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20 October 2000

Secretary General
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Building
No. 8, Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong

(Attn: Mr Andy Lau)

Dear Mr Lau,

Legislative Council Panels

Thank you for your letter of 14 October 2000.

We note that at the House Committee meeting on 13 October 2000, LegCo Members agreed that the terms of reference of the Economic Services Panel and the Trade and Industry Panel (to be renamed Commerce and Industry Panel) should be changed, in the light of the reshuffling of work between the Economic Services Bureau and the Commerce and Industry Bureau. We have no particular views on the proposed terms of reference of the two Panels but would like to suggest the following textual amendments to the proposed terms of reference of the Economic Services Panel for your consideration –

“To monitor and examine Government policies and issues of public concern relating to *economic infrastructure and services, including* air and sea transport facilities and services, postal and weather information services, energy supply and safety, consumer protection, competition policy and tourism.”

“監察及研究政府政策及公眾關注的經濟基礎建設及服務包括海空交通設施及服務、郵政及氣象資料服務、能源供應及安全、保障消費者權益、競爭政策及旅遊。”

Responsibility for matters relating to women affairs has recently been transferred from the Home Affairs Bureau to the Health and Welfare Bureau. We have no strong views on whether the Home Affairs Panel or the Welfare Services Panel should cover issues relating to women affairs. On the one hand, it may be administratively more convenient for such issues to be covered by the Welfare Services Panel. On the other hand, should women affairs be pursued in the Welfare Services Panel, it may give the wrong impression that women affairs relate primarily to welfare, a concern raised by women's groups.

We understand that Members of the House Committee will also discuss, at this afternoon's meeting, whether new Panels on food safety and environmental hygiene, and leisure culture and sport should be set up. We have no particular views on the proposal to set up a new Panel on food safety and environmental hygiene. As to matters relating to leisure, culture and sport, Members of the House Committee may wish to look into the need for setting up a separate panel, in the light of Members' level of interest in these issues in the past. It may be more appropriate for the Home Affairs Panel to continue to cover these issues.

We do not have any comments on the existing terms of reference of the other Panels.

We have no comment on the proposal to include the Administration Wing of the Chief Secretary for Administration's Office as one of the corresponding bureaux/bodies of the Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services.

Yours sincerely,

(Ms Miranda Chiu)
for Director of Administration