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**CIVIL SERVICE BUREAU
GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT**
WEST WING
CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES
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By Email

2 March 2017

Clerk to Panel on Public Service
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn: Mr Anthony CHU)

Dear Mr Chu,

**Panel on Public Service
Joint letter from
Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan and Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT**

I refer to your letter dated 17 February 2017 to the Secretary for the Civil Service attaching a joint letter of the same date from Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan and Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT. In respect of the issues raised therein, I have been authorised to reply as set out below.

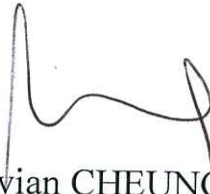
In general, individual bureaux/departments (“B/Ds”), in executing its functions and work targets, have put in place guidelines for civil servants to ensure that they exercise their powers and responsibilities effectively and provide quality services. In the event that a civil servant is accused of false allegations and defamation in the course of duty, the relevant B/D would make public statements promptly to clarify the facts and set the record straight, so as to ensure that any false allegations could be corrected in a timely manner. This is also necessary to uphold fairness to the colleague concerned. As to the specific case mentioned by the two Hon Legislative Council members in their joint letter concerning

defamatory remark made against Correctional Services Officers, we note that the Correctional Services Department has looked into the matter and clarified the situation in two press releases issued on 3 January 2017 and 20 January 2017 respectively.

We attach great importance in ensuring that civil servants, in discharging their duties, are being treated fairly and respectfully. No one should make false allegations against any public officer based on unconfirmed information.

We would like to express our gratitude to the two Hon Legislative Council members for their concern on the matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Vivian Cheung', written over a vertical line that serves as a separator between the signature and the name below.

(Ms Vivian CHEUNG)
for Secretary for the Civil Service

cc: Hon KWOK Wai-keung, Chairman of Panel on Public Service,
Legislative Council