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11 May 2016

Ms Joanne MAK
Clerk to Panel on Home Affairs
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Ms Mak,

**Panel on Home Affairs
Letter from Hon Claudia MO**

Thank you for your letter dated 4 May 2016 on the letter from Hon Claudia Mo. Regarding the coverage of government events by journalism students of post-secondary institutions, the following information is provided for reference.

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government fully respects press freedom in Hong Kong, and always adheres to the principles of openness and transparency in the dissemination of information on policies and measures to the community through the media.

Access to Government press conferences or media events is generally granted to registered or licensed mass news media organisations, which include registered printed newspapers, periodicals, licensed TV and radio stations and news agencies. However, owing to variable factors such as capacity constraints, security requirements and on-site order, it is not possible for all registered media organisations to be granted access to Government press conferences or media events.

With regard to student reporters of publications or electronic media produced by post-secondary institutions, as they are students and not professional reporters, and given that these institutions are not mass news media organisations, no arrangements have been made for student reporters to cover press conferences or media events following established Government's practice.

To maximise access to information, the Government makes full use of the Internet to strengthen its communications with the media and the public. All Government press releases, press photos and news clips are uploaded immediately to the website of the Information Services Department (ISD) round the clock, while all major press conferences are broadcast live on the ISD website. For enquiries on government matters, student reporters may call our departmental units and secretariat press offices stationed at different bureaux and departments.

The journalism departments of Hong Kong's post-secondary institutions nurture many professional reporters for the local media industry each year, and the Government fully supports their academic and education work. The ISD also provides an internship programme for journalism and communication students every year. In order to facilitate teaching work in journalism departments, the Government will actively consider allowing limited access by journalism student reporters to some official media events in future, if the overall situation at the event venue allows it. We will discuss further details with the post-secondary institutions in due course.

Yours sincerely,



(Miss Gloria LO)

for Secretary for Home Affairs

c.c. Director of Information Services