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電 話: 2835 1168 圖文傳真: 2572 6546

23 December 2002

Mr. Stephen Lam
Assistant Legal Adviser
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legal Service Division
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Mr. Lam,

Village Representative Election Bill

Thank you for your letter of 20 December 2002.

From a drafting point of view, the draft Committee Stage amendments attached to your letter are in order. However, you may wish to delete the definition of "prescribed public officer" in clause 2 as well, as it is no longer necessary if your proposed amendments are passed.

I wish to point out that the Administration does not agree to the proposed deletion of clauses 9(1)(a)(ii) and 23(1)(a)(ii) from a policy point of view. We have set out our reasons in previous written replies and at Bills Committee meetings.

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)