at the district level, such as roving exhibitions and mobile resource centre; and
- (c) strengthening co-operation with community organisations in staging various promotional activities, such as seminars, talks and debate competitions, in order to reach a wider audience through their extensive community networks.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB086

(Question Serial No. 0607)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention:

1. It is stated that more liaison units will continue to be set up. What are the number and locations of liaison units intended to be set up in 2015-16? What factors will be taken into account in selecting the locations and what are the reasons for that? What are the additional funding and staffing resources involved?
2. It is stated that economic and trade liaison with the Mainland will be strengthened and investment promotion function in the Mainland will be enhanced. What are the details of the plan and work arrangements involved?

Asked by: Hon WONG Kwok-hing (Member Question No. 10)

Reply:

We plan to set up a liaison unit in Shandong Province under the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (ETO) in Shanghai this year. Shandong Province, which borders the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei Metropolis Circle to the north and the Yangtze River Delta Region to the south, is an important economic growth pole in the eastern coastal areas of the Mainland. Setting up a liaison unit in Shandong Province will facilitate Hong Kong people and enterprises to capitalise on the opportunities brought about by the development of the eastern region. We also plan to set up a liaison unit in the central region next year upon the full operation of the Wuhan ETO. In deciding the location of the liaison unit to be set up in the central region, we will take into account relevant factors, including the positioning, development situation and potential of the provinces/municipalities concerned; their economic and trade relations with Hong Kong and room for complementarities; and views of the industries.

2. In 2015-16, we have set aside \$7.07 million under Programme (3) “Mainland and Taiwan Offices” for meeting the recurrent expenditure of the above two liaison units. The setting up of these two liaison units involves creation of 4 posts, namely 2 Senior Administrative Officer and 2 Trade Officer posts.

3. For the coming year, the Mainland Offices will continue to promote the economic interest of Hong Kong, and enhance investment promotion in the Mainland through various channels. These include attending meetings and calling on the Mainland counterparts, as well as organising/participating in seminars, exhibitions and workshops.

4. The Mainland Offices also work closely with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (TDC), which conducts thematic studies on investment environment in the Mainland. The related reports are available online at TDC’s website, which is hyperlinked to the websites of Mainland Offices for easy access by the public. The Mainland Offices will also assist Hong Kong businessmen operating in the Mainland in liaising with the relevant local authorities if they wish to obtain more in-depth information about the investment potential of a particular city in the Mainland.

5. In promoting inward investment, the Investment Promotion Units of the Mainland Offices, working together with Invest Hong Kong, will continue to identify potential Mainland enterprises in the areas that they cover; proactively approach and visit the enterprises identified; provide one-stop information and consultation services; and assist in organising incoming visits to facilitate the Mainland enterprises to set up or expand their business operations in Hong Kong.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB087

(Question Serial No. 1276)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

One of the Bureau's work is to engage the Taiwan-Hong Kong Economic and Cultural Co-operation Council (THEC) to take forward various priority co-operation areas agreed between the Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic and Cultural Cooperation and Promotion Council (ECCPC) and THEC.

How many meetings were held between the THEC and the ECCPC last year? How were the contents of various priority co-operation areas agreed between both sides followed up? What are the current progress and effectiveness of the relevant work?

The Hong Kong Tourism Board has commented that Taiwan is a highly potential visitor source for Hong Kong. What activities (such as exchange and promotion) will the Government organise in co-operation with the THEC in the future to enhance promotion of Hong Kong in Taiwan?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ting-kwong (Member Question No. 62)

Reply:

Since their establishment in 2010, the Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic and Cultural Cooperation Promotion Council (ECCPC) and the Taiwan-Hong Kong Economic and Cultural Co-operation Council (THEC) have convened annual joint meetings to promote Hong Kong-Taiwan co-operation in various priority areas on the economic and trade, cultural, tourism, social livelihood, city management and law enforcement exchange fronts. The 5th joint meeting was held in December 2014 in Taipei. At the meeting, both sides discussed the latest progress of areas pursued on the ECCPC-THEC platform, which included: both sides signed an agreement last year to launch the Asia Cruise Fund, encouraging cruise lines to include Hong Kong and Taiwan in more cruise itineraries; deposit protection agencies on both sides signed a memorandum of understanding to

enhance information sharing and co-operation in dealing with cross-region deposit matters; the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation and the Industrial Technology Research Institute in Taiwan signed a co-operation agreement to create a platform for matching investors and business partners for high-tech enterprises in the two places; the leading Chinese orchestras of the two places signed a co-operation agreement to enhance artistic exchange and resource sharing etc. In addition, both sides agreed to establish a point-to-point communication mechanism on 4 fronts including communicable diseases, food safety, Chinese medicine and Western drugs, facilitating information exchange and responsive communication between relevant bodies on related matters.

2. In respect of efforts in promoting Hong Kong in Taiwan, the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan (HKETCO) has been organising joint activities with the Taiwan office of the Hong Kong Tourism Board to promote Hong Kong's tourism industry. The HKETCO will also continue to promote Hong Kong through other public relations functions and cultural events, including:

- (a) investment promotion and trade seminars in major Taiwan cities and counties to promote Hong Kong's various advantages, and encourage Taiwan enterprises to invest in Hong Kong;
- (b) a series of talks on Hong Kong culture in major Taiwan cities and counties to promote cultural exchanges between the two places, and cultural activities co-organised with the city and county authorities to promote Hong Kong's unique culture and image;
- (c) the annual "Hong Kong Week" activities co-organised with the Hong Kong-Taiwan Cultural Co-operation Committee to showcase Hong Kong's unique arts and culture to the Taiwan community;
- (d) an inter-city forum jointly organised with a city or county authority to publicise the experience and success stories of Hong Kong in city management; and
- (e) joint activities with the Taiwan office of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council to strengthen liaison with different sectors in Taiwan.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB088

(Question Serial No. 1277)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Provision for 2015-16 is \$16.6 million (6.9%) higher than the revised estimate for the previous financial year due to the increased provision for continuing to improve the network of the Mainland Offices by setting up more liaison units. In addition, there will be a net increase of 2 posts.

How many Mainland Offices and liaison units have been set up so far? Will the Government set out in table form the relevant staff establishment and expenditure on salaries?

What are the considerations for setting up liaison units in the Mainland? Does the Government have any plans to further set up more liaison units in the coming years?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ting-kwong (Member Question No. 63)

Reply:

Following the establishment of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (ETO) in Wuhan in April 2014, the HKSAR Government has a more comprehensive network of offices in the Mainland, with the Shanghai ETO in the east, the Guangdong ETO in the south, the Chengdu ETO in the west, the Beijing Office (BJO) in the north and the Wuhan ETO in the central region.

