

3 November 2001

Hon Mrs Selina Chow Liang Shuk-yee, JP
Chairman of the House Committee
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong

**Government's Legislative Programme
for 2001 - 2002**

I enclose, at Annex, an indicative list of bills which the Administration intends to introduce into the Legislative Council in the current legislative session.

As the Chief Secretary for Administration has pointed out in the Administration's response to the debate on the Motion of Thanks on 24 October 2001, we have taken a fresh and critical look at our Legislative Programme in an attempt to ease Members' workload in scrutinizing government bills. The enclosed list represents the outcome of these conscious efforts. We hope that, by seeking to introduce only the most essential bills into the Legislative Council, we would facilitate Members in performing their important function of enacting laws for Hong Kong.

As to individual bills, you would appreciate that we cannot be more specific at this stage regarding the timing and details since they are, amongst other things, subject to the Executive Council's consideration and approval. We shall inform Members of the first reading dates and other details as soon as we are in a position to do so.

While we would make every effort to adhere to the Legislative Programme, the enclosed list may need to be adjusted in the course of the legislative session. There could be cases where the Administration needs to introduce bills not on the enclosed list due to unforeseen circumstances, or instances where bills on the list might not be introduced under the current estimated timeframe. As previously agreed with the Legislative Council, we will update the Legislative Programme more frequently in light of major changes.

I hope this indicative list would be useful to Members for planning their legislative work.

(Andrew H Y Wong)
Director of Administration

Annex

List of Government Bills to be introduced into LegCo

	Title	Purpose of Legislation	<i>Responsible Bureau</i>
1.	Adaptation of the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance and Independent Commission Against Corruption Ordinance	To adapt the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance and the Independent Commission Against Corruption Ordinance to ensure their compatibility with the Basic Law	Adm Wing
2.	Administration of Justice (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill	To amend related ordinances to provide for open civil proceedings and publishing of information about such proceedings	Adm Wing
3.	Interpretation and General Clauses (Amendment) Bill	To lengthen the existing extended period of one LegCo sitting under the negative vetting procedure	Adm Wing
4.	Chemical Weapons (Convention) Bill	To implement the Chemical Weapons Convention in Hong Kong	CIB
5.	Copyright (Amendment) Bill	To enhance competition by liberalising parallel importation of computer software	CIB
6.	Copyright (Amendment) Bill	To address public concerns about the impact of certain criminal provisions on dissemination of information in enterprises and teaching activities in schools	CIB
7.	Adaptation of Laws Bill	To make minor adaptations to a number of ordinances	DoJ

	Title	Purpose of Legislation	<i>Responsible Bureau</i>
8.	Evidence (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill	To implement the recommendations by the Committee on the Competence and Compellability of Spouses of the Law Reform Commission in criminal proceedings and to provide for the giving of evidence by witnesses in criminal proceedings from overseas by live TV link	DoJ
9.	Marine Fish Culture (Amendment) Bill	To provide for the transfer of marine fish culture licences	EFB
10.	Sewage Services (Amendment) Bill	To improve the existing trade effluent surcharge scheme	EFB
11.	Waste Disposal (Amendment) Bill	To control the collection and disposal of clinical waste, strengthen control on the disposal of non-hazardous waste and ban the import of hazardous waste	EFB
12.	Education (Amendment) Bill	To provide for the implementation of school-based management in aided schools	EMB
13.	Employees Compensation Assistance (Amendment) Bill	To reform the Employees Compensation Assistance Scheme with a view to restoring its long-term financial viability	EMB
14.	Factories and Industrial Undertakings (Amendment) Bill	To empower the Commissioner for Labour to make regulations to provide for remedies for legal consequences arising from suspension of work under the proposed Factories and Industrial Undertakings (Medical Examinations) Regulation	EMB

	Title	Purpose of Legislation	<i>Responsible Bureau</i>
15.	Occupational Deafness (Compensation) (Amendment) Bill	To implement benefit improvements under the Occupational Deafness Compensation Scheme	EMB
16.	Dutiable Commodities (Amendment) Bill	To provide more flexible operating conditions for warehouses under which Customs officers will exercise compliance checks through documentary verification, selective physical inspections and post-transaction auditing	FB
17.	Inland Revenue (Amendment) Bill	To increase the maximum level of home loan interest deduction, from the existing cap of \$100,000 to \$150,000, for the years of assessment 2001/02 and 2002/03	FB
18.	Inland Revenue (Amendment) Bill	To permit submission of tax returns by telephone	FB
19.	Stamp Duty (Amendment) Bill	To introduce a new method of stamping	FB
20.	Companies (Amendment) Bill	To implement the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Company Law Reform on amendments to the Companies Ordinance	FSB
21.	Companies (Amendment) Bill	To reform the registration regime for overseas companies by making it more user-friendly	FSB
22.	Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes (Amendment) Bill	To enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the MPF system	FSB

	Title	Purpose of Legislation	<i>Responsible Bureau</i>
23.	Interest on Maintenance Arrears Bill	To empower the court to order maintenance payers to pay interest to maintenance payees in respect of arrears in maintenance payment	HAB
24.	Aerial Ropeways (Safety) (Amendment) Bill	To extend the scope of the legislation to cover all types of aerial ropeways that would be installed and operated in Hong Kong	PLB
25.	Buildings (Amendment) Bill	To implement the recommendations arising from the Comprehensive Strategy for Building Safety and Timely Maintenance Implementation Plan	PLB
26.	Land Title Bill	To introduce a title registration system for land in Hong Kong	PLB
27.	Immigration (Amendment) Bill	To exclude Mainland officials from being treated as ordinarily resident in Hong Kong during any period in which they are directed to work in Hong Kong in their official capacity	SB
28.	Juvenile Offenders (Amendment) Bill	To raise the existing minimum age of criminal responsibility to better protect the interests of children	SB
29.	Prevention of Child Pornography Bill	To better protect children against sexual exploitation	SB
30.	Registration of Persons (Amendment) Bill	To provide for the introduction of a new identity card and the implementation of an identity card replacement exercise for all Hong Kong residents	SB

	Title	Purpose of Legislation	<i>Responsible Bureau</i>
31.	Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation (Amendment) Bill	To strengthen the corporate governance structure of the Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation by separating the duties and functions of the Chairman and the Chief Executive of the Corporation	TB
32.	Land (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Amendment) Bill	To introduce a fee charging scheme for street excavations	WB