

政制及內地事務局
政府總部

香港添馬添美道2號
政府總部東翼



CONSTITUTIONAL AND MAINLAND AFFAIRS BUREAU
GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT

EAST WING
CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES
2 TIM MEI AVENUE, TAMAR
HONG KONG

Our Ref.: CMAB C5/6/5
Your Ref.: CB2/PL/CA

Tel: 2810 2852
Fax: 2840 1976

11 May 2017

Ms Joanne Mak
Clerk to Panel on Constitutional Affairs
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Ms Mak,

Suspected Theft of Notebook Computers of the Registration and Electoral Office

I refer to your letter dated 18 April 2017. Regarding the two motions passed at the Special Meeting of the Legislative Council Panel on Constitutional Affairs (“CA Panel”) held on 11 April 2017, our response is set out below.

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (“CMAB”) attaches great importance to the incident. The Police has classified the case as theft and initiated a criminal investigation. Upon receipt of the Registration and Electoral Office (“REO”)’s notification in the evening of 27 March of the suspected theft of the Office’s two notebook computers, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau immediately instructed the REO to fully assist in the Police investigation. Furthermore, the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (“PCPD”) has also commenced a formal investigation on the case. Upon receipt of PCPD’s investigation report, the CMAB will instruct the REO to duly follow up and implement improvement measures recommended by the PCPD.

The REO also immediately reported the incident to the PCPD and the Government Information Security Incident Response Office. Following the advice of the PCPD, the REO has notified the affected electors, by letter or by email, of the incident to increase their awareness and ask them to contact the law enforcement agency where there are unusual circumstances, such as suspected theft of identity or personal data. The letter was uploaded onto the REO's website (www.reo.gov.hk) on 30 March. Meanwhile, the REO has also written to various business associations as well as relevant organisations of sectors including insurance, finance, banking, telecommunications, etc., to call for their vigilance and appeal to their or their members' assistance in adopting appropriate measures to protect the interest of their clients.

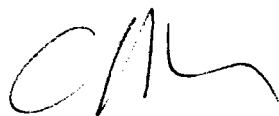
At the Special Meeting of the CA Panel held on 11 April 2017, the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs ("SCMA") announced the setting up of a Task Force headed by a Deputy Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, comprising representatives from relevant departments as members (including the Security Bureau, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer and the REO). The Task Force will conduct a comprehensive review of the causes and circumstances of the incident and take into account the lessons learnt, and will propose improvement measures on operational matters in its report, including the handling of personal data, information technology security measures, overall venue security management, as well as the REO's internal supervisory structure and procedures, etc. The Task Force will submit a report and the relevant recommendations to SCMA within two months. After the Task Force has completed the report, we will give a proper account of the matter to the CA Panel.

As for disciplinary action, shall there be any evidence of breach of internal administration codes or any regulations by any member of staff of the REO, the REO will take disciplinary action in accordance with the established procedures.

Regarding the concerns raised by Members on the voter registration ("VR") system, particularly the change of voter particulars, we sought Members' views on the review of penalties and introduction of address proof requirement in relation to the VR system at the CA Panel meeting on 19 April 2017. Among other things, we have proposed to implement the address proof requirement on existing registered voters who apply for change of registered address first, and in the long run, we will extend the

requirement to cover new registration after the new measure has been implementing smoothly. The Electoral Affairs Commission will consider carefully views of the Members and introduce legislative proposals to amend the relevant subsidiary legislations in due course. We believe that after the introduction of address proof requirement in relation to change of registered particulars, the desire of a third party to impersonate a voter to submit application for change of registration particulars will be significantly reduced.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ryan Chiu', written in a cursive style.

(Ryan CHIU)

for Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

c.c. Chief Electoral Officer, Registration and Electoral Office