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6 February 2002

Clerk to Finance Committee
Legislative Council Building
(Attn: Ms. Pauline Ng)

Dear Ms. Ng,

Professional Services Development Assistance Scheme

At the Finance Committee meeting on 11 January 2002, in response to a question raised by the Hon. TAM Yiu-chung, we undertook to examine whether services provided by associate professionals would be eligible for assistance under the Professional Services Development Assistance Scheme (“the Scheme”).

Based on the definition adopted in the Government’s Report on Manpower Projection to 2005, associate professionals cover a wide range of occupational categories. These include, for examples, technicians, supervisors, survey workers, sales representatives, insurance consultants, electrical draughtsmen, estate officers, marketing executives and assistants, designers, computer graphic designers, quality controllers, Chinese medicine practitioners, and nurses.

As we explained at the Finance Committee meeting, the classification of professional services adopted for the Scheme is based on services, not persons or occupations. As associate professionals provide services spanning across a very wide spectrum, it is not possible to say categorically whether their services are covered by the Scheme. Some, such as nursing service, are obviously covered. However, a project seeking to enhance the standard of services provided by a marketing executive is

doubtful. In short, the eligibility of an application has to be decided case by case. If a project organiser has a specific proposal in mind involving a particular class of associate professionals, we will be happy to discuss with the organiser about the eligibility of the proposal.

Yours sincerely,

(Donald Chen)
for Secretary for Commerce and Industry

c.c. Secretary for the Treasury (Attn: Mr Manfred Wong)