

政府總部  
民政事務局

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**GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT  
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**(Translation)**

3 March 2014

Ms Alice LEUNG  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Ms LEUNG,

**Panel on Home Affairs  
Letters from Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN and Hon CHAN Chi-chuen**

I refer to your letter of 17 February 2014 requesting the Administration to provide a written response to issues raised in the two letters from Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN and Hon CHAN Chi-chuen, respectively dated 11 and 12 February 2014, to the Chairman of the Panel on Home Affairs, regarding the participation of Hong Kong, China delegation to the 2014 Sochi Olympic Winter Games. I am authorised to respond as follows.

The Summer Olympic Games and the Olympic Winter Games are international multi-sport events organised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in accordance with the provisions of the Olympic Charter (the Charter). All participants in Olympic Games must obtain recognition from the IOC and comply with the Charter. A fundamental principle of the Charter is that the organisation, administration and operation of sport should be governed by an independent sports organisation, which is responsible for protecting its autonomy from any effects that may render its strict compliance with the Charter provisions impossible.

In Hong Kong, the authority to handle matters relating to the participation of the Hong Kong, China delegation in specified international games rests with the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China (SF&OC), a sports organisation recognised by the IOC. The Hong Kong SAR Government recognises the SF&OC's authority to determine the composition of the Hong Kong, China delegation. It also recognises that the SF&OC is placed to assess the necessary level of support (including medical support) for the games concerned.

The SF&OC has full discretion in determining the composition of the Hong Kong, China delegation in accordance with the provisions of the Charter and the regulations of the games concerned. The Hong Kong SAR Government has no right to be involved in this process. We understand that the detailed arrangements (including the composition of delegations from participating regions) for events in the Olympic Games and other major international games (such as the Asian Games) are different. In general, the composition of a delegation to a major international games event includes the athletes and representatives of the sport concerned (such as the coach and the team manager), technical officials, National Olympic Committee representatives and other members (including the Chef de Mission, medical supporting staff and other staff members). The quota for each category of delegation member is allocated by the organiser according to the number of participating athletes. We note that at this year's Olympic Winter Games, delegations of some participating countries or regions did not include a team doctor.

The Government supports local competitions, training programmes, athletes' participation in international sports events and staff training for different sports by providing funds to "national sports associations" (NSAs), the SF&OC and the Hong Kong Sports Institute (HKSI). As regards participation in international sports events, the Home Affairs Bureau examines and approves funding applications from NSAs and the SF&OC for preparation for and participation in such events, and monitors their use of public funds. We examine funding applications from the SF&OC for participation in sports events on the basis of information provided in the application. All grants for participation in major games are on an accountable basis, and the SF&OC must submit a report to the Government after the Games.

As for the participation of the Hong Kong Skating Union (HKSU) in this year's Olympic Winter Games, we allocated recurrent funding of about \$1.37 million to the HKSU under the Sports Subvention Scheme in 2013-14 for athlete training, sports promotion and administration. We allocated a

further \$300,000 to the HKSU in February 2013 to cover expenditure on items such as extra training, coaching and training equipment for the preparation of two athletes recommended by the NSA for the 2014 Olympic Winter Games in Sochi. To support the participation of the Hong Kong, China delegation in the 2014 Olympic Winter Games (among the proposed delegation of 13 members were another three athletes who were then still seeking to qualify for the Games, and the representatives of the related sports), in response to an application by the SF&OC we provided additional funding of \$650,000 to cover expenditure on items such as: economy class air travel, accommodation, meals, local transportation, uniforms and medical assessments. Details of the proposed delegation membership are as follows –

- (a) Four athletes, including one qualified athlete for short-track speed skating and three athletes seeking to qualify for the short-track speed skating and alpine skiing events;
- (b) Three representatives of the sports concerned, including one coach for short-track speed skating, one coach for alpine skiing and a team manager; and
- (c) Five SF&OC members (the President, the Honorary Secretary General, the Chef de Mission, one Medical Official and one headquarters staff member - with one further staff member to join the delegation if participating athletes were to be accommodated in two separate athletes' villages).

Mr Barton LUI Pan-to, the athlete who took part in this year's Olympic Winter Games, has received a Sports Aid Grant from the HKSI since April 2013 and has been an HKSI scholarship athlete since December 2013. Three other HKSU athletes are also HKSI scholarship athletes. The HKSU has received direct funding from the HKSI since April 2013, when skating (including figure skating and short-track speed skating) became an elite sport.

We will respond separately to the letter from Dr Hon Kenneth Chan dated 25 February 2014.

Yours sincerely,

(Miss Petty LAI)  
for Secretary for Home Affairs