

PA0005/01/49755

28 November 2001

Clerk to Bills Committee
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road, Central
Hong Kong

Dear Sir or Madam,

Re: Immigration (Amendment) Bill 2001

The Law Society's Constitutional Affairs Committee has reviewed the Bill and has the following comments:-

The Immigration Bill introduces amendments to the Ordinance in an attempt to prevent Mainland public officials from gaining Right of Abode in Hong Kong. The proposal is in apparent conflict with the provisions of Article 24(2)(ii) of the Basic Law which states:

"The permanent residents of the HKSAR shall be:

Chinese citizens who have ordinarily resided in Hong Kong for a continuous period of not less than seven years before or after the establishment of the HKSAR."

Yours faithfully,

Joyce Wong
Director of Practitioners Affairs