

8 April 2003

The Honourable Andrew Wong, JP
Chairman
Panel on Constitutional Affairs
Legislative Council
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Chairman,

At the meeting of the Panel on Constitutional Affairs this morning, a few Members asked me when and how my resignation letter was prepared and delivered to the Chief Executive. As the letter was prepared almost a month ago, I had mixed up a couple of facts in my reply and I would like to provide the following clarification for Members' reference.

After the meeting this morning, my Administrative Assistant told me that actually he instead of my secretary typed the resignation letter that I submitted to the Chief Executive. Considering the lapse of time, I asked my Administrative Assistant to double-check the relevant records immediately. On double-checking his computer record, he confirmed that the letter was typed by him on 12 March 2003, instead of 11 March 2003.

After further verification, I can now confirm that what actually happened in relation to my resignation was as follows.

In the evening of 10 March 2003, I told the Chief Executive my decision to formally tender my resignation. I then drafted a resignation letter to the Chief Executive as a written record of my resignation in the same evening in my office. I first wrote the letter in English. After I had written the English draft, I thought the letter might need to be submitted to the Central People's Government. Therefore I also prepared a Chinese version.

On 11 March 2003, I did not get my letter typed because I was preoccupied with Executive Council meeting and other work in the office.

On 12 March 2003, I passed the English version to my Administrative Assistant for comments, and for checking whether I needed to address the letter to the Central People's Government. I also asked my secretary to type out the Chinese version of the letter for me. Subsequently, my Administrative Assistant told me that I could address the letter to the Chief Executive. He had also typed out the English version of the letter for me with some revisions. In the light of his advice that I did not need to submit the letter to the Central People's Government and the fact that he had already got the English version ready, I signed on the English letter and delivered it to the Chief Executive personally later that afternoon.

Statements by my Administrative Assistant and my secretary are attached for your record.

I regret that because of the lapse of time, I did not clearly recall the exact sequence of events at the meeting this morning, and that because the material date for my resignation was 10 March 2003 when I informed the Chief Executive verbally, I had not double-checked the date of delivery of the resignation letter to the Chief Executive set out in my written response to the Panel issued on 4 April 2003. I hope that I have clarified the matter with the above.

Yours sincerely,
(signed)

Statement by Lee Tat Chi Howard
Administrative Assistant to Financial Secretary

I hereby confirm that the English version of Financial Secretary's resignation letter dated 10 March 2003 to the Chief Executive was typed by me on 12 March 2003.

(Signed)
Lee Tat Chi Howard
8 April 2003

Statement by Ms Winnie Cheung Wai-ling, Acting Senior Personal Assistant to the Financial Secretary

In the afternoon of 12 March 2003, Mr Leung gave me a draft of a letter to type. It was hand-written by him in Chinese. The letter was a resignation letter from Mr Leung to the Chief Executive. After I have finished typing the letter and was proof reading it, Mr Leung's Administrative Assistant told me that he has an English version ready and there was no need to prepare the Chinese one.

Signed
(Winnie Cheung Wai-ling)

8 April 2003