

Index Page

Replies to written questions raised by Finance Committee Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2018-19

**Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Session No. : 6**

Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
CMAB107	1598	CHAN Chi-chuen	163	Electoral Services
CMAB108	1608	CHAN Chi-chuen	163	Electoral Services
CMAB109	2639	CHAN Tanya	163	Electoral Services
CMAB110	1648	CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher	163	Electoral Services
CMAB111	1649	CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher	163	Electoral Services
CMAB112	2483	KWOK Wing-hang, Dennis	163	Electoral Services
CMAB113	1877	LEE Wai-king, Starry	163	Electoral Services
CMAB114	1879	LEE Wai-king, Starry	163	Electoral Services
CMAB115	1903	LEE Wai-king, Starry	163	Electoral Services
CMAB116	1550	LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla	163	Electoral Services
CMAB117	0815	LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin	163	Electoral Services
CMAB118	0816	LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin	163	Electoral Services
CMAB119	3200	MA Fung-kwok	163	Electoral Services
CMAB120	2415	MAK Mei-kuen, Alice	163	Electoral Services
CMAB121	2696	MO Claudia	163	Electoral Services
CMAB122	2298	MOK Charles Peter	163	Electoral Services
CMAB123	2300	MOK Charles Peter	163	Electoral Services
CMAB124	3334	SHIU Ka-chun	163	Electoral Services
CMAB125	3395	SHIU Ka-chun	163	Electoral Services
CMAB126	1409	WONG Pik-wan, Helena	163	Electoral Services
CMAB148	5673	CHAN Tanya	163	Electoral Services
CMAB149	4496	CHEUNG	163	Electoral Services

Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
		Chiu-hung, Fernando		
CMAB150	4157	LEUNG Yiu-chung	163	Electoral Services
CMAB151	6132	MO Claudia	163	Electoral Services
CMAB152	3995	SHIU Ka-chun	163	Electoral Services
S-CMAB09	S0041	AU Nok-hin	163	Electoral Services
SV-CMAB10	SV011	CHAN Tanya	163	Electoral Services

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB107****(Question Serial No. 1598)**Head: (163) Registration and Electoral OfficeSubhead (No. & title):Programme: Electoral ServicesControlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

- (1) Please list in the following table, by the 18 District Councils (DCs) in the territory, the numbers of registered electors in the register of electors in the past 3 years.

18 DCs	2015 register of electors	2016 register of electors	2017 register of electors

- (2) Please list in the following table, by the 18 DCs in the territory, the numbers of newly registered electors in the register of electors in the past 3 years.

18 DCs	2015 register of electors	2016 register of electors	2017 register of electors

- (3) Please list in the following table, by the 18 DCs in the territory, the numbers of electors removed from the register of electors in the past 3 years and the respective reasons for the removal.

18 DCs	2015 register of electors	2016 register of electors	2017 register of electors

- (4) What were the manpower and expenditures involved in the Voter Registration (VR) Campaigns in election and non-election years in the past 3 years? Has a comparison been made on whether there is a positive correlation between these figures and the VR statistics? Has the Government reviewed the effectiveness of the VR Campaigns and what are the details of the review?

- (5) What organisations were commissioned by the Government to take charge of the VR Campaigns in the past 3 years? What indicators did these organisations use to evaluate the effectiveness of the VR work? What were the manpower and expenditures involved?

- (6) What are the manpower and expenditure allocated for the VR Campaign in the coming year?
- (7) It is mentioned in the Programme that the Government will enhance the checking of electors in the current register in respect of their registered addresses. Please list in the following table, by the 18 DCs in the territory, the numbers of “electors checked by the Government” in the past 3 years. How many of them were electors with registered addresses at residential homes for the elderly?

18 DCs	2015 register of electors	2016 register of electors	2017 register of electors

- (8) Please list in the following table, by the 18 DCs in the territory, the numbers of “electors removed from the register upon checking by the Government” in the past 3 years. How many of them were electors with registered addresses at residential homes for the elderly?

18 DCs	2015 register of electors	2016 register of electors	2017 register of electors

- (9) What were the actual manpower and expenditures allocated for the conduct of the Chief Executive Election in the past year?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 23)

Reply:

According to the 2015, 2016 and 2017 final registers, the number of registered geographical constituency (GC) electors in each District Council (DC) constituency is set out below:

	2015 final register	2016 final register	2017 final register
Central & Western	104 547	105 004	104 086
Wan Chai	71 787	71 646	70 658
Eastern	304 503	307 381	305 231
Southern	142 637	143 776	143 298
Yau Tsim Mong	117 881	120 035	119 515
Sham Shui Po	176 706	181 079	183 019
Kowloon City	184 293	187 015	186 917
Wong Tai Sin	245 855	249 024	248 706
Kwun Tong	346 347	352 543	359 952
Tsuen Wan	148 577	152 965	153 132
Tuen Mun	267 604	271 290	271 839

	2015 final register	2016 final register	2017 final register
Yuen Long	296 957	308 865	314 400
Kwai Tsing	278 855	284 752	285 952
Islands	67 053	68 639	69 378
North	170 900	175 072	176 375
Tai Po	169 829	175 720	177 342
Sai Kung	235 100	245 808	249 662
Sha Tin	364 511	378 471	385 607
Total	3 693 942	3 779 085	3 805 069

2. According to the 2015, 2016 and 2017 final registers, the number of newly registered GC electors in each DC constituency is set out below:

	2015 final register	2016 final register	2017 final register
Central & Western	6 933	4 572	2 077
Wan Chai	4 335	2 731	1 315
Eastern	18 479	11 789	4 485
Southern	7 939	5 046	2 221
Yau Tsim Mong	10 043	6 705	3 343
Sham Shui Po	15 444	9 479	4 631
Kowloon City	17 483	8 982	4 774
Wong Tai Sin	15 789	9 484	4 671
Kwun Tong	26 779	15 498	8 251
Tsuen Wan	12 436	7 615	2 918
Tuen Mun	15 242	11 154	5 144
Yuen Long	22 365	16 177	8 808
Kwai Tsing	21 102	11 993	5 880
Islands	5 219	3 287	1 754
North	12 618	9 499	4 657
Tai Po	10 281	9 724	3 865
Sai Kung	17 651	13 829	5 989
Sha Tin	22 495	19 939	8 378
Total	262 633	177 503	83 161

3. In the light of public concern over the accuracy of residential addresses recorded in the register of electors 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 registration particulars, especially the principal residential addresses. Besides, the REO continues to implement various checking measures, including the conduct of cross-matching exercise with other government departments on the registered particulars of electors, 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 vacant buildings to be demolished. After implementing or following up with the checking measures, if the REO has reasonable grounds to suspect that registered residential addresses might not be the only or principal residence of certain electors, it will issue inquiry letters to the electors concerned to request confirmation or updating of the registered addresses. Upon the completion of the statutory inquiry procedures, electors failing to respond will be removed from the final register.

The REO does not have a breakdown of the number of electors included in statutory inquiry procedures or removed from the register by DC constituencies. In the last 3 VR cycles from 2015 to 2017, the numbers of electors included in statutory inquiry procedures were 82 655, 103 802 and 43 577 respectively, of which the numbers of electors with registered addresses at residential care homes for the elderly were 2 318, 3 405 and 260 respectively. A breakdown of the numbers of GC electors removed from the respective register because of loss of eligibility for registration in the above 3 VR cycles is as follows:

Reason for removal and number of electors	Cycle	2015	2016	2017
Failure to respond to statutory inquiry procedures [#]		41 661	67 509	29 576
Death		34 038	24 163	26 950
Other reasons (such as voluntary de-registration, loss of Hong Kong permanent resident status, objection cases allowed by the Revising Officer, etc.)		778	688	651
Total		76 477	92 360	57 177

[#] In the VR cycles from 2015 to 2017, among the electors removed due to failure to respond to statutory inquiry procedures, 819, 2 563 and 170 electors were those with registered addresses at residential care homes for the elderly.

