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FINANCIAL SERVICES BRANCH FINANCIAL SERVICES AND THE TREASURY BUREAU **GOVERNMENT OF THE HONG KONG** SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION

> 24TH FLOOR CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES 2 TIM MEI AVENUE **ADMIRALTY** HONG KONG

> > 24 May 2013

Ms Connie Szeto Clerk to Panel on Financial Affairs Legislative Council Complex 1 Legislative Council Road, Central Hong Kong

Dear Ms Szeto,

Thank you for your letter of 22 April 2013. The Administration's response to the Hon TANG Ka-piu's letter is as follows.

The HKSAR Government has been following up the possible impact of the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act ("FATCA") on the local financial services industry, with a view to reducing the impact on investors and financial market practitioners as far as possible. As far as Mandatory Provident Fund ("MPF") Schemes are concerned, we understand that statutory retirement schemes in different jurisdictions are not regarded as a major tool for tax evasion by United States ("US") taxpayers, and that FATCA has exemption provisions for retirement schemes that meet specified criteria. The Administration has been closely liaising with the industry and maintaining a dialogue with the US authority. At the same time, we are exploring feasible measures to seek exemption for MPF schemes so as to reduce compliance burden as far as possible.

Yours sincerely,

(Curtis Lo)

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for Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury