

政制及內地事務局
政府總部



CONSTITUTIONAL AND MAINLAND AFFAIRS BUREAU
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9 November 2009

Clerk to Legislative Council Panel
on Constitutional Affairs
(Attn : Mrs Eleanor Chow)
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Mrs Chow

**Panel on Constitutional Affairs
Political Appointment System**

I refer to your letter of 3 November, which encloses a letter from Hon Ronny Tong to the Panel Chairman.

The Government has clearly indicated in the Report on Further Development of the Political Appointment System issued in November 2007 that people with political party, academic, professional, business, civil service and other backgrounds can serve in the new political positions (including the Under Secretary positions), so as to enrich and broaden the opportunities for political participation. The Report has also made it clear that individuals with civil service background are one source of candidates for the new political positions, though they will have to leave the civil service to assume these positions. Appointing individuals with civil service background as Under Secretaries, therefore, does not go against the design of the Political Appointment System.

The Under Secretaries appointed by the Government in 2008 has already covered people from very different backgrounds, including academic, media and political party backgrounds. For the appointment of two Under Secretaries with civil servant backgrounds this time, we consider that it can enrich the experience possessed by the Under Secretary team as a whole, and can further diversify their backgrounds. The appointment of these two Under Secretaries is made under the principle of meritocracy.

Yours sincerely,



(Gary Poon)

for Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs