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Replies to written questions raised by Finance Committee Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2021-22

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional & Mainland Affairs

Session No. : 3

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB097****(Question Serial No. 0755)**Head: (163) Registration and Electoral OfficeSubhead (No. & title):Programme: Electoral ServicesControlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (YUNG Ying Fai, Alan)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

Please advise of the numbers of registered electors in the past 3 years, together with the annual figures of increase in number and percentage.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 39)Reply:

The numbers of newly registered geographical constituency (GC) electors and the total numbers of GC electors in the voter registration cycles from 2018 to 2020 are set out in the table below:

	2018 final register	2019 final register	2020 final register
Number of newly registered GC electors (Percentage out of the total number of electors)	81 363 (2.1%)	392 601 (9.5%)	407 450 (9.1%)
Total number of GC electors	3 814 318	4 132 977	4 466 944

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB098****(Question Serial No. 0756)**Head: (163) Registration and Electoral OfficeSubhead (No. & title):Programme: Electoral ServicesControlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (YUNG Ying Fai, Alan)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland AffairsQuestion:

Please set out the numbers of electors on the final register currently with registered addresses at residential care homes for the elderly and residential care homes for persons with disabilities.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 40)Reply:

According to the 2020 final register, the numbers of electors with registered addresses at residential care homes for the elderly and residential care homes for persons with disabilities are as follows:

Final register	Number of electors with registered addresses at residential care homes for the elderly*	Number of electors with registered addresses at residential care homes for persons with disabilities*
2020	1 228	342

- * The figures are actual numbers of electors in the final register compiled each year based on the criteria adopted by the Registration and Electoral Office for checking registered addresses with multiple electors or multiple surnames of electors.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB099

(Question Serial No. 0757)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (YUNG Ying Fai, Alan)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please set out for the past 3 years the number of registered electors in each functional constituency, together with the number and percentage of increase.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 41)

Reply:

The numbers of registered electors in each functional constituency (FC) as well as the year-on-year changes in numbers and percentages in the past 3 years are set out at **Annex**.

**Numbers of Registered Electors in Functional Constituencies and
Year-on-year Changes in the Final Registers from 2018 to 2020**

Functional constituency	Number of electors in the final register			Change of 2019 over 2018		Change of 2020 over 2019	
	2018	2019	2020	Number of electors	Percentage	Number of electors	Percentage
Heung Yee Kuk	148	151	155	3	2.0%	4	2.65%
Agriculture & Fisheries	154	150	152	-4	-2.6%	2	1.33%
Insurance	127	125	134	-2	-1.6%	9	7.20%
Transport	193	187	191	-6	-3.1%	4	2.14%
Education	85 705	84 876	85 698	-829	-1.0%	822	0.97%
Legal	6 726	6 843	7 455	117	1.7%	612	8.94%
Accountancy	25 723	25 939	27 778	216	0.8%	1 839	7.09%
Medical	11 406	11 718	12 302	312	2.7%	584	4.98%
Health Services	36 734	36 804	40 471	70	0.2%	3 667	9.96%
Engineering	9 454	9 441	10 647	-13	-0.1%	1 206	12.77%
Architectural, Surveying, Planning and Landscape	7 788	8 026	9 096	238	3.1%	1 070	13.33%
Labour	671	672	712	1	0.1%	40	5.95%
Social Welfare	13 787	13 711	13 935	-76	-0.6%	224	1.63%
Real Estate and Construction	672	673	671	1	0.1%	-2	-0.30%

Functional constituency	Number of electors in the final register			Change of 2019 over 2018		Change of 2020 over 2019	
	2018	2019	2020	Number of electors	Percentage	Number of electors	Percentage
Tourism	1 350	1 322	1 486	-28	-2.1%	164	12.41%
Commercial (First)	1 007	908	1 230	-99	-9.8%	322	35.46%
Commercial (Second)	1 386	1 313	1 270	-73	-5.3%	-43	-3.27%
Industrial (First)	486	459	442	-27	-5.6%	-17	-3.70%
Industrial (Second)	701	674	640	-27	-3.9%	-34	-5.04%
Finance	122	120	121	-2	-1.6%	1	0.83%
Financial Services	634	638	814	4	0.6%	176	27.59%
Sports, Performing Arts, Culture and Publication	2 923	3 164	4 268	241	8.2%	1 104	34.89%
Import and Export	1 342	1 299	1 603	-43	-3.2%	304	23.40%
Textiles and Garment	1 920	1 686	1 607	-234	-12.2%	-79	-4.69%
Wholesale and Retail	6 523	6 621	6 104	98	1.5%	-517	-7.81%
Information Technology	8 136	7 391	13 000	-745	-9.2%	5 609	75.89%
Catering	4 685	4 408	8 018	-277	-5.9%	3 610	81.90%
District Council (First)	431	431	452	0	0.0%	21	4.87%
Total	230 934	229 750	250 452	-1 184	-0.5%	20 702	9.01%

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB100

(Question Serial No. 0758)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (YUNG Ying Fai, Alan)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please set out the numbers of citizens who were disqualified as electors for failing to submit address proofs upon random sample checks in the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 42)

Reply:

During the random sample checks conducted in the 2018, 2019 and 2020 voter registration cycles, the numbers of electors eventually removed from the final register of electors due to failure to provide address proofs when updating their registered addresses were 45, 86 and 75 respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB101

(Question Serial No. 1717)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (YUNG Ying Fai, Alan)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

One of the matters requiring special attention in 2021-22 as stated by the Registration and Electoral Office is the conduct and supervision of the 2021 Legislative Council General Election. Would the Government inform this Committee of the breakdown of expenditure and manpower required for carrying out such work, and the comparison of these figures with those for the 2016 Legislative Council General Election?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)

Reply:

As far as a Legislative Council (LegCo) General Election is concerned, it normally spans several financial years from the preparation to the completion of all winding-up work. The estimated expenditure incurred in 2020-21 by the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) for the preparation of the 2021 LegCo General Election is about \$282 million. For 2021-22, the provision for the preparation and conduct of the 2021 LegCo General Election is about \$1,728 million (including the provision for the preparation and conduct of the 2021 Voter Registration Campaign), with breakdown as follows:

Expenditure on the preparation and conduct of the election	2021-22 \$ million
(1) Staff cost	240
(2) Publicity	47
(3) Other expenses (including the costs for hiring venues, manning polling and counting stations, Financial Assistance Scheme, transportation, postage, free mailing, printing, and rental cost of temporary offices and stores, etc.)	1,441
Total	1,728

2. In addition to the staff in its establishment, the REO plans, on top of the net increase of 14 civil service posts, to employ about 1 600 non-civil service contract staff (the number

of contract staff to be employed during the peak period) in 2021-22 to cope with the workload arising from the preparation and conduct of the 2021 LegCo General Election, the 2021 Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections and the 2022 Chief Executive Election.

3. The overall expenditure for the preparation and conduct of the 2016 LegCo General Election is about \$695 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB102

(Question Serial No. 1718)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (YUNG Ying Fai, Alan)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

It is stated in the Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision that a total of 14 posts will be created in the Registration and Electoral Office in 2021-22 for undertaking election-related duties. Please provide information on the salaries and scope of work of these new posts.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher (LegCo internal reference no.: 52)

Reply:

In 2021-22, the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) plans to create 19 additional civil service posts (including 1 Chief Executive Officer, 4 Senior Executive Officer, 10 Executive Officer I, 1 Executive Officer II, 1 Systems Manager, 1 Analyst/Programmer I and 1 Assistant Clerical Officer posts) to cope with the work arising from the preparation and conduct of the 2021 Legislative Council General Election, the 2021 Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections and the 2022 Chief Executive Election. After discounting 5 posts to be deleted in 2021-22 (including 1 Executive Officer I, 2 Executive Officer II, 1 Assistant Clerical Officer and 1 Clerical Assistant posts), the net increase of posts in the REO in 2021-22 is 14, and the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts is \$14,452,440.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB103

(Question Serial No. 1833)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (YUNG Ying Fai, Alan)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

What are the breakdown of expenditure and manpower required for carrying out the preparatory work for the 2021 Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections? How do they compare with those for the Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections in 2016?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

The Election Committee Subsector (ECSS) Ordinary Elections from the preparation to the completion of all winding-up work usually take a span of a few financial years. Regarding the 2021 ECSS Ordinary Elections, the preparatory work commenced in 2019-20. The actual expenditure incurred in 2019-20 and the provision included in the 2020-21 revised estimate for the preparation work are about \$3.4 million and \$16 million respectively. For 2021-22, the provision of the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) for the preparation and conduct of the 2021 ECSS Ordinary Elections is about \$351 million, with breakdown as follows:

Expenditure on the preparation and conduct of the election	2021-22 \$ million
(1) Staff cost	91
(2) Publicity	2
(3) Other expenses (including the costs for hiring venues, manning polling and counting stations, transportation, postage, free mailing, printing, and rental cost of temporary offices and stores, etc.)	258
Total	351

2. In addition to the existing staff in its establishment, the REO plans, on top of the net increase of 14 civil service posts, to employ about 1 600 non-civil service contract staff (the number of contract staff to be employed during the peak period) in 2021-22 to cope with the

workload arising from the preparation and conduct of the 2021 Legislative Council General Election, the 2021 ECSS Ordinary Elections and the 2022 Chief Executive Election.

3. The actual expenditure for the preparation and conduct of the 2016 ECSS Ordinary Elections was about \$151 million. The increase in the overall estimated provision for the preparation and conduct of the 2021 ECSS Ordinary Elections is mainly due to higher costs for hire of venues, payment for additional security staff and public liability insurance policy, engagement of extra cleansing service and implementation of anti-epidemic safety measures.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB104

(Question Serial No. 1834)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (YUNG Ying Fai, Alan)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

What are the breakdown of expenditure and manpower required for the 2021 Legislative Council (LegCo) General Election, and how do they compare with those for the LegCo General Election in 2020? As indicated by the Government, new polling and counting arrangements will be introduced in the 2021 LegCo General Election to ensure that the whole election is conducted in a more fair and efficient manner. Have these arrangements been taken into account in the relevant breakdown of expenditure and manpower? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

As far as a Legislative Council (LegCo) General Election is concerned, it normally spans several financial years from the preparation to the completion of all winding-up work. The estimated expenditure incurred in 2020-21 by the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) for the preparation of the 2021 LegCo General Election is about \$282 million. For 2021-22, the provision for the preparation and conduct of the 2021 LegCo General Election is about \$1,728 million (including the provision for the preparation and conduct of the 2021 Voter Registration Campaign), with breakdown as follows:

Expenditure on the preparation and conduct of the election	2021-22 \$ million
(1) Staff cost	240
(2) Publicity	47
(3) Other expenses (including the costs for hiring venues, manning polling and counting stations, Financial Assistance Scheme, transportation, postage, free mailing, printing, and rental cost of temporary offices and stores, etc.)	1,441
Total	1,728

2. The estimates have taken into account the expenditure on the new arrangements to be introduced by the REO in the 2021 LegCo General Election, including the installation of video-recording facilities at the counting zone in each counting station and the Central Counting Station for recording the situation on-site, exploring the use of electronic poll register to facilitate verification of electors' identities and enhance the efficiency and accuracy of issuing of ballot papers, and exploring the setting up of special queues for electors with special needs. Besides, the estimates have taken into consideration the expenditure on anti-epidemic safety measures to be adopted at polling stations and counting stations to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

3. To cope with the work arising from the preparation and conduct of the 2021 LegCo General Election, the 2021 Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections and the 2022 Chief Executive Election, the REO plans, in addition to the net increase of 14 civil service posts, which will increase the size of its non-directorate establishment to 310, to employ about 1 600 non-civil service contract staff (the number of contract staff to be employed during the peak period) in 2021-22.

