

L/M in HAB/CR/1/34/79
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10 August 2002

Clerk to the LegCo Bills Committee
Legislative Council
8 Jackson Road
0775
Hong Kong
(Attn: Mrs Constance Li)

By fax: 2509

Total: 1 page

Dear Constance,

Bills Committee on the Juvenile Offenders (Amendment) Bill 2001

Dr Ho has asked me to thank you for your letter of 7 August and to respond on his behalf.

I can confirm that the treaty monitoring bodies for the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights have called for the age of criminal responsibility to be raised. It is therefore likely that they will welcome the proposals in the Bill will be welcome by the international treaty bodies.

Naturally, we fully support the proposals in the Bill. But the question of the age of criminal consent does not entail issues that are in the purview of this Bureau. We therefore do not propose to make submissions to the Bills Committee or to send representatives to the meeting on 19 September.

Your sincerely,

**(Jonn Dean)
for Secretary for Home Affairs**

c.c. Hon Margaret Ng (Chairman) (2179 5190)