

LCQ 10: Appointments of females to advisory and statutory bodies

Following is a question by the Hon Albert Ho and a written reply by the Secretary for Home Affairs, Dr Patrick Ho, in the Legislative Council today (January 5):

Question:

At present, the gender benchmark adopted for the appointment of members to advisory and statutory bodies is set at 25%; that is, at least 25% of the members of such bodies are of either sex. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (a) of the respective total numbers of male and female members of advisory and statutory bodies and their ratio, as well as a breakdown of the number of advisory and statutory bodies by the percentage of female members in the total membership (in groups each covering 5%);
- (b) when it expects all advisory and statutory bodies to attain the 25% gender benchmark; and
- (c) whether it has any plan to raise the gender benchmark?

Reply:

Madam President,

- (a) As at December 1, 2004, 1,971 non-official members appointed to our advisory and statutory bodies (ASBs) were women while 6,667 members were men. The ratio of female to male non-official members was 0.3 to 1. The breakdown of the number of ASBs by percentage of female members in the total membership (excluding official and ex-officio members) is at Annex.
- (b) We strive to enhance women's participation in the work of ASBs. Women's participation in ASBs has been improving: from 21.3% in December 2003 to the present level of 22.8%. We aim to achieve the 25% gender benchmark in the near future.
- (c) The gender benchmark may be raised in the longer term in line with international norms.

Ends/Wednesday, January 5, 2005

NNNN

Annex to LCQ 10:

**Breakdown of the Number of
Advisory and Statutory Bodies (ASBs) by the
Percentage of Female Non-official Members
(Position as at 1 December 2004)**

| Percentage of Female Members | No of ASBs |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Less than 5% | 77 |
| 5% to <10% | 36 |
| 10% to <15% | 55 |
| 15% to <20% | 52 |
| 20% to <25% | 69 |
| 25% to <30% | 56 |
| 30% to <35% | 46 |
| 35% to <40% | 26 |
| 40% to <45% | 33 |
| 45% to <50% | 10 |
| 50% or more | 41 |
| Total | 501 |