

本署檔號：OUR REF: SF4 to HAB/CR/1/20/154  
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12 December 2002

Miss Flora Tai  
Clerk to Bills Committee  
Bills Committee on Village Representative  
Election Bill  
Legislative Council  
8 Jackson Road  
Central  
Hong Kong

Dear Miss Tai,

Bills Committee on Village Representative Election Bill

At the Bills Committee meeting held on 4 December 2002,  
Members asked the Administration to consider :

- (a) reviewing the amount of subsidies granted to village offices and Rural Committees;
- (b) amending clauses 23(1) and 9(1) of the Village Representative Election Bill so as to allow civil servants to run for and to hold office as Village Representatives; and
- (c) amending the Bill so as to allow a person who has close affiliations with an Existing Village and who also has a residence there to choose to use his residence in that Village as his principal residential address for the purpose of registering as an elector for the Village.

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As regards (a) above, the Administration is prepared to review the subsidies to village offices and Rural Committees. However, we have to do this through normal resource allocation procedures.

As regards (b) above, the Administration has carefully reviewed Members' suggestion, but remains of the view that civil servants should not be allowed to run for or to hold office as Village Representatives.

As regards (c) above, the Administration does not consider it appropriate to allow a person to choose his principal residential address if he has two residences. What is a person's principal residential address is a matter of facts. Each case should be determined on its own merits.

Yours sincerely,

(Stephen Fisher)  
for Secretary for Home Affairs

c.c. DHA (Attn.: Miss Monica Chen  
Mr. Philip Lam)  
D of J (Attn.: Mr. Lawrence Peng  
Mr. Alan Chong)