

**THE SEVENTY-THIRD  
ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE**

**PORT  
WELFARE  
COMMITTEE**

**HONG KONG**

**2021 – 22**



**PORT  
WELFARE  
COMMITTEE**



## **Port Welfare Committee** **(1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022)**

**Chairman :** Mr CHAO Sih-hing, Francois - Hong Kong Shipowners Association

**Members :** Mr CHAN Kam-foo - Hong Kong General Chamber  
of Commerce

Captain Firoze Minoo MIRZA

Mr CHAN Wai-leung - Merchant Navy Officers'  
*(Up to 28 June 2021)* Guild – Hong Kong

Capt LAU Mang-tak  
*(From 20 August 2021)*

Mr LIAO Bowen - Hong Kong Seamen's Union

Dr LEUNG Yiu-hong - Department of Health (ex-officio)

Miss KAM Wing-yin, - Labour Department (ex-officio)  
Gloria

Mr CHAN Ming-yau - Marine Department (ex-officio)  
*(Up to 4 December 2021)*

Mr TANG Hing-kong  
*(from 6 December 2021 to  
8 January 2022)*

Mr CHAN See-yin  
*(From 10 January 2022)*

**Secretary :** Ms CHIU Kwok-yi, Lisa - Marine Department (ex-officio)

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Port Welfare Committee (The Committee) would like to express our sincere gratitude to all parties who have contributed to this annual report.

We would like to acknowledge our heartfelt thanks to the Reverend Canon Stephen Miller, Senior Chaplain of The Sailors Home and Mission to Seafarers, and Rebecca Holm, Port Chaplain of the Danish Seamen's Church, Hong Kong, for their contribution to the articles describing the impressive work accomplished by these two seafarers' welfare agencies in an attempt to advance the welfare of all serving seamen.

Our appreciation also goes to Senior Treasury Accountant / Finance and Treasury Accountant / Internal Audit of the Marine Department of the HKSAR as the Treasurer and the Honorary Auditor of the Committee for compiling and auditing the financial statements annually.

Besides, we would like to record our appreciation to two out-going committee members during the current term, including Mr CHAN Wai-leung, representative of Merchant Navy Officers' Guild – Hong Kong, and Mr CHAN Ming-yau, ex-officio from Marine Department, for their invaluable contributions to the Committee.

The Committee would also like to thank the Secretariat for their efforts in compiling this publication.

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

1. To co-ordinate on behalf of Government arrangements in Hong Kong for the social and recreational welfare of all serving seamen, with the exception of those who are residing in Hong Kong. The term “serving seamen” is construed to mean “those seamen visiting the port and those temporarily residing here, consequent upon discharge for health or other reasons, awaiting re-engagement or repatriation”.
2. To allocate any grants or monies which the Port Welfare Committee may receive from all sources for the social and recreational welfare of seamen.
3. To obtain information on developments and facilities in connection with seamen’s welfare in other ports, and to take appropriate action in the light of this information.
4. To take such other action as it may see fit to promote the welfare of visiting seamen, including action in conjunction with other social and recreational bodies.
5. To publish an annual report and audited accounts.

# REPORT

## *Introduction*

Established in 1947, the Port Welfare Committee (the Committee) is a non-statutory body which co-ordinates social and recreational welfare services for visiting seafarers. The Committee has been recognised by the Inland Revenue



Department as a charitable institution or trust of a public character since 1961. The membership of the Committee is a tripartite representation of government departments, representatives of employers' associations (i.e. the shipping trade) and employees' institutions (i.e. the seamen's unions), which is concerned with the welfare of visiting seafarers on ships calling at Hong Kong. The Committee aims to ensure that proper arrangements are made to safeguard the social and recreational welfare of visiting seafarers of all nationalities.

## *Seafarers' Welfare Agencies*

2. It is an international common practice for major ports to provide support to seafarers away from home for prolonged periods at sea. Such services include social and welfare provisions alongside onshore facilities such as affordable accommodation of reasonable standard and other recreational facilities. In Hong Kong, such support services are provided by The Sailors Home and Mission to Seafarers (The Mission) and Danish Seamen's Church,



Hong Kong (The Church). These two seafarers' welfare agencies derive their income from the services they offer, such as restaurant facilities and accommodation. In addition, the Committee's subventions are one of their sources of funds.

