

香港特別行政區政府
保安局



The Government of the
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
Security Bureau

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By Email

20 April 2020

Ms Joanne Mak
Clerk to Panel on Constitutional Affairs

Miss Betty Ma
Clerk to Panel on Security

Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Ms Mak and Miss Ma,

**Legislative Council
Panel on Constitutional Affairs and Panel on Security**

Letter from Hon Dennis Kwok

I refer to your email dated 30 March 2020 to this Bureau attaching a letter dated 19 March 2020 to the Chairmen of the Panel on Constitutional Affairs and the Panel on Security of the Legislative Council from the Hon Dennis Kwok and requesting the Government to respond to the issues raised therein. Having consulted the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau, our consolidated reply is as follows:

The statement entitled “China Takes Countermeasures Against Restrictive Measures on Chinese Media Agencies in the United States (US)” issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 18 March 2020 indicated that the countermeasures were to reciprocate the US Government’s unwarranted restrictions on the Chinese media agencies and personnel in the US. It

stated that China's fundamental state policy of opening-up will not change. Foreign media organisations and journalists who cover stories in accordance with laws and regulations are always welcome in China, and will get continued facilitation and assistance.

In Hong Kong, the freedom of the press is guaranteed by the Basic Law. The media reports freely in Hong Kong and performs its role as a watchdog over public affairs. The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) does not exercise censorship in traditional media or over the internet. Some 80 foreign media organisations have offices in Hong Kong and run their business freely as usual here, as in the case of local media.

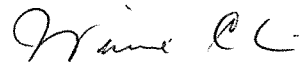
Since the return to the Motherland, the HKSAR has been exercising "Hong Kong people administering Hong Kong" and a high degree of autonomy in strict accordance with the Basic Law. The "one country, two systems" principle has been fully and successfully implemented. Under Article 154(2) of the Basic Law, the HKSAR Government applies immigration controls on entry into, stay in and departure from Hong Kong by persons from foreign states and regions.

Pursuant to section 7(1) of the Immigration Ordinance (Chapter 115 of the Laws of Hong Kong), a person may not land in Hong Kong without the permission of the Immigration Department unless the person enjoys the right of abode in Hong Kong, has the right to land in Hong Kong, or may land in Hong Kong without such permission by virtue of the Immigration Ordinance (such as being a member of the crew of an aircraft).

In general, unless a person has the right of abode or right to land in Hong Kong, the person requires a visa or entry permit to come to work in Hong Kong. Hong Kong has always adopted a pragmatic and open policy on the employment of professionals in Hong Kong, allowing those possessing special skills, knowledge or experience of value to work in Hong Kong, including journalistic work.

In handling each entry case, the Immigration Department will consider the circumstances of the case and act in accordance with the laws and immigration policies. The HKSAR Government will not comment on individual entry cases or make public any information concerning individual cases.

Yours sincerely,



(Winnie Chui)
for Secretary for Security

c.c. Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(Attn: Mr Dennis Ching)

Director of Immigration
(Attn: Mr Benson Kwok)

Internal
Principal Assistant Secretary for Security E