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26 May 2006

Hon Miriam LAU Kin-yee
Chairman of the Legislative Council House Committee
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Ms LAU,

Panel on Welfare Services

Subcommittee on Strategy and Measures to Tackle Family Violence

On behalf of the Subcommittee on Strategy and Measures to Tackle Family Violence, I am writing to express our utmost dissatisfaction and grave concern that the Administration had briefed the media on the proposed amendments to the Domestic Violence Ordinance (Cap. 189) one day before providing the relevant paper on the proposed amendments to and briefing the Subcommittee at its meeting on 23 May 2006. Members of the Subcommittee were totally taken by surprise when approached by the media on their views about the proposed amendments. Some members of the media were equally surprised that members did not have any information on the proposed amendments.

At your regular meetings with the Chief Secretary for Administration (CS), you have time and again reminded the Administration that before briefing the media on any important announcement or matter, the Administration should first brief the Legislative Council or its relevant committee. The Subcommittee considers that the Administration should have briefed the Subcommittee on the proposed amendments before briefing the media. What the Administration did is disrespectful to the Subcommittee and not conducive to improving the relationship between the Executive Authorities and Legislature.

On behalf of the Subcommittee, I am writing to request you to discuss the matter at the House Committee meeting on 2 June 2006 and to take the matter up with CS.

Yours sincerely,

(CHAN Yuen-han)
Chairman of Subcommittee

c.c. : Chairman, Panel on Welfare Services