

(Translation)

Hon Chan Yuen-han,
Chairman, LegCo Panel on Welfare Services
c/o LegCo Secretariat
3/F, Citibank Tower,
3 Garden Road, Central, Hong Kong

7 May 2004

Dear Ms Chan,

**LegCo Panel on Welfare Services and Panel on Security
Joint Meeting on 24 May 2004**

After taking up the post of Chairman of the Review Panel on Family Services in Tin Shui Wai, I received a press interview on 23 April. The coverage, however, has aroused the concern, dissatisfaction and misunderstanding of Members of the two Panels and some agencies and organizations. For this I write to you to extend my sincere apologies.

The interview with the press lasted for a few hours and had touched on a lot of things. I mentioned domestic violence was a very complicated issue, the causes of which were many and could not have been just one single factor; immigration policy and the CSSA system might also be contributing factors. I have to stress that I had not said anything during the interview that discriminated against or stigmatized anyone. Neither had I drawn any conclusion as to the causes of the Tin Shui Wai incident.

The Review Panel on Family Services in Tin Shui Wai has started its work. While we are meeting Government departments and other agencies involved, we would also like to meet interested parties who wish to make their views known to us. As Chairman of the Panel, I can assure Members that we would conduct the review in an open, proactive and objective manner. One point I would like to stress is that the Panel will not rush into any conclusion before completion of the review.

I accepted with pleasure the appointment of Director of Social Welfare because of my interest and concern in social welfare and my association with the welfare sector. I do hope I could, through my work in the Review Panel, contribute a part in serving the community. I earnestly hope that Members would understand the whole picture of what had happened. Certainly we will, on completion of the review, explain to Members the conclusions and the recommendations of the Panel.

Yours sincerely,

Aaron Wan Chi-keung
Chairman, Review Panel on Family
Services in Tin Shui Wai