

By Fax

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15 October 2002

Mr Henry TANG, GBS, JP
Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology
Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau
1/F - 2/F Murray Building
Garden Road
Central

Dear Mr TANG

**LegCo Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting
Operating expenditure for programme implementation**

It is noted that in August this year, Directors of Bureaux were asked to achieve a saving of 1.8% in the operating expenditure on the existing and new/improved services as planned under their portfolios in 2003-2004, and an additional saving of 1% in each of the following three financial years in order to ensure that the Government's overall operating expenditure does not go beyond the total amount estimated in the Medium Range Forecast.

In this connection, on behalf of the Panel Chairman, I write to request you to provide the Panel with further information on how these savings are to be achieved and spread out among the various programme areas under your policy purview, and whether the planning and implementation of existing and new/improved services relating to the work of the Information Technology and Broadcasting Branch of your Bureau would be affected. I should be grateful if you would provide an information paper (in both Chinese and English) **on or before 28 October 2002** for members' reference. In line with our practice, the written information will be made available to the media and the public and posted on the LegCo Website, unless you advise otherwise.

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Meanwhile, if there is any question, please feel free to contact the undersigned or Ms Debbie YAU at 2509 4417.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Miss Polly YEUNG)
Clerk to Panel

c.c. Hon SIN Chung-kai (Panel Chairman)