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22 December 2006

Clerk, Public Accounts Committee,
Legislative Council Building,
8 Jackson Road
Central,
Hong Kong
(Attn : Ms Miranda HON)

Dear Ms HON,

Follow-up to Public Accounts Committee Report No. 42

Hong Kong Harbour Fest

Your letter dated 14 December 2006 on the captioned subject refers. The Administration's response to the questions raised therein is set out below –

- (a) The appeal in question has yet to be disposed of due to its complexity and the amount of information that requires examination.
- (b) In the last three years (from 2003/04 to 2005/06), the Administration took an average of 2 to 3 months to process an appeal against the ruling made in a disciplinary case under the Public Service (Administration) Order following completion of the necessary process (including hearing) by the Secretariat on Civil Service Discipline. The amount of time taken to process each appeal case varies and is usually proportionate to the complexity and specific circumstances of the case.

- (c) Effort is being made to complete processing the appeal as soon as possible. We are, however, not able to advise when the appeal will be disposed of.
- (d) The appeal authority has been examining the representations made by the officer concerned and other information on and issues relating to this appeal case. As mentioned above, this appeal is complex and there is a large amount of information that requires examination.
- (e) We expect the appeal would have been disposed of well before the officer's retirement from the service.

Yours sincerely,



(Mrs Rosanna Ure)
for Secretary for the Civil Service

c.c. Director of Audit