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19 January 2016

The Hon Mrs Carrie LAM, GBS, JP
The Chief Secretary for Administration
25/F, Central Government Offices
2 Tim Mei Avenue
Tamar, Hong Kong

Council meeting of 6 January 2016

I refer to your letter dated 8 January 2016.

At the Council meeting of 6 January, 20-odd Members who have indicated their objection to the Copyright (Amendment) Bill 2014 (“the Bill”) stayed outside the Chamber during quorum calls. Some of these Members also used incessant quorum calls to filibuster the Bill in the hope that the Administration would address their concerns over the Bill.

On the day following the adjournment of the Council on 7 January, I met with Members of different political groupings to explore ways to improve the situation. Those Members who have indicated objection to the Bill remained determined to carry on the filibuster, while other Members considered it difficult to maintain a quorum by themselves as the vast majority of them would need to remain inside the Chamber throughout the meeting.

I note that, regrettably, the current political impasse would likely continue unless at least some of the Members who are opposed to the Bill change their position.

As you may be aware, in the last legislative session, the Committee on Rules of Procedure of LegCo examined various proposals to deal with incessant quorum calls for the purpose of filibustering but did not reach any consensus. I have instructed the LegCo Secretariat to revisit the issue on application of the quorum requirement under the Rules of Procedure.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jasper Tsang', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

(Jasper TSANG Yok-sing)
President
Legislative Council

c.c. All Members of the Legislative Council