

**立法會**  
*Legislative Council*

LC Paper No. CB(1)2339/10-11

Ref : CB1/BC/5/10

**Report of the Bills Committee on Dutiable Commodities (Amendment)  
Bill 2011**

**Purpose**

This paper reports on the deliberations of the Bills Committee on Dutiable Commodities (Amendment) Bill 2011 (the Bills Committee).

**Background**

2. According to the Administration, tobacco dependence is a chronic disease that is responsible for causing over 6 900 deaths a year in Hong Kong and 5 400 000 deaths a year worldwide. It is also the single most important preventable risk factor responsible for main causes of death and chronic diseases, including cancers and cardiovascular diseases. The harmfulness of smoking including exposure to second-hand smoke is well-established by scientific research and well-recognized by the community both locally and internationally. The Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) of the World Health Organization (WHO) represents the international efforts to address tobacco dependence as a public health epidemic. China is a signatory of and has ratified FCTC, the application of which has been extended to Hong Kong since 2006. The Government's current policy on tobacco control has full regard to the provisions of FCTC.

Measures to strengthen tobacco control

3. To protect public health, it is the established policy of the Government to discourage smoking, to contain the proliferation of tobacco use and to protect the public from second-hand smoke as far as possible, with a view to achieving a long term target for Hong Kong to become a smoke-free city. To achieve this, the Administration adopts a step-by-step and multi-pronged approach comprising legislation, taxation, publicity,

education, enforcement, smoking cessation, and increasing tobacco duty progressively, with a view to reducing tobacco consumption and smoking prevalence as well as to prevent the youngsters from picking up smoking.

4. Further to the enactment of the Smoking (Public Health) (Amendment) Ordinance 2006 and the implementation of the smoking ban on 1 January 2007, the Administration has taken a series of measures in a progressive manner to strengthen tobacco control. These measures included –

- (a) effecting new graphic warning and packaging restrictions on tobacco products in October 2007;
- (b) prohibiting the display of tobacco advertisements at retail dealers with two employees or less from 1 November 2007;
- (c) commencing a three-year pilot programme of community-based smoking cessation services based on evidence-based service model in collaboration with a non-government organization in January 2009;
- (d) raising the duty for tobacco products by 50% from 25 February 2009;
- (e) extending smoking ban to the six types of qualified establishment namely bars, clubs, nightclubs, bathhouses, massage establishments, and mahjong and tinkau parlours hitherto exempted from the ban from 1 July 2009;
- (f) implementing the fixed penalty system for smoking offences in accordance with the Fixed Penalty (Smoking Offences) Ordinance (Cap. 600) from 1 September 2009;
- (g) extending smoking ban to the first phase of 48 covered public transport interchanges (PTIs) and bus terminus with superstructures from 1 September 2009;
- (h) effecting the prohibition of tobacco advertisement display at licensed hawker stalls from 1 November 2009;
- (i) commencing a one year pilot programme of smoking cessation services using acupuncture in collaboration with a non-government organization in April 2010;

- (j) abolishing the duty-free concessions on tobacco products for incoming passengers (except for small quantity for self-consumption) at border entries from 1 August 2010; and
- (k) extending smoking ban to some 130 open-air PTIs from 1 December 2010.

#### Public Revenue Protection (Dutiable Commodities) Order 2011

5. According to the Administration, WHO has made clear that increasing tobacco duties is an effective means of tobacco control. To further protect public health from the harmful effects of tobacco, the Financial Secretary has, in his 2011-2012 Budget, proposed to increase the duty on cigarettes by \$0.5 per stick (by 41.5%). Duties on other tobacco products will also be increased by the same percentage.

6. In order to give immediate effect to increase the duty rates on tobacco, the Chief Executive (CE), after consultation with the Executive Council, made the Public Revenue Protection (Dutiable Commodities) Order 2011 (the Order) under section 2 of the Public Revenue Protection Ordinance (Cap. 120) (PRPO) on 23 February 2011. With a four-month temporary effect, the Order will lapse on 23 June 2011. A bill will have to be introduced and enacted before 23 June 2011 to give retrospective effect for the increase of duty on tobacco.

