



教育署
Education Department

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31 December 2002

Ms. Miranda HON,
Clerk to Public Accounts Committee,
Legislative Council,
Legislative Council Building,
8 Jackson Road,
Central,
Hong Kong.

Dear Ms. HON,

**The Director of Audit's Report on the
results of value for money audits (Report No. 39)**

**Chapter 9: Primary education –
Planning and provision of primary school places**

Thank you for your letter of 14 December 2002. I append at Attachment the information as requested. If you have any enquiries, or require further information, please contact me again, or my colleague, Mr K S Lee, on 2892 6621.

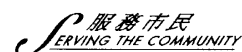
Yours sincerely



(H F LEE)

Director of Education

c.c. Secretary for Education and Manpower
Permanent Secretary for Education and Manpower
Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury
Director of Audit

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(Further information)

On (a):

- According to our records in the past 5 years, there were only 15 complaints on false address and only 3 of them were substantiated after investigation. After careful consideration, the Education Department does not intend to take legal action against this minority group of dishonest parents for the time being as this will complicate the Primary One Admission procedure and cause inconvenience to the majority of the parents. The Education Department believes that, in the long run, raising the quality of education provided by all schools would be more basic in minimizing the luring factor for the use of false address.

On (b):

- The Education Department will keep close watch of the situation on the use of false address in the Primary One Admission exercise and continue to explore ways of further strengthening the effectiveness of the existing system. As the situation of using false address is not serious, we consider that there is no urgent need of taking tougher measures against dishonest parents at the present stage.

On (c)(i):

- Subject to regular review of a number of constraints (e.g. population changes), we will work towards a tentative target of full implementation of whole-day primary schooling by the commencement of the 2007/08 school year. To this end, the Education Department is planning to construct a total of 19 new primary schools from 2003 to 2007 in the four districts mentioned in the question in the light of the latest population forecast. The Audit Commission has taken into account 12 of these new primary schools in its projected supply of primary school places. Of the remaining 7 new primary schools, 3 of them are located in the North District, 2 in Shum Shui Po, 1 in Kwai Tsing and another 1 in Kwun Tong.

On (c)(ii):

- The Education Department updates the school building programme from time to time to ensure that where there is a projected shortfall of school places, new schools will be developed to meet the shortfall. As explained in (i) above, we are planning to construct sufficient new primary schools to meet the projected demand for additional primary school places in the above four districts. On the other hand, where a decline in primary student population is projected in subsequent reviews, we will seek to restore the balance of demand and supply by stepping up our efforts to phase out substandard or ineffective schools.