2. Currently, we have set up the Shenzhen Liaison Unit and the Fujian Liaison Unit under the Guangdong ETO, and the Chongqing Liaison Unit under the Chengdu ETO. To further improve the network of Mainland Offices so that each Office will be linked with one to two liaison units, we set up the Liaoning Liaison Unit under the BJO in December 2014. We also plan to set up a liaison unit in Shandong Province under the Shanghai ETO this

year, and a liaison unit in the central region next year upon the full operation of the Wuhan ETO.

3. The establishment of the BJO for 2015-16 will comprise 3 directorate officers (i.e. 1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade A, 1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade B1 and 1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade C) and 16 non-directorate officers (i.e. 2 Senior Administrative Officers, 1 Principal Trade Officer, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer, 3 Immigration Officers, 1 Chief Information Officer, 1 Information Officer, 1 Executive Officer I and 1 Senior Personal Secretary). The estimated expenditure of the BJO on salaries for the year is \$20.2 million. The above figures have included the manpower and estimated expenditure on salaries for the Liaoning Liaison Unit.

4. The establishment of the Guangdong ETO for 2015-16 will comprise 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade B) and 14 non-directorate officers (i.e. 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 4 Principal Trade Officers, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer, 2 Immigration Officers and 1 Principal Information Officer). The estimated expenditure of the Guangdong ETO on salaries for the year is \$15.1 million. The above figures have included the manpower and estimated expenditure on salaries for the Shenzhen Liaison Unit and the Fujian Liaison Unit.

5. The establishment of the Shanghai ETO for 2015-16 will comprise 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade B) and 8 non-directorate officers (i.e. 2 Senior Administrative Officers, 1 Principal Trade Officer, 4 Trade Officers and 1 Senior Information Officer). The estimated expenditure of the Shanghai ETO on salaries for the year is \$9.52 million. The above figures have included the additional manpower and estimated expenditure on salaries for the liaison unit intended to be set up in Shandong Province this year.

6. The establishment of the Chengdu ETO for 2015-16 will comprise 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade C) and 11 non-directorate officers (i.e. 2 Senior Administrative Officers, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Senior Information Officer, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer and 2 Immigration Officers). The estimated expenditure of the Chengdu ETO on salaries for the year is \$11.45 million. The above figures have included the manpower and estimated expenditure on salaries for the Chongqing Liaison Unit.

7. The establishment of the Wuhan ETO for 2015-16 will comprise 1 directorate officer (Administrative Officer Staff Grade C) and 8 non-directorate officers (i.e. 2 Senior Administrative Officers, 4 Trade Officers, 1 Senior Information Officer, and 1 Executive Officer I). The estimated expenditure of the Wuhan ETO on salaries for the year is \$6.28 million. The above figures have included the additional manpower and estimated expenditure on salaries for the liaison unit intended to be set up in the central region next year upon the full operation of the Wuhan ETO.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB089

(Question Serial No. 0049)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

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

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

What is the estimated provision for the salary and allowances of the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs for 2015-16?

Asked by: Hon WONG Yuk-man (Member Question No. 1)

Reply:

For budgetary purposes, the provision for the salary in respect of the position of Director of Bureau in the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau for 2015-16 is \$3.58 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB090

(Question Serial No. 0061)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

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

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

What is the estimated provision for the salary and allowances of the Under Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs for 2015-16?

Asked by: Hon WONG Yuk-man (Member Question No. 2)

Reply:

For budgetary purposes, the provision for the salary in respect of the position of Deputy Director of Bureau in the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau for 2015-16 is \$2.33 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB091

(Question Serial No. 0062)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

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

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

What is the estimated provision for the salary and allowances of the Political Assistant to the Secretary of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs for 2015-16?

Asked by: Hon WONG Yuk-man (Member Question No. 3)

Reply:

For budgetary purposes, the provision for the salary in respect of the position of Political Assistant to Director of Bureau in the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau for 2015-16 is \$1.25 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB092

(Question Serial No. 1344)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Will the Government please advise:

1. the public relations, cultural and tourism promotion events for promoting the strengths of Hong Kong organised by the Mainland and Taiwan Offices in the past three years, as well as the expenditure and manpower involved;
2. the public relations and cultural events for promoting Hong Kong's tourism to be organised in 2015-16 to open up markets, as well as the expenditure and manpower involved; and
3. in organising the above events, the ways in which the Mainland and Taiwan Offices share resources with the Hong Kong Tourism Board to promote Hong Kong jointly?

Asked by: Hon YIU Si-wing (Member Question No. 18)

Reply:

The Beijing Office, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan, and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan (Mainland and Taiwan Offices) have taken continuous efforts in actively promoting the strengths of Hong Kong and organising or co-organising public relations, cultural and tourism promotion events. The initiatives taken over the past three years include organising or co-organising the launching of film festivals, dance performances, theatrical shows, concerts, arts exhibitions, photo exhibitions, comic exhibitions, book fairs, lantern carnivals, radio and television programmes, etc. The Offices also co-operated with the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) to launch large-scale promotional events, such as organising the "Taste of Hong Kong" gourmet art exhibition, producing and publicising the

handbook on “Pioneer of Art in Asia - Hong Kong”, to showcase Hong Kong’s culture, arts and tourism from different perspectives.

2. In 2015-16, the Mainland and Taiwan Offices will continue to promote the strengths of Hong Kong through appropriate channels, including the following public relations cultural and tourism promotion events:

- (a) supporting Hong Kong organisations in launching book fairs, film exhibitions and philharmonic orchestra performances in the Mainland;
- (b) co-operating with Mainland radio stations to launch programmes promoting Hong Kong’s positive image; and
- (c) organising a series of talks on Hong Kong culture in Taiwan to promote cultural exchanges between the two places, and co-organising with the city and county authorities in Taiwan cultural activities to promote Hong Kong’s unique culture and image.

The Mainland Offices have planned to roll out joint promotions with HKTB in the eastern, central and western regions of the Mainland, with a view to attracting overnight visitors to Hong Kong. The Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan will stage in Taiwan an exhibition of photos of Hong Kong collected from the two places to showcase Hong Kong’s unique scenery and travel experience, with a view to attracting Taiwan visitors to Hong Kong.

3. As the work involved in promoting the strengths of Hong Kong and organising or co-organising public relations, cultural and tourism promotion events is an integral part of the duties and functions of the offices, the expenditure and manpower involved cannot be singled out and separately quantified.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB093

(Question Serial No. 2017)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

It was reported that a Legislative Council member of the District Council (second functional constituency might announce resignation to trigger a by-election. In this connection, would the Government advise on the following:

In the Budget of the coming year, has the Government earmarked a sum for the by-election? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Han-pan (Member Question No. 18)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office has reserved approximately \$200 million in 2015-16 for the preparation and conduct of any possible by-election.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB094

(Question Serial No. 2018)

Head: (163) Registration And Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In the District Council election in 2011, there were many rumours of illegal vote-rigging activities. In this connection, would the Government advise on the following:

- (a) Has the Government taken any measures to prevent vote-rigging? If so, what are the manpower, expenditure and measures involved? If not, what are the reasons?
- (b) Has the Government conducted any publicity campaigns to prevent vote-rigging in the District Council election to be held in late 2015? If so, what are the manpower, expenditure and measures involved? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Han-pan (Member Question No. 19)

Reply:

In the light of public concern on the accuracy of residential addresses recorded in the voter register in recent years, the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) has stepped up publicity since the 2012 Voter Registration (VR) cycle to remind the public about the importance of providing true and accurate information for registration and updating their registered residential addresses. Besides, the REO has implemented various checking measures and inquiry process to improve the accuracy and completeness of VR records. The checking measures include follow-up inquiries on undelivered poll cards arising from elections; cross-matching of the residential addresses of electors with the Housing Department, the Hong Kong Housing Society and the Home Affairs Department; checks on residential addresses with multiple electors or multiple surnames of electors; random sample checks on registered and newly registered electors; checks on addresses with incomplete information or suspected non-residential addresses; and checks on addresses situated at buildings already demolished or to be demolished.

2. In the 2015 VR cycle, the REO will continue the checking work and conduct full-scale verification with the Housing Department and the Hong Kong Housing Society in respect of electors with registered residential addresses in public housing units. The number of electors covered by the checking measures in the 2015 VR cycle will be around 1.6 million, representing about 46% of electors contained in the register.

3. The REO will increase manpower and resources in 2015-16 to handle the large number of applications for VR and the updating of particulars expected to be received before the 2015 District Council election and the 2016 Legislative Council election, and to enhance the checking work. The VR and checking work will be carried out by a team comprising 98 civil servants (including 12 time-limited civil service posts) and around 500 non-civil service contract staff. The expenditure on staff remuneration and the related operational expenses are estimated to be around \$111 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB095

(Question Serial No. 1027)

Head: (163) Registration And Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The number of new electors registered in the coming year will increase significantly to 159 100 from 78 837 in 2014 and the number of elector records updated will also increase substantially from 124 422 this year to 242 800 next year. What is the basis for such estimation? To which age group are the majority of the new electors expected to belong?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher (Member Question No. 31)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office estimates the total number of newly registered electors in the 2015 voter registration cycle after making reference to the number of applications for voter registration handled in past election years and recent years. We have not made further estimation of the number of newly registered electors by different age groups.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB096

(Question Serial No. 1048)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

A pan-democratic Legislative Council member announced earlier that he would resign from the office of legislator in order to trigger de facto "referendum" through resignation and by-election. Has the Government earmarked resources to prepare for by-election after his resignation? If so, what is the amount of provision? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher (Member Question No. 26)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office has reserved approximately \$200 million in 2015-16 for the preparation and conduct of any possible by-election.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB097

(Question Serial No. 1059)

Head: (163) Registration And Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

It is pointed out in the Estimates that the Registration and Electoral Office will continue to encourage eligible persons (including young persons in particular) to register as electors. Besides public broadcasting channels, will publicity be made through social media popular among young persons?

Given the expanding population of the ethnic minorities, will the Government put in place measures to encourage and assist members of the ethnic minorities who are Hong Kong permanent residents to register as electors?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher (Member Question No. 17)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) will make use of different channels to encourage appeal to members of the public in different age groups to register as electors. Publicity measures include traditional media (such as television, radio and newspaper) and new media that are more popular among young people (such as websites and mobile applications), etc.

2. To help ethnic minorities register as electors, the voter registration website of the REO (www.voterregistration.gov.hk) provides, in 7 languages of the ethnic minorities, information on the eligibility for registration, means to collect and submit application forms, statutory deadlines and enquiry hotline services. Besides, the REO will, through the Home Affairs Department, set up voter registration counters in the support service centres for ethnic minorities during the voter registration campaign to encourage and help eligible ethnic minorities register as electors. The REO will also post publicity notices and distribute publicity leaflets in the support service centres; applications forms are also available for completion by eligible persons. The REO will disseminate information on voter registration to ethnic minorities through radio and newspapers for ethnic minorities so as to call upon eligible persons to register as electors.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB098

(Question Serial No. 1060)

Head: (163) Registration And Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

A total of 45 posts will be created in the Registration and Electoral Office in 2015-16 for undertaking election-related duties. While more manpower will be required in the 2016 Legislative Council election year, the establishment still sees a significant increase of 39% over that of 2012. What are the major areas of duties of the additional staffing establishment? Will the additional manpower be adjusted correspondingly in the non-election year in 2017-18?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher (Member Question No. 18)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) will create 45 posts in 2015-16, including 1 Chief Executive Officer, 9 Senior Executive Officer, 22 Executive Officer I, 3 Executive Officer II, 1 Information Officer, 4 Clerical Officer, 4 Assistant Clerical Officer and 1 Supplies Officer. The major responsibilities of such posts are amending the relevant electoral legislation; reviewing, updating and issuing guidelines on election-related activities; conducting the 2016 Legislative Council geographical constituency delineation exercise; as well as other implementation work in relation to the conduct of the 2015 District Council ordinary election and the preparation for the 2016 Legislative Council general election, including reviewing practical arrangements for polling, identifying suitable venues for polling and counting stations, reviewing and planning recruitment exercises and training programmes for polling and counting staff, acquiring electoral materials and support services, as well as planning and conducting large-scale voter registration publicity activities. The REO will suitably adjust its manpower according to the requirements for various electoral tasks in the election cycle. All the 45 posts mentioned above, except for the Information Officer post, are time-limited posts and will be deleted after the REO has completed its various tasks in the election cycle from 2015 to 2017.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB099

(Question Serial No. 1794)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

A pan-democratic Legislative Council member plans to trigger a so-called “de-facto referendum” by resigning after the vote on the electoral reform package in the middle of this year. Has the Government earmarked resources for the by-election? If so, what is the budget? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon IP Kwok-him (Member Question No. 1)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office has reserved approximately \$200 million in 2015-16 for the preparation and conduct of any possible by-election.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB100

(Question Serial No. 1795)

Head: (163) Registration And Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The number of constituencies will increase by 19 to 431 for the 2015 District Council election. How much resources will the Government allocate to conduct this election? What is the increase in expenditure when compared to that of the 2011 District Council election?

