

政府總部
香港下亞厘畢道



GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT
LOWER ALBERT ROAD
HONG KONG

本函檔號 Our Ref.:

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30 April 2008

The Hon Miriam Lau Kin-ye, GBS, JP
Chairman
Legislative Council House Committee
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road, Central
Hong Kong

Dear Ms Lau,

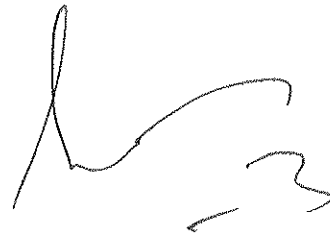
**Attendance of the Financial Secretary
at the Legislative Council meeting on Resumption of the
Second Reading debate on the Appropriation Bill 2008**

Thank you for your letter dated 25 April 2008.

As I have stated in my earlier letter dated 23 April 2008, the Administration values the views of Honourable Members and is committed to cooperating with the Legislative Council. I wish to reiterate that in line with this commitment, we will continue with the established practice whereby relevant public officers will attend Council meetings to listen to Members' views on motion debates and on bills introduced by the Administration. Whereas it has always been the Executive's prerogative to designate public officers to transact Council business, we will continue to field the most relevant and appropriate officials to foster productive and meaningful exchanges. In line with the spirit that the Administration attaches importance to Members' views, and taking into account the importance of securing support from Members for the passage of bills, public officers will attend the relevant debates or proceedings to listen to Members' views.

At the Council meeting held on 23 April 2008, the Financial Secretary had explained to Members that he did not sit through the meetings held on 16 and 17 April 2008, and that he began working with colleagues concerned in preparing his response immediately after listening to Members' statements. The Financial Secretary re-assured Members that he attached great importance to their views in formulating his response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'H' followed by a horizontal line and a small flourish.

(Henry Tang)
Chief Secretary for Administration