

香港特別行政區政府
保安局



The Government of the
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
Security Bureau

香港添馬添美道 2 號

2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar, Hong Kong

本函檔號 Our Ref.: (91) in SRD 101/3/R Pt.9

來函檔號 Your Ref.: CB4/PAC/CS(64&65)

23 January 2017

Mr Anthony CHU
Clerk to Public Accounts Committee
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Complex
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Anthony,

**Reply to follow-up to Public Accounts Committee Report No. 31
Recoverability of the outstanding advances to the UNHCR**

With regards to your letter dated 10 January 2017 to the Secretary for Security on the recoverability of the outstanding advances to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), I am authorized to reply as follows.

2. The Government has continued to urge the UNHCR to make renewed efforts to appeal to the international community for donations with a view to settling the outstanding advances, which remain at \$1,162 million. The Security Bureau wrote to the Head of Hong Kong Sub-Office of the UNHCR again in September 2016 and January 2017 to reiterate the Government's stance and register the Hong Kong community's expectation of an early recovery of the outstanding advances.

3. Although it is not optimistic that repayment can be made by the UNHCR in the near future, there is no indication that the UNHCR has withdrawn its commitments to repay such advances. It remains our understanding that UNHCR's reimbursement to Hong Kong will be subject to availability of funds. As such, we do not have any plans to write-off the advances as irrecoverable debt for the time being. The Government will continue to pursue early repayment of the outstanding advances from the UNHCR.

Yours sincerely,



(Freddy Chik)
for Secretary for Security

c.c. Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Fax: 2147 5239)
Director of Audit (Fax: 2583 9063)