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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND
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GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT

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24 December 2004

Mrs Sharon Tong
Clerk to the Manpower Panel
Legislative Council
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Mrs Tong,

Panel on Manpower

**Administration's response to the motion concerning minimum wage
passed at the meeting on 4 November 2004**

The Administration has asked the Labour Advisory Board (LAB) to study carefully the issues of a statutory minimum wage and maximum working hours. As a well-established tripartite consultative forum on labour matters involving employers, employees and the Government, the LAB is best placed to consider the matter. The LAB met on 3 December 2004 and had a useful initial discussion on the subject. It will continue to discuss the matter. Given the complexity and importance of the issues, it would not be appropriate to set a time limit on the LAB's deliberations.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Chang', written over a white background.

(Miss Carrie Chang)

for Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Labour)

c.c.

Administrative Assistant to Secretary for Economic Development and Labour