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14 December 2006

Ms Elizabeth TSE
Director of Administration
5th floor, Main Wing
Central Government Offices
Hong Kong

Dear Ms TSE,

Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services

Review of the jurisdiction of the Office of the Ombudsman

The Panel had a brief discussion on the captioned item following Members' meeting with the Ombudsman on 11 December 2006. I write to convey Panel members' views and give advance notice that the item has been scheduled for discussion at the meeting on 26 February 2007.

The Panel noted that the review of the jurisdiction of the office of the Ombudsman would consist of two Parts : Part I being an operational review of the Ombudsman Ordinance, and Part II being a review of overseas developments in ombudsmanship. The Ombudsman had submitted Part I of the review report to the Administration in November 2006. The Panel agreed to follow up the matter at its meeting on 26 February 2007.

Apart from discussing the Administration's response to Part I of the review report at the February meeting, members also requested the Administration to advise whether it would conduct a comprehensive review of the jurisdiction of the office of the Ombudsman with a view to considering whether its jurisdiction should be expanded, and whether it would consult the public in the process of conducting the review. In this connection, members pointed out that the Ombudsman had advised that she would not make any specific recommendations on the jurisdiction of the office of the Ombudsman which would ultimately be a policy decision.

I shall write to you on the meeting arrangements of the February meeting nearer the time.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs Percy MA)
Clerk to Panel

CSO/ADM CR1/3231/86(06)Pt.32

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28 December 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 on Administration of Justice and Legal Services
Review of the jurisdiction of the Office of the Ombudsman**

Thank you for your letter of 14 December 2006 on the above subject.

The Administration has received Part I of the Review Report from The Ombudsman. We are examining the Report and are consulting relevant parties within the Government. Given the importance we attach to The Ombudsman's recommendations, we do not feel able to consolidate a substantive government response by February next year. We note the various concerns raised by Members at the last AJLS Panel meeting held on 12 December 2006 and will explain our position as soon as practicable.

Yours sincerely,

(Miss Shirley Yung)
for Director of Administration