4. The REO did not commission any individual organisation to undertake VR Campaigns. The work of the REO in checking and verifying the particulars of electors as well as implementing VR Campaigns is undertaken by a team comprising civil servants and non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff responsible for VR matters. From 2015-16 to 2017-18, the establishment and operational expenses (including publicity expenses on VR Campaign) in respect of VR and checking work are detailed below:

Year	Civil service establishment*	Number of NCSC staff employed[@]	Expenditure on staff remuneration and related operational expenses
2015-16	92	404	\$97 million
2016-17	93	394	\$87 million
2017-18	107	about 120	\$49 million (revised estimate)

* Including time-limited civil service posts created in the relevant year

[@] NCSC staff are employed according to actual needs. These figures represent the number of staff employed during the peak period of the VR cycle in the relevant year.

In the 2017 final register, there are about 3.8 million GC electors, representing a registration rate of 79.5%. Both the total number of electors and the registration rate are the highest on record. The Government will continue to adopt diversified means to appeal to persons of all ages and different backgrounds in order to encourage eligible persons to register as electors, remind electors to update their registration particulars in a timely manner while strengthening the public awareness and knowledge of VR. The Government will also conduct regular reviews on the publicity work and make appropriate adjustments in the light of actual needs and public responses.

5. The REO will allocate sufficient manpower and resources in 2018-19 to sustain the checking work. It will also continue to strengthen the publicity measures to encourage eligible persons to register as electors, remind existing electors to submit address proofs when applying for change of registered residential addresses, remind the electors under checking to update or confirm their registered residential addresses with the REO before the deadline and encourage electors to use the Online Voter Information Enquiry System to verify their registration status and particulars. During the peak period of the VR cycle, the above work will be carried out by a team comprising 123 civil servants (including 16 time-limited civil service posts) and around 340 NCSC staff. The expenditure on staff remuneration and the related operational expenses is estimated to be around \$61 million. The relevant work will continue to be carried out in the 2018 and 2019 VR cycles.

6. In 2017-18, the revised estimate for the conduct of the 2017 Chief Executive Election is \$105 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB108

(Question Serial No. 1608)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

What were the actual manpower and expenditure allocated by the Government for the Legislative Council (LegCo) By-election held on 11 March this year?

The central counting station for the LegCo By-election held on 11 March was set up at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre in Wan Chai. Was there any fallback central counting station for the By-election? If so, who were responsible for the relevant venue and security arrangements, and whether any sensitive data was stored in the venue that may increase the risk of electors' data being stolen?

In the past, ballot papers were passed beforehand to the Presiding Officers, who would keep the ballot papers at home for a period of as long as one week, before bringing them to the polling stations on the polling day. Were there any measures in place to ensure that the ballot papers and electors' data would be safe from tampering during the process?

There were long queues of electors outside some of the polling stations in the last LegCo General Election, including the polling stations in Tai Koo Shing West, Wan Shing in Tai Wai, The Belcher's, Amoy and Whampoa West, among which the queue in Tai Koo Shing West was the longest. It is known that new arrangements had been introduced for these polling stations during the LegCo By-election held on 11 March. What were the details? Please list the constituencies with an increased number of polling stations, the venues that were arranged to be additional polling stations, as well as the increase in manpower and the ancillary arrangements in this election due to this reason.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 33)

Reply:

The total expenditure for the Legislative Council (LegCo) By-election for the Hong Kong Island, Kowloon West and New Territories East Geographical Constituencies (GCs) and the Architectural, Surveying, Planning and Landscape Functional Constituency (2018 LegCo By-election) held on 11 March 2018 is estimated to be about \$312 million. The relevant preparatory and winding up work of the By-election has been carried out by around

300 additional non-civil service contract staff as well as staff in the establishment of the Registration and Electoral Office (REO).

2. As far as the By-election is concerned, the REO hired the Hang Hau Sports Centre as the fallback central counting station. The REO did not store any personal data in that venue. All personal data required to be used in the central counting station (e.g., personal data of counting staff for verification of identity) would be delivered to the fallback venue only after its activation. Besides, the REO had arranged security guards to station at the venue and put in place closed-circuit television (CCTV) surveillance to monitor the area.

3. In the 2018 LegCo By-election, all ballot papers were delivered to the REO's office for storage after completion of printing by the Government Logistics Department. Proper security measures were put in place by the REO at its office concerned, including round-the-clock stationing by security guards and CCTV surveillance. In view of the large number of polling stations involved, the Presiding Officers (PROs) and their deputies went to the ballot paper distribution centre of the REO in batches starting from about one week before the polling day to collect ballot papers for their respective polling stations, and bring them along to their polling stations on the polling day.

4. When collecting the ballot papers, the polling staff had to undergo specified procedures, including checking the quantity and serial numbers of the ballot papers against the "Summary of ballot paper stock allocated to individual polling station" (the Summary) of the REO. Both the REO and the polling staff concerned had to sign on the Summary to confirm the quantity of ballot papers distributed, and each of them was given a signed copy of the Summary for record.

5. To ensure that ballot papers were free from tampering, all ballot papers collected by the polling staff were required to be put in plastic bags sealed with tamper proof tapes. Both the REO and the polling staff concerned were required to sign against the seals. It would be easily spotted if a plastic bag had been torn open. All sealed ballot papers had to be put into a locked suitcase. The REO had repeatedly reminded the polling staff concerned that the sealed packets of ballot papers could only be opened after they had arrived at their respective polling stations on the polling day.

6. The polling staff involved in the collection of ballot papers, after arriving at their respective polling stations on the polling day, were required to report to the PRO the quantity and serial numbers of the ballot papers concerned. The PRO, on the other hand, would check the quantity and serial numbers of the ballot papers against the entries in the Summary. Before the start of the poll, the polling staff at the ballot paper issuing desks also had to conduct random checks of the ballot papers to ensure that they were unmarked. The PRO would inform the candidates or their agents who were present at the polling station of the quantity of ballot papers kept by him/her and where the ballot papers were placed, and allow them to observe the unsealing of the packets of ballot papers. They might also request checking the ballot papers, if necessary.

7. In view of the long queuing time of electors waiting to collect ballot papers at some polling stations during the 2016 LegCo General Election, a series of improvement measures were adopted by the REO for the 2018 LegCo By-election. They include:

- (a) increasing the numbers of ballot paper issuing desks and voting compartments in the polling stations concerned and deploying additional manpower to these stations;
- (b) securing larger venues for use as polling stations as far as possible;
- (c) increasing the number of polling stations; and
- (d) re-allocating some of the electors from polling stations with long queues to a nearby station.

8. Meanwhile, to prevent the reoccurrence of electors queuing for a long time at the polling stations to collect their ballot papers, the REO set up additional polling stations in the Hong Kong Island, Kowloon West and New Territories East GCs, and deployed additional manpower to the polling stations after taking into account the number of electors. Details are as follows:

GC	District	Code of additional polling station	Additional polling station	Number of polling staff
Hong Kong Island	Central and Western	A0902	HKSKH Western District Elderly Community Centre	24
	Eastern	C0202	Delia School of Canada	33
Kowloon West	Sham Shui Po	F2303	Portion No.1, Recreation and Leisure Centre, Chak On Estate (near Fu Chak House)	20
New Territories East	Tai Po	P1804	Joint Village Office for Villages in Shuen Wan	19
	Sai Kung	Q2402	Chi Lin Buddhist Primary School	29
	Sha Tin	R2701	Ma On Shan Ling Liang Primary School	44

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB109

(Question Serial No. 2639)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. Please provide, in tabular form, the details of and specific expenditures on seeking legal advice for verifying the eligibility of candidates in Legislative Council (LegCo) and District Council (DC) elections (including general elections and by-elections) conducted by the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) in the past 5 years.