4. The overall expenditure for the preparation and conduct of the 2020 LegCo General Election (discontinued) was originally estimated to be about \$1,294 million. In light of the Special Administrative Region Government's decision to postpone the election, the revised overall expenditure for the election is estimated to be about \$435 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB105

(Question Serial No. 1857)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (YUNG Ying Fai, Alan)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please provide, by District Council, a breakdown of the numbers of electors for Geographical Constituency (GC) who were removed from the register because they were no longer eligible for registration as GC electors and the reasons for the ineligibility in each of the past 3 voter registration cycles.

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 47)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) has been stepping up publicity in every 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. The REO has also been implementing 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 the 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 numbers of geographical

constituency electors removed from the register because of loss of eligibility for registration in the last 3 VR cycles from 2018 to 2020 are as follows:

Reason for removal and number of electors	Cycle	2018	2019	2020
Failure to respond to statutory inquiry process		41 794	39 055	47 084
Death		29 792	34 244	25 853
Other reasons (such as voluntary de-registration, loss of Hong Kong permanent resident status, objection cases allowed by the Revising Officer, etc.)		528	643	546
Total		72 114	73 942	73 483

3. In the 2021-22 VR cycle, 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

CMAB106

(Question Serial No. 2600)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (YUNG Ying Fai, Alan)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

How much funding is reserved for the payment of election expenses of eligible candidates for the 2020 Legislative Council General Election? When will the work be completed?

Has the Registration and Electoral Office found any irregularity in the declared election expenses of candidates and referred the case(s) to law enforcement agencies (such as the Independent Commission Against Corruption) for follow-up? If so, what are the number of cases and the number of candidates/lists of candidates involved?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 158)

Reply:

For the discontinued 2020 Legislative Council General Election, a total of 174 candidates or lists of candidates (hereinafter referred to as "candidates") satisfy the requirement for claiming Government payment under section 9 of the Emergency (Date of General Election) (Seventh Term of the Legislative Council) Regulation (Cap. 241L). Among these candidates, 124 have submitted claim forms to apply for payment in respect of their declared election expenses in the election, involving a total amount of about \$49 million. The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) has earmarked provision in 2021-22 for making relevant payment to eligible candidates.

2. The REO will verify each of the claims against the election returns submitted by the 124 candidates and all documentary evidence available to ascertain whether the claim has fully complied with the requirements as set out in the "Guidelines on Claim for Government Payment in respect of Declared Election Expenses" and the Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Conduct) Ordinance (ECICO). It will also require candidates to provide supplementary information and documentary evidence for certain election expenses in the claims where applicable so as to verify whether they fall within the definition of "election expenses" under section 2 of the ECICO and determine the amount payable by the Government. After verifying a claim, the REO will inform the candidate concerned in writing of the results, and notify the Director of Accounting Services of the amount of payment and the person to whom it is to be paid. As soon as practicable after receiving the notification, the

Director of Accounting Services will make the payment in accordance with the notification. It takes time for the REO to verify the election returns submitted by the candidates and the respective supplementary information and documentary evidence. The verification work for the claims is still in progress, hence no payment has yet been arranged for any candidates.

3. The REO will be vigilant in vetting election returns and claims submitted by the candidates. Cases or complaints in relation to breach of the ECICO will be referred to the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) for investigation. As at 5 March 2021, 3 complaints concerning alleged breach of section 20 of the ECICO have been referred by the REO to the ICAC for follow-up actions in accordance with established procedures.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB107

(Question Serial No. 0326)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (YUNG Ying Fai, Alan)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

This Programme specifies that matters requiring special attention of the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) in 2021-22 include the conduct and supervision of the Legislative Council General Election. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. The details and pay arrangements in relation to the 14 posts to be created in 2021-22 for undertaking election-related duties;
2. The amount earmarked for handling the Legislative Council General Election among the REO's estimated provision of \$2,492.5 million for 2021-22; and
3. The REO mentioned last year the need for a more detailed study on the pilot scheme of advance polling. What is the progress of the study to date? Will the scheme be launched in the 2021 Legislative Council General Election?

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (LegCo internal reference no.: 14)

Reply:

In 2021-22, the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) plans to create 19 additional civil service posts (including 1 Chief Executive Officer, 4 Senior Executive Officer, 10 Executive Officer I, 1 Executive Officer II, 1 Systems Manager, 1 Analyst/Programmer I and 1 Assistant Clerical Officer posts) to cope with the work arising from the preparation and conduct of the 2021 Legislative Council (LegCo) General Election, the 2021 Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections and the 2022 Chief Executive Election. After discounting 5 posts to be deleted in 2021-22 (including 1 Executive Officer I, 2 Executive Officer II, 1 Assistant Clerical Officer and 1 Clerical Assistant posts), the net increase of posts in the REO in 2021-22 is 14.