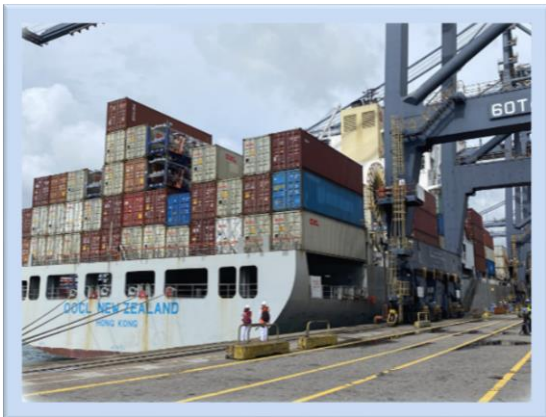
### *Finance*

3. The Committee relies upon yearly donations from the shipping and commercial community for its financial resources. With appeal letters sent annually to the community, the Committee receives their generous contributions for the noble cause of supporting our visiting seafarers. The total amount of donations collected in Financial Year (FY) 2021-22 was HK\$140,500. Each year, the Committee allocates the donations to the two aforementioned seafarers' welfare agencies. In FY 2021-22, a subvention of HK\$130,000 was granted to The Mission and HK\$13,000 to The Church.



### *Port Statistics*

4. Hong Kong is an international maritime centre and a regional hub port. It is one of the busiest ports in the world. In 2021, vessel arrivals at the Hong Kong port amounted to more than 62 000 and the Hong Kong port



handled 17.8 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs<sup>1</sup>) of containers in the year, totaling 214 million tonnes of cargo. There were 357 000 cross-boundary ferry and cruise passenger journeys in the year.

<sup>1</sup> A 20-foot container is the notional standard of “box” of modern cargo logistics. The standard has given rise to the basic measure for container ships and port traffic, the twenty-foot equivalent unit (TEU).



### *Employment*

5. The shortage of manpower is a subject of concern of the maritime industry in Hong Kong. The government and the industry have joined hands to train up local seafarers to help alleviate this shortage. A scheme titled “Sea-going Training Incentive Scheme” (the Scheme) was set up in 2004 with an initial funding of \$9.0 million. An additional amount of \$19.2 million was granted by the government in 2009. Further amounts of \$12.4 million, \$4.38 million and \$4.64 million were granted in 2014, 2018 and 2019 respectively to the Scheme from the Maritime & Aviation Training Fund. As of 31 March 2022, a total of 636 young persons joined the Scheme; 270 deck cadets and 119 engineer cadets had obtained Class 3 Certificate of Competency (CoC); 86 deck officers and 45 engineer officers had obtained Class 2 CoC; and 42 deck officers and 22 engineer officers had obtained Class 1 CoC. The results were encouraging.



## *The Sailors Home and Mission to Seafarers<sup>2</sup>*



### **Background**



*Established in 1856 in the United Kingdom, The Sailors Home and Mission to Seafarers (formerly titled The Sailors Home and Missions to Seamen) is an international charitable institution for all seafarers.*

*The Mission is committed to promoting spiritual materials and moral welfare of seafarers through provision of chaplaincy services, accommodation and recreational facilities. Being inter-denominational in character, The Mission has been working in ecumenical partnership with other denominations, including Apostolatus Maris, German Seamen's Mission and Church of Sweden Abroad. These denominations use the Mariners' Club in Kwai Chung as a base for their ministry in the port.*

*Of more than 100 chaplaincies of The Mission worldwide, the port chaplain in Hong Kong was established in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Mission was recognised as a statutory corporation by the Government in 1930.*

*In May 2018, The Sailors Home and Missions to Seamen was retitled The Sailors Home and Mission to Seafarers under the Sailors Home and Mission to Seafarers Incorporation Ordinance (Cap. 1042). The Mission, in lieu of The Missions, connotes that it serves seafarers of all nationalities, creeds and genders.*