7. The Order was laid on the table of the Legislative Council (LegCo) on 2 March 2011. A Subcommittee was formed to study the Order. The scrutiny period of the Order was extended to 4 May 2011. At the Council meeting on 4 May 2011, Hon Albert CHAN and Hon Vincent FANG moved a motion to repeal the Order, but the motion was negatived. The Order remains in effect.

#### **The Bill**

8. The Bill was introduced into LegCo on 13 April 2011. The Bill seeks to -
- (a) amend Part II of Schedule 1 to the Dutiable Commodities Ordinance to increase the rates of duty on various types of tobacco by 41.5%; and

- (b) bring the Bill into operation with retrospective effect from 11 a.m. on 23 February 2011 as the Order took effect from that time.

A summary of the proposed rates of duty on various types of tobacco is given as follows –

Tobacco Products	Existing rates (\$)	Proposed rates (\$)
(a) for each 1 000 cigarettes	1,206	1,706
(b) cigars	1,553/kg	2,197/kg
(c) Chinese prepared tobacco	296/kg	419/kg
(d) all other manufactured tobacco except tobacco intended for the manufacture of cigarettes	1,461/kg	2,067/kg

### **The Bills Committee**

9. At the House Committee meeting on 15 April 2011, Members agreed to form a Bills Committee to study the Bill. The membership list of the Bills Committee is in **Appendix**. Under the chairmanship of Dr Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, the Bills Committee has held two meetings with the Administration.

### **Deliberations of the Bills Committee**

10. The Bills Committee generally support the Bill to increase the rates of tobacco duty as a measure to protect public health. In the course of deliberation, the Bills Committee has taken note of the information provided to and discussion at the Subcommittee. Similar to the issues raised at the Subcommittee, members of the Bills Committee have expressed concern about the justifications for tobacco duty increase, the adequacy of the smoking cessation services, the impact on tobacco duty increase on illicit cigarette activities and the livelihood of newspaper hawkers.

### Justifications for tobacco duty increase

11. Some members including Hon Vincent FANG and Hon WONG Ting-kwong have questioned the justifications for raising the tobacco duty and criticized the Administration for failing to seriously examine the social and economic impacts before introducing the proposed duty increase. Hon

CHAN Kam-lam has also opined that the duty increase could only achieve short-term effect in reducing tobacco consumption and smoking prevalence.

12. The Administration has advised that it is well established internationally and empirically that tobacco price has a strong inverse correlation with tobacco consumption. The World Bank's findings in 1999 indicated that, on average, a price increase of 10% on a pack of cigarettes is expected to reduce demand for cigarettes by about 4% in high-income countries, and by about 8% in low and middle-income countries. The US Centre for Disease Control Taskforce on Community Preventive Services also recommends increasing the unit price for tobacco on the basis of strong evidence of effectiveness in reducing tobacco use initiation among adolescents and young adults. According to the studies conducted by the Taskforce on adolescents aged 13 to 18 years old, a median decrease that ranged from 2.3% to 3.7% in tobacco use was noted for every 10% increase in product price.

13. As regards the situation in Hong Kong, the Administration has advised that since the early 1980s, tobacco duty has been increased many times at a rate as high as 100% to 300%. Through successive tobacco duty increases, together with progressive tobacco control efforts on various fronts, cigarette consumption has been on a general trend of decline and smoking prevalence has gradually declined from 23.3% in early 1982 to 12.0% in end 2009. Between early 2008 and end 2009, household surveys conducted by the Census and Statistics Department showed that overall smoking prevalence remained broadly at the same level (at 11.8% and 12.0% respectively, with the difference within the bounds of statistical fluctuations), while average daily cigarette consumption among smokers showed a slight drop from 13.9 to 13.7 sticks per day. The percentage of daily cigarette smokers in the younger age groups declined substantially by more than 10% (i.e. from 2.4% to 1.8% for age 15 to 19, and from 12.2% to 11.0% for age 20 to 29). This is in line with the findings of WHO that tobacco tax is an effective way to curb tobacco use, especially among young people and those who are more price sensitive. According to a territory-wide school-based study conducted by the School of Public Health of The University of Hong Kong, the 50% increase in tobacco duty in 2009 had resulted in a drop of 51% (from 6.9% in 2008 to 3.4% in 2010) in adolescent smoking in Hong Kong. This indicates that the duty increase could prevent 13 452 adolescents from smoking and hence at least 6 726 future deaths caused by tobacco-induced diseases.

