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Clerk to LegCo Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services Legislative Council Legislative Council Building 8 Jackson Road Central Hong Kong

Attn: Mrs Percy Ma

via Mr. Michael Scott, SASG(GLP)

Dear

21 March, 2001 By Fax and By Post Fax: 2509 9055

LegCo Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services Creation of a new offence of "persistent sexual abuse of a child"

I refer to the captioned matter and would advise that in view of the present stance of the two branches of the legal profession, more time is required for reaching a consensus on how best to implement what the Administration considers a necessary and desirable objective.

Under the circumstances, the Administration will, instead of seeking to introduce a Bill into the LegCo in July this year, do so at a later point in time. Your Panel will of course be kept informed of progress and be requested to consider the views and opinions generated by both the legal profession and the Administration in the course of discussing the way forward.

It would be appreciated if you could bring the above to the attention of the Chairman of the Panel.

Thank you for your assistance in the matter.

Yours sincerely,

(Miss Agnes Cheung) Senior Government Counsel Legal Policy Division

c.c. SG
LA/LA
DSG(G)
AA/SJ

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