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Proposed Priority in the Scrutiny of Bills by Members

I refer to my letter of 10 February 2000 which suggested that priority be given for the scrutiny of the Building Management (Amendment) Bill 2000, the Companies (Amendment) Bill 2000, the Town Planning Bill, the Urban Renewal Authority Bill, and the Security and Guarding Services (Amendment) Bill 2000. We are grateful that Bills Committees have already been set up for the first three Bills on the priority list.

In addition to the remaining two items on the priority list, we would like to further suggest the following items be given priority, in seriatim, in vetting by LegCo –

- (i) **Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill 2000.** The Bill seeks to abolish the existing offences of “causing death by reckless driving” and “reckless driving” and to replace them respectively with the proposed offences of “causing death by dangerous driving” and “dangerous driving”, and to impose higher penalties for such offences. Early enactment of the Bill would help to better protect the lives of all road users by making penalties for dangerous driving commensurate with the seriousness of the consequences;
- (ii) **Broadcasting Bill.** There is an urgent need to rationalise the existing licensing and regulatory regime for television broadcasting services to bring it in step with the rapid technological and market developments;

- (iii) **Buildings (Amendment) Bill 2000.** Early implementation of the Bill would enable the Administration to, inter alia, enhance control of private building works and developments to improve public and building safety; and
- (iv) **Evidence (Amendment) Bill 1999.** The Bill seeks to abolish the corroboration rules in sexual offence cases, which is the last category of cases to which such rules still apply. Similar rules in relation to the evidence of accomplices and children were abolished in 1994 and 1995 respectively. Early enactment of the Bill would remove the inconsistency between the treatment of evidence of witness in sexual offence cases and in other cases.

Separately, we would appreciate if priority be given, again in *seriatim*, to the following two Bills, which were introduced into LegCo on 16 and 23 February, in the event that Members decide that they should be subject to the scrutiny of Bills Committees –

- (i) **Entertainment Special Effects Bill.** More and more film productions nowadays involve the use of dangerous goods to produce special effects. It is important to establish a new regulatory framework governing the use of such dangerous goods to meet the operational needs of the local film industry and protect the safety of the public; and
- (ii) **Family Status Discrimination (Amendment) Bill 2000.** Early enactment of the Bill would help remove uncertainty over the interpretation of the Family Status Discrimination Ordinance in relation to the provision of benefits to immediate family members of employees so as to avoid disputes and litigation that may arise from such uncertainty.

I should be grateful if you would put forward the above suggestions for Members' consideration at the coming House Committee meeting.

(Mrs Carrie Yau)
Director of Administration