



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部衛生福利及食物局
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau
Government Secretariat, Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

Our Ref.: () in HWF CR 52/581/89 Pt. 58

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Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
Room 602, Citibank Tower
3 Garden Road
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Hong Kong

Dear Ms Lau,

Thank you for your letter dated 24 June 2005, referring to us the views of a Mr Lee on the Smoking (Public Health) (Amendment) Bill 2005, based on his experience in Norway about the smoking ban in restaurants.

We understand that Norway has introduced a nationwide ban on smoking in restaurants and bars from 1 June 2004. Having implemented the smoking ban for a year, the Directorate of Health and Social Affairs of Norway had published a report reviewing the result. According to the report findings, people generally complied with the ban and few problems with compliance have been encountered. It is further noted that although breweries recorded a slight decline in the sale of beer, there was little difference in the turnover index of bars and restaurants before and after the ban.

In fact, three Legislative Council Members have paid a field visit to Thailand, Ireland and Norway in August to study their respective tobacco control regime. They will share their first hand observation with the Bills Committee on the Amendment Bill later on. We may have a better understanding of the smoking ban experience in Norway by then.

Thank you once again for bringing to our attention Mr Lee's concerns.

Yours sincerely,


(Miss Christine Au)

for Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food