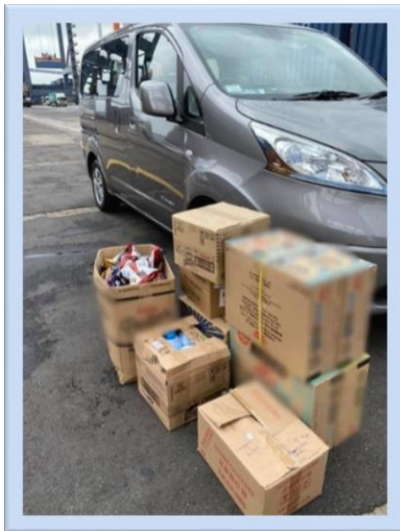
<sup>2</sup> <https://www.themarinersclubhk.org/>

6. With the contribution of The Mission, the following article describes the meritorious work done by The Mission in FY 2021-22 –

### *Reaching-out services*

#### *Delivery of necessities*

7. Due to the continuation of coronavirus pandemic since 2020, seafarers were not able to get ashore and buy necessities by themselves. Isolation – which has always been a critical issue in the shipping industry – has grown out of all proportion. Under these circumstances, the roles of the Mission were greater than ever. Thanks to week-to-week visits to ships which only gangway visits were generally allowed, the Mission had delivered many daily necessities to seafarers on board such as nutrition supplements and snacks. Despite the pandemic, the Chaplaincy Team has still managed to make over 5 500 ship visits at terminals and anchorage in FY 2021-2022.



### *Sharing of Festive Joy*

8. Seafarers are often separated from their loved one because of the nature of their occupation. Most of the time, they cannot experience the joy of festivals with their families. In this regard, the Mission delivers festive gifts to them in the hope that seafarers that are away from homes can immerse themselves in the festive atmosphere.



9. In September 2021, the Mission sent out boxes of mooncakes during one of the Ship Welfare Visits and hoped that the seafarers from abroad can try out this festive delicacy and appreciate the beauty of Chinese traditions during their stay in Hong Kong. During Christmas 2021, the Mission has also delivered over 8 000 seafarers' gift packages and 10 000 calendars. Gift packages were wrapped by students from local colleges to showcase their appreciation towards hard-working seafarers. The Chaplaincy Team also dressed up as Santa Claus in the delivery of the gift packages. Last but not least, the Chaplaincy Team gave plants to the seafarers during Chinese New Year.



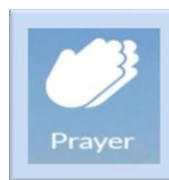
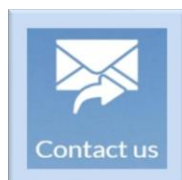
### ***Provision of Mobile Phone Support***

10. To facilitate seafarers' communication with their families and friends, the Mission has also supplied mobile phones and data SIM cards to seafarers onboard for them to regain contact with their relatives. During the year, the Mission offered help to seafarers abroad with their registration of SIM cards so they can continue to have internet access in Hong Kong.



### ***Engagement of Technology***

11. A mobile Application, named “The Mariners Seafarers Centre, Hong Kong” (海員之家) (the App) developed by the Mission which enables seafarers to find a mission centre operated by The Mission wherever they are around the world, has become more and more popular. According to the system data, there were nearly ten thousand accumulated views of the App and around two thousand downloads. The features of the App are diversified. In the “Contact us” feature, various links to different social media platforms are provided for seafarers. For Christian Seafarers, they would find the “Prayer” feature useful which is in multiple languages for different purposes.



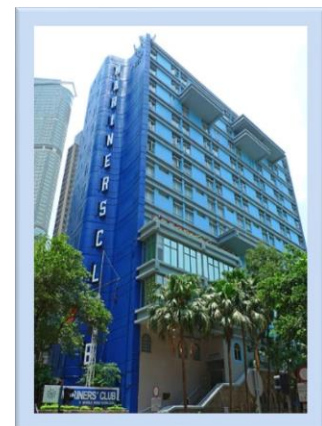
12. When seafarers are feeling bored, they can also try out the “Quiztime” feature in the App. There are 9 sets of multiple-choice questions available in the App such as questions as to maritime and geographical knowledge. Seafarers can enjoy these quizzes and learn about the culture of different countries while working. While ashore, seafarers can also use the “Shop2Ship” feature where they can order supplies to their ships which helped them to buy what they want.



