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11 November 2011

Mr Thomas Wong
Clerk to Panel
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Mr Wong,

Panel on Home Affairs

I refer to your letter dated 1 November 2011 attached to it a copy of the letter from the Hon Paul TSE's letter. We are asked to clarify whether issues relating to charitable trusts are under the purview of Home Affairs Bureau (HAB).

This is to advise that HAB is not the subject policy bureau for charities or charitable trusts. Nor is it the authority to consider and grant approval for charitable fund-raising activities. You may wish to note that currently there are several hundreds of charitable trusts that are exempt from tax under section 88 of the Inland Revenue Ordinance and among them, less than 20 are administered by HAB which include e.g. Chinese Temples Fund, Jockey Club Music and Dance Fund, Cantonese Opera Development Fund and Community Care Fund.

Yours sincerely,

(Tony Wong)
for Secretary for Home Affairs