

政府總部
民政事務局

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23 June 2017

Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road,
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn: Ms Joanne Mak)

Dear Ms Mak,

Thank you for your letter dated 28 February 2017. Regarding the suggestion of the Confucian Academy to designate the Confucian Day as a general holiday, our consolidated reply in consultation with the Labour and Welfare Bureau and the Labour Department is set out below.

The teachings of Confucianism have been the core values in Chinese society and serve important functions of enhancing people's quality as well as the harmonious development of the society. The Government also supports Confucian bodies to designate, since 2014, the third Sunday of September as "Confucian Day" to mark the birthday of Confucius and spread the culture of Confucianism.

General holidays are specified in the Schedule to the General Holidays Ordinance (GHO) (Cap. 149). The existing arrangements for general holidays have been formulated after years of extensive consultation. Any proposed amendment to the GHO would have implications for different sectors in the community and it needs to be handled carefully.

We understand the suggestion of the Confucian Academy to designate the Confucian Day as a general holiday. However, we also need to consider the implications of the amendment for the community. As there is currently not sufficient deliberation and consensus in the community, we do not consider it

appropriate to include this item in the agenda of the Panel on Home Affairs at this stage.

Yours faithfully,

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

(Grace LI)
for Secretary for Home Affairs