Asked by: Hon IP Kwok-him (Member Question No. 2)

Reply:

As far as a District Council ordinary election is concerned, it normally spans several financial years from the preparation to the completion of all winding-up work. Regarding the 2015 District Council election, the preparatory work commenced in 2014-15 and a provision of \$100 million is included in the 2014-15 revised estimate for the purpose. As for 2015-16, the provision for the Registration and Electoral Office for the preparation and conduct of the 2015 District Council election is \$365 million. Since the 2015 District Council election will be held in November 2015, it is anticipated that the payment of part of the election expenses incurred has to be settled in 2016-17.

2. As for the preparation and conduct of the 2011 District Council election, the actual expenditure is \$194 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB101

(Question Serial No. 1597)

Head: (163) Registration And Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Provision for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the Registration and Electoral Office increases by 300.5% when compared with the revised estimate for 2014-15, and it is expected that 45 posts will be created. Please set out the ranks, nature of work and expenditures involved for the posts created.

Asked by: Hon IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina (Member Question No. 53)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) will create 45 posts in 2015-16, including 1 Chief Executive Officer, 9 Senior Executive Officer, 22 Executive Officer I, 3 Executive Officer II, 1 Information Officer, 4 Clerical Officer, 4 Assistant Clerical Officer and 1 Supplies Officer. The major responsibilities of such posts are amending the relevant electoral legislation; reviewing, updating and issuing guidelines on election-related activities; conducting the 2016 Legislative Council geographical constituency delineation exercise; as well as other implementation work in relation to the conduct of the 2015 District Council ordinary election and the preparation for the 2016 Legislative Council general election, including reviewing practical arrangements for polling, identifying suitable venues for polling and counting stations, reviewing and planning recruitment exercises and training programmes for polling and counting staff, acquiring electoral materials and support services, as well as planning and conducting large-scale voter registration publicity activities. All the 45 posts mentioned above, except for the Information Officer post, are time-limited posts and will be deleted after the REO has completed its various tasks in the election cycle from 2015 to 2017. The estimated salary expenditure for these 45 posts in 2015-16 is around \$16 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB102

(Question Serial No. 2252)

Head: (163) Registration And Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

According to Government's web page on voter registration, the number of registered electors aged between 18 and 30 remains low. Does the Registration and Electoral Office have any plans to encourage young people to register as electors in the 2015 and 2016 election years so that they can vote in elections in Hong Kong? Please give details of the plans, including the format and number of the publicity activities to be held, timing and estimates of expenditure required.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Dennis (Member Question No. 2)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) will make use of different channels to appeal to members of the public in different age groups to register as electors. Publicity measures include traditional media (such as television, radio and newspaper) and new media that are more popular among young people (such as websites and mobile applications), etc. In addition, the REO will launch the following publicity measures during the 2015 Voter Registration Campaign to encourage eligible young people to register as electors if they have yet to do so:

- (a) setting up registration counters at the Registration of Persons Offices of the Immigration Department to encourage and facilitate young people applying for or collecting adult identity cards at these Offices to register as electors;
- (b) displaying posters in universities, tertiary institutions and secondary schools to appeal to eligible students to register as electors;
- (c) setting up registration counters in universities and tertiary institutions to appeal to and assist eligible students to register as electors;

- (d) appealing to secondary school students who will reach the age of 18 to register as electors through the school visit programme; and
- (e) setting up registration counters at venues holding major events which young people will attend, such as the recruitment examination centres of the Civil Service Bureau, in order to appeal to and assist candidates to register as electors.

2. The total expenditure on voter registration and checking measures in 2015-16 is estimated to be around \$111 million, including expenses for the publicity of the 2015 Voter Registration Campaign, processing of voter registration applications, compilation and publication of Provisional and Final Registers of Electors as well as other operational expenses. In organising the publicity programme of the 2016 Voter Registration Campaign, the REO will make reference to the actual operational experience of the 2015 Voter Registration Campaign and make provisions for the expenditure required in the 2016-17 Draft Estimates.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB103

(Question Serial No. 2145)

Head: (163) Registration And Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. The Government has mentioned that this year it will particularly encourage young persons to register as electors. What are the details of and expenditure to be incurred on the relevant work?
2. Please provide a breakdown of the 45 posts to be created in 2015-16 by grade.

Asked by: Hon LAU Wai-hing, Emily (Member Question No. 40)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) will make use of different channels to appeal to members of the public in different age groups to register as electors. Publicity measures include traditional media (such as television, radio and newspaper) and new media that are more popular among young people (such as websites and mobile applications), etc. In addition, REO will launch the following publicity measures during the 2015 Voter Registration Campaign to encourage eligible young people to register as electors if they have yet to do so:

- (a) setting up registration counters at the Registration of Persons Offices of the Immigration Department to encourage and facilitate young people applying for or collecting adult identity cards at these Offices to register as electors;
- (b) displaying posters in universities, tertiary institutions and secondary schools to appeal to eligible students to register as electors;
- (c) setting up registration counters in universities and tertiary institutions to appeal to and assist eligible students to register as electors;
- (d) appealing to secondary school students who will reach the age of 18 to register as electors through the school visit programme; and

(e) setting up registration counters at venues holding major events which young people will attend, such as the recruitment examination centres of the Civil Service Bureau, in order to appeal to and assist candidates to register as electors.

2. The total expenditure for voter registration and checking measures in 2015-16 is estimated to be around \$111 million, including expenses for the publicity of the 2015 Voter Registration Campaign, processing of voter registration applications, compilation and publication of Provisional and Final Registers of Electors as well as other operational expenses.

3. The REO will create 45 posts in 2015-16, including 1 Chief Executive Officer, 9 Senior Executive Officer, 22 Executive Officer I, 3 Executive Officer II, 1 Information Officer, 4 Clerical Officer, 4 Assistant Clerical Officer and 1 Supplies Officer.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB104

(Question Serial No. 3186)

Head: (163) Registration And Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

What was the expenditure on enhancing accessibility inside polling stations of various districts for persons with disabilities, including persons with visual impairment, deaf-mutes, persons with physical impairment and persons with mental impairment, in the past 3 years? What are the details of the enhancement project? Has the Government evaluated the effectiveness? What is the estimated expenditure involved in the enhancement project for 2015-16?

