

29 September 2006

Mrs LAI CHAN Chi-kuen, Marion, JP
Dep Secy for Commerce, Industry and Technology
(Communications and Technology)
2/F, Murray Building, Garden Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Madam,

**Re : Unsolicited Electronic Messages Bill-
Suggestion to deal with unsolicited
post office mail as well**

I understand from a report in the SCMP dated 28 September 2006 that the above Bill is going through Legco. May I suggest that the legislative opportunity is taken to deal with "junk mail" as well in the Bill or by amending the Post Office Ordinance. On a daily basis, the post office put so called "circular post" and other "junk mail" into my mail box. It is very annoying as all the paper goes straight into the dustbin. It is not good for Mother Earth to waste so much paper in "junk mail". It also clogs up my mail box. Could there not be an individual (as opposed to one only for Building Management Committees) "opt out scheme" to stop the post office delivering such unwanted mail?

Thank you for your attention.

Yours faithfully,



(Edward Brook)

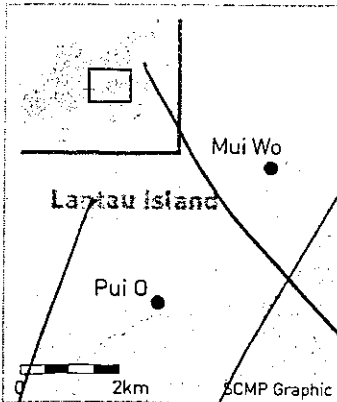
c.c. The Hon. Tsang Yuk Sing, Legco
The Chairman, Bills Committee, Legco

Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central, Hong Kong

animal injuries and in the p opera-week and the 12 rred dur- port to a area on tau.

rtment also into the rillage of yester- remove ng male they iden-

troublemakers and a sick they believed had been and causing problems for ers. The officers claimed rred that no family units ken up during the process. reatures were captured ng anaesthetised with a taken to an animal man- facility at Sheung Shui ir future will be decided. If



ter because of her efforts to protect buffalo and cattle. "The triads are still powerful here and they don't like people interfering in their business," she said. "There are many locals who want to preserve the buffalo, but their voices are not being heard."

Marcus Tan-cock, chairman of the Lantau Buffalo Association, received a HK\$100,000 grant to survey the buffalo and the best way to control the numbers. He said he was not informed about a meeting which decided on the best way to remove the animals.

Department veterinarian Michael Hwang, who supervised the removal yesterday, said the action had been approved at a meeting between the government, NGOs and Legco members on September 13.

The meeting followed an alleged attack by a buffalo earlier this month which left a man with a broken arm and injured back.

Mr Hwang said the Lantau Buffalo Association had been "rather quiet" about the situation. He also disputed claims that buffalo were at all times gentle creatures.

"A buffalo's natural instinct when under threat is to turn and charge," he said. "Water buffalo should be respected at all times and given a wide berth. You would not want to go and hug one," he said.



tan-cock

NG-RUNNING BATTLE OVER CATTLE

tle over whether wild buffaloes are a nuisance or peaceful es in need of protection has been running on Lantau for but the pace of development on the once-remote island ed urgency to the debate.

y villagers believe the animals foul the beach and can be us. But conservationists say they are harmless and should ected, claiming that villagers only want to clear them from e coastal land to allow for development.

Friday, several water buffalo and cows, some of them ut, were found with their legs tied and lying on their sides ad leading to Tai Tei Tong and Pak Ngan Heung. The ure, Fisheries and Conservation Department said the would be auctioned and slaughtered.

most Lantau residents agree the numbers of buffalo on the about 130 - have grown and that the population needs to olled.

man of the Living Islands movement Bob Bunker said the had become an important part of the ecosystem.

out the buffaloes grazing, the wetlands would revert to ad again," he said. "But we completely understand their s have to be controlled."

villager said the government needed to work with the to construct a long-term strategy for preserving the

villagers should not be left to battle this out on our own," "We would like them to make some kind of long-term ng with input from all villagers. It goes without saying we ely want them to remain part of the heritage but in a I way." *Barclay Crawford*

A sports day became a science lesson for 12 junior high school students in Siu Sai Wan yesterday.

Instead of stretching their limbs with other budding athletes, the Form One youngsters from Fukien Secondary School turned their attention to how each other's bodies were affected by their sporting efforts as some exerted themselves and others recorded the results.

Students armed with clipboards and pens recorded the pulse rate and temperature of each runner before and after they completed 100

Other students recorded the speed of each runner at 25 metres, 50 metres and 75 metres.

Science teacher Jeff Li Chun-man said yesterday's activity was part of a year-long "science exploration" project designed for Form One students under the new 3+3+4 curriculum.

"We hope to encourage students to learn science not only from books, but from their personal experience. When the students can participate in these exploration exercises, they will think the subject

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'Cold callers' could be targeted in new anti-spam legislation

Norma Connolly

The government has agreed to consider including sales people and "cold callers" who ply potential customers with phone calls in proposed anti-spam legislation.

Under the current wording of the bill, such callers are exempt from revealing their identification on caller display screens.

The Unsolicited Electronic Messages Bill was drawn up to stem the rising tide of spam e-mails, text messages, pre-recorded calls, faxes and video and audio messages.

But legislators at yesterday's second bills committee meeting called on the government to amend its wording to include marketing and sales person-to-person calls and to force those callers to reveal their numbers on caller identification displays so recipients can decide not to answer them.

Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong (DAB) lawmaker Tsang Yok-sing told government representatives: "I think the caller must be required to display the caller number."

Marion Lai Chan Chi-kuen, deputy secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology, said calls by salespeople and other company representatives were "part of the normal commercial telemarketing activities".

"If such person-to-person inter-

active electronic communication becomes a major source of nuisance and there are many complaints, we would be prepared to consider if it falls within the ambit of the bill, or the ordinance, if enacted," she said.

She said she hoped that as "good business practice", sales people would respect the wishes of customers who requested not to be called back.

However, she conceded the government would reconsider the provisions of clauses 7 and 12 in the bill, which cover accurate sender information and the deliberate concealment of that information, respectively.

Queried by legislators on how recipients could avoid paying roaming charges when receiving spam phone calls overseas, the government admitted that its hands were tied because it could not enforce Hong Kong legislation in foreign jurisdictions.

The bill includes an opt-out provision, under which people can sign up to a "do not call" register and anyone who contacts people on the register can be prosecuted.

The Telecommunications Authority will set up a register for those who do not want to receive pre-recorded voice messages, faxes or mobile phone calls. The register will not apply to e-mails.

The Unsolicited Electronic Messages Bill was gazetted in July. If enacted, it will criminalise the sending of spam electronic mail and includes fines from HK\$100,000 to HK\$1 million and jail terms of up to five years.

The Office of the Telecommunications Authority received more than 3,600 inquiries about nuisance calls last year and 2,310 in the first eight months of this year.

TALKBACK

Should "cold calling" be included in anti-spam legislation?

Send your comments to talkback@scmp.com

Please include name, address and phone number

SCMP, 28/9/06 Newsday