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21 December 2004

Miss Salumi Chan
Clerk to Panel on Public Service
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road, Central
Hong Kong

Dear Miss Chan,

**Panel on Public Service
Meeting on 21 December 2004**

**Agenda Item III
Policy governing post-retirement employment of civil servants**

I refer to your letter of 20 December 2004 referring to us the letter of 20.12.2004 from Hon Cheung Man-kwong requesting provision of all papers related to Ms Elaine Chung's application for post-retirement employment with the Hong Kong Ferry (Holdings) Co. Ltd.

We have already set out in our response of 14 December 2004 a detailed account of our major considerations and all essential information relating to the application of Ms Elaine Chung, including the scope and nature of employment applied for, the scope of approval given, the development of the case and the related actions which we have taken. We consider that this information has addressed the Panel's concern on the case and will provide a sound basis for the forthcoming discussion without the need to make public any internal documents. The Secretary for the Civil Service is prepared to respond to any further questions which Panel Members may have on the matter at the meeting this afternoon.

We also wish to highlight a general point of principle. The operation of the civil service management system necessarily involves the handling of personal information as well as internal assessment regarding individual serving and retired civil servants. The integrity and effectiveness of this system is premised on the parties having confidence in the process so that they can provide such information and tender their advice without being concerned that their information and views will be subject to public debate/scrutiny.

Yours sincerely,

(SUI Wai Keung)
for Secretary for the Civil Service

c.c. Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong
Ms Elaine Chung