14. The Administration has pointed out that Hong Kong's cigarette price and tobacco duty rate is still on the low side when compared with many other

advanced economies of similar level of economic development (by per capita GDP). Following the latest proposed increase in tobacco duty, the proportion of duty rate in the retail price in Hong Kong ranked 15<sup>th</sup> among the 20 major advanced economies with per capita similar to or higher than Hong Kong. In the majority of these advanced economies, the retail price of a pack of cigarettes was between HK\$47 and HK\$88, and the proportion of tobacco duty to cigarette retail price stands mostly above 70%. In Hong Kong, the retail price of a pack of cigarettes is about \$39 before the proposed tobacco duty increase and \$49 after the proposed increase, while the proportion of tobacco duty to retail price stands at about 62% before the proposed increase and 69% after the proposed increase.

15. The Administration has further pointed out that the total annual costs of diseases caused by tobacco, including the annual value of direct medical costs, long term care and productivity loss for both active smoking and passive smoking, amounted to \$5.3 billion in Hong Kong. It is internationally recognized that there is no safe level of smoking or exposure to second-hand smoke. From both the public health and economic points of view, there is a need to continue to strengthen tobacco control including taxation to curb proliferation of tobacco use.

#### Smoking cessation services

16. The Bills Committee has noted that the Tobacco Control Office (TCO) of the Department of Health (DH) and the Hospital Authority (HA) have been actively promoting smoking prevention and cessation through the provision of health talks and education programmes, cessation counselling telephone hotline, and smoking cessation services in their respective clinics. Collaborative efforts are also undertaken with non-government organizations, academic institutions and health care professions to promote smoking cessation and provide smoking cessation services to the public.

#### *Publicity and education*

17. Members of the Bills Committee have expressed concern about the effectiveness of the publicity and education efforts currently made to discourage smoking, in particular programmes for students. The Administration has advised that the TCO is responsible for health promotion and smoking cessation programmes. These include general publicity, health education and promotional activities on tobacco control through TV and radio announcements of public interest, outdoor billboard advertisements, internet advertisements, enquiry hotline, promotion campaigns, online games, health education materials and seminars. The aim of these activities is to educate

the general public on the harmfulness of smoking, to prevent people especially the younger generation from picking up smoking habit, and to encourage smokers to quit smoking.

18. The Administration has also advised that the Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health (COSH) receives annual funding from DH to focus on promoting smoking cessation and a smoke-free living environment. COSH conducts publicity campaigns to encourage smokers to quit smoking and garner public support for a smoke-free Hong Kong. COSH has also continued its education and publicity efforts at kindergartens, primary and secondary schools through health talks and theatre programmes. The aim is to educate students on the hazards of smoking as well as on how to resist the temptation of smoking and support a smoke-free environment.

#### *Hotline and counselling*

19. The Bills Committee has noted that DH operates a Smoking Cessation Hotline to provide general enquiry and counselling on smoking cessation, and coordinates the provision of smoking cessation services in Hong Kong. Clients seeking assistance will be referred to smoking cessation clinics operated by various providers including DH, HA and non-government organizations such as the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals (TWGHs) and Pok Oi Hospital (POH). Through concerted efforts by the Government and non-government organizations, the Smoking Cessation Hotline is widely publicized as a source of information on smoking cessation for smokers.

20. The Bills Committee has also noted that the Smoking Cessation Hotline received 15 500 and 13 800 calls in 2009 and 2010 respectively, which were increased by more than three-fold from 4 335 calls received in 2008. In the first three months of 2011, there were 6 626 calls made to the Hotline, which was 2.8 times of the figure in the previous year. Since the announcement of the proposal to increase tobacco duty by some 40% on 23 February 2011, the Hotline received an average of 189 calls per day in the first week, representing a five-fold increase from the average daily number of calls in 2010. A similar pattern was detected after the increase in tobacco duty in February 2009. This indicates that smokers respond to tobacco duty increase and contemplate quitting smoking.

