

政府總部的信頭  
**Letterhead of GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT**  
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16 July 1999

Miss Betty Ma,  
Clerk to Panel,  
LegCo Panel on Security,  
Legislative Council Secretariat,  
3/F, Citibank Tower,  
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Miss Ma,

**LegCo Panel on Security**

At the Panel meeting on 31.3.1999, Members requested for information on :-

- (a) the number of reports received on smuggling and illegal sale of cigarettes and the response time for carrying out raids;
- (b) a breakdown of the number of reports received under the reward scheme made by members of the public, cigarette distributors and other organisations.

2. On (a), the number of reports on illicit cigarette activities are as follows :-

	<u>Smuggling/ Major Distribution</u>	<u>Minor Storage/ Street Level Peddling</u>	<u>Total</u>
1998	219	917	1136
1999 (Jan-June)	74	680	754

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All reports are processed by the Intelligence Research Division of the Customs & Excise Department immediately upon receipt. Relevant information will then be passed to designated teams for follow up actions. Priority of follow up actions is strategically determined having regard to the urgency, validity and reliability of the information, seriousness of the alleged crimes and optimal utilisation of manpower resources. Response time for carrying out raids as a result of these reports therefore varies. Immediate actions, including investigation and raids where appropriate, are taken on allegations involving substantial quantity of illicit cigarettes, storage and distribution centres, smuggling activities or possible organised crimes. Background verification and surveillance checks are carried out on allegations involving fresh peddling location, or sales to juveniles before raids are conducted, normally within 7 days from receipt of the reports. Known black spots of street level peddling are raided frequently and actions on reports in respect of these spots are normally taken in that context.

3. On (b), there were 43 reports received under the reward scheme in 1998 and 25 reports for the period from January to June 1999. All these were reports from members of the public.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs. C. Willis)  
for Secretary for Security