

政府總部
香港下亞厘畢道



GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT
LOWER ALBERT ROAD
HONG KONG

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By Fax (2 pages)
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Mrs Sharon Tong
Clerk to Security Panel
Legislative Council Secretariat
3/F, Citibank Tower
3 Garden Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Mrs Tong,

Panel on Security

I refer to your letter dated 17 June 2005, requesting information on police guidelines and procedures on the treatment of detainees arrested in anti-vice operations and on the detention of a large number of persons arrested in an operation, and enquiring whether the Police had conducted a review on the incident and the results of the review.

The Commissioner of Police has a duty of care towards all persons detained in his custody. Regardless of the offence for which they are arrested, all detained persons, including those arrested in connection with anti-vice operations, will be treated in the same manner and entitled to the same rights. For instance, they will be detained in a safe environment and be given reasonable opportunity to wash, eat, relieve themselves and notify a friend or relative of their detention if they so wish. Procedures are also in place to regularly review their detention period so that they will not be detained beyond what is necessary.

When there are large scale operations involving mass arrests, subject to prevailing operational exigencies, there may be the need to resort to temporary detention facilities. Such temporary facilities have to be designated by a police officer of the rank of Superintendent or above and be placed under the dedicated watch of a police officer. The guiding principle is that all arrested persons should be detained in a safe environment that is not accessible to the public and cannot be readily viewed from a public place.

The Police are now undertaking a review of temporary detention facilities. In the process they will look into such issues as the conditions of these facilities and the possibility of utilizing detention facilities of other police stations in future. The review is still underway. Given public concern, the Police have already discontinued using the temporary outdoor holding area inside the police station involved in the incident referred to in your letter.

Yours sincerely,



(Miss Cheung Siu-hing)
for Secretary for Security