

CB2/PL/HS  
2869 9255  
2509 9055

**By Fax (2509 9144)**  
30 June 2005

Mr R IP, JP  
Private Secretary to Chief Executive  
The Chief Executive's Office  
Hong Kong

Dear Mr IP,

**Panel on Health Services**

**Visit to general outpatient clinics**

I refer to the Chief Executive's visit to the West Kowloon General Outpatient Clinic on 29 June 2005 and wish to seek clarification of the following -

- (a) whether the Chief Executive was aware of the fact that I had requested the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau (HWFB) to arrange a visit to public general outpatient clinics for the Panel on Health Services to observe the queuing for services at these clinics;
- (b) whether HWFB had conveyed the request made by me immediately after the Chief Executive's Question and Answer Session on 27 June 2005 that the Chief Executive should be invited to join the visit being arranged for the Panel on Health Services; and
- (c) whether HWFB had followed up the request with your Office after the meeting of the Panel held in the morning of 28 June 2005 when the subject of services at general outpatient clinics was discussed. I informed members at the meeting that a visit was being arranged by HWFB before the motion debate on the subject at the Council meeting of 6 July 2005 and the Chief Executive had been invited to join the visit.

I should be grateful if you would provide the requested information **by 12 noon on Monday, 4 July 2005**.

Yours sincerely,

(Andrew CHENG Kar-foo)  
Chairman  
Legislative Council Panel on Health Services



4 July 2005

The Honourable Andrew CHENG Kar-foo  
Chairman  
Legislative Council Panel on Health Services  
Legislative Council Building  
8 Jackson Road  
Central  
Hong Kong

Dear Mr Cheng,

**Panel on Health Services  
Visit to general outpatient services**

I refer to your letter of 30 June 2005.

It will be useful to set out the facts related to the recent visit of the Chief Executive to a general outpatient clinic.

During the Chief Executive's Question and Answer session on Monday (27 June), the Chief Executive openly promised the Hon. Tam Yiu-chung that they would visit an outpatient clinic together in a morning. To follow up his promise, he made the arrangements through the Hon. Jasper Tsang Yok-sing on Tuesday's morning (28 June) in the margin of the Executive Council meeting. The visit subsequently took place on 29 June.

When he approached the Hon. Jasper Tsang on 28 June, the Chief Executive had not been aware of your invitations referred through the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau. Such invitations reached him in the afternoon on 28 June.

We wish however to point out that the timing of the receipt of the invitations is irrelevant to the decision of Chief Executive to conduct his own visit. As explained above, the Chief Executive's visit was a follow-up to his promise made during the Question and Answer session. The Chief Executive wished to conduct a low-profile visit with a minimum number of participants so that he could communicate more effectively with the users of the outpatient clinic service and thereby have a better understanding of their concerns.

Your sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robin Ip', written in a cursive style.

( Robin Ip )

Private Secretary to Chief Executive