

29 June 2001

Dr. Hon. Lo Wing Lok
Medical Functional Constituency
Legislative Council

Dear Dr. Lo,

Re: Medical and Health Care (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2001

Thank you for your letter dated 18 June 2001 regarding the captioned.

The Council of the Hong Kong Dental Association (HKDA), during its Council Meeting on 28 June 2001, would like the Legislative Council to form a Bills Committee for studying the said amendments of the Dentist Registration Ordinance, as HKDA Council was not consulted about the said amendments including the following provisions:

1. the Dental Council of Hong Kong may recognize certain local dental education programmes by prescribing them in a new schedule. It is intended that the graduates of these local education programmes could be registered as dentists without taking the Licensing Examination conducted by the Dental Council. Under the existing provision, the Dental Council has the discretion to allow a person who holds a qualification of a standard not lower than the passing of its Licensing Examination to be registered as a dentist without taking the examination. Since the Dental Council does not have the necessary resources to assess the standards of overseas dental programmes, it has never exercised such discretion. The Dental Council has, therefore, decided to give up this discretion.
2. the term of a member of the Dental Council appointed under subsection (2)c, d or e is 3 years or such lesser period as the Chief Executive may determine at the time of appointment, and the member is eligible for reappointment on the expiry of the term. Under existing provision, members of the Council appointed under the above subsections shall hold office for 3 years but shall be eligible for re-appointment

from time to time.

The Council of HKDA would like to thoroughly review the issue related to the above amendments with input from the dental profession.

Thank you for your kind assistance.

I remain,

Yours sincerely

Dr. David C. W. Ho

Honorary Secretary

For and On behalf of the Council