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2 March 2004

Mr Paul WOO
Clerk to Panel
LegCo Panel on Administration of Justice and
Legal Services
3/F, Citibank Tower
3 Garden Road
Hong Kong

By fax and by post
(Fax : 2509 9055)

via Mr Michael Scott, SASG(GLP)

Dear Mr Woo,

Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services
Meeting on 23 February 2004

Item IV – Review of sexual offences in Part XII of the Crimes Ordinance

At their meeting held on 23 February 2004, Panel Members requested the Administration to provide an update on the work of the Working Group on Combating Violence in order to see if there are any areas of work being carried out by the Working Group that would fit in the overall picture of review of the sexual offences. I have pleasure in providing the requested update below for Members' information.

The Working Group on Combating Violence

The Working Group is convened by the Social Welfare Department to examine the problem of sexual violence and spouse battering, map out strategies and strengthen multi-disciplinary collaboration to tackle the problems. It is chaired

by the Director of Social Welfare and comprises representatives from non-Government organizations and various Government bureaux and departments.¹

Procedural Guidelines for Handling Sexual Violence Cases (July 2002)

As a multi-disciplinary approach is required to tackle sexual violence, the Guidelines were developed and endorsed by members of the Working Group on Combating Violence to promote a common approach and awareness of good practices of all persons involved in working with victims of sexual violence. The guidelines also serve to enhance co-operation and co-ordination and provide the most appropriate and effective approach to counter all aspects of sexual violence, including looking after the needs of victims.

Central Information System on Battered Spouse Cases and Sexual Violence Cases

To capture the statistics on sexual violence cases, the database of the Central Information System on Battered Spouse Cases has been expanded to include information on sexual violence cases since January 2003. The reporting agencies include welfare agencies the Police and the Hospital Authority.

Website on Victim Support

A website on Victim Support has commenced operation in June 2003 to promote the services available for the victims of various nature including those of sexual violence, and facilitate the access/sharing of information among the helping professionals especially frontline workers handling these cases. The website which is attached to the homepage of SWD can be hyper-linked to other relevant websites and homepage such as the government information website and homepages of NGOs. It will continuously be updated to provide a comprehensive list of resources/services/training opportunities available.

Yours sincerely,

(Thomas Leung)
Senior Government Counsel
Legal Policy Division

c.c. SG
DSG(G)

¹ These departments include the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau, the Social Welfare Department, the Department of Health, the Legal Aid Department, the Department of Justice, the Education and Manpower Bureau, the Security Bureau and the Hong Kong Police Force, the Home Affairs Department, the Housing Department and the Information Services Department..

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