

本局檔號 OUR REF : HAB/CR/1/17/93 Pt. 34
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1 June, 2001

Miss Flora Tai
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Miss Tai,

**Bills Committee on
Gambling (Amendment) Bill 2000**

Meeting on 5 June 2001

Thank you for your letter of 16 May 2001. Our response to Members' requests as stated in items (a) and (c) are set out below.

Item (a): Gravity of illegal and offshore gambling activities

I enclose at **Annex** a table summarizing the results of the enforcement actions taken against the various types of gambling offences by the Police and the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC)¹ from 1995 to 2000, as well as the money seized during the raids. Members may wish to note in particular the drastic surge in total cash/slips/betting slips seized from gambling raids in 2000 as compared with the previous years, which is largely the result of a significant increase in seizure of soccer bets.

¹ ICAC conducts raids on gambling offences when corruption is suspected to be involved.

There can be no authoritative statistics or information on the full extent of **illegal gambling** activities in Hong Kong due to their clandestine nature. Neither are there concrete statistics on the number of people and amount of money involved in unauthorized **cross-border gambling** activities because such activities are currently not illegal and hence no enforcement action has been taken against them.

The Police's representatives will attend the meeting on 5 June 2001 to answer Members' enquiries on enforcement actions against illegal gambling.

Item (c): Final recommendations of the Inter-departmental Working Group on Computer Related Crime

The Inter-departmental Working Group on Computer Related Crime (the Working Group) had completed its work in September 2000. The report was released for public consultation on 1 December 2000. As requested by Members, 20 copies of the report (in bilingual form) are enclosed.

We are conducting further researches into the relevant overseas practices and legislation as requested by Members (items (b), (d) and (e) of your letter refer) and will let Members have the information as soon as practicable for discussion at the Bills Committee meeting on 11 June 2001.

Attendance

The following officers will attend the meeting of the Bills Committee on 5 June 2001:

Mrs. Betty Fung	Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs,
Mr. Stephen Wong	Deputy Solicitor General,
Ms. Cheung Siu-hing	Deputy Secretary for Security,
Mr. J. D. Scott	Senior Assistant Law Draftsman,
Mr. Francis Lo	Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs,
Mr. John Lee	Chief Assistant Secretary for Security,
Mr. Tsang Wai-hung	Chief Superintendent of Police,

Mr. Gavin Shiu Senior Government Counsel,
Mr. Llewellyn Mui Senior Government Counsel,
Ms. Mabel Cheung Government Counsel,
Mr. Chan Kwok-hung Chief Inspector of Police, and
Mr. Vic Yau Assistant Secretary for Home
 Affairs.

You mentioned in your letter that Members would like to invite representatives of the Working Group to attend the meeting on 5 June 2001. Since the Working Group has been disbanded, officers of the Security Bureau responsible for this subject have agreed to attend the meeting to answer Members' enquiries on the Working Group's work.

I should be grateful if you would kindly convey the above information to Members.

Yours sincerely,

(Francis Lo)
for Secretary for Home Affairs

cc D of J (Attn.: Mr. Stephen Wong
 Mr. J D Scott
 Mr. Gavin Shiu
 Mr. Llewellyn Mui
 Ms. Mabel Cheung)
 S for S (Attn.: Ms. Cheung Siu-hing
 Mr. John Lee)
 C of P (Attn.: Mr. Andy Tsang
 Mr. Hilton Chan)

Annex

Gambling Enforcement Statistics: 1995-2000

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Street Level Gambling						
Total raids	1,082	833	847	965	1,509	1,879
No. of Successful Raids	805	670	704	710	909	647
Persons Arrested	4,252	3,423	3,617	3,872	4,593	3,123
Money Seized	852	464	1,966	839	615	409
Casino Gambling						
Total raids	488	430	374	367	309	201
No. of Successful Raids	351	354	301	317	257	178
Persons Arrested	4,566	4,247	3,718	3,805	3,053	1,995
Money/Slips Seized	43,320	16,204	3,401	20,470	13,002	2,905
Bookmaking						
<i>Hong Kong Horse Racing</i>						
No. of Successful Raids	67	71	76	35	28	19
Persons Arrested	183	187	198	90	78	51
Money/Betting Slips Seized	27,020	31,152	30,713	10,573	21,038	9,730
<i>Macau Horse Racing</i>						
No. of Successful Raids	-	-	-	-	2	1
Persons Arrested	-	-	-	-	6	2
Money/Betting Slips Seized	-	-	-	-	75	585
<i>Soccer</i>						
No. of Successful Raids	-	-	1	13	4	32
Persons Arrested	-	-	1	49	7	80
Money/Betting Slips Seized	-	-	6,100	57,992*	1,624	268,607
<i>Greyhound Racing</i>						
No. of Successful Raids	-	-	-	-	-	-
Persons Arrested	-	-	-	-	-	-
Money/Betting Slips Seized	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total						
No. of Raids	1,570	1,263	1,221	1,332	1,818	2,080
No. of Successful Raids	1,223	1,095	1,082	1,075	1,200	877
Persons Arrested	9,001	7,857	7,534	7,816	7,737	5,251
Money/Slips/Betting Slips Seized	71,192	47,820	42,180	89,874	36,354	282,236

Remarks: Money/slips/betting slips seized is recorded in **thousands of HK\$**

* Year of 1998 World Cup