



本署編號 Our Ref. : (2) in UI/EOC/VFM/0

來函編號 Your Ref. :

24 September 2008

Mr Raymond Tang
Chairperson
The Equal Opportunities Commission
19/F, Cityplaza Three
14 Taikoo Wan Road
Taikoo Shing
Hong Kong

(Fax No.: 2802 0030)

Dear Mr Tang,

Confidentiality requirements regarding value for money audit

The purpose of this letter is to draw your attention to the agreed arrangements between the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) and the Administration in upholding confidentiality of value for money (VFM) audit reports. You are kindly requested to take necessary action to ensure that the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), its Committees and staff who are involved in the VFM audit or have access to the VFM audit report (either in draft form or in final version), are made aware of these requirements and abide by them.

Confidentiality of audit investigation and audit report before tabling

Until a VFM audit report is tabled in Legislative Council (LegCo), it is confidential and its circulation should be restricted on a need-to-know basis. Under no circumstances should the EOC, its Committees and staff disclose in public the issues covered in the draft audit report. Even if they are tackled by the media, they should refrain from speaking or confirming the audit issues.

Need to avoid public debate after tabling and before public hearing

During the period between the tabling of the VFM audit report in LegCo and the public hearings by the PAC, any public debate on the audit issues covered in the VFM audit report should be avoided as far as possible. This will ensure that the PAC can carry out public hearings smoothly and in a fair manner. To this end, the EOC, its Committees and staff should refrain from initiating any publicity to counter the audit findings. They may however respond to media inquiries.

If you have any question, please contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely,



(LEUNG Kwok-kit, George)
for Director of Audit

c.c. Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(Attn: Mr Victor Ng) (Fax: 2840 0657)