



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部教育局
Education Bureau
Government Secretariat, The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

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Ms Amy YU
Clerk to Panel
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Ms Yu,

An Enquiry from the Supervising Producer of the Pearl Report

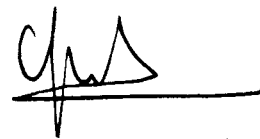
The Hong Kong Schools Music and Speech Association (the Association) is a non-profit making organisation. It aims to raise the interest of teachers and students in Chinese and Western music, and in speech, drama, poetry and prose. The Association itself is autonomous and independent of any other organisations. Every year, members of the Association vote for an Executive Committee to take charge of the administrative work, including setting rules and regulations for the Hong Kong Schools Music and Speech Festivals, selecting music and reciting materials, inviting adjudicators, etc. The Education Bureau (EDB) plays an advisory role in the Executive Committee as the Association receives government subsidy for part of its expenses on operation and staff salaries.

Concerning the openness and filming of the competitions organised by the Association, according to our understanding, the competitions are open to all members of the public. Teachers, journalists and outside experts are welcome to attend any competitions, subject to the availability of seats. However, it is stated in the Rules and Regulations that all competitors, their teachers and families, members of the public as well as the press are not allowed to take photos and make audio or video recordings during competitions in order to ensure that all

competitors can compete fairly in a quiet and undisturbed situation while the adjudicators can set their minds at ease when judging the competition.

The EDB welcomes media coverage on various inter-school competitions to help promote arts education in Hong Kong and let the public understand our students' standard in the arts. As regards the current incident, the EDB has advised the Association to give more flexibility for media coverage and provide assistance for Mr George through alternative measures. We will ask the Association to review the relevant Rules and Regulations and keep in close communication with various stakeholders to ensure that the competitions are conducted under the principle of fairness and openness for further enhancement of our students' attainment in the arts.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. Kwok-wah', written over a horizontal line.

(Dr CHEUNG Kwok-wah)
for Secretary for Education