21. In addition to TCO, various service units in DH, e.g. the Central Health Education Unit, the Tuberculosis & Chest Service, the Elderly Health Service, and the Professional Development and Quality Assurance Service also contribute to the provision of smoking cessation service through their healthy lifestyle programmes and health advice to patients, and also referrals

for smoking cessation services. Currently, there are 18 clinics under Tuberculosis & Chest Service and 18 centres under Elderly Health Service. In addition, HA operates a telephone service for general enquiry and counselling services. The University of Hong Kong also provides quit-line counselling service for youth and women smokers. Furthermore, health care professionals such as doctors working in the private sector or non-government organizations also provide smoking cessation advisory services in the course of providing health care service to their clients, and smokers are referred to smoking cessation services. Certain health care professional bodies also promote smoking cessation services among their respective health care professions and training support for such services.

### *Clinic Services*

22. Members of the Bills Committee in general have expressed concern about the adequacy of the current smoking cessation services. They have enquired about the statistics of such services provided by DH, HA and relevant non-governmental organizations as well as the assessments made on the effectiveness of such services. Hon Vincent FANG and Hon WONG Ting-kwong have opined that the Administration should waive all the fees, including registration fees, for such services.

23. According to the Administration, DH operates five smoking cessation clinics (four are targeting civil servants and one for the public), providing individual and group counselling for smokers, and prescription of Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) or other non-NRT medications to manage nicotine dependence. The total enrolment of these smoking cessation clinics was 567 in 2009 and 597 in 2010, representing some 80% increase since 2008. The smoking cessation rate one year after treatment was 29.2% in 2009 which is comparable to the experience in overseas countries. As regards the services provided by HA, there are three full-time and 31 part-time smoking cessation clinics throughout the territory to provide smoking cessation services to the public. Clients are referred either by DH's Smoking Cessation Hotline or by doctors in public hospitals and clinics. Where clinically necessary according to protocol, clients attending HA smoking cessation clinics are prescribed NRT drugs or Varenicline free-of-charge since August 2010. The new cases handled by HA's smoking cessation clinics was 4 156 in 2010, up from 2 109 in 2008 and 2 854 in 2009. The smoking cessation rate one year after treatment was 49.4% in 2009 and 43% in 2010. Under the medical fee waiver mechanisms of DH and HA, patients who are recipients of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) will have their fees for smoking cessation services waived. Those who are not CSSA recipients but have financial difficulties

to pay their medical fees may apply for waivers to the Medical Social Worker of the Social Welfare Department or at the Medical Social Services Units of public hospitals and clinics.

24. On community efforts in smoking cessation, DH has entered into a funding and service agreement with TWGHs for the provision of a community-based smoking cessation programme which started in January 2009, with a funding of \$5 million and expanded to \$11 million in 2010-2011. The programme covers a comprehensive range of activities and services including smoking cessation service, education for the public, training for health care professionals and research projects. There are currently four centres operating in Wan Chai, Mong Kok, Sha Tin and Tuen Mun to provide free smoking cessation services, and NRT drugs are also prescribed free-of-charge where clinically necessary. The TWGH programme admitted 717 and 1 288 clients in 2009 and 2010 respectively. The smoking cessation rate one year after treatment was 40.3% in 2009, while the figure for 2010 is still being evaluated. DH has also entered into a funding and service agreement with POH with effect from April 2010 for the provision of a smoking cessation pilot programme using acupuncture in Chinese medicine. The programme, with a funding of \$4 million in 2010-2011, covers a comprehensive range of activities and services including smoking cessation service, education for the public and research projects. Free smoking cessation service is provided in 15 mobile clinics of POH serving 70 locations in different districts. A Chinese Medicine Community Health Care Centre at Kwun Tong has been established to support these mobile clinics. The POH programme admitted 1 008 clients last year and its smoking cessation rate is still being evaluated.

25. The Administration has further advised that to gain a better understanding on the need assessment and access to smoking cessation service for new immigrants and ethnic minorities, DH has commissioned the United Christian Nethersole Community Health Service to provide a Pilot Outreach Programme with the aim to facilitate future planning of smoking cessation service for these population groups. The Programme started in November 2010 and the results will be available in late 2011.

#### *Enhancement of smoking cessation services*

26. The Bills Committee has noted that COSH will enhance its efforts to promote a smoke-free culture. It will organize various health promotion activities on the theme of smoking cessation by the mass media and at community levels via collaboration with the District Councils and the Education Bureau. COSH will also launch a recognition scheme and

identify best practice in the promotion and provision of smoking cessation programmes for employees in the workplaces.