2. As far as a LegCo General Election is concerned, it normally spans several financial years from the preparation to the completion of all winding-up work. The estimated expenditure incurred in 2020-21 by the REO for the preparation of the 2021 LegCo General Election is about \$282 million. For 2021-22, the provision for the preparation and conduct

of the 2021 LegCo General Election is about \$1,728 million (including the provision for the preparation and conduct of the 2021 Voter Registration Campaign), with breakdown as follows:

Expenditure on the preparation and conduct of the election	2021-22 \$ million
(1) Staff cost	240
(2) Publicity	47
(3) Other expenses (including the costs for hiring venues, manning polling and counting stations, Financial Assistance Scheme, transportation, postage, free mailing, printing, and rental cost of temporary offices and stores, etc.)	1,441
Total	1,728

3. The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau consulted the LegCo Panel on Constitutional Affairs in February 2019 on the proposal of launching a pilot scheme of advance polling. During the meeting, a number of Panel Members raised concerns on whether the REO could have adequate security measures to ensure the safe custody of the electoral materials used on the advance polling day during the 7-day period between the advance polling day and the main polling day. Advance polling involves many complex arrangements and considerations with regard to venues, manpower, storage of materials, security and specific arrangements on the main polling day so as to safeguard a fair and just election. All the details require close scrutiny and careful deliberation. For the sake of prudence, we do not recommend to launch the pilot scheme of advance polling at this stage. We will continue to optimise the election procedures by reviewing the workflow of public elections and exploring initiatives such as the application of technologies. Meanwhile, we will actively consider according polling staff with priority when they cast their votes at their designated polling stations, with a view to enabling them to resume duties at the polling stations they serve as soon as possible. As for civil servants who are required to assume duties on the polling day, the bureaux/departments concerned will ensure they are given sufficient time to cast their votes.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB108

(Question Serial No. 2361)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (YUNG Ying Fai, Alan)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

With respect to the voter registration exercise in 2021, please provide a breakdown of the publicity measures and related expenditure by:

- a) publicity on television and radio;
- b) newspapers and magazines;
- c) websites and mobile applications for smartphones;
- d) public transport system;
- e) employing Voter Registration Assistants and conducting various publicity activities in the community; and
- f) production and distribution of leaflets, posters, banners, appeal letters, souvenirs and miscellaneous items.

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 87)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office 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, websites, mobile applications for smartphone, public transport system, as well as VR publicity materials displayed in the community. The breakdown of the estimated expenditure for the 2021 VR Campaign is as follows:

Measure	Cycle	Estimated Expenditure for the 2021 VR Campaign (\$'000)
Publicity on television and radio		4,020
Printed materials and publications		370
Websites and mobile applications for smartphone		1,300
Public transport system		3,410
Employing VR Assistants and conducting various publicity activities in the community (Note)		1,730
Production and distribution of leaflets, posters, banners, appeal letters, souvenirs and miscellaneous items		4,270
Total		15,100

Note: In order to reduce social contacts and to minimise the risk of COVID-19 spreading in the community, the 2021 VR Campaign did not include setting up roving registration counters at popular locations, including major MTR stations and shopping malls, in the 18 districts.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB109

(Question Serial No. 0519)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (YUNG Ying Fai, Alan)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In view of the postponement of the 2020 Legislative Council General Election for 1 year, the Government announced that those who were eligible to stand for election could declare their election expenses in accordance with relevant election procedure and receive full reimbursement by the Government. In this connection, please inform this Committee, in the following table, of the amounts of the declared items of each candidate and the amounts of Government reimbursement involved:

Candidate	Declared item of the candidate	Amount of the declared item	Amount of Government reimbursement

Asked by: Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael (LegCo internal reference no.: 40)

Reply:

In accordance with section 9 of the Emergency (Date of General Election) (Seventh Term of the Legislative Council) Regulation (Cap. 241L) (the Regulation), the Government will make a payment in an amount equal to the declared election expenses of a candidate or a list of candidate(s) (hereinafter referred to as “candidate(s)”) whose nomination form was accepted by the Returning Officer, unless before the discontinuation date, the Returning Officer had decided that the nomination form or the nomination was invalid, or the Returning Officer had rejected the nomination list, or the nomination had been withdrawn. Section 9(5) of the Regulation also provides that “declared election expenses” means the amount set out as the eligible candidate’s election expenses in the election return submitted by him/her. Pursuant to section 10 of the Regulation, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau issued the Guidelines on Claim for Government Payment in respect of Declared Election Expenses on 7 August 2020 indicating the manner and form in which a claim for a payment must be made, supported and verified; and the particulars that such a claim must contain.

2. For the discontinued 2020 Legislative Council (LegCo) General Election, a total of 174 candidates satisfy the requirement for claiming Government payment under section 9 of the Regulation. Among these candidates, 124 have submitted claim forms to apply for payment in respect of their declared election expenses in the election, involving a total amount of about \$49 million.

3. The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) has kept the election returns submitted by candidates at its office in Kwun Tong, and has made available copies of the election returns for public inspection during business hours of the office in the public inspection period (until 31 July 2021) in accordance with section 41 of the Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Conduct) Ordinance. As with the arrangements in previous elections, claim forms for financial assistance in an election will not be made available for public inspection. The REO will only disclose the total amount of financial assistance involved in the election without revealing the amount of financial assistance payable to individual candidates. Claim forms of the discontinued 2020 LegCo General Election will also not be made available for public inspection.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB110

(Question Serial No. 1165)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (YUNG Ying Fai, Alan)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

- Please set out in the table below the data of all post-1997 District Council and Legislative Council elections (excluding by-elections) regarding the age-specific number of registered electors, registration rate, voter turnout, voter turnout rate, number of persons eligible for voter registration, total number of registered electors, overall registration rate, total voter turnout and overall registration rate.

