

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PANEL ON FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Written response to the motion on Mrs Anson Chan's property mortgage loan

Purpose

This paper sets out the response of the Civil Service Bureau to the motion passed by the Legislative Council Panel on Financial Affairs on 29 January 2008, namely, "It is proposed that the Government should look into the incident in which Anson Chan Fang On-sang, former Chief Secretary, obtained a 100% property mortgage loan; and give the public an account of the incident."

Response

2. As explained at the Panel meeting on 29 January 2008, a fundamental rule underlying civil service integrity is the need for civil servants to avoid any real or apparent conflict of interest. Towards this end, we have put in place comprehensive rules, arrangements and guidelines for civil servants to follow. Those rules, arrangements and guidelines prevailing in the 1990s are set out in Paper No. CB(1)706/07-08(01) which was discussed at the aforesaid meeting. They were applicable to all civil servants at that time, including the holder of the Chief Secretary post.

3. In accordance with the established practice of not disclosing information or commenting on matters concerning the conduct of individual serving or former civil servants, we are not in a position to give the public an account of the incident referred to in the motion.

Civil Service Bureau
February 2008