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28 July 2006

Clerk to the Manpower Panel
Legislative Council
8 Jackson Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn.: Mrs Sharon TONG)

Dear Mrs TONG,

Panel on Manpower meeting on 19 January 2006

Extension of temporary jobs in the public sector

At the meeting of the Panel on Manpower on 19 January 2006, in the context of discussing the extension of temporary jobs in the public sector, Members asked when these temporary jobs were first created and whether there would be any wage adjustment in 2006-07. This letter sets out the relevant information.

In 2006-07, the Administration has decided to retain all 11 600 temporary jobs in the public sector for one year. These jobs were extended to meet operational needs and largely in response to the impact of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome in 2003. In considering the creation of these jobs, we had taken into account the operational experience of introducing temporary jobs under the Initiatives for Wider Economic Participation in the 2000 Policy Address and the employment-related initiatives announced in the 2001 Policy Address.

The wage level for most of these temporary jobs would remain the same as in 2005-06, except for those outsourced non-skilled jobs whose wage levels have to follow the mandatory requirements for government service contracts¹ as appropriate.

Yours sincerely,



(Keith GIANG)

for Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

¹ Under the mandatory requirement introduced in May 2004, a tender offer for service contracts (excluding construction services) shall not be considered if the monthly wage rates offered by the tenderer to their non-skilled workers are less than the average monthly wages for the relevant industry or occupation as published in the latest Census and Statistics Department's Quarterly Report of Wage and Payroll Statistics at the time when tenders are invited.