Name of candidate	Nature of election (DC/ LegCo general election/ by-election)	Date of election	Name of candidate	Returning Officer (RO)'s grounds for questioning the eligibility of the candidate	Specific date on which the RO sought external legal advice	Persons/ Organisations providing legal advice	Date on which the RO obtained legal advice and the details of the advice	Date on which the RO informed the candidate of making a defence and the deadline for the candidate to submit the defence	Date on which the RO made the final decision and the details	Actual expenditure incurred in seeking legal advice

2. Are selective verification of the eligibility of candidates and making decision on whether or not to seek external legal advice part of the statutory functions of the RO? Why didn't the RO conduct an across-the-board verification of the eligibility of all candidates? What was the legal basis for that?
3. Based on what criteria did the RO decide whether or not to accept the legal advice obtained? Based on what criteria did the RO decide whether or not to accept the candidate's defence? Did the RO seek legal advice again upon receipt of the candidate's defence?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 31)

Reply:

In accordance with the Legislative Council Ordinance (Cap. 542), the District Councils Ordinance (Cap. 547), the Electoral Affairs Commission (Electoral Procedure) (Legislative Council) Regulation (Cap. 541D) and the Electoral Affairs Commission (Electoral Procedure) (District Councils) Regulation (Cap. 541F), in Legislative Council and District Council elections, whether a candidate's nomination is valid is determined by the Returning Officer (RO) according to the legal requirements and relevant procedures.

2. Depending on the actual circumstances of each case, the RO may seek legal advice and may, where necessary, require the candidate to furnish additional information that he/she considers appropriate according to the Regulation concerned, so as to satisfy himself/herself as to the eligibility of the candidate or the validity of the nomination. The RO shall, in accordance with the law and having considered the relevant information, decide whether or not a person is validly nominated as a candidate.

3. In accordance with section 6 of the Electoral Affairs Commission (Nominations Advisory Committees (Legislative Council)) Regulation (Cap. 541C) or section 6 of the Electoral Affairs Commission (Nominations Advisory Committees (District Councils)) Regulation (Cap. 541E), an RO may seek the advice of the Nominations Advisory Committee (NAC) as to whether a particular candidate who has submitted a nomination form is eligible to be, or disqualified from being, nominated as a candidate. However, it is also stipulated in the Regulations that the Regulations do not empower or require the NAC to advise on any matter relating to the requirements under section 40 of the Legislative Council Ordinance or section 34 of the District Councils Ordinance. The expenditure incurred by ROs in seeking the advice of the NACs was covered by the operational expenses of the respective elections.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB110

(Question Serial No. 1648)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Registration and Electoral Office's provision for 2018-19 is 107.8% higher than the revised estimate for 2017-18. What are the reasons for the substantial increase? Please list out in detail a breakdown of the specific expenditure items involved in the increased provision.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 7)

Reply:

The increase in provision for the Registration and Electoral Office in 2018-19 is mainly due to the payment of part of the expenditure of the Legislative Council By-election for the Hong Kong Island, Kowloon West and New Territories East Geographical Constituencies and the Architectural, Surveying, Planning and Landscape Functional Constituency in 2018-19; the preparation for the 2019 District Council Ordinary Election, as well as the preparation and conduct of any possible by-elections. The provisions reserved for these purposes are around \$202 million, \$148 million and \$211 million respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB111

(Question Serial No. 1649)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In respect of the Registration and Electoral Office, it is mentioned in the Estimates that one of the matters requiring special attention in 2018-19 is the conduct of a voter registration exercise, including updating the registers of electors and the related publicity measures to encourage eligible persons (including young persons in particular) to register as electors. In this connection:

1. Will the Government provide a breakdown of the actual expenses on publicising and promoting voter registration in the past 3 financial years? What is the provision set aside for meeting the publicity and promotion expenses this financial year? What are the respective expenses incurred in and expected to be incurred in promoting registration of electors for geographical and functional constituencies?
2. What are the Government's planned measures on publicising and promoting registration of electors for functional constituencies to encourage more eligible electors to register as functional constituency electors to boost voter registration rate in functional constituencies?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 8)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) makes use of different channels to appeal to eligible persons to register as electors. These channels include traditional media (such as television, radio, newspapers and magazines and public transport system), new media that are more popular among young people (such as websites and mobile applications for smartphone), etc. Publicity expenses for the 2015 to 2017 Voter Registration (VR) Campaigns were \$13.79 million, \$17.24 million and \$5.78 million respectively.

2. The Government will continue to adopt a multi-pronged approach to promote to persons of different ages and backgrounds with a view to encouraging eligible persons to register as geographical constituency (GC) and functional constituency (FC) electors, reminding existing electors to submit address proofs when applying for change of registered residential addresses, and reminding electors to update their registration particulars in a

timely manner while strengthening the public awareness and knowledge of VR. To strengthen VR and remind existing electors about the new requirement of submitting address proofs when applying for change of registered residential addresses, an estimated provision of about \$8.5 million has been set aside for the 2018 VR Campaign, which is slightly higher than the publicity expenses earmarked for previous non-election years. The REO has no breakdown of the expenses in respect of the publicity measures for GC and FC respectively as the VR publicity measures are applicable to both constituencies.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB112****(Question Serial No. 2483)**Head: (163) Registration and Electoral OfficeSubhead (No. & title):Programme: Electoral ServicesControlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

How many meetings did the Nominations Advisory Committees of the Electoral Affairs Commission convene in connection with matters related to the Legislative Council (LegCo) Election in September 2016 and the LegCo By-election in March 2018? How many cases involving matters related to the nomination of candidates for the LegCo elections were handled? To which constituencies did the candidates involved in these cases belong?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wing-hang, Dennis (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 90)Reply:

Information with respect to the cases handled by the Nominations Advisory Committees (NACs) during the 2016 Legislative Council (LegCo) General Election and the 2018 LegCo By-election for the Hong Kong Island, Kowloon West and New Territories East Geographical Constituencies and the Architectural, Surveying, Planning and Landscape Functional Constituency (2018 LegCo By-election) is tabulated as follows :

Election	Constituencies concerned	No. of cases
2016 LegCo General Election	Hong Kong Island, Kowloon West, Kowloon East, New Territories West and New Territories East Geographical Constituencies, Catering, Health Services, Legal, Medical and Wholesale and Retail Functional Constituencies	15
2018 LegCo By-election	Architectural, Surveying, Planning and Landscape Functional Constituency	1

2. The NACs did not convene any meeting in connection with the above elections.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB113

(Question Serial No. 1877)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please provide a breakdown of the revised estimate for and details of the Legislative Council By-election for the Hong Kong Island, Kowloon West and New Territories East Geographical Constituencies and the Architectural, Surveying, Planning and Landscape Functional Constituency; and the reserved provision for and details of the preparation and conduct of other possible by-elections (please give a breakdown if there is more than 1 item).

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 12)

Reply:

The total expenditure for the Legislative Council By-election for the Hong Kong Island, Kowloon West and New Territories East Geographical Constituencies and the Architectural, Surveying, Planning and Landscape Functional Constituency held on 11 March 2018 is estimated to be around \$312 million, including staff cost, publicity and other election-related expenses (such as costs for hiring venues, postage, printing, etc.).

2. Besides, the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) has reserved about \$211 million in 2018-19 for the preparation and conduct of any possible by-elections. Should there be a need to organise by-election, the REO will, depending on the timing, scale and practical arrangements, provide adequate manpower and commence early preparatory work to ensure that the by-election will be smoothly conducted in an open, fair and honest manner.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB114

(Question Serial No. 1879)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please provide, by District Council, a breakdown of the numbers of geographical constituency electors who have been removed from the register because of the loss of eligibility for registration in each of the past 3 voter registration cycles, and the reasons for the ineligibility.

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 14)

Reply:

In the light of public concern over the accuracy of residential addresses recorded in the register of electors 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 registration particulars, especially the principal residential addresses. Besides, the REO continues to implement various checking measures, including the conduct of cross-matching exercise with other government departments on the registered particulars of electors, 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 vacant buildings to be demolished. After implementing or following up with the checking measures, if the REO has reasonable grounds to suspect that registered residential addresses might not be the only or principal residence of certain electors, it will issue inquiry letters to the electors concerned to request confirmation or updating of the registered addresses. Upon the completion of the statutory inquiry process, electors failing to respond will be removed from the final register.

