

Urgent by fax no. 2529 5003

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18 April 2001

Mr Stephen IP Shu-kwan, JP  
Secretary for Financial Services  
Financial Services Bureau  
18th floor, Tower 1, Admiralty Centre  
18 Harcourt Road  
Hong Kong

Dear Mr IP,

**LegCo Panel on Financial Affairs**

**Special meeting on 20 April 2001**

On 30 March 2001, we wrote to the Financial Secretary to invite him to attend a meeting of the Financial Affairs Panel scheduled for 20 April 2001 to brief members on the proposed acquisition of premises at Two International Finance Centre as the permanent accommodation for the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA). Copies of our letter to the Financial Secretary and his reply of 12 April 2001 are enclosed for your ease of reference.

Whilst the reply of the Financial Secretary has affirmed the Government's position regarding the legal authority for using the Exchange Fund to purchase the said premises, the reply did not address two questions put in our letter of 30 March 2001:

- (a) the Government policy in respect of housing all financial regulators within a single strategic location, as mentioned in paragraph 3 of the information note provided by the HKMA on 26 March 2001; and
- (b) whether the Mandatory Provident Fund Authority and the Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited are leasing or have purchased their office premises at the International Finance Centre.

I should be grateful for the advice of your bureau on the Government's position and response to the first question set out above. In respect of the second question, I would appreciate it if you could ascertain on our behalf the relevant information from the Mandatory Provident Fund Authority and the Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited. As the Panel is meeting this coming Friday, it would be very helpful if your response could reach us by **11:00 am on Thursday 19 April 2001**, so that the information could be circulated to members in time to facilitate the discussion with the Administration.

The Chief Executive of the HKMA is attending the meeting. If your bureau wishes to send a representative to the meeting, you are very welcome to do so.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs Florence LAM)  
Clerk to Panel

Encl.

c.c. Hon Ambrose LAU Hon-chuen, JP (Chairman)  
Mr Howard LEE, AA/FS  
Mr Joseph YAM, CE/HKMA

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19 April, 2001

Urgent By Fax: 2869 6794

Mrs Florence Lam  
Clerk to LegCo Panel on Financial Affairs  
Legislative Council Building  
8 Jackson Road  
Hong Kong

Dear Mrs Lam,

**LegCo Panel on Financial Affairs  
Special meeting on 20 April 2001**

Thank you for your letter of 18 April 2001.

The Government's policy in respect of housing all financial regulators in a single location was announced in the context of the 1997 Policy Address. Please refer to page 33 of the Policy Programme of the Financial Services Bureau published in October 1997 –

“We are planning to house all major financial institutions under one roof in the future Hong Kong International Financial Centre, which will be strategically located at the Central Waterfront. Needs of the major financial institutions will be examined in detail and a project plan will be prepared.”

Progress in implementing the policy was announced in both the 1999 and 2000 Policy Objective for Financial Services Bureau.

As regards your second question, I confirm that the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority and the Hong Kong Exchange and Clearing Limited are accommodated in rented premises at the International Finance Centre.

Yours sincerely,

(Stanley W.H. Wong)  
for Secretary for Financial Services

c.c. AA/FS  
CE/HKMA