

30 July 2001

Ms Doris CHAN

Clerk of Subcommittee on improvements to the medical complaints mechanism

Legislative Council Building

8 Jackson Road

Central

Hong Kong

Dear Ms CHAN,

Re: submissions on improvements to the medical complaints mechanism

Thank you for your invitation for our views on the above subject. I am writing on behalf of the members of Union of Hong Kong Speech Therapists (Medical).

We agree with the motivation of the current medical complaints mechanism which aims to serve as an impartial system to handle complaints and to improve service. However, there is an obvious gap in the current complaint mechanism when it is related to the profession of Speech Therapy – there is not yet a statutory registration for Speech Therapists in Hong Kong.

Speech Therapists provide clinical management for speech, voice, language, communication, swallowing and related disabilities. We serve diverse population ranged from infants to adults under Hospital Authority, Child Assessment Service, special schools, Education Department, non-government organizations as well as private settings. We suggest a statutory registration for Speech Therapists as a self-regulatory body in order to maintain and govern professional service standard. Furthermore, it can act as an independent professional body to investigate complaints related to our profession, take appropriate action and if necessary, institute punishment.

It is obvious that a statutory registration for Speech Therapists will fill the gap in the current medical complaint system, enhance service quality in the profession, and may reduce complaints in return. We strongly urge the Government and relevant bodies to assist us in the establishment of a statutory registration for Speech Therapists in Hong Kong.

We would be grateful if your Subcommittee would consider our suggestion and make our opinion be available on the Website of the Council, to the media and public.

Yours sincerely,

Ms WONG Wing-yee, Winnie

Chairperson of Union of Hong Kong Speech Therapists (Medical) 2001-02