



**Overseas Inspectors' Association  
Hong Kong Police Force**

39/F, Arsenal House  
Police Headquarters,  
1 Arsenal Street,  
Wanchai,  
Hong Kong

28<sup>th</sup> June 2007

The Hon Mr. Abraham SHEK Lai-him, JP  
Room 806,  
Manning House  
48 Queen's Road Central  
Hong Kong

**By FAX : 2588 1623 and e-mail**

Dear Sir,

**The ESF (Amendment) Bill 2007 (Members Bill)**

I am the Chairman of the Overseas Inspectors' Association (OIA) of the Hong Kong Police. I am writing on behalf of the Executive Committee and members of the OIA who are serving police officers with children at ESF schools.

I understand that you have introduced the captioned bill and that it will have a second reading in LegCo on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2007. Whilst the OIA support better governance of the ESF, as recommended by the Director of Audit, Public Accounts Committee and the ICAC, we are concerned that certain proposed amendments act to marginalise the interest of our members.

Section 6 of the amended ordinance provides for a Board of Governors consisting of 2 LegCo members, 3 Chairman of ESF School Councils, 7 parents, one School Principal, 2 teachers, 1 member of ESF

support staff and 10 “independent” others not eligible in the other categories. We understand that members of the LegCo Education Panel have expressed concern about the inclusion of LegCo members but the OIA is concerned mainly about the exclusion of a representative from the Administration.

As noted by the Education Department on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2005, the Government has always had representation within the ESF. This included the Chief Secretary and Permanent Secretary for Education and Manpower as members of the foundation and also a representative of EMB on the Executive Committee of the ESF.

The stated purpose of the latter was to ensure the interests of (British) civil servants whose children attended the ESF schools were well served. The proposed amendments to the Ordinance effectively remove the duty to ensure the interests of that group (which is now made up primarily, though not exclusively, of our members) are well served. We realise that our members form an ever decreasing minority but they have served Hong Kong for many years, shown loyalty during times of need and do not deserve to be further marginalised by the Administration. The new management of ESF has already started this process, requiring police officers and other civil servants to pay fees in advance, despite the fact that payment for these people is guaranteed through the Treasury in tandem with payment of education allowances.

The second area of concern for my members is the proposed Section 8 of the amended ordinance. This makes provisions for a nominating committee set up to select the 10 independent members of the ESF Board of Governors. This committee is to be formed by 2 School Council Chairmen, 2 members from the business sector (nominated by the HKGCC and British Chamber of Commerce), one member active in the field of tertiary education and one parent.

The OIA cannot see the rationale for including members of the business sector in this nominating committee. The involvement of Chambers of Commerce in ESF management is not wanted and not necessary. Whilst good governance creates a need to ensure the ESF is run according to good business practice, there should be no question of “business” running the ESF. This can lead to all manner of problems, the

recent furore over “debentures” in International Schools being just one example.

The Executive Committee of the OIA seeks your assistance in amending the bill to ensure the interests of our members (and all civil servants) are protected and maintained in accordance with the stated principle of Government involvement in the governance of the ESF. We seek the inclusion of Government or civil service representatives on the Board of Governors and removal of representatives nominated by the HKGCC and BCC from the nominating committee for the 10 “independents” on the Board.

I have copied this letter to other members of the Education Panel who showed interest in the Bill at the meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2007, and would be most grateful for your early response.

Yours faithfully,



**( David Williams )**  
**Chairman, OIA**

- c.c The Hon Ms. Audrey EU Yuet-mee, SC, JP (Fax : 2899 2249 and e-mail)  
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