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16 June 2006

Mrs Percy Ma Clerk to Panel Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services Legislative Council 8 Jackson Road Hong Kong

Dear Mrs Ma,

Panel of Administration of Justice and Legal Services Meeting on 26 June 2006 at 4:30pm

Thank you for your letter of 24 May 2006 inviting us to attend the above panel meeting for discussion of the agenda item on "Research Report on the Jurisdiction of Ombudsman Systems in Selected Places".

The Administration will carefully study the Research Report on the Jurisdiction of Ombudsman Systems in Selected Places prepared by the LegCo Research and Library Services Division. The report can provide useful information on overseas Ombudsman system that we can draw reference to when conducting the internal review of The Ombudsman Ordinance.

Since the Ombudsman is still in the process of conducting her internal review, we do not consider it appropriate for the Administration to intervene at this stage. The Ombudsman shall continue the review independently. The Ombudsman will, upon completion of the review exercise, advise the Administration on the conclusions drawn and recommendations made. We shall then carefully study her review report and recommendations. The Administration will consult the LegCo on the proposed way forward when appropriate.

In view of the above considerations, we do not think that our attendance for this item at the Panel meeting on 26 June would be appropriate.

Yours sincerely,

(Miss Shirley Yung) for Director of Administration