Type of election: District Council election/ Legislative Council election	Year:				
Age	No. of registered electors	Registration rate	No. of persons eligible for voter registration	Voter turnout	Voter turnout rate
18-20					
21-25					
26-30					
31-35					
36-40					
41-45					
46-50					
51-55					
56-60					
61-65					
66-70					
71 or above					
	Total no. of registered electors:	Overall registration rate:	Total no. of persons eligible for voter	Total voter turnout:	Overall turnout rate:

			registration:		
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2. What is the specific formula for the Government to calculate the voter registration rate? Since when has it been in use?
3. Is there any plan to change the formula for voter registration rate?

Asked by: Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael (LegCo internal reference no.: 14)

Reply:

The figures of all Legislative Council elections and District Council elections since 1998 (excluding the by-elections held during the period and the postponed 2020 Legislative Council General Election) regarding the age-specific number of persons eligible for voter registration (estimated figures), number of registered electors (actual figures), registration rate, voter turnout, voter turnout rate, and their respective totals are set out in Tables 1 to 12.

2. According to sections 27 to 29 of the Legislative Council Ordinance (Cap. 542), a person is not eligible to be registered as an elector unless the person is a permanent resident of Hong Kong who has reached 18 years of age, ordinarily resides in Hong Kong, and provides a residential address which is his only or principal residence in Hong Kong. The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) estimates the number of persons in Hong Kong eligible for voter registration in a voter registration cycle based on the estimated population aged 18 or above published by the Census and Statistics Department, and with reference to the number of Hong Kong Permanent Identity Card holders. The voter registration rate is then calculated with the above estimated number of persons eligible for registration. The REO does not have plan to change the present method of calculation.

Table 1

Age group	Voter registration figures in 1998			Voter turnout figures in the 1998 Legislative Council General Election	
	No. of persons eligible for voter registration (estimated figures)	No. of registered electors (actual figures)	Registration rate (%)	Voter turnout (Note 1)	Voter turnout rate (%) (Note 2)
18-20	No breakdown by age group is available			52 996	No breakdown by age group is available
21-25				103 562	
26-30				107 122	
31-35				156 873	
36-40				218 573	
41-45				206 406	
46-50				171 883	
51-55				107 259	
56-60				91 208	
61-65				95 858	
66-70				81 901	
71 or above				96 064	
Total/Overall				4 075 785	

Note 1: The voter turnout statistics were collected from all polling stations on the polling day and should be used for reference only.

Note 2: The calculation of voter turnout rate is as follows:

$$\text{Voter turnout rate} = \frac{\text{Voter turnout}}{\text{No. of registered electors (actual figure)}}$$

Table 2

Age group	Voter registration figures in 1999			Voter turnout figures in the 1999 District Councils Ordinary Election	
	No. of persons eligible for voter registration (estimated figures)	No. of registered electors (actual figures)	Registration rate (%)	Voter turnout (Note 1)	Voter turnout rate (%)
18-20	256 000	89 495	35.0	25 130	No breakdown by age group is available (Note 2)
21-25	403 000	216 163	53.6	43 159	
26-30	388 000	228 285	58.8	44 782	
31-35	468 000	296 891	63.4	67 982	
36-40	553 000	410 822	74.3	110 950	
41-45	489 000	377 774	77.3	113 515	
46-50	415 000	308 143	74.3	95 864	
51-55	273 000	196 575	72.0	66 553	
56-60	222 000	149 607	67.4	52 224	
61-65	252 000	160 347	63.6	61 617	
66-70	231 000	149 694	64.8	57 835	
71 or above	395 000	248 728	63.0	76 892	
Total/Overall	4 345 000	2 832 524	65.2	816 503	35.82 (Note 3)

Note 1: The voter turnout statistics were collected from all polling stations on the polling day and should be used for reference only.

Note 2: As the REO does not have the breakdown by age group on the number of electors excluding those from uncontested constituencies, no relevant voter turnout rate is available.

Note 3: The calculation of overall voter turnout rate is as follows:

$$\text{Overall voter turnout rate} = \frac{\text{Total voter turnout (816 503)}}{\text{Total no. of electors excluding those from uncontested constituencies (2 279 504)}}$$

Table 3

Age group	Voter registration figures in 2000			Voter turnout figures in the 2000 Legislative Council General Election	
	No. of persons eligible for voter registration (estimated figures)	No. of registered electors (actual figures)	Registration rate (%)	Voter turnout (Note 1)	Voter turnout rate (%) (Note 2)
18-20	246 540	112 448	45.6	50 584	44.98
21-25	423 961	227 094	53.6	79 813	35.15
26-30	398 595	247 682	62.1	88 893	35.89
31-35	444 096	294 709	66.4	118 198	40.11
36-40	551 798	420 076	76.1	181 110	43.11
41-45	523 985	418 961	80.0	190 973	45.58
46-50	444 349	337 808	76.0	155 252	45.96
51-55	326 659	232 666	71.2	113 055	48.59
56-60	231 434	159 569	69.0	77 982	48.87
61-65	254 031	168 415	66.3	87 375	51.88
66-70	239 669	161 546	67.4	81 280	50.31
71 or above	439 898	274 404	62.4	106 565	38.84
Total/Overall	4 525 015	3 055 378	67.5	1 331 080	43.57

Note 1: The voter turnout statistics were collected from all polling stations on the polling day and should be used for reference only.

