

本署檔號 OUR REF.: UGC/GEN/CON/103/1/4/2002

來函檔號 YOUR REF.: CB4/PAC/R67

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18 January 2017

Mr Anthony Chu
Clerk
Public Accounts Committee
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Mr Chu,

Public Accounts Committee
Consideration of Chapter 2 of the Director of Audit's Report No. 67
Funding of universities by University Grants Committee ("UGC")

Further to my letter dated 13 January 2017, we now set out at the **Annex** the remaining information as requested in items (b)(iii) and (d) of your letter dated 6 January 2017. My colleagues will send you soft copy of the information by email.

Should you need further clarifications on the above, please feel free to contact Miss Winnie Wong, Deputy Secretary-General (1) on 2844 9914.

Yours sincerely,



(Dr. Richard T ARMOUR)
Secretary-General

c.c. Secretary for Education (fax no. 2810 7235)
Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (fax no. 2147 5239)
Director of Audit (fax no. 2583 9063) } w/o Appendix

(b) With reference to paragraph 4.5 to 4.6:

- (iii) *a copy of the 26 Register of Interest forms as mentioned in (ii) above as resubmitted by the relevant members of UGC / the Quality Assurance Council (“QAC”)*

Upon further checking, it has come to the attention of the Secretary-General that two Register of Interests forms were re-submitted by UGC / QAC Members concerned and 24 forms remained outstanding by 6 January 2017, i.e. the date on which the second hearing of the Public Accounts Committee was held. Since then, we have secured the relevant forms from all but one member. We will continue to follow up with the member concerned.

As requested by the PAC, a copy of the forms received, with the names of the UGC / QAC Members concerned redacted, is in **Appendix B** for PAC’s reference. As the Audit Report did not disclose details of the Register of Interest forms completed by UGC / QAC Members, we consider that these copies of forms should not be included in the PAC report.

[Latest position: We have received the remaining Register of Interests form, i.e. Form / Member F as indicated in Appendix B attached in our earlier ^{Appendix 19} letter on 13 January 2017. A copy of the form, with the name of the UGC Member concerned redacted, is enclosed for PAC’s reference.]

(d) With reference to Table 22 in paragraph 4.14, a breakdown of expenses on hotel accommodation from 2005-2006 to 2015-2016 financial years by UGC, RGC and QAC as well as the corresponding number of hotel room-nights

Expenses on hotel accommodation of the UGC, RGC and QAC for 2005-06 to 2015-16 financial years and the corresponding number of hotel room-nights are updated in the table below –

***Note by Clerk, PAC: Register of Interests Form of Member F not attached.**

Financial year	Expenses on hotel accommodation (\$ million) ^(Note 1)				Number of hotel room-nights			
	UGC ^(Note 2)	RGC	QAC ^(Note 3)	Total	UGC ^(Note 2)	RGC	QAC ^(Note 3)	Total
2005-06	0.424	0.301	-	0.726	242	167	-	409
2006-07	0.765	0.049	0.012	0.826	378	27	7	412
2007-08	0.656	0.471	0.100	1.227	221	185	36	442
2008-09	0.377	0.691	0.166	1.233	128	283	82	493
2009-10	0.284	0.583	0.175	1.042	181	375	111	667
2010-11	0.274	1.135	0.222	1.631	127	525	127	779
2011-12	0.378	1.075	0.044	1.497	159	601	25	785
2012-13	0.163	1.331	0.025	1.519	63	607	9	679
2013-14	0.767	1.762	0.029	2.558	264	833	14	1 111
2014-15	2.520	1.518	0.060	4.099	1 374	820	33	2 227
2015-16	0.280	1.537	0.364	2.181	158	873	144	1 175

Note 1 – Figures may not add up to total due to rounding.

Note 2 – The increase in hotel accommodation expenses and hotel room-nights in 2006-07 and 2014-15 were mainly due to the conduct of Research Assessment Exercise in 2006 and 2014 respectively. In these two financial years, many non-local academics were invited to attend meetings in Hong Kong.

Note 3 – The QAC was established in 2007 with its first meeting in April 2007.