

稅務局局長辦事處

香港灣仔告士打道5號
稅務大樓36樓

電話 Tel. No: 2877 0113

圖文傳真 Faxline No:2877 1082

檔號 : HQ 309/405/22C

CB(1) 960/01-02(01)

OFFICE OF THE
COMMISSIONER OF INLAND REVENUE
REVENUE TOWER, 36/F.,
5 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WAN CHAI,
HONG KONG.

By Fax & By Post

Ref: HQ 309/405/22C

Hon Ambrose Lau Hon-chuen
Chairman of the Legislative Council
Panel on Financial Affairs
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road, Central
Hong Kong

24 January 2002

Dear Mr Lau,

Inland Revenue (amendment) Nno.2) Bill 2001
- New TeleTax Service Using Passwords

At the Financial Affairs Panel meeting on 7 January 2002 whilst discussing the subject of telefiling and other proposals under the Inland Revenue (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill 2001, I mentioned that the Inland Revenue Department (IRD) has undertaken a 2nd Information Systems Strategy Plan under which 12 projects are identified for implementation. While the Telefiling project is one of these TeleTax is another, This letter explains to Members details about the TeleTax project.

In the Chief Executive's 2001 Policy Address, the Government pledged to provide a secure access to information service (i.e. the TeleTax service) in April 2002. The TeleTax project provides a 24-hour automated service for individual taxpayers to access selective personal tax information via the telephone or ESD platform. With the user of the Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) and his password, an individual taxpayer will be able to check whether there is any tax return not yet filed, whether IRD has issued him any tax assessment, details of tax paid or payable by him and his tax reserve certificate account balance. He can also request a duplicate of his tax return, notice of assessment, a payment confirmation or a tax reserve certificate account balance.

Members may wish to note that the TeleTax system is built on the same architecture and has the same security level as the Telefiling project that we discussed at the Panel, although the two are separate projects and are independent of each other. In this connection, we are pleased to note that Panel Members generally considered that the administrative and technical measures to be put in place for the Telefiling project to ensure the security of data with the use of password are acceptable. Also, implementing the TeleTax project does not necessitate any legislative amendments to the Inland Revenue Ordinance.

IRD's plan is to launch the TeleTax project in April this year. Registration forms have been despatched along with the tax demand notes since August last year. A large number of taxpayers have already applied for registration and they are expecting the new service within the next few months. Indeed, as the types of service to be provided by TeleTax are the ones most commonly sought by taxpayers, it is pertinent to have the new system in place before the return issue months (April/May 2002).

I hope Members will appreciate that the impending launch of the TeleTax service is in no way connected with the Inland Revenue (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill 2001, which seeks to implement the Telefiling and other services and is awaiting the formation of a Bills Committee. The TeleTax service is but a realization of Government's initiatives to provide better and more varied services to the public, and I am very pleased to introduce this new service to Members. I should be grateful if you would bring the Members' attention to the contents of this letter.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs LAU MAK Yee-ming, Alice)
Commissioner of Inland Revenue

Internal

FB	(Attn : Miss Erica Ng)
SITB	(Attn : Miss Adeline Wong)
D of J	(Attn : Mr M Y Cheung)
Law Draftsman	(Attn : Ms Lonnie Ng)

c.c. DCIR(O)
AC2(1)
AC2(2)
CA2(2)
CA2(3)
CA(C)