



"Privacy External"
<Privacy@privacy.gov.au>
25/11/02 12:08

To: <acheung@legco.gov.hk>
cc:
Subject: RE: E1474 - Enquiry from Hong Kong on Australian Privacy Audits

Dear Mr Cheung

Thank you for your email.

We have a number of documents on our website that explain the audit process, in particular, you may find the following link useful:
<http://www.privacy.gov.au/publications/ippap.doc>

Basically, s.27(1)(h) of the Privacy Act gives the Commissioner the power to audit government agencies for the purposes of determining whether they are complying with the Information Privacy Principles.

The audit may involve looking at individual's records, as a means of testing whether the agency has complied with its policies and procedures in practice. However, in most cases audits mostly involve an examination of the agency's structure, policies and procedures.

I hope this information is useful.

Regards

Brian Cox
Compliance Officer

-----Original Message-----

From: acheung@legco.gov.hk [mailto:acheung@legco.gov.hk]
Sent: Monday, 18 November 2002 3:56 PM
To: Privacy External
Cc: "CAS[2]1%LEGCO"; "SAS[2]5%LEGCO"
Subject: E1474 - Enquiry from Hong Kong on Australian Privacy Audits

Enquiry from Hong Kong on Australian Privacy Audits

Dear Privacy Commissioner,

Enquiry from Hong Kong

For the purposes of one of our Bills Committees, reference is made to section 27(1)(h) of the Australian Privacy Act 1988. I would be grateful if you could assist me with the clarification at your earliest

convenience of the following -

- a) what is meant by "audits of records of personal information maintained by agencies for the purpose of ascertaining whether the records are maintained according to the Information Privacy Principles";
- b) the issue being whether the scope of such audits would cover access (if necessary) to personal data kept by the agencies to ascertain whether they are kept in accordance with the Principles; or
- c) whether their scope would exclude access to personal data in all events, such audits being confined to systemic or procedural scrutiny or the like.

Thank you.

With the highest regards,

Arthur Cheung
Senior Assistant Legal Adviser 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