Note 2: The calculation of voter turnout rate is as follows:

$$\text{Voter turnout rate} = \frac{\text{Voter turnout}}{\text{No. of registered electors (actual figure)}}$$

Table 4

Age group	Voter registration figures in 2003			Voter turnout figures in the 2003 District Council Ordinary Election	
	No. of persons eligible for voter registration (estimated figures)	No. of registered electors (actual figures)	Registration rate (%)	Voter turnout (Note 1)	Voter turnout rate (%)
18-20	246 300	60 809	24.7	27 002	No breakdown by age group is available (Note 2)
21-25	370 100	205 683	55.6	57 614	
26-30	383 600	246 155	64.2	62 338	
31-35	402 600	246 763	61.3	75 056	
36-40	511 000	325 367	63.7	112 317	
41-45	562 400	412 426	73.3	152 475	
46-50	474 800	365 792	77.0	138 984	
51-55	398 900	297 490	74.6	114 956	
56-60	238 100	187 467	78.7	77 032	
61-65	224 500	152 199	67.8	65 723	
66-70	235 800	159 958	67.8	70 623	
71 or above	479 800	313 503	65.3	112 253	
Total/Overall	4 527 900	2 973 612	65.7	1 066 373	44.10 (Note 3)

Note 1: The voter turnout statistics were collected from all polling stations on the polling day and should be used for reference only.

Note 2: As the REO does not have the breakdown by age group on the number of electors excluding those from uncontested constituencies, no relevant voter turnout rate is available.

Note 3: The calculation of overall voter turnout rate is as follows:

$$\text{Overall voter turnout rate} = \frac{\text{Total voter turnout (1 066 373)}}{\text{Total no.of electors excluding those from uncontested constituencies (2 418 078)}}$$

Table 5

Age group	Voter registration figures in 2004			Voter turnout figures in the 2004 Legislative Council General Election	
	No. of persons eligible for voter registration (estimated figures)	No. of registered electors (actual figures)	Registration rate (%)	Voter turnout (Note 1)	Voter turnout rate (%) (Note 2)
18-20	245 400	94 627	38.6	57 547	60.81
21-25	370 200	226 964	61.3	112 701	49.66
26-30	371 600	257 884	69.4	123 840	48.02
31-35	396 600	269 321	67.9	143 826	53.40
36-40	476 900	331 030	69.4	192 542	58.16
41-45	561 300	433 071	77.2	254 090	58.67
46-50	494 700	399 191	80.7	233 269	58.44
51-55	414 600	320 603	77.3	190 526	59.43
56-60	266 000	212 168	79.8	129 102	60.85
61-65	212 600	156 092	73.4	93 431	59.86
66-70	235 200	164 694	70.0	97 691	59.32
71 or above	494 700	341 582	69.1	155 841	45.62
Total/Overall	4 539 800	3 207 227	70.7	1 784 406	55.64

Note 1: The voter turnout statistics were collected from all polling stations on the polling day and should be used for reference only.

Note 2: The calculation of voter turnout rate is as follows:

$$\text{Voter turnout rate} = \frac{\text{Voter turnout}}{\text{No. of registered electors (actual figure)}}$$

Table 6

Age group	Voter registration figures in 2007			Voter turnout figures in the 2007 District Council Ordinary Election	
	No. of persons eligible for voter registration (estimated figures)	No. of registered electors (actual figures)	Registration rate (%)	Voter turnout (Note 1)	Voter turnout rate (%)
18-20	241 900	70 480	29.1	34 787	No breakdown by age group is available (Note 2)
21-25	396 400	193 927	48.9	56 289	
26-30	369 700	246 542	66.7	56 919	
31-35	372 600	276 937	74.3	68 459	
36-40	387 500	283 827	73.3	90 960	
41-45	502 300	384 115	76.5	138 785	
46-50	540 800	439 726	81.3	161 233	
51-55	444 600	367 123	82.6	136 541	
56-60	365 300	296 873	81.3	112 630	
61-65	212 800	174 197	81.9	71 835	
66-70	227 000	162 442	71.6	78 029	
71 or above	561 500	399 637	71.2	142 348	
Total/Overall	4 622 400	3 295 826	71.3	1 148 815	38.83 (Note 3)

Note 1: The voter turnout statistics were collected from all polling stations on the polling day and should be used for reference only.

Note 2: As the REO does not have the breakdown by age group on the number of electors excluding those from uncontested constituencies, no relevant voter turnout rate is available.

Note 3: The calculation of overall voter turnout rate is as follows:

$$\text{Overall voter turnout rate} = \frac{\text{Total voter turnout (1 148 815)}}{\text{Total no.of electors excluding those from uncontested constituencies (2 958 953)}}$$

Table 7

Age group	Voter registration figures in 2008			Voter turnout figures in the 2008 Legislative Council General Election	
	No. of persons eligible for voter registration (estimated figures)	No. of registered electors (actual figures)	Registration rate (%)	Voter turnout (Note 1)	Voter turnout rate (%) (Note 2)
18-20	244 000	102 058	41.8	54 209	53.12
21-25	396 200	194 833	49.2	79 661	40.89
26-30	374 300	251 530	67.2	89 295	35.50
31-35	372 200	275 459	74.0	104 506	37.94
36-40	376 300	283 265	75.3	128 415	45.33
41-45	484 400	368 056	76.0	180 781	49.12
46-50	531 100	440 696	83.0	212 021	48.11
51-55	465 900	382 945	82.2	179 815	46.96
56-60	383 500	309 078	80.6	151 137	48.90
61-65	232 100	190 933	82.3	90 354	47.32
66-70	218 200	158 843	72.8	89 302	56.22
71 or above	583 500	414 311	71.0	164 753	39.77
Total/Overall	4 661 700	3 372 007	72.3	1 524 249	45.20

Note 1: The voter turnout statistics were collected from all polling stations on the polling day and should be used for reference only.