27. Some members of the Bills Committee including Hon Vincent FANG have noted that the tobacco duty increase is proposed as a measure to protect public health instead of raising revenue. As such, they have expressed concern about the adequacy of the allocation of resources for smoking cessation and whether the additional tax revenue from tobacco duty will be used for smoking cessation services. The Administration has advised that similar to other tax revenues, the revenues from tobacco duty will be credited to the General Revenue Account. The Administration will make appropriate allocation of resources based on actual requirements.

28. The Administration has pointed out that more financial resources have been made available for areas of work in relation to tobacco control in recent years. Together with the subvention to COSH and other non-government organizations, TCO's expenditure for tobacco control has increased from \$35.8 million in 2008-2009 to \$76.7 million in 2011-2012, representing 114% increase over a period of four years. This has yet to take into account expenditure on smoking cessation by HA for which the Administration has no separate breakdown. In 2011-2012, the total expenditure of TCO is estimated to amount to \$113.3 million, including \$36.6 million on enforcement. There will also be 107 officers in DH responsible for enforcing the legislation and 14 officers in the provision of health education and cessation service.

29. As for DH, it will also strengthen efforts on smoking prevention and cessation with the additional \$21 million funding allocated in 2011-2012. However, due to constraints of manpower, venues and space, it is difficult to expand the smoking cessation services operated by DH, and the current direction is to expand such services by non-government agencies. These will include scaling up the existing community-based cessation services provided by TWGHs and POH. The targeted clients receiving smoking cessation service of TWGHs will be increased from 1 400 to 3 000 smokers per year, while that of POH will be increased from 1 200 to 2 000 smokers per year under the new funding and service agreement. DH will also enhance smoking cessation service for young smokers by commissioning a non-government agency to operate a youth-oriented quit-line with trained peer counsellors, building on the experience of the quit-line services operated by the School of Nursing of the University of Hong Kong. DH will further collaborate with two other non-government organizations to run school-based programmes, including health talks and theatre programme, to prevent students from picking up the smoking habit. In addition, DH will provide

training for health care professionals for the provision of smoking cessation service in the community as well as to conduct researches on smoking related issues.

30. As for HA, an additional \$19.6 million will be earmarked to enhance its services for smoking cessation in primary care. These services will target chronic disease patients who are smokers using the chronic care model in primary care setting. The focus is to improve disease management and complication prevention through smoking cessation interventions including face-to-face behavioural support, telephone counselling, and pharmacotherapy.

#### Impact on tobacco duty increase on illicit cigarette activities

31. Some members of the Bills Committee including Hon Vincent FANG and Hon WONG Ting-kwong consider that the tobacco duty increase will prompt smokers to switch to consuming illicit cigarettes, making the smuggling activities of illicit cigarettes more rampant. They urge the Administration to deploy sufficient manpower and resources to enhance enforcement against illicit cigarette activities, in particular street peddling through distribution of leaflets in residential areas and telephone order.

32. The Administration has advised that the Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) has been taking robust enforcement actions against illicit cigarette activities. In 2009, C&ED cracked a total of 8 419 illicit cigarette cases, representing an increase of approximately 67% over 5 030 cases in 2008. Illicit cigarette seizures dropped by approximately 19% from 75 million sticks in 2008 to 61 million sticks in 2009. In 2010, C&ED detected a total of 6 308 illicit cigarette cases at various control points and at street level, representing a drop of approximately 25% compared to the figure in 2009. A total of 76 million sticks of smuggled cigarettes were seized, including some 29 million sticks of illicit cigarettes seized in cross-boundary transshipment cases. The actual cigarette seizures in connection with local illicit cigarette activities stood at 47 million sticks, representing a drop of approximately 20% compared to 2009. With the intensified actions of C&ED, such unlawful activities have reduced in scale and magnitude. According to C&ED's intelligence analysis and observation, there is no sign that these activities have become more rampant.

33. The Administration has further advised that in 2003, C&ED set up an Anti-Illicit-Cigarette Investigation Division with an establishment of 35 officers, including 1 Assistant Superintendent, 2 Senior Inspectors, 4 Inspectors, 4 Senior Customs Officers and 24 Customs Officers, dedicated to

combating illicit cigarette activities. In March 2009, C&ED formed a 13-person task force to take focused action against telephone ordering of illicit cigarettes. Since the new tobacco duty rates as announced in the Budget came into effect on 23 February 2011, C&ED has redeployed 60 officers to closely monitor illicit cigarette activities at various control points and at street level. The total quantity of illicit cigarettes seized in January to March 2011 has increased 175% compared with the same period in 2010. C&ED will continue to work closely with the Mainland and strengthen intelligence collection to combat cross-boundary cigarette smuggling activities by interdicting the inflow of illicit cigarettes at source. At street level, actions will also be strengthened, including conducting raids targeting at black spots for illicit cigarette storage, smuggling, distribution peddling as well as mounting "undercover" operations against illicit cigarette peddling through telephone order. Random checks on incoming persons at control points will also be stepped up to prevent "couriers" from smuggling in illicit cigarettes by means of the "ants moving home" tactics. If necessary, additional resources and manpower will be deployed to support anti-illicit cigarette enforcement and large scale raiding operations.

#### Impact on newspaper hawkers

34. Members of the Bills Committee have expressed grave concern about the impact of the increase in tobacco duty on the livelihood of people working in the tobacco industry, particularly newspaper hawkers who are suffering from decreased income as a result of the drop in the sale of duty-paid cigarettes. Members have asked whether the Administration had assessed the business environment of these hawkers after the last tobacco duty increase in 2009. Hon Vincent FANG has asked the Administration to formulate new measures to enhance the business of newspaper hawkers after the tobacco duty increase in February 2011. Hon Alan LEONG has also relayed the request from newspaper hawkers that the Administration should relax the licensed newspaper hawker policy to allow them to display advertisements at their stalls.

35. The Administration has advised that it is mindful of the potential impact of tobacco control in general, and of tobacco duty in particular, on cigarette sale and in turn the business of newspaper hawkers. After the last tobacco duty increase in 2009, the Administration had engaged the trade and explored possible ways to help improve their business environment. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD), having consulted the trade, expanded in 2009 the commodity list of licensed newspaper hawkers by including four more types of items, namely bottled distilled water, lai-see packets, trinkets and cell phone cards, on top of the eight approved

commodities (i.e. tissue paper, cigarettes, cigarette lighters, sweets, chewing gums, preserved fruits, battery cells and pens). FEHD also relaxed the restriction on the total space used for the sale of additional commodities to not more than 50%. FEHD further endorsed these hawkers to display within the confines of their stalls advertisements related to the commodities permitted for sale under the license. According to FEHD, these hawkers were generally satisfied with the arrangements.

36. As regards the request of licensed newspaper hawkers, the Administration has advised that the display of advertisements other than those related to the commodities permitted for sale is in breach of the licensed newspaper hawker policy. It may also cause inconvenience to the shops nearby as many of the newspaper stalls are located in busy commercial districts. Nevertheless, the Administration remains open to explore with these hawkers possible ways to help them adjust to the changes in their business environment. FEHD will continue to maintain its dialogue with the hawker representatives in this regard.

### **Committee Stage amendments**

37. The Administration and the Bills Committee have not proposed any Committee Stage amendments (CSAs) to the Bill. Hon Mrs Regina IP has indicated that she intends to move a CSA to reduce the proposed rates of duty on various types of tobacco.

### **Resumption of Second Reading debate on the Bill**

38. The Bills Committee supports the resumption of the Second Reading debate on the Bill at the Council meeting on 15 June 2011.

### **Consultation with the House Committee**

39. The Bills Committee consulted the House Committee on 27 May 2011 and obtained its support for the Second Reading debate on the Bill to be resumed at the Council meeting on 15 June 2011.

**Bills Committee on Dutiable Commodities (Amendment) Bill 2011**

**Membership List**

<b>Chairman</b>	Dr Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, SBS, JP
<b>Members</b>	Hon James TO Kun-sun
	Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong
	Hon CHAN Kam-lam, SBS, JP
	Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo
	Hon Vincent FANG Kang, SBS, JP
	Hon WONG Ting-kwong, BBS, JP
	Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan
	Hon CHAN Hak-kan
	Dr Hon LEUNG Ka-lau
	Hon WONG Sing-chi
	Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-ye, GBS, JP
	Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC
	Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
	Hon WONG Yuk-man
	(Total : 15 members)
<b>Clerk</b>	Ms YUE Tin-po
<b>Legal Adviser</b>	Ms Clara TAM