Asked by: Hon LAU Wai-hing, Emily (Member Question No. 50)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) adopted various measures in past elections to facilitate voting by persons with disabilities and different needs. These measures include:

- (a) persons with visual impairment may call the REO hotline on 2891 1001 to request hotline staff to provide election information and enquire their voter registration records. Besides, during the election, persons with visual impairment may also learn of the name and address of the polling station allocated to them through the aforementioned hotline and request the hotline staff to read out the contents of the relevant "Introduction to Candidates" to them;
- (b) the REO always encourages candidates to provide the text version of their Introduction to Candidates for uploading onto the election website www.elections.gov.hk to facilitate persons with visual impairment to read the relevant information online using software aids;
- (c) the REO provides Braille templates for persons with visual impairment to facilitate their marking of ballot papers;

- (d) staff at the polling stations also provide a Braille list of candidates for persons with visual impairment to facilitate their reading of the relevant information;
- (e) if persons with visual impairment request staff at the polling stations to mark ballot papers for them, the Presiding Officer, Deputy Presiding Officer or Assistant Presiding Officer will do so for them according to their choice in a voting compartment. The whole process must be witnessed by another staff at the polling station to ensure the voting is conducted in a fair manner;
- (f) in the 2011 District Council and 2012 Legislative Council elections, over 90% of the polling stations were “accessible polling stations”, i.e., polling stations suitable for use by mobility-handicapped persons or wheelchair users. Regarding the District Council election to be held at the end of this year, the REO will, as always, strive to look for accessible venues to serve as polling stations with a target of setting up at least 90% of the polling stations in such accessible venues;
- (g) under safe circumstances, the REO sets up temporary ramps at the polling stations that are not readily accessible to mobility-handicapped persons or wheelchair users;
- (h) all polling stations that provide wheelchair access have more spacious voting compartments and lower polling tables to facilitate voting by wheelchair users;
- (i) through using poll cards and various promotion channels such as radio Announcements in the Public Interest (APIs), election website and press releases, as well as reaching out to organisations of persons with disabilities via the Hong Kong Council of Social Service, the REO provides information to and reminds electors who have mobility difficulty or use wheelchairs that if they find it difficult to access the allocated polling station, they may apply to the REO for changing to a special polling station, which is accessible to them, at least 5 days before the polling day;
- (j) where circumstances permit, the REO may, via the Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation, arrange Rehabuses to transport electors with disabilities to and from the polling stations;
- (k) all polling stations provide pictorial illustrations explaining voting procedures to assist persons with hearing impairment to vote; and
- (l) the REO provides, as far as possible, sign language translation in the APIs relating to the voting procedures.

Expenditure on the above measures was subsumed in the overall election expenses. Therefore, no breakdown of the individual expenditure item is available.

2. The REO will review the relevant measures when preparing for the elections of this election cycle, and is willing to meet with representatives of various groups representing persons with disabilities to listen to their comments and improve, where appropriate, the above measures to facilitate eligible electors with different needs to exercise their right to vote.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB105

(Question Serial No. 2503)

Head: (163) Registration And Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

It was pointed out by the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) that the tasks accomplished in 2014-15 include “the enhancement of checking of electors in the current register in respect of their registered addresses” and “the conduct of cross-matching exercise with other government departments on electors’ registration particulars”. Will the REO provide the details of the following:

- (1) In 2014-15, how much resources were allocated by the REO for the updating of the register of electors, including manpower and expenditure involved? What were the specific initiatives?
- (2) In 2014-15, did the REO allocate resources for the investigation of vote-rigging cases and complaints against vote-rigging? If so, what were the details? If not, what were the reasons?
- (3) In 2015-16, how much resources does the REO plan to allocate for the investigation of vote-rigging cases and complaints against vote-rigging? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEONG Kah-kit, Alan (Member Question No. 2)

Reply:

In the light of public concern on the accuracy of residential addresses recorded in the voter register in recent years, the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) has stepped up publicity since the 2012 Voter Registration (VR) cycle to remind the public about the importance of providing true and accurate information for registration and updating their registered residential addresses. Besides, the REO has implemented various checking measures and inquiry process to improve the accuracy and completeness of VR records. The checking measures include follow-up inquiries on undelivered poll cards arising from elections; cross-matching of the residential addresses of electors with the Housing Department, the Hong Kong Housing Society and the Home Affairs Department; checks on

residential addresses with multiple electors or multiple surnames of electors; random sample checks on registered and newly registered electors; checks on addresses with incomplete information or suspected non-residential addresses; and checks on addresses situated at buildings already demolished or to be demolished.

2. The REO verified the registration particulars of about 140 000 electors through the aforementioned measures in the 2014 VR cycle. In the 2015 VR cycle, the REO will continue the checking work and conduct full-scale verification with the Housing Department and the Hong Kong Housing Society in respect of electors with registered residential addresses in public housing units. The number of electors covered by the checking measures in the 2015 VR cycle will be around 1.6 million, representing about 46% of electors contained in the register.

3. In 2014-15, the relevant work (including that related to investigations and complaints) was carried out by a team comprising 92 civil servants (including 6 time-limited civil service posts) and around 200 non-civil service contract staff. The expenditure on staff remuneration and the related operational expenses are about \$56 million.

4. The REO will increase manpower and resources in 2015-16 to handle the large number of applications for VR and the updating of particulars expected to be received before the 2015 District Council election and the 2016 Legislative Council election, and to enhance the checking work. The VR and checking work will be carried out by a team comprising 98 civil servants (including 12 time-limited civil service posts) and around 500 non-civil service contract staff. The expenditure on staff remuneration and the related operational expenses are estimated to be around \$111 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB106

(Question Serial No. 2504)

Head: (163) Registration And Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

With regard to the number of applications for voter registration, would the Government please provide the following information:

1) The number of newly-registered electors in 2013 and 2014 by month.

Month	Year	
	2013	2014

2) The breakdown of newly-registered electors by the 18 districts in 2013 and 2014.

District Council District	Year	
	2013	2014

3) The number of elector records updated, with a breakdown by the 18 districts, in 2013 and 2014.

District Council District	Year	
	2013	2014

4) What criteria are the estimates of the number of newly-registered electors and the updated number of electors in 2015 based on?

Asked by: Hon LEONG Kah-kit, Alan (Member Question No. 21)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) does not keep statistics of newly registered electors by month. According to the 2013 and 2014 Final Registers of Electors, the number of newly registered electors in each District Council (DC) is set out below:

	2013	2014
Central & Western	1 487	1 970
Wan Chai	905	823
Eastern	3 941	5 182
Southern	1 775	2 462
Yau Tsim Mong	2 263	2 799
Sham Shui Po	3 028	4 057
Kowloon City	2 786	4 221
Wong Tai Sin	3 609	4 681
Kwun Tong	5 584	8 068
Tsuen Wan	2 310	2 849
Tuen Mun	3 791	5 355
Yuen Long	5 562	7 491
Kwai Tsing	3 735	5 839
Islands	1 139	1 665
North	2 865	4 048
Tai Po	2 345	3 511
Sai Kung	3 849	4 347
Sha Tin	5 647	7 893
Total	56 621	77 261

2. According to the 2013 and 2014 Final Registers of Electors, the number of electors with updating of registration particulars in each DC is set out below:

	2013	2014
Central & Western	4 087	3 761
Wan Chai	2 221	1 885
Eastern	9 912	9 667

Southern	3 875	4 465
Yau Tsim Mong	4 291	3 880
Sham Shui Po	8 936	6 866
Kowloon City	5 862	12 151
Wong Tai Sin	6 519	6 162
Kwun Tong	10 911	10 632
Tsuen Wan	4 975	3 957
Tuen Mun	7 878	8 237
Yuen Long	10 784	11 444
Kwai Tsing	6 065	7 587
Islands	2 052	2 126
North	4 704	4 283
Tai Po	4 476	5 866
Sai Kung	7 694	6 810
Sha Tin	10 904	11 182
Total	116 146	120 961

3. The REO estimates the total number of newly registered electors in the 2015 voter registration cycle after making reference to the number of applications for voter registration handled in past election years and recent years.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB107

(Question Serial No. 3287)

Head: (163) Registration And Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Financial Secretary mentioned in last year's Budget that government departments and the public sector should conduct expenditure reviews and consider how best to consolidate their services and funding schemes in order to further enhance the efficiency of public services (see paragraph 139 of the 2014-15 Budget). Will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (i) in respect of the following listed government department/public organisation with a greater or smaller change/percentage change in their respective estimated established posts in the coming year as compared to last year, the ranks of the posts to be created/deleted and their respective numbers;
- (ii) for the above creation/deletion of posts, the total amounts of annual salaries and fringe benefits involved;
- (iii) the major reasons for the above creation/deletion of posts.

Head of Expenditure	Total number of established posts according to the revised estimate as at 31.3.2015	Total number of established posts according to the estimate as at 31.3.2016	Number of posts created/deleted (% change)
Registration and Electoral Office	214	259	+45 (+21.0%)

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Kenneth (Member Question No. 2.01)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) will create 45 posts in 2015-16, including 1 Chief Executive Officer, 9 Senior Executive Officer, 22 Executive Officer I, 3

Executive Officer II, 1 Information Officer, 4 Clerical Officer, 4 Assistant Clerical Officer and 1 Supplies Officer. The major responsibilities of such posts are amending the relevant electoral legislation; reviewing, updating and issuing guidelines on election-related activities; conducting the 2016 Legislative Council geographical constituency delineation exercise; as well as other implementation work in relation to the conduct of the 2015 District Council ordinary election and the preparation for the 2016 Legislative Council general election, including reviewing practical arrangements for polling, identifying suitable venues for polling and counting stations, reviewing and planning recruitment exercises and training programmes for polling and counting staff, acquiring electoral materials and support services, as well as planning and conducting large-scale voter registration publicity activities. The REO will suitably adjust its manpower according to the requirements for various electoral tasks in the election cycle. All the 45 posts mentioned above, except for the Information Officer post, are time-limited posts and will be deleted after the REO has completed its various tasks in the election cycle from 2015 to 2017. The estimated salary expenditure for these 45 posts in 2015-16 is around \$16 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB108

(Question Serial No. 2203)

Head: (163) Registration And Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please give a breakdown of the estimated number of staff, annual emoluments, housing allowance and allowances for the expenses on duty visits and entertainment pertaining to the following posts in the Registration and Electoral Office in 2015-16.

- Chief Electoral Officer
- Senior Project Officer
- Deputy Chief Electoral Officer
- Senior Electoral Officer
- Electoral Officer
- Assistant Electoral Officer
- Senior Clerical Officer
- Clerical Officer
- Senior Supplies Officer
- Supplies Officer
- Assistant Supplies Officer
- Supplies Supervisor I
- Principal Information Officer
- Senior Information Officer
- Head (Information Technology Management Unit)
- Systems Manager
- Analyst/Programmer I
- Analyst/Programmer II

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung (Member Question No. 616)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) has a total of 213 permanent posts and one supernumerary post as at 31 March 2015. This, coupled with the 45 posts to be created by the REO in 2015-16, will entail an estimated salary and allowance expenditure of around \$126 million. Details of the above-mentioned 259 posts are as follows:

Post	Number of posts (projected up to 31 March 2016)
Senior Principal Executive Officer	1
Principal Executive Officer	1
Chief Executive Officer	7
Senior Executive Officer	27
Executive Officer I	59
Executive Officer II	20
Senior Clerical Officer	1
Clerical Officer	24
Assistant Clerical Officer	78
Clerical Assistant	16
Office Assistant	2
Personal Secretary I	2
Personal Secretary II	2
Senior Systems Manager	1
Systems Manager	1
Analyst/Programmer I	2
Analyst/Programmer II	2
Senior Information Officer	1
Information Officer	1
Senior Supplies Officer	1
Supplies Officer	2
Assistant Supplies Officer	2
Supplies Supervisor I	1
Supplies Supervisor II	1
Chauffeur	1
Workman II	3
Total	259

2. The REO has no plan at this stage for duty visits or official entertainment in 2015-16.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB109

(Question Serial No. 1151)

Head: (163) Registration And Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Government has conducted random checks to verify electors' addresses in the register of electors since 2012. Electors who fail to respond to enquiry letters to confirm their registered addresses by the deadline will be de-registered. In this connection, please advise on the following:

- (1) The numbers of electors whose registration status was removed in the past 3 years, broken down by main reasons (such as decease, voluntary de-registration, loss of Hong Kong permanent resident status and failure to respond to enquiry letters, etc.).
- (2) The expenditure and the staff establishment involved in the publicity of the random checks on the residential addresses of electors in the register of electors in the past 3 years. Has the Government assessed the effectiveness of such work to ensure that the public is aware of the random checks on the residential addresses of electors in the register of electors? If so, what are the results? If not, what are the reasons?
- (3) Elections for the District Councils, Legislative Council and the Chief Executive will be held in 2015, 2016 and 2017 respectively, and universal suffrage may be implemented for the Chief Executive election in 2017. What is the amount of resources allocated for the publicity of the random check system in the coming 3 years to ensure that registered electors will be entitled to vote in the above 3 elections and will not be disqualified from voting without reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (Member Question No. 6)

Reply:

In the last three voter registration (VR) cycles from 2012 to 2014, the number of geographical constituency electors who have been removed from the register of electors because of loss of eligibility for registration is as follows:

Reason for removal and number of electors	Cycle	2012	2013	2014
Failure to respond to statutory inquiry procedures		218 199	26 281	13 740
Death		22 324	24 591	26 863
Other reasons (such as voluntary de-registration, loss of Hong Kong permanent resident status)		1 896	527	295
Total		242 419	51 399	40 898

2. In the light of public concern on the accuracy of residential addresses recorded in the voter register in recent years, the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) has stepped up publicity since the 2012 VR cycle to remind the public about the importance of providing true and accurate information for registration and updating their registered residential addresses. Besides, the REO has implemented various checking measures and inquiry process to improve the accuracy and completeness of VR records. The checking measures include follow-up inquiries on undelivered poll cards arising from elections; cross-matching of the residential addresses of electors with the Housing Department, the Hong Kong Housing Society and the Home Affairs Department; checks on residential addresses with multiple electors or multiple surnames of electors; random sample checks on registered and newly registered electors; checks on addresses with incomplete information or suspected non-residential addresses; and checks on addresses situated at buildings already demolished or to be demolished.