13. Digital contact was also maintained on Facebook, Messenger, WhatsApp and WeChat. Seafarers are reaching out to the Mission for contact, company, advice and, sometimes, a listening ear. During this period, there were nearly 26 000 hits on the Mission’s Facebook page. Since the Mission serves also a religious organization for the seafarers, they offered Chaplaincy service on Facebook for all the users to pray for everyone when they were aboard alone. Besides, under the pandemic, the Mission did not stop updating their Facebook page to assist the seafarers on their daily needs.

### ***Facilities***

14. The Mission operates two Mariners’ Clubs, one is located right in the centre of “container port city” of Kwai Chung, while the second one in Tsim Sha Tsui (TST) which is in the heart of the tourist area of Kowloon. The Kwai Chung facility is very accessible for those seafarers whose vessels are often only in port for a matter of hours.



15. The TST Club is close to the shopping malls, the night markets and the downtown activity of the tourist nightlife. In March 2018, the half-century-old TST Club was closed for redevelopment. The redevelopment will allow The Mission to modernise the facilities of the TST Club for continuous provision of affordable welfare services to seafarers. There will be some 70 bedrooms, a heated swimming pool, conference facilities, a gym, a restaurant, a bar and a church along with chaplaincy services. The opening of the new centre will be held in Quarter 2 of 2024 tentatively, until then a temporary Drop-in-Centre has been established at Wing On Plaza, East TST (Room 705). This facility provides a lounge with free WiFi for seafarers and a bag drop for those who wish to go shopping. Chaplaincy services are available and on-call for pastoral counselling during office hours. The facility also has a conference room that is available for the maritime community.



### ***Hong Kong Seafarers' Awards 2021 Ceremony***

16. The Seafarers Awards are established to commend companies that have excellent welfare provided to their seafarers by conducting surveys among the seafarers. The Seafarers Awards 2021 was originally slated for 20<sup>th</sup> January in Year 2022 but with the pandemic outbreak in Hong Kong, the Awards has been postponed to 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022.



## *Danish Seamen's Church, Hong Kong<sup>3</sup>*

Danske Sømands-  
og Udlandskirker



### ***Background***

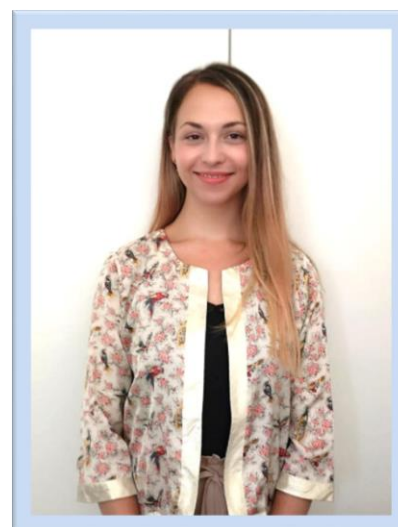
*The Danish Seamen's Church / The Danish Churches Abroad (The Church) is a part of the Protestant (Lutheran) Church. More than 50 branches have been established worldwide, some in ports, some in major cities and capitals, and some old emigrant churches. The services in the ports include provision of church services, spiritual and welfare services to seafarers on board.*

*In 1979, The Church reached out to Hong Kong port and became part of the ecumenical partnership at the Mariners' Club. Since then, it has helped Danes and other seafarers with anything from dry socks to spiritual aid.*

17. With the contribution of The Church, the following article remarks the celebration and meritorious work done by The Church in FY 2021-22 –

### ***New Port Chaplain***

18. In December 2021, the new Port Chaplain Rebecca Holm came to Hong Kong and would stay in the Danish Seamen's Church big family for at least 4 years. Rebecca Holm was graduated as a theologian and pastor in 2019 and then traveled as an assistant at the Seamen's Church in Singapore.



