

SEC 2/2/235

By Fax (2877 8024)

10 May 2002

Mrs Sharon Tong
Legislative Council Secretariat
3/F, Citibank Tower
3 Garden Road
Hong Kong

Dear Mrs Tong,

LegCo Panel on Security
Pilot Scheme of Installation of Permanent Closed-circuit Televisions

Thank you for your letter dated 19 April concerning follow-up matters on the discussion of Police's proposed pilot scheme of installing permanent closed-circuit televisions (CCTV) in Lan Kwai Fong in the meeting of the LegCo Panel on Security on 9 April. You also enquired about the message conveyed by Mr Dick Lee, Deputy Commissioner of Police, who responded to media enquiries regarding the pilot scheme on 16 April.

The Administration paid careful attention to the concerns raised by Members about the pilot scheme in the meeting of the Panel on Security on 9 April. Members were concerned that the scheme may affect personal freedom and privacy. The Police reckoned that the utilization of CCTV systems could assist in crowd control operation, crime prevention and detection as well as enhancing public safety. Having considered the views expressed by Members, however, the Police have agreed to suspend the pilot scheme of installing permanent CCTV in Lan Kwai Fong. The Police will also conduct a thorough study of the related issues including the scale of the scheme, mode of operation, expenditure estimates, and resolving privacy concerns in consultation with the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data.

Upon completion of the study, the Police plans to consult the public through existing channels to further gauge the views of concerned business enterprises, associations and members of the public. Further discussion will also be held with the LegCo Panel on Security.

When Mr Dick Lee responded to media enquiry on 16 April, he made it clear that the Police would carefully consider the opinions of Members and conduct further study and consultation.

Yours sincerely,

(Timothy Tong)
for Secretary for Security