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18 February 2008

Ms Pauline Ng
Clerk to Finance Committee
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Ms Ng,

Follow-up Action to Finance Committee Meeting on 1 February 2008

At the meeting of the Finance Committee on 1 February 2008, Members have requested supplementary information concerning student hostels at the University Grants Committee (UGC)-funded institutions. Attached please find the required information prepared in consultation with the UGC Secretariat and the UGC-funded institutions for Members' reference.

Yours sincerely,

(Amy Wong)
for Secretary for Education

Encl

c.c. SG, UGC (Attn: Mrs Dorothy Ma)
SFST (Attn: Mr Jack Chan)

教育統籌局已於二零零七年七月一日重組為教育局。為免浪費，我們繼續使用舊文具，直至存貨用罄為止。
The Education and Manpower Bureau has been re-organised as Education Bureau since 1 July 2007. To minimize waste, we are using our old stationery while stock lasts.

Annex

- (a) *The number of publicly-funded student hostel places to be provided over the next five years under the new senior secondary academic structure and having regard to the increase in non-local students.*

The University Grants Committee (UGC)-funded sector has a shortfall of about 9,100 publicly-funded hostel places in the 2007/08 academic year. To meet the student hostel shortfall, the UGC-funded institutions have been actively planning for construction of new hostels. At present, there is a total of six new hostel projects (including the student hostel project of the University of Hong Kong at Lung Wah Street, Kennedy Town) for the provision of some 6,600 publicly-funded hostel places under planning by the institutions.

The Administration estimated that an additional 2,100 hostel places will be needed to cater for the knock on implications of the additional year of undergraduate studies starting from the 2012/13 academic year. As a result of the increased quota for non-local students in publicly-funded programmes, the accommodation shortfall in the UGC-funded sector is expected to increase by around another 6,500 hostel places. In other words, there will be a shortfall of some 11,100 places.

In view of the scarcity of suitable land in the vicinity of the institutions (particularly those in the urban area) for hostel development and the substantial lead time required for consultation and construction, it is likely that the problem of inadequate hostel facilities will remain for some time. We are considering other proposals to resolve this issue, including constructing “joint hostels” for shared use by institutions. The Administration will continue to work with the institutions to resolve the hostel shortfall issue.

- (b) *The anticipated number of local students who would be given the opportunity to stay in publicly-funded hostels during their course.*

According to the information provided by the UGC-funded institutions, a total of about 14,160 local students enrolled at all levels of UGC-funded programmes stayed in student hostels as at September 2007. With the completion of new hostel projects and the possibility of constructing joint hostels mentioned in (a) above, it is anticipated that the institutions would be better equipped to meet the local students’ demand for hostel places.

(c) The number of self-financed hostel places provided by UGC-funded institutions for local and non-local students.

According to the information provided by the UGC-funded institutions, there was a total of about 5,400 privately-funded hostel places (*i.e.* construction costs fully met by institutions' private sources of funding) available in the UGC-funded institutions as at September 2007 for accommodating both local and non-local students.