

By fax and by hand
(Fax no. 2537 7053)

13 June 2011

Hon Wong Yuk-man
Chairman
Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting
Legislative Council
Room 320, West Wing
Central Government Offices
Hong Kong

Dear Chairman,

Internet Learning Support Programme

In response to the allegation made by Mr. Jeremy Godfrey on my role in the Internet Learning Support Programme (ILSP) during my tenure as the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, I would like to make the following statement.

In an earlier public memorandum issued by Mr. Jeremy Godfrey, he had stated that neither Mrs. Rita Lau nor Mr. Greg So have ever put him under pressure to act improperly¹. And that I had reiterated to him the importance of adhering to procedural propriety and fairness. However, in a later memorandum issued by him on 26 May 2011², he alleged that I had mentioned the politically desirable outcome was that a certain organisation's members should be able to knock on doors to offer benefits to low-income households. I strongly deny having made such a statement. I find his two statements not only inconsistent and contradictory but totally illogical.

¹ Paragraph 6 of the memorandum sent by Mr. Jeremy Godfrey to the LegCo ITB Panel dated 18 April 2011

² Paragraph 16 of the memorandum sent by Mr. Jeremy Godfrey to the LegCo ITB Panel dated 26 May 2011

The ILSP scheme including the scope, the process of the Request for Proposals, the evaluation criteria and the marking scheme was designed and determined by Mr. Godfrey as the Vote Controller and Head of Office of the Government Chief Information Officer. Even the formation and appointment of the members of the Evaluation Panel was decided by Mr. Godfrey without requiring reference to or approval by the Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications & Technology) or myself. I was not involved in any stage of the process and have never asked for or given sight of the submitted proposals, the evaluation papers and marks given by the Evaluation Panel members.

The assertion that I had interfered with or exerted pressure for a political desirable outcome is simply impossible and totally groundless.

I have no objection to the Legislative Council making public the content of this letter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Rita Lau', written in a cursive style.

Mrs Rita Lau