

Legislative Council Panel on Constitutional Affairs

**The Administration's response to matters raised in
Hon James To's letters of 18 March 2003 and 19 March 2003**

This paper sets out the Administration's response to matters raised by Hon James To in his two letters of 18 March 2003 and 19 March 2003.

Executive Council meeting on 5 March 2003

2. At the meeting of the Executive Council on 5 March 2003, the Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (SHWF) declared that he had ordered a private car. The declaration was recorded. At that time the car had not yet been registered.

3. Apart from SHWF, no other Members made a declaration on purchase of cars. The new cars bought by other Members had already been registered and the Executive Council's decision would not have any effect on them.

Executive Council meeting on 11 March 2003

4. At the Executive Council meeting on 11 March 2003, one Member raised the question as to whether it was necessary for SHWF to declare his order of a private car. After discussion, the Chief Executive agreed that as the car ordered by SHWF had not yet been registered, it was appropriate for him to make a declaration. No Member proposed that the minutes of the meeting on 5 March 2003 be amended.

5. The above has been set out in the press statement issued by the Chief Executive's Office on 18 March 2003 and the reply issued by the government spokesman in response to media enquiries on the same day. We have nothing further to add.