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(By fax 2762 1110)

CB1/PL/FA
2525 3331
2121 0420
E-mail: asit@legco.gov.hk
yklam@legco.gov.hk

27 February 2002

Dr CHENG Hon-kwan, GBS, JP
Chairman
Hong Kong Housing Authority
33 Fat Kwong Street
Homantin
Kowloon

Dear Dr CHENG,

LegCo Panel on Financial Affairs

Provision of basic banking services for public housing tenants

At the meeting of the Financial Affairs Panel on 26 February 2002 when the subject of "Consumer protection in the banking sector" was discussed, some members raised concern about the availability of basic banking services such as counter services for bank depositors and automatic teller machines (ATMs) in public housing estates. They observe that due to the lack of these services in some public estates, some public housing tenants have to travel a long way in order to obtain basic banking services.

In this regard, Panel members suggest that the Housing Authority be requested to consider measures to improve the availability of basic banking services in public housing estates to meet the need of residents. Such measures may include providing rental incentives for banks to set up branch offices in public housing estates.

I should be grateful if you would let me have a response of the Authority (in both Chinese and English) on Panel members' concern and suggestion set out above by **25 March 2002**.

With best regards,

(Ms Anita SIT)
Clerk to Panel

c.c. Hon Ambrose LAU Hon-chuen, JP (Chairman of Panel)