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25 March 2008

Miss Mary SO
Clerk to Panel on Health Services
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Miss So,

**Meeting of Legislative Council Panel on Health Services on 18 February 2008
Monitoring of Unregistered Drug Used or Contained in Slimming Products**

At the meeting of the Legislative Council Panel on Health Services on 18 February 2008, we briefed Members on the drug regulatory regime in Hong Kong, the regulation of slimming products, enforcement actions by the Department of Health as well as the related publicity and education work. Members requested information on the number of slimming centres in Hong Kong, as well as the types of pharmaceutical products involved in the six convicted cases in connection with the possession of unregistered pharmaceutical products by pharmacies or medicine companies. We hereby provide the relevant information.

Number of Slimming Centres in Hong Kong

As slimming centres do not need to obtain specific licences, we do not have the official statistics on the number of slimming centres. According to

the information gathered by the Consumer Council from the trade, there are at present about 5 000 chain and small- and medium-sized beauty shops in Hong Kong, and some of them provide slimming services.

Types of Pharmaceutical Products Involved in the Six Convicted Cases in 2007

The types of pharmaceutical products involved in the six convicted cases in connection with the possession of unregistered pharmaceutical products by pharmacies or medicine companies are set out below, and none of them is used for slimming:

- (a) indomethecin and ibuprofen;
- (b) dexamethasone;
- (c) mefenamic acid;
- (d) methyl sclicylate;
- (e) normal serum albumin; and
- (f) triamcinolone.

Yours sincerely,

(Miss Pamela LAM)
for Secretary for Food and Health

c.c. Director of Health (Attn : Dr Cindy LAI
Dr Heston KWONG)