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GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT

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20 April 2007

Mrs Sharon Tong  
Clerk to Panel on Security  
Legislative Council  
3/F Citibank Tower  
3 Garden Road  
Central

Dear Mrs Tong,

**Panel on Security  
Handling of Guns by the Police**


At the meeting of the Panel on Security on 3 April 2007, Members requested the Administration to provide the Panel with additional information on the investigation into the incident of the dropping of a Police gun on 9 February 2007 at the next meeting of the Panel.

We wish to re-affirm that the Administration attaches great importance to the incident and more generally, stringent control on the use of handguns by police officers. We would have started an investigation into the incident and a review of relevant matters even if no members of the public had lodged a complaint. In fact the Police started an investigation before the CAPO received a complaint on certain aspects thereof. We are prepared to report to the Panel the outcome of the investigation, including our findings on the incident and related matters, and any improvements that we should make to minimise the chance of recurrence of similar incidents, to the existing Force procedures and practices on areas such as safety standards for firearms used by Force members as well as holsters and other accessories, guidelines regarding such use, as well as training relating thereto. With reference to the specific point of concern raised by Members at the last meeting of the Panel as to whether the officer in question had intended to draw the handgun, to date there is no complaint or evidence that the officer deliberately drew his handgun. This and other matters raised by Members at the last Panel meeting will be covered in the investigation.

In view of the Panel discussion at its last meeting, we confirm that we will revert to the Panel on the outcome of our investigation at the first opportunity after the investigation has been completed.

Given the arrangements set out above, we suggest that it would not be useful for Members to revert to the item at the next meeting of the Panel.

Yours sincerely,

  
(Apollonia LIU)  
for Secretary for Security