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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.soemandskirken.org/>

## *“Conversations at Sea”*

19. Other than face to face visits, “Conversations at Sea”, an online-chat platform project, was initiated by the Danish Seamen’s and International Churches in 2021. Seafarers can contact the Church 24 hours and seven days a week by talking to different port chaplains all over the world on different shifts. This newly added welfare feature creates another gateway for seafarers to express their difficulties and needs, reminding them that there is someone caring about them, even amidst the sea.



## *Funding*

20. With regard to the global coronavirus pandemic since 2020, it has been a challenging year for seafarers as it has also for the Church, both operationally and economically. The Church has on one hand had to manage costs and postpone investments, while on the other has had to meet needs for support to seafarers. Funding has been contributed by benefactors, via donations, grants and collection from the industry, organizations, individuals and companies based in Hong Kong, not least The A. P. Moeller Maersk, a global container logistics corporation.



### *Christmas Bazaar*

21. The Church's Christmas Bazaar was the primary way in which donors support the work of The Church. It has been and still is the single biggest social event in the calendar of the Church. Considering the COVID-19 situation this year, the Christmas Bazaar



– which was annually held at the Mariners' Club in Tsim Sha Tsui – was scaled back to accommodate restrictions. It was held on 20-21 November 2021 in Kwai Chung in which the Scandinavian corporations in Hong Kong were invited to contribute their goods and merchandise towards tombola and lucky draws.

22. For those who had missed the Christmas Bazaar, the Church held another Christmas stall on 18-22 December 2021 in Ocean Park. The stalls were open to the general public, selling Christmas items and authentic Danish souvenirs so as to raise funds and support for the seamen.



23. Other than the annual Christmas Bazaar, the Church also set up a kiosk in the Danish Room. A wide range of Danish goods which are typically difficult to find in Hong Kong can be bought in the kiosk, and the money earned from the kiosk is used for the operations of the welfare services The Church delivers.

### ***Newspapers and Books Delivery***

24. Apart from provision of necessities, The Church has also subscribed different newspapers across the world and distributed printouts to the seafarers. In supporting all seamen from different nationalities, The Church has delivered newspapers from nine different countries, including Denmark, Ukraine, Philippines, India, Poland, Romania, South Africa, Thailand and Faroe Islands. Danish books and English books can also be provided when requested as well. The Church has provided a wide range of books, from fantasy novels to fictions. The Church continues to collect books and DVDs from generous donors, so that the seafarers can enjoy these great literatures once again.



### ***Facilities***

25. The Church provides a meeting place, the ‘Danish Room’ in the Mariners’ Club, for seafarers in non-COVID times, to gather and mingle. Fresh coffee on the jug are provided and it is a good place for relaxation and conversation. The Church plays an indispensable role in providing quality welfare services to the seafarers.

26. In the coming year, The Church in the port of Hong Kong would like to continue to visit all Danish flagged ships and offer their spiritual and material assistance to everyone on board. It is the hope that the coronavirus pandemic will end soon.

**List of Donors** <sup>Note</sup>  
**Port Welfare Committee in 2021-22**

- 1 BG Shipping Company Limited
- 2 Chellaram Shipping (Hong Kong) Limited
- 3 Cheoy Lee Shipyards Limited
- 4 Gard (HK) Limited
- 5 Grand Seatrade Shipping Company Limited
- 6 Jinhui Shipping and Transportation Limited
- 7 Keesal, Young & Logan
- 8 K. M. Tam International Limited
- 9 Ruttonjee Estates Continuation Limited
- 10 Sanatana Shipping Services Limited
- 11 Tai Chong Cheang Steamship Company (H.K.) Limited
- 12 Taiship Company Limited
- 13 Tindall Riley (Britannia) Hong Kong Limited
- 14 Unique Shipping (Hong Kong) Limited
- 15 Valles Steamship Company Limited
- 16 Wah Kwong Maritime Transport Limited
- 17 Wallem Group Limited

