

ITEM FOR FINANCE COMMITTEE

HEAD 174 - STANDING COMMISSION ON CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

HEAD 175 - STANDING COMMITTEE ON DISCIPLINED SERVICES SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

Members are invited to approve the following changes to the 2001-02 Estimates, with effect from 1 December 2001 -

- (a) for Head 174 Standing Commission on Civil Service Salaries and Conditions of Service -
 - (i) change in the title of this Head of Expenditure to “Joint Secretariat for the Advisory Bodies on Civil Service and Judicial Salaries and Conditions of Service”; and
 - (ii) change in the Controlling Officer of this Head of Expenditure from “Secretary General, Standing Commission on Civil Service Salaries and Conditions of Service” to “Secretary General, Joint Secretariat for the Advisory Bodies on Civil Service and Judicial Salaries and Conditions of Service”; and
- (b) deletion of Head 175 Standing Committee on Disciplined Services Salaries and Conditions of Service.

/PROBLEM

PROBLEM

We need to fund the Joint Secretariat for the Advisory Bodies on Civil Service and Judicial Salaries and Conditions of Service (Joint Secretariat), to be established on 1 December 2001 by amalgamating the Secretariats for the Standing Commission on Civil Service Salaries and Conditions of Service (Standing Commission) and the Standing Committee on Disciplined Services Salaries and Conditions of Service (SCDS).

PROPOSAL

2. For the purpose of setting up the Joint Secretariat, we propose the following changes to the 2001-02 Estimates, with effect from 1 December 2001 -

- (a) changing the title of Head 174 from “Standing Commission on Civil Service Salaries and Conditions of Service” to “Joint Secretariat for the Advisory Bodies on Civil Service and Judicial Salaries and Conditions of Service;
- (b) changing the Controlling Officer for Head 174 from “Secretary General, Standing Commission on Civil Service Salaries and Conditions of Service” to “Secretary General, Joint Secretariat for the Advisory Bodies on Civil Service and Judicial Salaries and Conditions of Service”; and
- (c) deleting Head 175 Standing Committee on Disciplined Services Salaries and Conditions of Service.

JUSTIFICATION**Change in the title and the Controlling Officer of Head 174**

3. On 24 October 2001, the Establishment Subcommittee (ESC) of the Finance Committee endorsed, *vide* EC(2001-02)20, the staffing proposals for setting up the Joint Secretariat. The new set-up will provide support to the four advisory bodies on civil service and judicial salaries and conditions of service, i.e. the Standing Commission, the SCDS, the Standing Committee on Directorate Salaries and Conditions of Service and the Standing Committee on Judicial Salaries and Conditions of Service (Directorate and Judicial Standing Committees). Subject to Members’ approval of the ESC recommendation, we need to provide the Joint Secretariat with the necessary funding upon its establishment on 1 December 2001.

4. Given that the bulk of the resources for supporting the four advisory bodies falls on the existing Head of Expenditure 174 for the Standing Commission, we consider it appropriate to expand the ambit of Head 174 to include the SCDS and the Directorate and Judicial Standing Committees as users of funds under this Head of Expenditure upon the establishment of the Joint Secretariat. To reflect the expanded ambit of Head 174, we propose to change its title from “Standing Commission on Civil Service Salaries and Conditions of Service” to “Joint Secretariat for the Advisory Bodies on Civil Service and Judicial Salaries and Conditions of Service”. As a corollary, we also propose to change the Controlling Officer for Head 174 from “Secretary General, Standing Commission on Civil Service Salaries and Conditions of Service” to “Secretary General, Joint Secretariat for the Advisory Bodies on Civil Service and Judicial Salaries and Conditions of Service”.

Deletion of Head 175

5. Consequent to the expansion of the ambit of Head 174 to cover the SCDS and the Directorate and Judicial Standing Committees, the existing Head 175 will no longer be required and can be deleted.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6. The proposed expansion of the ambit of Head 174 to cover the SCDS and the Directorate and Judicial Standing Committees will require supplementary provision of \$587,000 under Head 174 in 2001-02, which will be more than offset by savings of \$2,439,000 arising from the deletion of Head 175. The supplementary provision will be dealt with under delegated authority in line with the usual practice. From 2002-03 onwards, the proposals will bring about net savings of \$ 2,280,000 per annum.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

7. The Administration has consulted the Standing Commission, the SCDS and the Directorate and Judicial Standing Committees on the Joint Secretariat proposal. All of them support the proposal. We have also informed the Staff Sides of the four Central Consultative Councils and the ICAC Staff Consultative Committee of the proposal. We have not received any adverse comments from them.

8. The Administration briefed the Legislative Council Panel on Public Service on 21 May 2001 on the proposal to establish a Joint Secretariat for the Standing Commission, the SCDS and the Directorate and Judicial Standing Committees. We informed the same Panel on 11 October 2001 of the staffing proposal for the Joint Secretariat and the proposed merging of the two Heads of Expenditure of 174 and 175. Members noted our proposals with no comment.

Civil Service Bureau
October 2001