

Ref : (2) in L/M to SBCR 4/2831/88 Pt. 17

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Mrs Constance Li,
Clerk to Bills Committee
Legislative Council Secretariat
(Fax : 2509 0775)

Dear Mrs Li,

**Bills Committee on
Juvenile Offenders (Amendment) Bill 2001**

Thank you for your letter dated 7 August 2002 inviting the Fight Crime Committee (FCC) to make submissions and representations on the above Bill. You may wish to note that the FCC discussed the proposed change to the minimum age of criminal responsibility at its meeting held on 22 September 2001, before the Administration's submission of the Bill to the Executive Council and Legislative Council. The FCC supported the proposal to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility from seven to ten.

Under the circumstances, we do not consider it necessary to give oral representation to the Bills Committee. Please be informed that the Standing Committee on Young Offenders (SCOYO), is a sub-committee of the FCC and no separate discussion of the subject has been held at SCOYO recently.

This letter serves as a joint reply from SCOYO and FCC.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs Florence Leung)
for Secretary
Fight Crime Committee