2. The REO does not have a breakdown of the number of electors who have been removed from the register by District Council constituency. The number of geographical

constituency electors removed from the register because of loss of eligibility for registration in the last 3 VR cycles from 2015 to 2017 is as follows:

Reason for removal and number of electors	Cycle	2015	2016	2017
Failure to respond to statutory inquiry process		41 661	67 509	29 576
Death		34 038	24 163	26 950
Other reasons (such as voluntary de-registration, loss of Hong Kong permanent resident status, objection cases allowed by the Revising Officer, etc.)		778	688	651
Total		76 477	92 360	57 177

3. In 2018-19, the REO will continue to strengthen the publicity measures to encourage eligible persons to register as electors, remind existing electors to submit address proofs when applying for change of registered residential addresses, remind the electors under checking to update or confirm their registered residential addresses with the REO before the deadline and encourage electors to use the Online Voter Information Enquiry System to verify their registration status and particulars.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB115****(Question Serial No. 1903)**Head: (163) Registration and Electoral OfficeSubhead (No. & title):Programme: Electoral ServicesControlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

Please provide, by District Council, a breakdown of the numbers of cases received from the public with respect to misrepresentation in relation to a person's eligibility to be an elector, the numbers of electors involved in such complaints, the numbers of cases that were substantiated after verification, the numbers of electors who were subsequently removed from the register of electors, and the expenses involved in the verification work in each of the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 43)Reply:

A person who makes any false or incorrect statement in the application for voter registration (VR) or change of registration particulars is in breach of the electoral laws. For suspected cases of false or incorrect statements in VR, the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) will handle them in strict accordance with the law and refer them to the law enforcement agencies for investigation and follow-up.

2. Between the 2015 and 2017 VR cycles, the numbers of electors suspected of, prosecuted for and convicted of making false statements in VR, as well as the number of electors removed from the register of electors and newly registered electors cancelled after investigation are as follows:

VR cycle	2015	2016	2017
Number of electors involved in cases referred to the law enforcement agencies by the REO for follow-up and investigation*	482	631	15
Number of electors prosecuted and convicted after investigation in the VR cycle	2	0	0

VR cycle	2015	2016	2017
Number of electors removed from the register of electors after investigation by the REO in the VR cycle	9	12	0
Number of newly registered electors cancelled after investigation by the REO in the VR cycle	110	170	5

* The REO does not keep record of the numbers of cases investigated by the law enforcement agencies during the above VR cycles.

3. The REO does not have a breakdown of the aforementioned cases by District Council constituency.

4. The work of the REO in checking and verifying the particulars of electors is undertaken by a team comprising civil servants and non-civil service contract staff responsible for VR matters. Details of the operational expenses from 2015-16 to 2017-18 are as follows:

Year	Expenditure on staff remuneration and other operational expenses
2015-16	\$97 million
2016-17	\$87 million
2017-18	\$49 million (revised estimate)

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB116

(Question Serial No. 1550)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

No electioneering campaign nowadays can go without online publicity. During the District Council and Legislative Council elections held previously, a lot of electors' particulars were collected online in some so-called "civil referenda". SMSs appealing to vote for certain candidates were sent to electors during an election in an attempt to influence the election results. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee:

1. whether the Government has allocated resources for studying this kind of incidents?
2. whether the relevant departments have resources for following up on the use and handling of information as the collection of such information involves personal privacy?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 15)

Reply:

Under the existing legislation, there is no regulation on election surveys conducted outside the No Canvassing Zones on the polling day, or on election surveys conducted through different channels (e.g. by phone, on the Internet) prior to the polling day. However, if the election survey concerned involves a breach of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (Cap. 486), the Electoral Affairs Commission (EAC) will refer the case to the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data, Hong Kong for follow-up action.

2. In accordance with the current arrangements, the EAC is responsible for handling election-related complaints and the EAC Secretariat provides the EAC with administrative support. As the operation of the EAC Secretariat is part of the regular work of the Registration and Electoral Office (REO), the resources involved in handling the aforementioned complaint cases are included in the estimated operational expenses of the REO.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB117

(Question Serial No. 0815)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2018-19 of the Registration and Electoral Office include the conduct and supervision of the Legislative Council and District Council by-elections, if any. In this connection, please advise on the allocation of the estimated expenditure and manpower arrangement.

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 8)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) has reserved about \$211 million in 2018-19 for the preparation and conduct of any possible by-elections. Should there be a need to organise by-election, the REO will, depending on the timing, scale and practical arrangements, provide adequate manpower and commence early preparatory work to ensure that the by-election will be smoothly conducted in an open, fair and honest manner.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB118

(Question Serial No. 0816)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2018-19 of the Registration and Electoral Office include the conduct of a voter registration exercise in which electors applying for change of registered addresses will be reminded about the new requirement of submitting address proofs. What are the specific publicity and education programmes to be implemented by the Government as well as the details of the manpower arrangement and estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 9)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) will launch the following multi-pronged publicity programmes in the 2018 voter registration (VR) cycle to remind existing electors of the arrangement of submitting address proofs when applying for change of registered residential addresses:

- (a) broadcasting Announcements in the Public Interest on television, radio and the Internet;
- (b) placing advertisements or disseminating information on newspapers, popular websites and mobile applications;
- (c) displaying posters at universities, tertiary institutions and secondary schools;
- (d) issuing appeal letters, publicity leaflets and application forms on reporting change of registrations particulars to households which have moved into newly developed private residential buildings and public housing estates; and
- (e) displaying posters at the advertising light boxes of bus stops and in MTR stations over the territory, displaying advertisements on MTR train compartments and displaying posters and distributing application forms on reporting change of registration particulars at district offices, public housing estate management offices, government departments and social services institutions.

The REO will also encourage eligible persons who have not yet registered as electors to do so and strengthen the public awareness and knowledge of VR through the aforementioned channels.

2. The expenditure on publicity for the 2018 VR campaign is estimated to be about \$8.5 million. In 2018-19, the work of the REO in checking and verifying the registration particulars of electors and implementing the VR campaign will be carried out by a team comprising 123 civil servants (including 16 time-limited civil service posts) and around 340 contract staff during the peak period of the year.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB119

(Question Serial No. 3200)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

With respect to “encourage eligible persons (including young persons in particular) to register as electors”, please answer the following questions:

- (a) What were the publicity measures and related expenditure for the 2017-18 Voter Registration (VR) Campaign? Please provide an itemised breakdown: 1) publicity on television and radio; 2) newspapers and magazines; 3) websites and mobile applications for smartphone; 4) public transport system; 5) employing VR Assistants and conducting various publicity activities in the community; and 6) production and distribution of leaflets, posters, banners, appeal letters, souvenirs and miscellaneous items;
- (b) What are the publicity measures and estimated expenditure for the 2018-19 VR Campaign?

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 66)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) made use of various channels in the past voter registration (VR) cycles to appeal to eligible persons to register as electors. These channels included various media and platforms, such as television, radio, newspapers, websites, mobile applications for smartphone, public transport system, as well as different kinds of community publicity activities and materials, etc. The publicity measures and expenses for the 2017 to 2018 VR Campaigns are as follows:

Cycle Measure	Publicity expenses for VR Campaign (\$'000)	
	2017	2018[#]
Publicity on television and radio	400	1,430
Newspapers and magazines	1,120	1,100
Websites and mobile applications for smartphone	680	1,200
Public transport system	2,000	2,450
Employing VR Assistants and conducting various publicity activities in the community	1,440	1,500
Production and distribution of leaflets, posters, banners, appeal letters, souvenirs and miscellaneous items	140	820
Total	5,780	8,500

[#] Figures for the 2018 VR Campaign represent estimated expenses.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB120

(Question Serial No. 2415)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2018-19 under this programme, it is 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, please inform this Committee of:

- (a) the total number of electors whose registered particulars were checked in 2017-18; and the percentage of the electors checked against the total number of electors in Hong Kong;
- (b) the amount of provision to be used for the above checking exercise in 2018-19; and
- (c) the manpower to be involved in the above checking exercise in 2018-19; and the estimated number of electors whose registered particulars will be checked.

