

警察評議會職方協會

香港軍器廠街香港警察總部

電話 Telephone: 2804 1583

傳真 Fax: 2861 1429



POLICE FORCE COUNCIL
STAFF ASSOCIATIONS

HONG KONG POLICE FORCE

POLICE HEADQUARTERS

ARSENAL STREET

HONG KONG

協會檔號 OUR REF: () in SS/C 1/12 Pt. 7

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URGENT BY E-Mail

17 June 2002

The Hon Mrs Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye
Chairman,
Bills Committee on Public Officers Pay Adjustment Bill
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Building,
8 Jackson Road, Central,
Hong Kong.

Dear Hon Mrs. Selina CHOW,

Bills Committee on Public Officers Pay Adjustment Bill

Meeting on 18 June 2002

We, the Staff Associations of the Police Force Council, would like to make clear to you our position on the Administration's intention to cut civil service salaries by way of the draft bill that received its first and second readings on 5 June 2002.

During our various formal and informal meetings with Legislative Councilors, we have clearly expressed our stance that we are willing to share the burden with the rest of the community and will accept a pay reduction under the existing pay adjustment mechanism. However, we must make it plain that we strongly oppose the implementation of the pay reduction by legislation. Our position regarding acceptance of the pay cut and opposition to legislation remains unchanged.

To our disappointment, the Chief Executive has decided not to appoint a Committee of Inquiry to look into the pay adjustment as requested by the four main civil service consultative councils, including the Police Force Council. We, and we believe the public, would accept this as a reasonable compromise that is firmly supported by precedent. The reason given to block the Committee is not logical in that the use of legislation is outside the established pay adjustment procedure and is therefore not "a matter of settled public policy".

Instead the Administration is determined to shake the stability of the Civil Service by bulldozing the Public Officers Pay Adjustment Bill through the legislature with unseemly haste and with complete disregard for proper consultation or recourse to equitable procedures.

SUPERINTENDENTS'
ASSOCIATION
警司協會

LOCAL INSPECTORS'
ASSOCIATION
本地督察協會

OVERSEAS INSPECTORS'
ASSOCIATION
海外督察協會

JUNIOR POLICE OFFICERS'
ASSOCIATION
警察員佐級協會

The Police Force Council Staff Side is in complete agreement, as are the vast majority of our police colleagues, that the Government's misuse of legislation introduces a serious deviation from the existing pay adjustment mechanism and is possibly in conflict with Articles 100 and 160 of the Basic Law. As such it is unacceptable. The Administration is deliberately closing the door for any further negotiation with its own employees and appears to be intent on using Legislative Council to shield itself from public criticism.

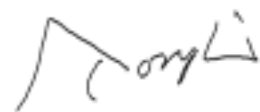
The Police Force Council Staff Side is of the view that the passing of the Bill will not just shake the stability of the civil service but also society at large. The implications and the precedent it sets are unconscionable and dangerous. It will erode the spirit of the 'rule of law' in the HKSAR and damage Hong Kong's image worldwide. This is clearly not in the best interests of the community and people of Hong Kong, people that we are bound both by oath and obliged by law to serve.

The Police Force Council Staff Side would like to formally appeal to you to vote against the bill, with a view to urging the Administration to go back to proper consultation to resolve the present dangerous impasse. It is with deep regret, and much foreboding, that we, as members of an apolitical police service, should find ourselves driven to addressing Legislative Council members directly in such a manner as this. However, we feel that with your support we may once again return to a proper employer-employee relationship with the Administration based upon mutual trust and respect, and without the need to politicise pay issues.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. TSE Shu-chun
Chairman SPA



Mr. LIU Kit-ming
Chairman LIA



Mr. Mark FORD-McNICOL
Chairman OIA



Mr. LAU Kam-wah
Chairman JPOA