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10 December 2012

Ms YUE Tin-Po
Clerk, Panel on
Information Technology and Broadcasting
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Fax: 2840 0269)

Dear Ms Yue,

**Proposed creation of a permanent civil service post of
Secretary-General of the Film Development Council in
Create Hong Kong**

The Legislative Council Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting discussed the proposed creation of a permanent civil service post of Secretary-General of the Film Development Council in Create Hong Kong at its meeting on 12 November 2012. At the meeting, Members requested the Administration to provide information on the total number of requests for assistance in location shooting in Hong Kong made by local vis-à-vis overseas film production companies, and the breakdown of such requests by those which were successfully facilitated and those which were not. I write to provide the information as requested.

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The Film Services Office (FSO) of Create Hong Kong (CreateHK) is responsible for facilitating film production and location filming in Hong Kong. The FSO was transferred to CreateHK upon the latter's establishment on 1 June 2009. From 1 June 2009 to 31 October 2012, the FSO received 2 163 enquiries about location shooting in relation to matters such as contact information and application procedures, and 1 948 requests for assistance in location shooting. The FSO had promptly responded to the 2 163 enquiries received. As for the 1 948 requests for assistance, 1 559 requests were made by local film production crews and the remaining 389 by non-local ones. Such requests are more complicated in nature and require FSO's closer facilitation with the organisations or authorities concerned.

The FSO treated local and overseas production crews in the same manner in accordance with the established mechanism when handling requests for assistance in location shooting. The FSO plays a facilitating role and liaises with the production crews and the owners/management agents of the venues at which the location shooting is proposed to take place. The FSO also helps to liaise with the Government authorities concerned such as the Police or Transport Department in relation to matters such as traffic management. Should the locations proposed be considered not feasible, the FSO will suggest alternative locations to the production crews where appropriate. The decision as to whether to accede to the location shooting requests rests with the owners/management agents of the venues concerned, which may take into account, inter alia, the following factors –

- (a) impact on the operation and users of the venue;
- (b) safety and security issues;
- (c) nature, scale and duration of the filming activities;
- (d) track record of the production company; and
- (e) promotional benefits for the venue.

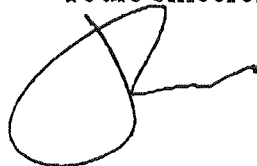
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The FSO have fully processed all the 1 948 requests with the following outcomes –

- (a) the venue owners/management agents concerned acceded to the filming requests and locating shooting was carried out;
- (b) the venue owners/management agents concerned acceded to the filming requests but the production crews concerned decided not to go ahead with the location shooting due to a change to location requirements;
- (c) the locations concerned were not available for filming and, subject to the film production crews' agreement, the FSO proceeded to liaise with the venue owners/management agents of alternative locations; or
- (d) the concerned filming requests were withdrawn by film production crews in the course of FSO's co-ordination with the venue owners/management agents.

In fact, it is not uncommon that the locations requested are no longer required mid-way through the FSO's processing, or even after the FSO has successfully secured the required locations, due to changes to film production plans or the fact that the film production crews concerned manage to identify another location on their own accord.

Yours sincerely,



(Ivanhoe CHANG)

for Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

c.c. Head of Create Hong Kong

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