

(Translation)

**Islands District Council
Community Affairs, Culture and Recreation Committee
Paper CACRC 53/2020**

Question on expenses reimbursement for District Council Members' ward offices

Ms Amy YUNG notified this Council that she would raise the following enquiry at the Community Affairs, Culture and Recreation Committee (CACRC) meeting to be held on 9 September 2020:

“ With regard to the use of District Council (DC) members' ward offices as polling stations for the pro-democracy primaries earlier, the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) said that such use was not within the scope of service of DC and asserted that the relevant expenses would not be reimbursed. The ward offices affected included some Islands District Council (IDC) members' ward offices. However, the media uncovered half a year ago that the CACRC Vetting Group under IDC of the last term endorsed a number of funding applications last September, among which 15 activities involving \$312,000 in total connected with IDC members' interests. The members concerned including ex-officio members of the current term did not declare interests at the meetings.

As such, I would like the representative of HAB to respond to the following:

1. Given that the bureau refuses to reimburse expenses of the polling stations for the primaries where the personal interest of DC members is not involved as laid down in the stringent funding guidelines, will it recover the above payments which involve cronyism?
2. There is no stipulation in the IDC guidelines that IDC members declaring interests have to withdraw from the meeting or that their names and posts in relevant organisations should be stated in the funding applications, resulting in crony practices by the pro-government camp over the years. Will there be changes to the guidelines on declaration of interests? ”

Islands District Council Secretariat

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Date: 25 August 2020