Asked by: Hon MAK Mei-kuen, Alice (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 32)

Reply:

In the light of public concern over the accuracy of residential addresses recorded in the register of electors 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 registration particulars, especially the principal residential addresses. Besides, the REO continues to implement various checking measures, including the conduct of cross-matching exercise with other government departments on the registered particulars of electors, 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 vacant buildings to be demolished. After implementing or following up

with the checking measures, if the REO has reasonable grounds to suspect that registered residential addresses might not be the only or principal residence of certain electors, it will issue inquiry letters to the electors concerned to request confirmation or updating of the registered addresses. Upon the completion of the statutory inquiry procedures, electors failing to respond will be removed from the final register.

2. The number of electors covered by the checking measures in the 2017 VR cycle was around 140 000, representing about 4% of electors contained in the register. The REO will continue with the above checking work in the 2018 and future VR cycles to enhance the accuracy and completeness of VR records contained in the final register.

3. The REO will allocate sufficient manpower and resources in 2018-19 to sustain the checking work. It will also continue to strengthen the publicity measures to encourage eligible persons to register as electors, remind existing electors to submit address proofs when applying for change of registered residential addresses, remind the electors under checking to update or confirm their registered residential addresses with the REO before the deadline and encourage electors to use the Online Voter Information Enquiry System to verify their registration status and particulars. During the peak period of the VR cycle, the above work will be carried out by a team comprising 123 civil servants (including 16 time-limited civil service posts) and around 340 contract staff. The expenditure on staff remuneration and the related operational expenses is estimated to be around \$61 million. The relevant work will continue to be carried out in the 2018 and 2019 VR cycles and it is estimated that the registration particulars of around 140 000 and 1 600 000 electors will be verified respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB121

(Question Serial No. 2696)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please provide the respective details of the publicity measures taken for the conduct of the by-elections of the current-term Legislative Council (LegCo) and those taken for the past 3 LegCo terms. What are the expenditures involved for implementing these measures?

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 22)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) launched a series of activities to publicise both the 2016 Legislative Council (LegCo) New Territories East Geographical Constituency By-election and the 2018 LegCo By-election for the Hong Kong Island, Kowloon West and New Territories East Geographical Constituencies and the Architectural, Surveying, Planning and Landscape Functional Constituency (2018 LegCo By-election). These activities include:

- (a) producing Announcements in the Public Interest (APIs) on nomination, voter turnout and polling procedures, and making arrangements for them to be broadcast on television and radio; and providing sign language interpretation for APIs on television;
- (b) setting up dedicated websites for the elections to facilitate public access of the election-related information;
- (c) producing and posting promotional posters on nomination and voter turnout;
- (d) displaying outdoor giant wall banners and railing banners on voter turnout; and
- (e) publicising the elections through radio programmes for ethnic minorities.

2. Apart from the abovementioned publicity activities, the REO has also placed advertisements on the Internet and newspapers to encourage the electors concerned to vote during the 2018 LegCo By-election.

3. The actual expenditure for publicising the 2016 LegCo New Territories East Geographical Constituency By-election is around \$430,000, and the estimated expenditure for publicising the 2018 LegCo By-election is around \$1.25 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB122

(Question Serial No. 2298)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Notebook computers containing the addresses and Hong Kong Identity Card numbers of all electors in Hong Kong were found missing after the 2017 Chief Executive Election. Regarding the incident, please inform this Committee of the policies and measures for making improvements and preventing recurrence of similar incidents, the timetable involved, and the required expenditure and manpower in 2017-18.

Asked by: Hon MOK Charles Peter (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 28)

Reply:

The Task Force on the Computer Theft Incident of the Registration and Electoral Office (Task Force) set up by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) published its report on 13 June 2017. In its report, the Task Force set out a number of observations and recommended a series of improvement measures on the handling of personal data, information technology (IT) security, general security of election venues as well as the permanent establishment of the Registration and Electoral Office (REO). The REO has completed the majority of the recommendations made by the Task Force and implemented such measures in the 2018 Legislative Council (LegCo) By-election for the Hong Kong Island, Kowloon West and New Territories East Geographical Constituencies and the Architectural, Surveying, Planning and Landscape Functional Constituency held on 11 March 2018.

2. On the handling of personal data, the REO has updated the relevant internal guidelines and procedures which will be re-circulated to staff on a regular basis. To ensure that all the security arrangements as detailed in the departmental guidelines would be carried out properly, the REO will provide sufficient training to its staff. The REO will also provide briefings and training to the electoral staff before the conduct of each of the large-scale elections. The REO is now working in parallel on the formulation of a long-term Privacy Management Programme (PMP), including commissioning a suitable consultant through tendering to assist in the development and implementation of the PMP.

3. In respect of IT security, all staff members of the REO are prohibited from using the Electors Information Enquiry System (one of the notebook computers suspected to be stolen

in the 2017 Chief Executive Election was loaded with such system) for the purpose of verifying the identity of electors and handling enquires in election venues. The REO has also updated its internal guidelines on IT security, and will ensure that its IT systems comply with the latest requirements of the Government's IT security policies, procedures and guidelines.

4. As for the general security of election venues, the REO will formulate a venue security plan for each election, and seek comments from the Police and the Electoral Affairs Commission on the relevant security arrangements. The arrangements for the usage of personal data, together with the security arrangements, will be personally endorsed by the Chief Electoral Officer. The REO will also avoid storing any personal data in fallback venues before their actual activation.

5. The implementation of the above measures will be absorbed by existing manpower and resources of the REO.

6. Besides, as regards the establishment, the CMAB has already submitted a proposal to the LegCo for converting the supernumerary post of the Principal Electoral Officer (PEO) of the REO into a permanent one, so that the planning and operational aspects of electoral activities can be overseen effectively, and that valuable experience can be retained for sustainable review and improvement of the electoral system. In addition, the REO will also convert 21 time-limited non-directorate posts into permanent posts to retain some core staff with electoral experience to assist in conducting a detailed review of the electoral arrangements and to explore feasible improvement measures, so that electoral work will be better organised and administrative support better provided in the next election cycle. The proposed creation of one PEO post and 21 non-directorate permanent posts will bring an additional notional annual salary cost at mid-point of \$17.91 million in total.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB123

(Question Serial No. 2300)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the 2018 Legislative Council By-election, will the Government provide this Committee with:

- (1) the number of poll cards issued by and the total number of poll cards returned to the Registration and Electoral Office with respect to the various districts and constituencies;
- (2) the details and timetable of, and the expenditure and manpower requirement for the enhancement of checking of electors in the current register in respect of their registered addresses in 2017-18; and
- (3) a breakdown, by district and constituency, of the reasons for the return of poll cards and the number of poll cards returned: no such person, not occupied, refusal of receipt, unclaimed, moved and no redirection arranged, incomplete address, no such address.

District	Number of poll cards returned						
	No such person	Not occupied	Refusal of receipt	Unclaimed	Moved and no redirection arranged	Incomplete address	No such address

Asked by: Hon MOK Charles Peter (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 30)

Reply:

Regarding the 2018 Legislative Council By-election, the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) issued poll cards to about 2.1 million electors. As at 13 March 2018, the number of poll cards returned relating to the above election involved 24 389 electors (the numbers of poll cards returned from the Hong Kong Island, Kowloon West and New Territories East Geographical Constituencies are 8 875, 7 102 and 8 412 respectively) and the breakdown by reason for return as indicated by the Hongkong Post is as follows (the REO does not maintain a breakdown by reason for return by district):

Reason for return	Number
(a) No such person	12 998
(b) Moved and redirection service not arranged by addressee	8 198
(c) Incomplete address	1
(d) Not occupied	98
(e) Refusal of receipt	2 799
(f) No such address	98
(g) Unclaimed (i.e. the elector concerned did not pick up the post after the post had been delivered to the receipt location (mainly for a rural address without postal service))	197
Total	24 389

2. In the light of public concern over the accuracy of residential addresses recorded in the register of electors in recent years, the 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 registration particulars, especially the principal residential addresses provided. Besides, the REO continues to implement various checking measures, including the conduct of cross-matching exercise with other government departments on the registered particulars of electors, 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 registered residential addresses of electors with the Housing Department, the Hong Kong Housing Society and the Home Affairs Department; checks on registered 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 vacant buildings to be demolished. After implementing or following up with the checking measures, if the REO has reasonable grounds to suspect that registered residential addresses might not be the only or principal residence of certain electors, it will issue inquiry letters to the electors concerned to request confirmation or updating of their registered addresses. Upon completion of the statutory inquiry process, electors failing to

respond will be removed from the final register. The number of electors covered by the checking measures of the REO in the 2017 VR cycle is about 140 000.

