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27 November 2008

Clerk to Panel
Legislative Council Panel on Security
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road, Central
Hong Kong
(Attn: Mr Raymond Lam)

Dear Mr Lam,

**Supplementary Information Requested at the
Security Panel Meeting on 8 July 2008**

**Latest Development in the Provision of Rehabilitation Services
by the Correctional Services Department**

I refer to paras. 22 and 35 of the notes of the above meeting and would like to set out supplementary information below for Members' reference.

Employment Situation of Young Offenders after Discharge (para. 22)

As at end October 2008, there were about 1 000 young supervisees discharged under supervision who had successfully secured gainful employment within one month of their discharge, which accounted for about 95% of the total number of young supervisees. To assess their employment situation after discharge, CSD has conducted a survey on 807 young supervisees who were discharged under supervision between September 2006 and August 2007. It was found that the average length of time these young supervisees remained in their first jobs was five months.

Appointments to the Civil Service (para. 35)

Appointments to the civil service are based on the principle of open and fair competition. In considering applications for civil service posts, the recruiting department/grade will select the most suitable candidate for the post concerned having regard to the applicant's character, qualifications, abilities and merits.

To ensure that all civil servants are of good character and high integrity and can be entrusted to perform the relevant duties, all recruiting departments/grades will require those candidates who are initially considered suitable for appointment to provide information for the purpose of integrity checking.

Under the existing government system, if a rehabilitated offender meets the entry requirements for a job and is shortlisted for appointment, he/she will not be disqualified for appointment solely because of his/her being a rehabilitated offender. The recruiting department/grade, in deciding whether the individual candidate should be appointed, will take into account such considerations as the nature and seriousness of the offence, its relevance to the duties of the post and the operational needs of the post. Each case will be considered on its own merits, and the records concerned will be destroyed afterwards. The Government therefore does not have the statistics on the employment of rehabilitated offenders in the civil service. We consider that once an applicant for a government job is offered appointment, no distinction should be made as to whether he/she is a rehabilitated offender. This helps to protect his/her privacy and ensure that he/she will receive fair treatment.

Yours sincerely,

(Miss Sharon Ko)
for Secretary for Security

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