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30 October 2007

Dr the Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Chairman of Subcommittee
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road, Central
Hong Kong

Dear Fernando,


**Subcommittee to Study Issues Relating to the Provision of
Boarding Places, Senior Secondary Education and Employment
Opportunities for Children with Special Education Needs**

Thank you for your letter of 11 July 2007 concerning the Subcommittee's suggestion to enhance the development of social enterprises (SEs) and the employment opportunities for persons with disabilities (PWDs) by offering a certain percentage or amount of services procured by the Government to SEs by way of restricted tenders.

The Government procurement policy is that procurement should premise on the principles of fair and open competition, value for money, transparency and public accountability. On the enhancement of the employment opportunities for PWDs, you may wish to note that the current Government procurement system already allows the flexibility for bureaux and departments to procure service from non-government organisations (NGOs) employing PWDs through restricted tender. For

example, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department has contracted out by way of restricted tenders the operation of refreshment outlets in seven of their venues to NGOs employing PWDs. The Education Bureau and Home Affairs Department have also made similar arrangements for the kiosks at the Kowloon Tong Education Services Centre and the Lantau Link View Point respectively. Marking Schemes of some service contracts will also award additional marks to tenderers employing more PWDs. While there is no systemic barrier to giving preferential treatments to PWDs in Government procurement, procuring bureaux/departments will require the flexibility to consider their approach in each case having regard to their own specific contract requirements. Given the diversity of services/products procured by the Government, it would not be practicable nor appropriate for this Bureau to require all procuring bureaux/departments to set aside a certain percentage or amount of their service for NGOs/SEs employing PWDs.

Being the policy bureaux for rehabilitation of PWDs, the Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB) is fully committed to promoting the employment of PWDs and to ensuring that they enjoy equal opportunity of participating in productive and gainful employment in the open market. I trust that my colleagues in LWB would continue to explore viable measures to enhance the employment opportunities of PWDs.

Yours Sincerely


(Professor K C Chan)
Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury

c.c. Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Secretary for Education