

**Information requested by the Bills Committee
at its meeting on 31 May 2002 regarding
the Karaoke Establishments Bill**

The information requested by the Bills Committee is set out in the following paragraphs-

- (1) To consider the DAB's suggested amendments to clause 5(3)(b) and (c) as detailed in its submission;**

Section 3 on Suitability of Premises of the draft Karaoke Establishments (Licensing) Regulation clearly states that it is made for the purpose of clause 5(3)(b)(i) of the Bill. Section 3 is elaborated upon and supplemented by Schedules 1 and 2 of the Regulation, which together provide in detail the requirements of karaoke establishments from the fire safety, building safety and public safety perspectives. In view of this, there is no need to amend clause 5(3)(b) as suggested.

As far as clause 5(3)(c) is concerned, please refer to item 1 in the Administration's Response to information requested in the meeting of 29 May 2002, in which we proposed to delete clause 5(3)(c).

- (2) To consider the views of Mr LAU Kong-wah and Mr Tommy CHEUNG that express provisions should be added to the Bill to provide for the return of seized property. The Administration was also requested to advise -**

- (i) whether it was a consistent approach in law drafting to add such express provisions to the Bill; and**

Please refer to item 4 of the Administration's response to information requested in the meeting of 29 May 2002.

- (ii) the time required for the Government Laboratory to conduct tests for articles which might be seized under clause 13(1)(iii).**

We shall revert on this as soon as possible.

(3) To consider the Chairman's suggestions that the Administration should –

(i) explain that restaurants would be covered by clause 3(1A) proposed in the draft Committee Stage amendments (CSAs) when the Second Reading debate on the Bill was resumed; and

(ii) include such explanation in the information pamphlets on licensing requirements;

We have no objection to the suggestions and will make the necessary arrangements.

(4) To consider Ms Audrey EU's suggestion of adding an additional factor of "proportion of area for conducting karaoke activity" to the proposed clause 3(1A);

We agree to the proposal and will introduce a Committee Stage amendment accordingly.

(5) To re-consider the level of fine and the amount of daily fine as proposed in clause 20(4).

We will introduce a Committee Stage amendment to make the penalty provision under this clause the same as that under new clause 16(4).

Security Bureau
June 2002