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19 February 2004

The Honourable Miriam LAU Kin-ye, JP  
Chairman, House Committee  
Legislative Council  
8 Jackson Road  
Central

Dear

**Equal Opportunities Commission**  
**- Independent Panel of Inquiry**

At the meeting of the House Committee on 13 February 2004, Members requested the Administration to consider the setting up of an independent panel of inquiry to look into the recent controversy concerning the Equal Opportunities Commission.

I would like to inform you that the Administration has decided that the Secretary for Home Affairs should appoint an independent panel of inquiry with the following terms of reference to look into the matter –

- "(a) To inquire into the appointment and termination of employment of Mr Patrick Yu as Director (Operations) of the Equal Opportunities Commission and issues related thereto; and
- (b) To inquire into the incidents which have affected the credibility of the Equal Opportunities Commission and to make recommendations on measures to restore such credibility".

The panel of inquiry will consist of three persons of high standing in the community. They will be selected from the professions, academia and the business sector. The panel will be appointed as soon as practicable. It should submit its report within nine months from the date of its appointment.

The Home Affairs Bureau will give full support and co-operation to the panel of inquiry. The investigation report will be made public.

Yours sincerely,

(Patrick C P Ho)  
Secretary for Home Affairs

cc Chairperson, Equal Opportunities Commission