

OUR REF.: EOC/CR/ORD/18

YOUR REF.: CB2/BC/8/13

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10 November 2014

Ms. Joanne MAK
Clerk to Bills Committee
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Madam,

Bills Committee on Sex Discrimination (Amendment) Bill 2014

I refer to your letter dated 4 November 2014.

Please find below a breakdown of the 40 applications referred to in earlier correspondence.

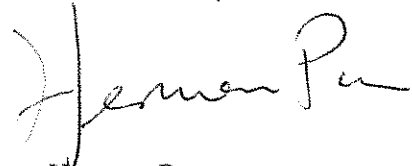
Assistance given	16
Assistance declined	22
Under consideration (at the end of the relevant period)	2

Of the 2 cases under consideration above, both were given assistance later.

Of the 22 cases declined assistance, in 20 cases the strength of the evidence does not indicate a likelihood of success in litigation. In the remaining 2 cases, assistance was declined on other reasons specific to the case. In one case, the alleged harasser was convicted for indecent assault and was imprisoned. His employer settled with the Applicant who received substantial compensation. Given that her suffering was vindicated in the criminal conviction and prison sentence and she was substantially compensated financially, assistance for civil action was

considered not suitable. In another case, the alleged sexual harassment was between school children and assistance for civil action was also considered not suitable.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Herman Poon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "H" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Herman Poon

Chief Legal Counsel

Equal Opportunities Commission