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23 June 2004

Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands  
(Attn: Ms Olivia NIP)  
Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau  
9th Floor, Murray Building  
Garden Road  
Hong Kong

Dear Ms NIP,

**Bills Committee on Land Titles Bill  
Draft report to the House Committee**

**Administration's undertakings**

I refer to our telephone conversation this afternoon on the Administration's proposed amendment to paragraph 121 of the draft report of the Bills Committee, and the subsequent telephone conversation between Hon Margaret NG, Chairman of the Bills Committee, and your goodself on the same issue.

As directed by the Chairman, I write to invite the Administration to confirm in writing whether it agrees to make the following undertakings:

Paragraph 120 of the draft report

At the request of members:

- (a) the Administration undertakes that the list of regulations set out in **Appendix V** of the draft report will be put in place before the commencement of the Land Titles Ordinance (LTO);
- (b) the Administration undertakes that a review of LTO will be conducted during the two-year period between its enactment and commencement; and
- (c) the Administration undertakes that the LegCo Panel on Planning, Lands and Works will be consulted in due course on the proposed commencement date of LTO before the commencement notice for the Ordinance is published in the Gazette.

Paragraph 121 of the draft report

At the request of the Law Society:

- (a) the Administration undertakes to work with the Law Society so as to address any subsisting points of concern and any issues that emerge on further consideration of the drafting of LTO before its implementation; and
- (b) the Administration undertakes not to implement LTO pending the review of the Solicitors (Professional Indemnity) Rules and the Professional Indemnity Scheme by the Law Society on the issue of double payment from the Solicitors Indemnity Fund in respect of any claim arising from LTO and to effect any consequential amendments in this regard.

Pending the Administration's written confirmation, the Chairman has directed that paragraph 125 of the draft report be amended as follows:

"Subject to the undertakings mentioned in paragraphs 120 and 121 above being given by the Administration, the Bills Committee supports the Administration's proposal that the Second Reading debate on the Bill be resumed on 7 July 2004."

The Chairman has also directed that the report, as amended, be issued to members of the House Committee tomorrow unless the Administration's written confirmation is received by 12:00 noon tomorrow.

If the Administration is unable to provide a written confirmation by 12:00 noon tomorrow, I should be grateful if you would provide me with the Administration's written response by 11:00 am, Friday, 25 June 2004 so as to enable the Chairman to report to the House Committee on the same day on whether the Bills Committee supports the resumption of the Second Reading debate on the Bill on 7 July 2004.

Please forward the soft copy of the Administration's written response to Ms May LEUNG at [mleung@legco.gov.hk](mailto:mleung@legco.gov.hk).

Yours sincerely,

(Miss Salumi CHAN)  
Clerk to Bills Committee

c.c. Hon Margaret NG (Chairman)

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