3. The REO allocated sufficient manpower and resources in 2017-18 to strengthen the checking work in order to improve the accuracy and completeness of VR records. The REO also continued to strengthen the publicity measures to encourage eligible persons to register as electors, remind existing electors to submit address proofs when applying for change of registered residential addresses, remind the electors under checking to update or confirm their registered residential addresses with the REO before the deadline and encourage electors to use the Online Voter Information Enquiry System to verify their registration status and particulars. During the peak period of the VR cycle, the above work was carried out by a team comprising 107 civil servants (including 2 time-limited civil service posts) and around 120 contract staff. The expenditure on staff remuneration and the related operational expenses is estimated to be around \$49 million. The relevant work will continue to be carried out in the 2018 VR cycle.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB124

(Question Serial No. 3334)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

- a) Please list, by administrative district of District Council, the types and numbers of complaints received by the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) about the registered addresses of electors in the past 5 years. How many of these cases were proved to have involved the provision of false information?
- b) In recent years, there are often cases involving electors with unclear registered addresses; and cases where electors of different surnames have registered under one address. There are also some cases where an elector has received verifying letter which bears the name of a person who is not residing in the address registered. How will the REO handle such cases? How long does it usually take to handle such cases? Will an elector's eligibility be suspended if the case is preliminarily found to be suspicious?
- c) Please list, by administrative district of District Council, the numbers of cases containing erroneous entries and suspected cases found by the REO after "the conduct of checks on electors in the current register in respect of their registered particulars, including cross-matching exercise with other government departments" in all districts, as well as the numbers of electors removed and their percentages against the total numbers of cases checked over the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-chun (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 91)

Reply:

A person who makes any false or incorrect statement in the application for voter registration (VR) or change of registered particulars is in breach of the electoral laws. For suspected cases of false or incorrect statements in VR or upon receipt of related complaints, the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) will handle them in strict accordance with the law and refer them to the law enforcement agencies for investigation and follow-up.

2. Between the 2013 and 2017 VR cycles, the numbers of electors suspected of, prosecuted for and convicted of making false statements in VR, as well as the numbers of electors removed from the register of electors and newly registered electors cancelled after investigation are as follows:

VR cycle	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Number of electors involved in cases referred to the law enforcement agencies by the REO for follow-up and investigation	0	1	482	631	15
Number of electors prosecuted and convicted after investigation in the VR cycle	0	0	2	0	0
Number of electors removed from the register of electors after investigation by the REO in the VR cycle	0	0	9	12	0
Number of newly registered electors cancelled after investigation by the REO in the VR cycle	0	0	110	170	5

3. The REO does not have a breakdown of the aforementioned cases by District Council (DC) constituency.

4. In the light of public concern over the accuracy of residential addresses recorded in the register of electors in recent years, the 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 particulars, especially the principal residential addresses. Besides, the REO will continue to implement various checking measures, including the conduct of cross-matching exercise with other government departments on the registered particulars of electors, 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 registered residential addresses of electors with the Housing Department (HD), the Hong Kong Housing Society (HKHS) and the Home Affairs Department (HAD); checks on registered 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 vacant buildings to be demolished. The REO's cross-matching exercise with other government departments on checking electors' registered residential addresses includes regular updating of particulars, and checking with the HD, HKHS and HAD in election years regarding electors with registered residential addresses in public housing units and electors of the Rural Representative Election. After implementing or following up with the checking measures, if the REO has reasonable grounds to suspect that registered residential addresses might not be the only or principal residence of certain electors, it will issue inquiry letters to the electors concerned to request confirmation or updating of their registered residential addresses. Upon completion of the statutory inquiry process, electors failing to respond will be removed from the final register. Depending on the amount of

time taken by electors in responding to the inquiry process before the statutory deadline, it usually takes 2 to 3 months for the REO to handle and follow up with these cases.

5. In the 3 VR cycles from 2015 to 2017, the numbers of electors covered by the above measures of checking of registered particulars conducted by the REO and the numbers of electors removed from the register because of their failure to respond to the statutory inquiry process upon checking are as follows:

VR cycle	2015	2016	2017
Number of electors covered by the measures	about 1.6 million [#]	about 1.6 million [#]	about 140 000
Number of electors included in the statutory inquiry process	82 655	103 802	43 577
Number of electors removed from the register because of their failure to respond to statutory inquiry process	41 661	67 509	29 576
(a) proportion of the number of electors covered by the measures	2.6%	4.2%	21.1%
(b) proportion of the number of electors included in the inquiry process	50.4%	65.0%	67.9%

[#] It is the practice of the REO to conduct a full-scale check with the HD and HKHS in respect of the approximately 1.4 million electors with registered residential addresses in public housing units during election years. Hence, the numbers of electors covered by the checking measures in 2015 and 2016 (which were respectively the election years of DC and the Legislative Council) were more than that for 2017.

6. The REO does not have a breakdown of the number of the aforementioned electors by DC constituency.

7. The REO will continue with the above checking work in the 2018 and future VR cycles to enhance the accuracy and completeness of VR records contained in the final register.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB125****(Question Serial No. 3395)**Head: (163) Registration and Electoral OfficeSubhead (No. & title):Programme: Electoral ServicesControlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

Please provide the numbers of registered electors living in all types of residential care homes for the elderly over the past 5 years using the table below:

	Subvented Homes	Contract Homes	Self-financing Homes	Homes with Subsidised Places under Enhanced Bought Place Scheme	Private Homes	Total
Hostels for the Elderly						
Homes for the Aged						
Care and Attention Homes for the Elderly						
Nursing Homes						
Total						

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-chun (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 289)Reply:

According to the final registers from 2013 to 2017, the numbers of electors with registered addresses at residential care homes for the elderly are as follows:

Final register	Number of electors*
2013	3 876
2014	3 603
2015	5 644
2016	2 796
2017	2 364

* The figures are based on the criterion adopted by the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) for checking registered addresses with multiple electors or multiple surnames of electors.

2. The REO does not have a breakdown of the number of electors with registered addresses at residential care homes for the elderly by the type of residential care homes.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB126

(Question Serial No. 1409)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

How much provision has been earmarked by the Government for possible Legislative Council by-elections that may arise this year?

Asked by: Hon WONG Pik-wan, Helena (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 25)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) has reserved about \$211 million in 2018-19 for the preparation and conduct of any possible by-elections. Should there be a need to organise by-election, the REO will, depending on the timing, scale and practical arrangements, provide adequate manpower and commence early preparatory work to ensure that the by-election will be smoothly conducted in an open, fair and honest manner.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB148****(Question Serial No. 5673)**Head: (163) Registration and Electoral OfficeSubhead (No. & title):Programme: Electoral ServicesControlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

Please provide, in tabular form, the details of the Legislative Council and District Council by-elections conducted by the Registration and Electoral Office in the past 5 years:

Year	Constituency	Date of publishing the vacancy in the Gazette	Date of by-election	Expenditure involved	Number of staff involved
2013-2014					
2014-2015					
2015-2016					
2016-2017					
2017-2018					

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 204)Reply:

Details of the Legislative Council (LegCo) and District Council (DC) by-elections held between 2013-14 and 2017-18 are as follows:

