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來函檔號 Your Ref. :

31 December 2003

Ms Miranda HON
Clerk
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 audit (Report No. 41)**

Chapter 7: Planning and provision of public secondary school places

Thank you for your letter dated 11 December 2003 enquiring whether four of the ten schools visited by Audit Commission staff have actually left their vacant classrooms idle all the year round.

To put the PAC's question in perspective, it needs to be pointed out that these ten schools were among the 50 public secondary schools with vacant classrooms as at September 2002 according to the EMB's records (para. 2.4). Audit Commission staff visited ten schools (out of the 50) in September 2003 and found that in four schools, the vacant classrooms were locked at the time of the visit.

As regards whether the four schools concerned had actually left their vacant classrooms idle all the year round, the information obtained is as follows:

School 1. There were seven vacant classrooms out of 42 classrooms in this school as at September 2002. Four vacant classrooms had generally been utilised for teaching. As to the remaining three vacant classrooms, one was used to store physical education equipment, one was used as a student guidance room during lunch breaks, and one was reserved and kept vacant.

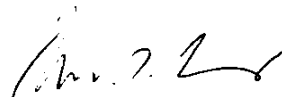
School 2. There were 12 vacant classrooms out of 23 classrooms in this school as at September 2002. Eight vacant classrooms had generally been utilised for teaching. As to the remaining four vacant classrooms, one was used as the social worker's office, one was used to store musical instruments and for after-school activities, and the other two vacant classrooms were used as an English study room and an ETV room, which were open to students as and when necessary.

School 3. There were five vacant classrooms out of 16 classrooms in this school as at September 2002. All of the five vacant classrooms had generally been utilised for teaching.

School 4. There were ten vacant classrooms out of 30 classrooms in this school as at September 2002. Two vacant classrooms had generally been utilised for teaching. As to the remaining eight vacant classrooms, four were used as ETV and IT teaching rooms and were open to students as and when necessary, one was used as a multi-language room and was open to students as and when necessary, and three were reserved and kept vacant.

A Chinese translation of this letter will be forwarded to you shortly.

Yours sincerely,



(David M T LEUNG)
for Director of Audit

c.c. Secretary for Education and Manpower