

(English translation prepared  
by the Legislative Council Secretariat  
for Members' reference only)

(Letterhead of the Secretariat of Legislative Councillors of the Democratic Party)

18 February 2002

Hon Mrs Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, JP  
Chairman of the House Committee

Dear Mrs CHOW,

I am aware that there will be changes to the arrangements for the Government to brief the Finance Committee (FC) on the expenditure part of the Budget this year. Instead of briefing the FC on the Draft Estimates of Expenditure on the Friday immediately before the delivery of the Budget, the expenditure part of the Budget will be published on the same Wednesday the Budget is announced. As this departs from the usual practice, and since the Government has not consulted the relevant Panel of the Legislative Council, the Democratic Party requests that an item be added to the agenda of the House Committee meeting on 22 February to discuss whether the Financial Secretary should be invited to attend a House Committee meeting to explain and account for the above arrangements in greater detail. Your agreement to discuss the matter would be much appreciated.

Convenor for LegCo Caucus of  
the Democratic Party

(Signed)  
YEUNG Sum