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Government Secretariat
Hong Kong

12 October 2020

CIVIL SERVICE BUREAU CIRCULAR NO. 4/2020

**New Requirement for Appointment to the Civil Service
on or after 1 July 2020**

To: Directors of Bureau Permanent Secretaries Heads of Department Heads of Grade	c.c. Commissioner, Independent Commission Against Corruption Judiciary Administrator Secretary, Public Service Commission
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*(Note: Distribution of this Circular is **Scale A**. It should be read by all officers.
A Chinese version is attached.)*

Purpose

This circular promulgates the arrangements for requiring all civil servants joining the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China ("HKSAR Government") on or after 1 July 2020 to declare that they will uphold the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China ("Basic Law"), bear allegiance to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region ("HKSAR") and be responsible to the HKSAR Government.

Background

2. It has consistently been the duty of civil servants to uphold the Basic Law, bear allegiance to the HKSAR and be responsible to the HKSAR Government under the Basic Law and the Civil Service Code. Appointees to civil service posts should in no uncertain terms acknowledge and accept these duties.

3. Article 6 of “The Law of the People’s Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region” (“National Security Law”), which was enacted and promulgated in Hong Kong on 30 June 2020 and came into effect at 11 p.m. on 30 June 2020, stipulates that “[a] resident of the [HKSAR] who stands for election or assumes public office shall confirm in writing or take an oath to uphold the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China and swear allegiance to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China in accordance with the law”.

4. In order to enhance civil servants’ awareness of the expectations and responsibilities brought on them by their official positions, we have introduced an arrangement to require new appointees to the civil service to declare that they will uphold the Basic Law, bear allegiance to the HKSAR and be responsible to the HKSAR Government. This is an open acknowledgement of the acceptance and a genuine manifestation of the responsibilities of and expectations on civil servants, which will further safeguard and promote the core values that should be upheld by civil servants, and ensure the effective governance of the HKSAR Government. This arrangement also accords with the relevant provisions of the National Security Law.

5. Following the background set out above, most **civil servants** joining the HKSAR Government **on or after 1 July 2020** are required to sign a declaration in the manner specified below. Civil servants appointed directly to senior positions such as Heads of Department will be required to take an oath.

Requirement on New Appointees to the Civil Service

Appointment after the date of this Circular

6. Heads of Department/Grade (HoDs/HoGs) should specify in the letters of appointment when issuing **conditional offers** as one of the conditions for appointment that the prospective appointee shall sign a declaration (at **Annex**), and return the signed declaration as part and parcel of their acceptance of the appointment offer. Departmental management will be separately notified where the appointee to a post is required to take an oath.

7. In case a prospective appointee neglects or refuses to duly sign and return the declaration, HoD/HoG should treat that the prospective appointee as failing to meet the conditions for appointment and the conditional offer shall lapse accordingly.

Appointment on or after 1 July 2020

8. For civil servants who have already assumed duties on or after 1 July 2020 but have not yet signed the declaration as at the date of promulgation of this Circular, they should be required to sign and return the declaration at **Annex** to their respective bureaux/departments. Detailed arrangements to be made will be advised separately.

Related Matters

9. Where an officer is suspected or is found to have breached the declaration or oath while in service, the case will be dealt with according to the civil service rules and regulations, including disciplinary action under the Public Service (Administration) Order or the relevant disciplined services legislation.

Enquiries

10. Enquiries on this circular should be directed to the Departmental Secretaries who, if in doubt, should contact Principal Assistant Secretary (Appointments) at 2810 3063, Assistant Secretary (Appointments) at 2810 2559 or Senior Executive Officer (Appointments)¹ at 2810 2347 of this Bureau.



(Mrs Angelina Cheung)
for Secretary for the Civil Service

致：[部門首長／職系首長（經辦人：_____）]

To: [Head of Department/Head of Grade (Attn: _____)]

聲明

Declaration

我謹此聲明：本人受聘為中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府公務員，定當擁護《中華人民共和國香港特別行政區基本法》，效忠中華人民共和國香港特別行政區，盡忠職守，對香港特別行政區政府負責。*

I declare that, being appointed as a civil servant of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, I will uphold the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, bear allegiance to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, be dedicated to my duties and be responsible to the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.*

受聘人

Appointee

姓名：

Name:

香港身份證號碼：

Hong Kong Identity Card No.:

職級：

Rank:

簽署：

Signature:

日期：

Date:

* 如對聲明書內容作出更改、增加或刪減，此聲明書即告無效。

In case of any variation, addition or deletion to/of the declaration, the declaration will be rendered null and void.