

Letterhead of HONG KONG JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION

By fax 2509-9055

Mrs. Percy Ma
Clerk to Bill Committee
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Mrs. Ma,

Thank you for the opportunity of commenting on the Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Conduct) Bill. We apologise for not meeting your August 30 deadline.

The HKJA very much supports the aim of the bill. However, some of our members would like to raise a question about the definition of "election advertisement".

It appears that it is the intention that editorial materials such as columns and news reports discussing elections and candidates should not constitute an "election advertisement".

However, some of our members have questioned whether the bill as drafted may have some problems with definitions.

Section 34(2) gives exemption for publications registered under the Registration of Local Newspaper Ordinance. However, this only covers 34(1) and not 34(4).

In addition, the Registration of Local Newspapers Ordinance covers only local newspapers, and not foreign newspapers circulating in Hong Kong.

We would ask the bills committee to carefully look at these definitions again to ensure that they are having their required effect.

Yours sincerely,

Ada Ma
Executive Secretary