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23 April 2003

Clerk to Panel,
Legislative Council,
Legislative Council Building,
8 Jackson Road,
Central,
Hong Kong.
(Attn: Mrs Percy Ma)

Dear Mrs Ma,

Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services
Meeting on 28 April 2003 at 4:30 p.m.

I refer to your letter dated 3 April 2003 inviting representatives of the Administration to attend the above meeting.

As noted in your letter, in January 2002 the Department of Justice provided a preliminary information paper on Item V – Payment of compensation to persons wrongfully imprisoned, which was circulated to the Panel for information.

We have no additional information to provide except in respect of paragraph 3 of the preliminary information paper which noted that the Department of Justice was then liaising with other parts of the SARG in order to consider fully the issues raised by the Panel.

Further to that exercise, the Administration has concluded that no comprehensive review of the administrative and statutory compensation schemes

described in paragraphs 7 to 9 of the paper is required. The reason for this view is that the schemes are of broad scope, covering not only out-of-court settlements and damages awarded by the courts but also ex gratia compensation for claims which are not legally enforceable.

The following officers of the Department of Justice will represent the Administration at the meeting in respect of Item V –

Mr Stephen Wong
Deputy Solicitor General

黃繼兒先生
副法律政策專員

Mr Michael Scott
Senior Assistant Solicitor General

單格全先生
高級助理法律政策專員

Yours sincerely,

(Michael Scott)
Senior Assistant Solicitor General

c.c. AA/SJ