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2 April 2002

Ms. Bernice Wong,
Assistant Legal Adviser,
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road Central
Hong Kong

Dear Ms. Wong,

Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2001

In my letter dated 15 March 2002, in reply to yours dated 11 March 2002, I noted that we would send a separate reply to the question regarding Part X of the Bill after obtaining further advice. Please see our reply set out below.

Part X **Non-immunity clauses**

Since the amendments in Part X do not have retrospective effect, please clarify whether the word "Crown" would be construed according to section 2 of Schedule 8 to the Interpretation and General Clauses Ordinance (Cap. 1) on or after 1 July 1997.

The object of the amendments in Part X of the Bill is to give effect to a suggestion made by the Bills Committee when considering the Adaptation of Laws (No. 16) Bill 1999, namely, to replace "Crown" by "Government" by way of a law reform exercise (see paragraphs 14 to 17 of the report of the Bills Committee on the Adaptation of Laws (No. 16) Bill). Therefore, the word "Crown" in the non-immunity clauses is not construed according to section 2 of Schedule 8 to the Interpretation and General Clauses Ordinance (Cap. 1).

Yours sincerely,

(Michael Scott)
Senior Assistant Solicitor General