Constituency	Date of publishing the vacancy in the Gazette	Date of by-election
Kwun Tong DC Ping Shek Constituency	15 March 2013	26 May 2013
Yau Tsim Mong DC King's Park Constituency	12 July 2013	27 October 2013
Southern DC South Horizons West Constituency	20 December 2013	23 March 2014
Islands DC Tung Chung North Constituency	10 January 2014	27 April 2014
Eastern DC Nam Fung Constituency	21 February 2014	18 May 2014
Islands DC Peng Chau and Hei Ling Chau Constituency	2 May 2014	7 September 2014
Tai Po DC San Fu Constituency	24 April 2015	19 July 2015
LegCo New Territories East Geographical Constituency (GC)	2 October 2015	28 February 2016
Central and Western DC Peak Constituency and Tung Wah Constituency	11 August 2017 (Peak Constituency) 1 September 2017 (Tung Wah Constituency)	26 November 2017
LegCo Hong Kong Island, Kowloon West and New Territories East GCs and Architectural, Surveying, Planning and Landscape Functional Constituency (FC)	5 December 2016 (Kowloon West and New Territories East GCs) 2 August 2017 (Hong Kong Island GC and Architectural, Surveying, Planning and Landscape FC)	11 March 2018

2. As far as a LegCo or DC by-election is concerned, it may span 2 financial years from the preparation to the completion of all winding up work (depending on the date and scale of the by-election). The Registration and Electoral Office will allocate sufficient manpower resources to prepare and conduct by-elections. Details of the expenditure on the above by-elections from 2013-14 to 2017-18 are as follows:

Year	Expenditure
2013-14	\$1.55 million
2014-15	\$1.98 million
2015-16	\$25.34 million
2016-17	\$26.85 million
2017-18	\$112 million (revised estimate)

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB149****(Question Serial No. 4496)**Head: (163) Registration and Electoral OfficeSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: Electoral ServicesControlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

1. Please advise on the numbers of registered electors in the past 5 years and the percentage of newly registered electors for each year.
2. Please advise on the numbers of accessible polling stations in the past 5 years and their ratios against the total number of polling stations.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 626)Reply:

The numbers of newly registered geographical constituency (GC) electors and registered GC electors in the voter registration cycles from 2013 to 2017 are listed as follows:

	2013 final register	2014 final register	2015 final register	2016 final register	2017 final register
Number of newly registered GC electors (Percentage out of total number of electors)	56 621 (1.6%)	77 261 (2.2%)	262 633 (7.1%)	177 503 (4.7%)	83 161 (2.2%)
Number of registered GC electors	3 471 423	3 507 786	3 693 942	3 779 085	3 805 069

In the 2017 final register, there are about 3.8 million GC electors, representing a registration rate of 79.5%. Both the total number of electors and the registration rate are the highest on record.

2. For the ordinary or general elections conducted in the past 5 years, the numbers of polling stations which were accessible to persons with mobility difficulties and wheelchair users, and their respective percentages out of the total numbers of polling stations are as follows:

Election	Total number of polling stations*	Number of polling stations accessible to persons with mobility difficulties and wheelchair users* (percentage out of total number of polling stations*)
2015 District Council Ordinary Election	495	466 (94%)
2016 Legislative Council General Election	571	538 (94%)
2016 Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections	110	110 (100%)
2017 Chief Executive Election	1	1 (100%)

* excluding dedicated polling stations

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB150

(Question Serial No. 4157)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the provision of sign language interpretation services in the past 5 years, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. Whether sign language interpretation services have been provided. If so, how many times and at what occasions were such sign language interpretation services provided each year, and what were the respective reasons for providing the services;
2. In connection with the above, the number of sign language interpreters involved each year, their pay and the organisations to which they belong; and
3. Whether the Government will consider allocating more resources to improve the services for communicating with the deaf and/or persons with hearing impairment in future. If so, what are the details (including measures, manpower and expenditure involved and timetable, etc.)? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 95)

Reply:

Over the past 5 years, the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) has provided sign language interpretation and subtitles in all its Announcements in the Public Interest (APIs) to keep electors with hearing impairment informed of the relevant information. Contents of the APIs included the promotion of annual voter registration campaign, public consultation on the proposed guidelines on election-related activities in respect of the Rural Representative Election, public consultation on the provisional recommendations on boundaries and names of District Council (DC) Constituency Areas for the 2015 DC Ordinary Election, public consultation on the proposed guidelines on election-related activities in respect of the DC Election, 2015 DC Ordinary Election, public consultation on the provisional recommendations on boundaries and names of geographical constituencies for the 2016 Legislative Council (LegCo) General Election, 2016 LegCo New Territories East Geographical Constituency (GC) By-election, public consultation on the proposed guidelines on election-related activities in respect of the LegCo Election, public consultation on the proposed guidelines on election-related activities in respect of the Election

Committee Subsector (ECSS) Elections, public consultation on the proposed guidelines on election-related activities in respect of the Chief Executive Election, 2016 LegCo General Election, 2016 ECSS Ordinary Elections, and 2018 LegCo By-election for the Hong Kong Island, Kowloon West and New Territories East GCs and the Architectural, Surveying, Planning and Landscape Functional Constituency. A sign language interpreter was assigned to provide interpretation service for the API produced for each election. The expenditure involved was covered by the operational expenses of the respective elections.

2. In addition, starting from the 2015 DC Ordinary Election, the REO has provided the option of sign language interpretation services for candidates in the candidates' briefings arranged for each public election, and provided sign language interpretation services in 2 of the briefings at the request of candidates. Each briefing was served by 1 sign language interpreter, involving a total of 2 sign language interpreters. The expenditure incurred was covered by the operational expenses of the relevant elections.

3. The REO has all along made its best endeavours to facilitate electors with special needs (including electors with hearing impairment or with speech or communication impairment) to vote in an election and be informed of the relevant information. Multiple measures have been taken in previous elections to ensure that the electors can exercise their right to vote, including the provision of a pictorial voting aid to assist them to understand the voting procedures and cast their vote.

4. The REO will continue to review the relevant measures when preparing for future elections, and listen to the views of the representatives of various non-government organisations representing persons with disabilities with a view to improving, where appropriate, the above measures to facilitate eligible electors with different needs to exercise their right to vote.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB151

(Question Serial No. 6132)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) launches a voter registration campaign every year to encourage eligible members of the public to register as electors. Please advise on

- (a) the value for money of the voter registration campaigns in the past 3 years using the following table:

Year	Number of street booths	Manpower	Number of successful registrations	Number of successful changes of address	Cost
2015					
2016					
2017					

- (b) Please advise on the value for money of verifications of voter registration in the past 3 years using the following table:

Year	Number of complaints received	Number of verifications conducted on REO's own initiative	Number of electors removed from the register	Number of electors retained on the register	Number of unprocessed cases	Cost
2015						
2016						
2017						

- (c) Please advise on the cost of issuing poll cards by the REO and the number of returned posts from 2016 to 2017 using the following table:

Year	Quantity of posts sent	Number of posts with incorrect addresses	Number of posts with addressee unknown	Number of posts successfully delivered	Number of cases requiring follow-up actions due to address issues	Cost
2016						
2017						

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 59)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) makes use of various channels in every voter registration (VR) cycle to appeal to eligible persons to register as electors. These channels include various media and platforms, such as television, radio, newspapers, websites, mobile applications for smartphone, public transport system, as well as different kinds of community publicity activities and materials, etc. The REO sets up VR counters at the 5 Registration of Persons Offices under the Immigration Department to encourage and assist people applying for or collecting adult identity cards at these Offices to register as electors. During the VR cycles in election years (such as 2015 and 2016), the REO also arranges to set up mobile VR counters at government offices buildings, tertiary institutions and busy locations to publicise the VR messages, and arranges VR assistants to assist members of the public to register as electors or update their registration particulars. For the 2015 to 2017 VR Campaigns, the expenditures for engaging VR assistants are \$4.53 million, \$4.52 million and \$1.44 million respectively. The REO does not maintain statistics on the number of mobile VR counters set up in each district and the number of VR assistants.

2. The overall number of newly registered geographical constituency (GC) electors and the number of cases involving change of registration particulars by registered electors in the VR cycles from 2015 to 2017 are as follows:

VR cycle	2015	2016	2017
Number of newly registered GC electors	262 633 (150 459)	177 503 (124 249)	83 161 (25 073)
Number of cases involving the change of registration particulars by registered GC electors	414 934 (227 177)	254 711 (148 449)	161 437 (53 578)

- () represents the number of applications received and processed during the VR Campaign.

