

政府總部  
民政事務局

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**GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT  
HOME AFFAIRS BUREAU**

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4 May 2015

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

Dear Ms Leung,

**Supplementary Information on the  
Review on the Chinese Temples Ordinance  
Required at the Meeting of the Panel on Home Affairs  
held on 24 March 2015**

I refer to your letter dated 13 April 2015 requesting this Bureau to provide members with supplementary information on a number of issues related to the Review on the Chinese Temples Ordinance (the "Ordinance") at the meeting of the Panel on Home Affairs held on 24 March 2015 (item 7 of LC Paper No. CB(2)1167/14-15(02)).

Over the past three years, the Chinese Temples Committee (the "Committee") received a total of 57 complaint cases pertaining to the 25 temples directly administered by the Committee. These complaints involved mainly the work conducted by the organisations responsible for temple operation or that conducted by temple keepers, such as products or services offered by temple keepers (42 cases in total), as well as the operation, fees charged, opening hours of the temples or the arrangements of altar displays in the temples (15 cases in total). Details are at Annex.

Upon receipt of a complaint, the Committee will conduct investigations in light of the information furnished by the complainant. If the complaint is substantiated, the Committee will suggest improvements, issue warnings to or discipline the temple keeper concerned according to the contract, or require the temple to improve its services. A reply will also be given to the complainant.

The Ordinance was enacted in 1928 based on the social needs during the period. Comparing with the societal development at that time, members of the public are now much more aware of the risks associated with pseudo-religious establishments. Furthermore, there are already various pieces of legislation providing protection and remedies against frauds, malpractices and misuses of funds, as well as possible environmental and safety problems that are associated with organisations. These legal provisions are also applicable to the operation of Chinese temples as well as other religious bodies. If any temple acts in contravention to any other relevant ordinances (such as the issues related to handling of public donations, temple safety), the government departments concerned will follow up the matters or take prosecution actions as appropriate. In recent years, the Government has been focusing its work on how the provisions in the Ordinance should be updated so that the Ordinance could keep pace with the times and better serve prevailing social needs having regard to present circumstances.

At present, other than Chinese temples, other religious facilities in Hong Kong are not subject to similar restraints as imposed by the relevant provisions in the Ordinance. As the situations of other jurisdictions in terms of social background, religion, legal and regulatory regime are different from those in Hong Kong, their modes of regulation on Chinese temples may not be applicable to Hong Kong.

Yours sincerely,



( William LEUNG )

for Secretary for Home Affairs

**Number of complaints received in respect of the 25 temples  
directly administered by the Chinese Temples Committee**

(From January 2012 to 31 March 2015)

	Name of temples	Types of complaints received		Total number of complaints received	Number of substantiated or partially substantiated complaint cases
		Products or services offered by temple keepers	Temple operation, fees charged, opening hours, environment or display of objects		
1	Che Kung Temple, Shatin	5	4	9	3
2	Hung Shing Temple, Ap Lei Chau	6	0	6	1
3	Hung Shing Temple, Cheung Chau	0	0	0	0
4	Hau Wong Temple, Junction Road	0	0	0	0
5	Hau Wong Temple, Tai O	0	1	1	1
6	Kwun Yum Temple, Ap Lei Chau	0	0	0	0
7	Kwun Yum Temple, Hung Hom	3	1	4	1
8	Lin Fa Kung, Tai Hang	3	2	5	2
9	Mo Tai Temple, Sham Shui Po	0	0	0	0
10	Pak Tai Temple, Cheung Chau	3	0	3	2
11	Pak Tai Temple, Hok Un Kok	0	0	0	0
12	Pak Tai Temple, Wan Chai	1	2	3	3
13	Sam Tai Tze and Pak Tai Temples, Sham Shui Po	0	0	0	0
14	Shing Wong Temple, Shau Kei Wan	3	0	3	1
15	Tin Hau Temple, Aberdeen	1	1	2	1
16	Tin Hau Temple, Cha Kwo Ling	0	0	0	0
17	Tin Hau Temple, Ha Heung Road	3	2	5	2
18	Tin Hau Temple, Peng Chau	8	0	8	6
19	Tin Hau Temple, Joss House Bay	0	0	0	0
20	Tin Hau Temple, Shau Kei Wan	0	1	1	1
21	Tin Hau Temple, Sham Shui Po	4	0	4	3
22	Tam Kung Temple, Shau Kei Wan	2	1	3	2
23	Tam Kung and Tin Hau Temples, Wong Nai Chung	0	0	0	0
24	Yuk Wong Kung Din, A Kung Ngam	0	0	0	0
25	Tai Wong Ye Temple, Tong Po Chau	0	0	0	0
	Total	42	15	57	29