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本函檔號 Our Ref.:

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25 May 2011

Ms Yue Tin-po
Clerk to the Panel on Information
Technology and Broadcasting
Legislative Council
Hong Kong

Dear Tin-po,

**Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting
Follow-up to meeting on 9 May 2011**

Thank you for your letter of 11 May 2011, relaying to the Administration Mr Jeremy Godfrey's request for permission to speak at the ITB Panel (the Panel) meeting regarding his views on certain aspects of the Internet Learning Support Programme (ILSP) selection process.

The Government has carefully considered the referral from the Chairman of the Panel (the Chairman). We would be prepared to facilitate the deliberations of the Panel. We have informed Mr Godfrey that the Government would not object to his disclosing to the ITB Panel his note on proposed corrections and clarifications and related confidential information regarding the ILSP selection process **provided** that the disclosed information or claim is factually correct and based on evidence and to the extent that the disclosure is relevant and necessary for the sake of public interest.

Mr Godfrey mentioned in his letter of 10 May 2011 to the Chairman that he had asked in March 2011 for permission to send a paper to the ITB Panel but permission was not granted. As explained in the attached reply to Mr Godfrey, it was the **personal** nature of his stated request that the Government considered hard to accept as the basis to merit the waiving of confidentiality rules on the ILSP deliberations. References to “*public interest questions*” only first appeared in Mr Godfrey’s submissions of 8 May and 10 May 2011 to the ITB Panel. Given his statements, the Government’s reputation is seriously at stake. There is a need for the Government’s perspective to be properly presented and understood in context.

We would reiterate that respect for confidentiality, collective decisions and government discipline is core to the civil service. The ILSP selection process was conducted in a fair manner and guided only by what is best for the project in overall terms.

Yours sincerely,



(Miss Elizabeth Tse)

for Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

cc Mr Jeremy Godfrey