3. The REO checks and verifies the particulars of electors to ensure the accuracy of the electors' particulars contained in the register. The relevant work has been undertaken by a team comprising civil servants and non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff responsible for VR matters. Details of the manpower resources and operational expenses in the last three VR cycles are as follows:

Year	Number of civil servants*	Number of NCSC staff @	Expenditure on staff remuneration and the related operational expenses
2012-13	78	330	\$71 million
2013-14	86	46	\$40 million
2014-15	92	about 200	\$56 million (revised estimate)

*including time-limited civil service posts created in the relevant years.

@NCSC staff are employed according to actual needs. These figures represent the numbers of NCSC staff employed during the peak period of the respective VR cycles.

4. The REO will increase manpower and resources in 2015-16 to handle the large number of applications for VR and the updating of particulars expected to be received before the 2015 District Council election and the 2016 Legislative Council election, and to

enhance the checking work. The REO will continue to strengthen the publicity measures so as to remind the electors under checking to update or confirm their registered residential addresses with the REO before the deadline. The VR and checking work will be carried out by a team comprising 98 civil servants (including 12 time-limited civil service posts) and around 500 non-civil service contract staff. The expenditure on staff remuneration and the related operational expenses are estimated to be around \$111 million. The aforementioned promotion of VR and checking work will continue to be carried out in the 2015, 2016 and 2017 VR cycles.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB110

(Question Serial No. 0973)

Head: (163) Registration And Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Registration and Electoral Office has substantially increased its posts by 75 in 2014-15 and it plans to create 45 more posts in 2015-16. Its establishment almost doubled within a short period of two years' time. What are the reasons? Please set out the ranks, estimated remuneration and specific scope of work of these 45 posts to be created.

Asked by: Hon NG Leung-sing (Member Question No. 9)

Reply:

After reviewing the experience of the previous election cycles, the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) has estimated the manpower required for the planning and preparatory work for the various elections to be conducted in the election cycle from 2015 to 2017.

2. The REO will create 45 posts in 2015-16 which, together with the 75 posts created in 2014-15, are mainly deployed for the continued preparation and conduct of the 2015 District Council ordinary election and the preparation for the 2016 Legislative Council general election.

3. These 45 posts include 1 Chief Executive Officer, 9 Senior Executive Officer, 22 Executive Officer I, 3 Executive Officer II, 1 Information Officer, 4 Clerical Officer, 4 Assistant Clerical Officer and 1 Supplies Officer. The major responsibilities of such posts are amending the relevant electoral legislation; reviewing, updating and issuing guidelines on election-related activities; conducting the 2016 Legislative Council geographical constituency delineation exercise; as well as other implementation work in relation to the conduct of the 2015 District Council ordinary election and the preparation for the 2016 Legislative Council general election, including reviewing practical arrangements for polling, identifying suitable venues for polling and counting stations, reviewing and planning recruitment exercises and training programmes for polling and counting staff, acquiring

electoral materials and support services, as well as planning and conducting large-scale voter registration publicity activities. All the 45 posts mentioned above, except for the Information Officer post, are time-limited posts and will be deleted after the REO has completed its various tasks in the election cycle from 2015 to 2017. The estimated salary expenditure for these 45 posts in 2015-16 is around \$16 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB111

(Question Serial No. 0974)

Head: (163) Registration And Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The revised estimate for 2014-15 of the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) reduces by \$82.6 million (30.8%) compared with the original estimate for 2014-15. What are the specific reasons and details involved? What is the influence to the original work plan of the REO?

On the other hand, the estimate for 2015-16 increases substantially by \$558.1 million (300.5%) compared with the revised estimate for 2014-15. What are the specific reasons?

Asked by: Hon NG Leung-sing (Member Question No. 10)

Reply:

The revised estimate for 2014-15 of the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) is \$82.6 million (30.8%) less than its original estimate. The main reasons are that the rental cost of temporary offices and warehouses is lower than the budgeted provision and that the progress of filling some civil service posts newly-created in 2014-15 and employing non-civil service contract staff is slower than expected, resulting in a reduction in the expenditure on staff remuneration. Overall speaking, the revision to the provision does not affect the preparatory works for the elections.

2. The increase in provision for the REO in 2015-16 is mainly due to increased requirements for the preparation and conduct of the 2015 District Council ordinary election, preparation for the 2016 Legislative Council general election, as well as preparation and conduct of any possible by-election. The provisions reserved for these purposes are around \$365 million, \$97 million and \$200 million respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB112

(Question Serial No. 2456)

Head: (163) Registration And Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The revised estimate of the Registration and Electoral Office for 2014-15 reduces by \$82.6 million (30.8%) when compared with the original estimate. What are the reasons for the substantial decrease of expenditure?

Asked by: Hon TAM Yiu-chung (Member Question No. 5)

Reply:

The revised estimate for 2014-15 is \$82.6 million (30.8%) less than the original estimate. The main reasons are that the rental cost of temporary offices and warehouses is lower than the budgeted provision and that the progress of filling some civil service posts newly-created in 2014-15 and employing non-civil service contract staff is slower than expected, resulting in a reduction in the expenditure on staff remuneration. Overall speaking, the revision to the provision does not affect the preparatory works for the elections.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB113

(Question Serial No. 2457)

Head: (163) Registration And Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Will the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) provide the increase in expenditure in 2007-08 compared to that in 2006-07? What is the percentage increase? The estimated expenditure of the REO in 2015-16 will increase by \$558.1 million, i.e. 300.5% compared with the revised expenditure in 2014-15. What are the differences between the increase in expenditure this year and that in 2007-08?

Asked by: Hon TAM Yiu-chung (Member Question No. 6)

Reply:

The increase in provision for the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) in 2015-16 is mainly due to increased requirements for the preparation and conduct of the 2015 District Council ordinary election, preparation for the 2016 Legislative Council general election, as well as preparation and conduct of any possible by-election. The provisions reserved for these purposes are around \$365 million, \$97 million and \$200 million respectively.

2. The actual expenses incurred by the REO in 2007-08 and 2006-07 are \$229 million and \$135 million respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB114

(Question Serial No. 2458)

Head: (163) Registration And Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

A Legislative Council member of the District Council (second) functional constituency has stated that he would resign in 2015-16. If a by-election has to be held to fill the seat, what is the Registration and Electoral Office's estimated expenditure for the by-election? What is the increase in expenditure between this by-election and the Legislative Council by-election for five geographical constituency seats in 2010-11?

Asked by: Hon TAM Yiu-chung (Member Question No. 7)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office has reserved approximately \$200 million in 2015-16 for the preparation and conduct of any possible by-election. As for the preparation and conduct of the 2010 Legislative Council by-election, the actual expenditure is about \$126 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB115

(Question Serial No. 0440)

Head: (163) Registration And Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Under this Programme, provision for the current financial year is \$558.1 million higher than last year, a marked increase of 300.5%. According to the Government, this is mainly due to increased requirements for making preparations for the 2015 District Council ordinary election and the 2016 Legislative Council general election. In this connection, would the Government advise on the following:

- a. What are the estimated provisions to be allocated to the preparations for the 2015 District Council ordinary election and the 2016 Legislative Council general election? Please provide details of the preparation work;
- b. The Government pointed out that 45 posts will be created in 2015-16 for undertaking election-related duties. Please provide details of the newly created posts; and
- c. Are the newly created posts permanent civil service posts or will appointments be made on non-civil service contract terms?

Asked by: Hon WONG Kwok-kin (Member Question No. 2)

Reply:

In 2015-16, the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) has reserved \$365 million and \$97 million for the preparation and conduct of the 2015 District Council ordinary election and the preparation for the 2016 Legislative Council general election respectively. The work includes amendments to relevant electoral legislation; review, updating and issuance of guidelines on election-related activities; conduct of the 2016 Legislative Council geographical constituency delineation exercise; as well as other implementation work in relation to the conduct of the 2015 District Council ordinary election and the preparation for the 2016 Legislative Council general election, including reviewing practical arrangements for polling, identifying suitable venues for polling and counting stations, reviewing and planning recruitment exercises and training programmes for polling and counting staff,

acquiring electoral materials and support services, as well as planning and conducting large-scale voter registration publicity activities.

2. The REO will create 45 posts in 2015-16, including 1 Chief Executive Officer, 9 Senior Executive Officer, 22 Executive Officer I, 3 Executive Officer II, 1 Information Officer, 4 Clerical Officer, 4 Assistant Clerical Officer and 1 Supplies Officer. These 45 posts are all civil service posts. Except for the Information Officer post, all of them are time-limited posts and will be deleted after the REO has completed its various tasks in the election cycle from 2015 to 2017.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB116

(Question Serial No. 3118)

Head: (163) Registration And Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Under the Matters Requiring Special Attention, it was mentioned that checks on electors in the current register will be conducted in respect of their registered particulars, including cross-matching exercise with other government departments. In this connection, would the Government advise of the following:

- a. In the year 2014-15, how many electors had their registered particulars checked? What is the percentage of such electors against the total number of electors in Hong Kong?
- b. What is the amount of provision allocated to the checking exercise in the current financial year?
- c. What will be the manpower involved in the checking exercise in the current financial year? Will the Government allocate the manpower increased this year to conduct the checks?

Asked by: Hon WONG Kwok-kin (Member Question No. 1)

Reply:

In the light of public concern on the accuracy of residential addresses recorded in the voter register in recent years, the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) has stepped up publicity since the 2012 Voter Registration (VR) cycle to remind the public about the importance of providing true and accurate information for registration and updating their registered residential addresses. Besides, the REO has implemented various checking measures and inquiry process to improve the accuracy and completeness of VR records. The checking measures include follow-up inquiries on undelivered poll cards arising from elections; cross-matching of the residential addresses of electors with the Housing Department, the Hong Kong Housing Society and the Home Affairs Department; checks on

residential addresses with multiple electors or multiple surnames of electors; random sample checks on registered and newly registered electors; checks on addresses with incomplete information or suspected non-residential addresses; and checks on addresses situated at buildings already demolished or to be demolished.

2. The REO verified the registration particulars of about 140 000 electors through the aforementioned measures in the 2014 VR cycle. In the 2015 VR cycle, the REO will continue the checking work and conduct full-scale verification with the Housing Department and the Hong Kong Housing Society in respect of electors with registered residential addresses in public housing units. The number of electors covered by the checking measures in the 2015 VR cycle will be around 1.6 million, representing about 46% of electors contained in the register.

3. The REO will increase manpower and resources in 2015-16 to handle the large number of applications for VR and the updating of particulars expected to be received before the 2015 District Council election and the 2016 Legislative Council election, and to enhance the checking work. The VR and checking work will be carried out by a team comprising 98 civil servants (including 12 time-limited civil service posts) and around 500 non-civil service contract staff. The expenditure on staff remuneration and the related operational expenses are estimated to be around \$111 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1279)

Head: (163) Registration And Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (LI Pak-hong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Provision for 2015-16 is \$558.1 million (300.5%) higher than the revised estimate for last year. This is mainly due to the conduct of the 2015 District Council ordinary election, preparation of the 2016 Legislative Council general election, as well as preparation and conduct of any by-election.

What are the details of the provision to be allocated for the respective elections and by-elections?

In addition, the Registration and Electoral Office will create 45 posts in 2015-16 to carry out election-related work. What are the posts to be created and their modes of employment? What are the expenditures involved?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ting-kwong (Member Question No. 65)

Reply:

The increase in provision for the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) in 2015-16 is mainly due to increased requirements for the preparation and conduct of the 2015 District Council ordinary election, preparation for the 2016 Legislative Council general election, as well as preparation and conduct of any possible by-election. The provisions reserved for these purposes are around \$365 million, \$97 million and \$200 million respectively.

2. The REO will create 45 posts, all being civil service posts, in 2015-16, including 1 Chief Executive Officer, 9 Senior Executive Officer, 22 Executive Officer I, 3 Executive Officer II, 1 Information Officer, 4 Clerical Officer, 4 Assistant Clerical Officer and 1 Supplies Officer. All the 45 posts mentioned above, except for the Information Officer post, are time-limited posts and will be deleted after the REO has completed its various tasks in the election cycle from 2015 to 2017. The estimated salary expenditure for these 45 posts in 2015-16 is around \$16 million.

- End -