LC Paper No. CB(2)3063/05-06(01)

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GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT

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19 September 2006

Mrs Sharon Tong Clerk to Panel Legislative Council 3/F Citibank Tower 3 Garden Road Central

Dear Mrs Tong

Panel on Security

Shooting Incident in Tsim Sha Tsui on 17 March 2006

I refer to your letter of 12 September 2006, asking for information on -

- (a) whether the death inquest relating to the above case is in progress; and
- (b) whether there has been a change in the DoJ counsel providing advice to the Police on investigation, and if so, the reasons for the change.

On (a), the decision as to whether to hold an inquest rests with the Judiciary. On their part, the Police have submitted a number of reports to the Coroner and are continuing their investigation. The Police will submit a final report to the Coroner after completion of all the investigation work. The Judiciary advises that the Coroner will decide whether to hold an inquest then.

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On (b), the Department of Justice has advised as follows -

"In view of the profile of the case, the issues involved and the likelihood of the three inquests (i.e. the current case and those that are related to the death of policeman Leung Shing-yan and a security guard killed in 2001) being heard together, the Department of Justice has appointed a Senior Counsel to provide advice and, if necessary, to conduct any forthcoming proceedings."

Yours sincerely,

(Miss Rosalind Cheung) for Secretary for Security