Note 2: The calculation of voter turnout rate is as follows:

$$\text{Voter turnout rate} = \frac{\text{Voter turnout}}{\text{No. of registered electors (actual figure)}}$$

Table 8

Age group	Voter registration figures in 2011			Voter turnout figures in the 2011 District Council Ordinary Election		
	No. of persons eligible for voter registration (estimated figures)	No. of registered electors (actual figures)	Registration rate (%)	No. of electors excluding those from uncontested constituencies	Voter turnout (Note 1)	Voter turnout rate (%) (Note 2)
18-20	234 600	144 724	61.7	117 480	35 141	29.91
21-25	384 200	213 243	55.5	174 804	53 018	30.33
26-30	378 200	239 905	63.4	196 323	59 702	30.41
31-35	343 300	262 173	76.4	213 552	61 714	28.90
36-40	373 800	291 422	78.0	237 340	80 115	33.76
41-45	398 600	308 541	77.4	251 728	99 089	39.36
46-50	515 300	413 166	80.2	337 635	147 249	43.61
51-55	512 900	437 073	85.2	358 748	163 405	45.55
56-60	418 000	351 952	84.2	287 098	139 225	48.49
61-65	316 700	273 678	86.4	221 425	114 575	51.74
66-70	202 100	162 142	80.2	130 796	73 113	55.90
71 or above	631 800	462 516	73.2	371 233	176 198	47.46
Total/Overall	4 709 500	3 560 535	75.6	2 898 162	1 202 544	41.49

Note 1: Starting from the 2010 Legislative Council By-election, dedicated polling stations are set up by the REO in the penal institutions of the Correctional Services Department (CSD) for registered electors imprisoned or remanded under the custody of the CSD to cast their votes in elections. The statistics above include the voter turnout statistics collected from ordinary polling stations and dedicated polling stations, and should be used for reference only.

Note 2: The calculation of voter turnout rate is as follows:

$$\text{Voter turnout rate} = \frac{\text{Voter turnout}}{\text{No. of electors excluding those from uncontested constituencies}}$$

Table 9

Age group	Voter registration figures in 2012			Voter turnout figures in the 2012 Legislative Council General Election	
	No. of persons eligible for voter registration (estimated figures)	No. of registered electors (actual figures)	Registration rate (%)	Voter turnout (Note 1)	Voter turnout rate (%) (Note 2)
18-20	223 400	143 748	64.4	60 767	42.27
21-25	377 900	224 371	59.4	103 203	46.00
26-30	373 500	228 823	61.3	116 021	50.70
31-35	341 900	245 078	71.7	120 465	49.15
36-40	362 600	271 542	74.9	139 861	51.51
41-45	382 600	288 035	75.3	155 158	53.87
46-50	486 400	383 839	78.9	218 583	56.95
51-55	523 200	429 666	82.1	238 867	55.59
56-60	427 700	355 588	83.1	205 459	57.78
61-65	353 600	286 180	80.9	166 934	58.33
66-70	204 700	165 172	80.7	102 242	61.90
71 or above	654 400	444 159	67.9	211 162	47.54
Total/Overall	4 711 900	3 466 201	73.6	1 838 722	53.05

Note 1: The statistics above include the voter turnout statistics collected from ordinary polling stations and dedicated polling stations, and should be used for reference only.

Note 2: The calculation of voter turnout rate is as follows:

$$\text{Voter turnout rate} = \frac{\text{Voter turnout}}{\text{No. of registered electors (actual figure)}}$$

Table 10

Age group	Voter registration figures in 2015			Voter turnout figures in the 2015 District Council Ordinary Election		
	No. of persons eligible for voter registration (estimated figures)	No. of registered electors (actual figures)	Registration rate (%)	No. of electors excluding those from uncontested constituencies	Voter turnout (Note 1)	Voter turnout rate (%) (Note 2)
18-20	224 500	112 006	49.9	94 038	35 407	37.65
21-25	371 900	268 139	72.1	226 135	75 385	33.34
26-30	364 300	238 232	65.4	203 186	76 351	37.58
31-35	347 800	253 820	73.0	216 645	82 278	37.98
36-40	341 900	268 283	78.5	226 523	93 978	41.49
41-45	371 900	298 713	80.3	250 427	113 481	45.32
46-50	408 600	333 876	81.7	280 069	137 794	49.20
51-55	510 700	432 732	84.7	367 723	181 322	49.31
56-60	487 100	422 647	86.8	361 176	185 454	51.35
61-65	393 800	337 330	85.7	286 971	155 141	54.06
66-70	279 200	243 176	87.1	204 561	121 622	59.46
71 or above	674 100	484 988	72.0	403 784	209 016	51.76
Total/Overall	4 775 800	3 693 942	77.4	3 121 238	1 467 229	47.01

Note 1: The statistics above include the voter turnout statistics collected from ordinary polling stations and dedicated polling stations, and should be used for reference only.

Note 2: The calculation of voter turnout rate is as follows:

$$\text{Voter turnout rate} = \frac{\text{Voter turnout}}{\text{No. of electors excluding those from uncontested constituencies}}$$

Table 11

Age group	Voter registration figures in 2016			Voter turnout figures in the 2016 Legislative Council General Election	
	No. of persons eligible for voter registration (estimated figures)	No. of registered electors (actual figures)	Registration rate (%)	Voter turnout (Note 1)	Voter turnout rate (%) (Note 2)
18-20	215 300	123 567	57.4	71 879	58.17
21-25	362 600	267 299	73.7	148 167	55.43
26-30	365 500	253 000	69.2	150 323	59.42
31-35	350 100	261 183	74.6	153 963	58.95
36-40	337 300	272 321	80.7	155 837	57.23
41-45	373 100	306 147	82.1	174 793	57.09
46-50	386 800	327 287	84.6	199 857	61.06
51-55	504 800	428 114	84.8	253 482	59.21
56-60	494 700	434 656	87.9	262 818	60.47
61-65	402 000	349 110	86.8	212 606	60.90
66-70	308 400	265 493	86.1	172 698	65.05
71 or above	689 100	490 908	71.2	245 860	50.08
Total/Overall	4 789 700	3 779 085	78.9	2 202 283	58.28

Note 1: The statistics above include the voter turnout statistics collected from ordinary polling stations and dedicated polling stations, and should be used for reference only.

