(Letterhead of the Office of Emily LAU, Legislative Councillor)

24 June 2002

Hon Mrs Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-yee, JP
Chairman of the House Committee

Dear Mrs CHOW,

You have suggested at the House Committee meeting last Friday that consideration should be given to setting up a subcommittee under the House Committee to study whether Legislative Council (LegCo) would need to make corresponding changes after the implementation of accountability for principal officials on 1 July. This issue would be further discussed during the House Committee meeting to be held this week.

Meanwhile, I would also suggest that the House Committee should discuss the need for the three Secretaries and 11 Directors of Bureau to meet with Members as early as possible and to answer Members' questions. There have been views that it should be a matter for individual Panels and not the House Committee to decide. However, if the majority of Members consider that the Secretaries and Directors of Bureau should attend special meetings held by the respective Panels before the end of this session, you are kindly requested to convey such consensus to the Chief Secretary for the Administration.

If the House Committee agrees that the Secretaries and Directors of Bureau should be invited to attend the meetings of the respective Panels as soon as possible, the arrangements for policy briefings could be adopted. In this connection, the LegCo Secretariat is requested to arrange for special Panel meetings to be held on one or two days in mid July so that Members could put questions to the Secretaries and the Directors of Bureau.

I hope that under such a systematic arrangement, Members would be able to meet with the Secretaries and Directors of Bureau and to put questions to them, before the end of this session. I am writing to put forward this proposal for consideration by you and other LegCo Members, and for discussion at the House Committee meeting on Friday.

Emily LAU

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