<sup>Note</sup> The list is arranged in alphabetical order

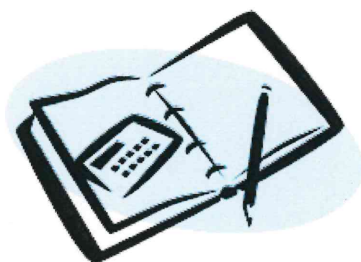


**Total donations received in 2021-22: HK\$140,500**

The Committee endorsed in March 2022 the following amount of subventions be granted to the two seafarers' welfare agencies –

**The Sailors Home and Mission to Seafarers** **HK\$130,000**  
**Danish Seamen's Church, Hong Kong** **HK\$ 13,000**

**PORT WELFARE COMMITTEE**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**



## **HONORARY AUDITOR'S REPORT**

### **TO THE MEMBERS OF PORT WELFARE COMMITTEE ('the Committee')**


*(Operated by the Marine Department of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region ('HKSAR'))*

With the appointment of the Treasury Accountant/Internal Audit of the Marine Department as the Honorary Auditor of the Committee according to the Standing Accounting Instructions (SAI) 1975 (6) of the Government of HKSAR, we have audited the attached financial statements of the Committee set out on pages 2 to 4, which comprise the balance sheet as at 31 March 2022, and the statement of receipts and payments for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

The financial statements were prepared by the Secretariat of the Committee, which managed the fund of the Committee. In accordance with SAI 1975 (4), the public officer responsible for the management of a non-Government fund shall cause a statement of receipts and payments to be prepared for the fund for each of its accounting periods and at least once a year.

We conducted our audit in accordance with SAI 1975 and Accounting Circular No. 2/2016, including complying with the independence requirement.

In our opinion, the financial statements were properly prepared from the books and records maintained, and reflected fairly the receipts and payments of the fund of the Committee for the year ended 31 March 2022.

  
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LAU Win, Ravi  
Treasury Accountant / Internal Audit  
Marine Department  
Date: 29 September 2022

**PORT WELFARE COMMITTEE  
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

	<u>2022</u> HK\$	<u>2021</u> HK\$
<b>RECEIPTS</b>		
Annual donations	140,500	151,000
Bank interest income	0	0
	<u>140,500</u>	<u>151,000</u>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>		
Grant to The Sailors Home and Mission to Seafarers	130,000	140,000
Grant to Danish Seamen's Church, Hong Kong	13,000	14,000
Bank charges	200	200
	<u>143,200</u>	<u>154,200</u>
<b>DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR</b>	(2,700)	(3,200)
<b>RETAINED SURPLUSES AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR</b>	31,174	34,374
<b>RETAINED SURPLUSES AT THE END OF THE YEAR</b>	<u>28,474</u>	<u>31,174</u>

The annexed notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

**PORT WELFARE COMMITTEE  
BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT 31 MARCH 2022**

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash at bank	28,474	31,174
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<u>28,474</u>	<u>31,174</u>
<i>Representing:</i>		
<b>RETAINED SURPLUSES</b>	<u>28,474</u>	<u>31,174</u>

The annexed notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

We certify that the statement of receipts and payments has been properly prepared and reflects fairly the receipts and payments of the Fund.

Approved by the Committee on 29 September 2022.



Chairman  
( Mr CHAO Sih-hing, Francois )



Treasurer  
( Ms Alice CHAU )

**PORT WELFARE COMMITTEE  
ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND EXPLANATORY NOTES TO  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

**Reporting entity**

Port Welfare Committee is a Committee operated by the Marine Department of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. The Committee's registered office is located at 21/F, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong.

The Committee is a non-profit making body and its principal activity is to ensure that proper arrangements are made to safeguard the welfare of and provide recreational facilities for visiting seafarers of all nationalities.

**1. Basis of preparation and accounting policies**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and are prepared on a cash basis. Moreover, the financial statements are prepared on the assumption that the committee is a going concern.

**2. Taxation**

No provision for taxation is necessary as the Committee is exempted as a charitable body.

**3. Committee Members' emoluments**

The Committee Members did not receive any emoluments from the Committee.