Note 2: The calculation of voter turnout rate is as follows:

$$\text{Voter turnout rate} = \frac{\text{Voter turnout}}{\text{No. of registered electors (actual figure)}}$$

Table 12

Age group	Voter registration figures in 2019			Voter turnout figures in the 2019 District Council Ordinary Election	
	No. of persons eligible for voter registration (estimated figures)	No. of registered electors (actual figures)	Registration rate (%)	Voter turnout (Note 1)	Voter turnout rate (%) (Note 2)
18-20	167 600	110 611	66.0	82 433	74.53
21-25	345 900	273 754	79.1	200 003	73.06
26-30	353 600	318 344	90.0	229 917	72.22
31-35	345 100	292 705	84.8	215 466	73.61
36-40	347 300	311 522	89.7	225 503	72.39
41-45	353 500	318 958	90.2	228 956	71.78
46-50	375 300	341 531	91.0	251 932	73.77
51-55	433 200	383 880	88.6	278 341	72.51
56-60	505 800	460 269	91.0	339 427	73.75
61-65	450 800	418 910	92.9	302 606	72.24
66-70	369 100	329 540	89.3	242 878	73.70
71 or above	750 900	572 953	76.3	346 380	60.46
Total/Overall	4 798 100	4 132 977	86.1	2 943 842	71.23

Note 1: The statistics above include the voter turnout statistics collected from ordinary polling stations and dedicated polling stations, and should be used for reference only.

Note 2: In the absence of candidates returned uncontested, the calculation of voter turnout rate for the 2019 District Council Election is as follows:

$$\text{Overall voter turnout rate} = \frac{\text{Voter turnout}}{\text{No. of registered electors (actual figure)}}$$

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB111

(Question Serial No. 1423)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (YUNG Ying Fai, Alan)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The expenditure of the Registration and Electoral Office is expected to increase by \$1.767 billion (243.6%) in the new financial year for the conduct of the 2021 Legislative Council General Election, the 2021 Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections and the 2022 Chief Executive Election.

What are the estimated manpower and expenditure to be involved in each of the above elections?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)

Reply:

In the 2021-22 estimate for the Registration and Electoral Office (REO), the breakdown of the provision for the preparation and conduct of the 2021 Legislative Council (LegCo) General Election, the 2021 Election Committee Subsector (ECSS) Ordinary Elections and the 2022 Chief Executive (CE) Election is as follows:

2021-22 estimate for the preparation and conduct of the elections	2021 LegCo General Election# (\$ million)	2021 ECSS Ordinary Elections (\$ million)	2022 CE Election (\$ million)
(1) Staff cost	240	91	49
(2) Publicity	47	2	2
(3) Other expenses	1,441	258	101
(including the costs for hiring venues, manning polling and counting stations, Financial Assistance Scheme (if applicable), transportation, postage, free mailing (if applicable), printing, and rental cost of temporary offices, etc.)			
Total	1,728	351	152

Including the provision for the preparation and conduct of the 2021 Voter Registration Campaign.

2. To cope with the work arising from the preparation and conduct of the 2021 LegCo General Election, the 2021 ECSS Ordinary Elections and the 2022 CE Election, the REO plans, in addition to the net increase of 14 civil service posts, which will increase the size of its non-directorate establishment to 310, to employ about 1 600 non-civil service contract staff (the number of contract staff to be employed during the peak period) in 2021-22.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB112

(Question Serial No. 1424)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (YUNG Ying Fai, Alan)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Will postal voting be accepted in the 2021 Legislative Council General Election? If yes, what are the specific arrangements and the expected increase in expenditure and manpower arising from the change in policy?

If no, what are the reasons? Since the proposal has been put up for discussion for years, will the Registration and Electoral Office examine and work out the procedures and timetable for implementation of the proposed postal voting in the new financial year?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (LegCo internal reference no.: 30)

Reply:

Public elections in Hong Kong require electors to vote in person. The arrangement for electors to personally attend the polling stations to cast their votes helps ensure the election is held in a fair, open and honest manner, and enables the candidates and their agents to monitor the polling and counting process. In fact, as stated in the Electoral Affairs Commission's Report on the 2020 Legislative Council General Election, while postal voting may allow electors abroad who cannot return to Hong Kong on the polling day to exercise their right to vote, the issues of safeguarding the autonomy and secrecy of the vote must be addressed. Since electors are no longer required to attend the polling stations to cast their votes, it will be impossible for the polling staff to verify their identities and to guard against impersonation. Furthermore, without requiring electors to mark their ballot papers inside the voting compartments, polling staff and candidates/agents thereat will no longer be able to monitor the process to ascertain that the electors are voting according to their own choices and free from outside influence or interference. Besides, in view of the nature of the postal process, there must be effective security measures to prevent the ballot papers from being intercepted or inspected, or the votes concerned being uncounted due to postal delay, thereby affecting the results of the poll. Hence, we have no plan to implement postal voting in public elections at the moment.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-CMAB01

(Question Serial No. S007)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (YUNG Ying Fai, Alan)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

- (1) Please provide the number of members in the Administrative Officer (AO) grade leaving the service in each month upon "resignation", broken down by non-directorate AOs and directorate AOs, in the past 4 years (i.e. from April 2017 to March 2021).
- (2) Please provide the percentage of AOs leaving the service upon resignation in the total number of members in the grade in each of the past 4 years.

Asked by: Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael

Reply:

In the Registration and Electoral Office, there was no officer in the Administrative Officer grade leaving the service from April 2017 to March 2021.

- End -