

香港特別行政區政府  
保安局



The Government of the  
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region  
Security Bureau

香港添馬添美道 2 號

2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar, Hong Kong

本函檔號 Our Ref.: SRD 101/3/R IX

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16 January 2015

Clerk of Public Accounts Committee  
(Attn.: Mr Anthony CHU)  
Legislative Council  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Mr CHU,

**Follow-up to Public Accounts Committee Report No. 31  
Recoverability of the outstanding advances to the UNHCR**

I refer to your letter of 9 January 2015.

The Administration has been making every effort to recover the outstanding advances through various means. Both at the meeting with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Hong Kong Sub-Office in January 2014, and in a subsequent letter to the Head of the UNHCR Hong Kong Sub-Office in June 2014, the HKSAR Government reiterated our stance and registered the Hong Kong community's expectation of an early recovery of the outstanding advances.

The UNHCR expressed that due to other more pressing refugees and humanitarian issues around the world, they had been facing substantial difficulties in appealing for donations from international communities earmarked for repaying the outstanding debts to Hong Kong.

While the Administration's assessment is that it is not optimistic that full or partial recovery of the amount due could be achieved in the near future, it remains our understanding that the UNHCR has not withdrawn its commitment to repay such advances and that UNHCR's reimbursement to Hong Kong is subject to availability of funds. As such, we do not have any plans to write off the advances as irrecoverable debt for the time being. The Administration will continue with our efforts to urge the UNHCR to repay the advances.

Yours sincerely,



(Billy WOO)  
for Secretary for Security

c.c. Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Fax No. : 2147 5239)  
Director of Audit (fax No. 2583 9063)