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FINANCIAL SERVICES BRANCH
FINANCIAL SERVICES AND
THE TREASURY BUREAU
GOVERNMENT OF THE HONG KONG
SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION

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CB(1)1765/07-08(01)

2 June 2008

Clerk to Panel on Financial Affairs Legislative Council Legislative Council Building 8 Jackson Road Central Hong Kong (Attn.: Ms Rosalind Ma)

Dear Rosalind.

Panel on Financial Affairs (FA Panel) Motion passed at the meeting held on 5 May 2008

I refer to your letter of 6 May 2008 requesting the Administration, including the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, to follow up and provide a written response to the subject motion. I am writing to provide the relevant response from the Administration.

At the FA Panel meeting held on 5 May 2008, members discussed the impact of banks' branch closure and fee-charging on the public. The Administration greatly appreciates members' views and suggestions on how to improve the accessibility and availability of banking services in Hong Kong, including the proposed establishment of a working group comprising representatives from the concerned parties to assess and monitor the needs of banking services of the elderly, the underprivileged, the disabled and low-income earners.

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Following up the motion passed by the FA Panel at its meeting held on 5 May 2008, the Administration is considering an appropriate mechanism through which the views and suggestions from different user groups of banking services can be effectively gauged. The Administration will involve and consult the relevant parties and organizations in the process. Progress report will be provided to the FA Panel at an appropriate juncture.

Yours sincerely,

(Angelina Kwan)

for Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury

c.c. Hong Kong Monetary Authority (Attn.: Mr Raymond Chan)

Housing Authority (Attn.: Mr Deryk Yim)

Hongkong Post (Attn.: Mr Dan Choi)

Hong Kong Association of Banks (Attn.: Ms Eva Wong)