

本署檔號 Our ref: ED(SAS)F&A/35/1 (N) Pt.2

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30 December 2002

Clerk, Public Accounts Committee, (Attn: Miss Sandy CHU) Legislative Council Legislative Council Building 8 Jackson Road HONG KONG

Dear Miss Chu,

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

Chapter 10: Primary Education – Administration of Primary Schools

I refer to your letter dated 13 December on the caption and would like to furnish the following additional information as requested:

(a) The Education Department has not yet discussed with primary schools Audit's recommendations on the surplus funds of the Operating Expenses Block Grant (OEBG) retained by them. To decide the suitable arrangement for surplus of OEBG, we need to examine closely the utilization rate and spending pattern of the OEBG for more than one year. The OEBG was introduced in September 2000, and only data for the first year of implementation are available and the great majority of those for the second year (i.e. the 2001/02 school year) will not be available until 2003. We will seek the views of the school sector at a later stage when more hard data on the OEBG spending are available for analysis; and

/(b) The fundamental review ...

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(b) The fundamental review of grants is still in progress. While we have not yet come up with any concrete proposal, all the factors and possible alternatives, including the level of surplus to be retained by schools, will be considered in the review. We will consult the school sector of our proposal in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Director of Education

cc Secretary for Education and Manpower Director of Audit