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政府總部  
民政事務局

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GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT  
HOME AFFAIRS BUREAU

12TH FLOOR, WEST WING,  
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OUR REF. : HAB/D3/6/1/2/2  
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BY FAX

30 November 2012

Ms Alice LEUNG  
Clerk to the Panel on Home Affairs  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Ms LEUNG,

Letter from "A group of senior members of Sik Sik Yuen"  
referred by the Legislative Council Panel on Home Affairs

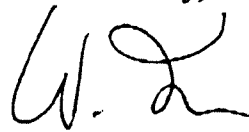
I refer to the letter from "A group of senior members of Sik Sik Yuen" referred to us by your Panel on 9 November 2012. Our reply is as follows-

Currently responsible for the management of Wong Tai Sin Temple, Sik Sik Yuen (SSY) is a charitable institution of a public character which is exempt from tax under Section 88 of the Inland Revenue Ordinance. It is also a company limited by guarantee registered under the Companies Ordinance. The operation of the organisation is regulated by the relevant legislation.

The internal operations of SSY, including the invitation and selection of works tenders, use of revenue from charitable donations, formulation of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the electoral procedures of the Board of Directors (the Board) and so forth, are within the scope of responsibilities of SSY's Board. The Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) appoints six of the Board's directors pursuant to SSY's Memorandum and Articles of Association and such appointees are free to engage in any religious activities on a personal basis; no conflict is involved in this regard.

The operations of SSY are not subject to the regulation of the HAB or the Chinese Temples Committee, and the HAB does not make any regular provision of allowances or subsidies to SSY. The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region respects the freedom of religious belief and the autonomy of religious bodies, with no intention to interfere with such bodies' internal operations. Should there be any breach of law committed by SSY's directors or staff members, the relevant law enforcement agencies will act as appropriate.

Yours faithfully,



( Miss Winnie TSE )  
for Secretary for Home Affairs

c.c. District Officer (Wong Tai Sin)  
Executive Secretary, Chinese Temples Committee