3. In the light of public concern over the accuracy of residential addresses recorded in the register of electors in recent years, the 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 particulars, especially the principal residential addresses. Besides, the REO will continue to implement various checking measures, including the conduct of cross-matching exercise with other government departments on the registered particulars of electors, 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 registered residential addresses of electors with the Housing Department (HD), the Hong Kong Housing Society (HKHS) and the Home Affairs Department (HAD); checks on registered 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 vacant buildings to be demolished. The REO's cross-matching exercise with other government departments on checking electors' registered residential addresses includes regular updating of particulars, and checking with the HD, HKHS and HAD in election years regarding electors with registered residential addresses in public housing units and electors of the Rural Representative Election. After implementing or following up with the checking measures, if the REO has reasonable grounds to suspect that registered residential addresses might not be the only or principal residence of certain electors, it will issue inquiry letters to the electors concerned to request confirmation or updating of their registered residential addresses. Upon completion of the statutory inquiry process, electors failing to respond will be removed from the final register.

4. In the 3 VR cycles from 2015 to 2017, the numbers of electors covered by the above measures of checking of registration particulars conducted by the REO and the numbers of electors removed from the register because of their failure to respond to the statutory inquiry process upon checking are as follows:

VR cycle	2015	2016	2017
Number of electors covered by the measures	about 1.6 million	about 1.6 million	about 140 000
Number of electors included in the statutory inquiry process	82 655	103 802	43 577
Number of electors removed from the register because of their failure to respond to statutory inquiry process	41 661	67 509	29 576

The REO will continue with the above checking work in the 2018 and future VR cycles to enhance the accuracy and completeness of VR records contained in the final register.

5. Between the 2015 and 2017 VR cycles, the numbers of electors suspected of, prosecuted for and convicted of making false statements in VR, as well as the numbers of electors removed from the register of electors and newly registered electors cancelled after investigation are as follows:

VR cycle	2015	2016	2017
Number of electors involved in cases referred to the law enforcement agencies by the REO for follow-up and investigation	482	631	15
Number of electors prosecuted and convicted after investigation in the VR cycle	2	0	0
Number of electors removed from the register of electors after investigation by the REO in the VR cycle	9	12	0
Number of newly registered electors cancelled after investigation by the REO in the VR cycle	110	170	5

6. The work of the REO in checking and verifying the registration particulars of electors as well as implementing VR Campaigns is undertaken by a team comprising civil servants and non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff responsible for VR matters. From 2015-16 to 2017-18, the establishment and operational expenses (including publicity expenses on VR Campaign) in respect of VR and checking work are detailed below:

Year	Civil service establishment*	Number of NCSC staff employed[@]	Expenditure on staff remuneration and related operational expenses
2015-16	92	404	\$97 million
2016-17	93	394	\$87 million
2017-18	107	about 120	\$49 million (revised estimate)

* Including time-limited civil service posts created in the relevant year.

[@] NCSC staff are employed according to actual needs. These figures represent the number of staff employed during the peak period of the VR cycle in the relevant year.

7. For the elections held in 2016, the REO issued a total of around 4.96 million poll cards. The expenditure involved, which covered the costs of producing envelopes and poll cards as well as engaging contractors for the provision of letter-shopping service and postage, is about \$26.18 million. In respect of the elections held in 2017, the REO issued a total of around 12 000 poll cards and the expenditure involved is about \$330,000. The numbers of returned poll cards or notices of uncontested nomination relating to the elections held in 2016 and 2017 by reason for return as indicated by the Hongkong Post is as follows:

Reason for return	2016 (Note1)	2017 (Note2)
No such person	21 441	120
Moved and redirection service not arranged by addressee	13 175	156
Incomplete address	327	0

Reason for return	2016 (Note1)	2017 (Note2)
Not occupied	116	1
Refusal of receipt	4 901	33
No such address	627	0
Unclaimed (i.e. the elector concerned did not pick up the post after the post had been delivered to the receipt location (mainly for a rural address without postal service))	1 399	2
Total	41 986	312

Note:

- (1) Including the 2016 Legislative Council New Territories East Geographical Constituency By-election, the 2016 Legislative Council General Election and the 2016 Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections.
- (2) Including the 2017 Chief Executive Election and 2017 Central and Western District Council By-election for the Peak Constituency and Tung Wah Constituency.

8. Upon the receipt of the returned poll cards, the REO will seek clarification from the electors concerned on whether their registered residential addresses are correct, and remind electors who have moved to submit their applications for change of registration particulars as soon as possible. After following up with the case, the REO will initiate the statutory inquiry process for electors who cannot be contacted or those who have moved without submitting their applications for change of registration particulars, and will issue inquiry letters to them to request confirmation or updating of their registered residential addresses.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB152****(Question Serial No. 3995)**Head: (163) Registration and Electoral OfficeSubhead (No. & title):Programme: Electoral ServicesControlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

Please provide:

- 1) the voter registration statistics for subvented residential care homes for persons with disabilities in the past 5 years;
- 2) the voter registration statistics for non-subvented residential care homes for persons with disabilities in the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-chun (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 292)Reply:

According to the final registers from 2013 to 2017, the numbers of electors with registered addresses at residential care homes for persons with disabilities are as follows:

Final register	Number of electors*
2013	696
2014	572
2015	812
2016	678
2017	590

* The figures are based on the criterion adopted by the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) for checking registered addresses with multiple electors or multiple surnames of electors.

2. The REO does not have a breakdown of the number of electors with registered addresses at residential care homes for persons with disabilities by types of residential care homes.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-CMAB09

(Question Serial No. S0041)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

According to Reply Serial No. CMAB112, the Nominations Advisory Committee has not handled the matters related to the Legislative Council election for Hong Kong Island in the 2018 Legislative Council By-election. Please advise:

1. whether it means that the Returning Officer has failed to follow the procedures to consult the Nominations Advisory Committee after having sought legal advice from the Department of Justice?
2. given that the decision of Nominations Advisory Committee affects a person's fundamental right to stand for election and its functions are of vital importance, the Nominations Advisory Committee has not called for any meeting in relation to 2016 General Election and 2018 By-election in accordance with the Government's reply. In this regard, what sort of way will the Nominations Advisory Committee run/handle cases?

Asked by: Hon AU Nok-hin

Reply:

Under section 6 of the Electoral Affairs Commission (Nominations Advisory Committees (Legislative Council)) Regulation (Cap. 541C) (the Regulation), a Returning Officer may seek the advice of the Nominations Advisory Committee (NAC) as to whether a particular candidate who has submitted a nomination form is eligible to be, or disqualified from being, nominated as a candidate. However, section 1(2)(a) of the Regulation also stipulates that the Regulation does not empower or require the NAC to advise Returning Officers on any matter relating to the requirements under section 40 of the Legislative Council Ordinance (Cap. 542).

2. In accordance with the Electoral Affairs Commission (Nominations Advisory Committees (Legislative Council)) Regulation, each NAC consists of one member. The NAC generally accepts applications and renders its advice in written form.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SV-CMAB10

(Question Serial No. SV011)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Further to Reply Serial No. CMAB 109, please provide the relevant legislative provisions that stipulate whether the Nominations Advisory Committees have power to advise Returning Officers in relation to section 40 of the Legislative Council Ordinance (Cap. 542) and section 34 of the District Councils Ordinance (Cap. 547).

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya

Reply:

As stipulated in section 1(2)(a) of the Electoral Affairs Commission (Nominations Advisory Committees (Legislative Council)) Regulation (Cap. 541C) and section 1(2) of the Electoral Affairs Commission (Nominations Advisory Committees (District Councils)) Regulation (Cap. 541E), these Regulations do not empower or require the Nominations Advisory Committee to advise Returning Officers on any matter relating to the requirements under section 40 of the Legislative Council Ordinance (Cap. 542) and section 34 of the District Councils Ordinance (Cap. 547) respectively.

- End -