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Hon Martin LIAO Cheung-kong, GBS, JP  
Chairman  
Bills Committee on Improving Electoral  
System (Consolidated Amendments)  
Bill 2021  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central, Hong Kong

14 May 2021

Dear Chairman,

**Bills Committee on Improving Electoral System  
(Consolidated Amendments) Bill 2021:  
Government's Proposed Committee Stage Amendments**

Further to the paper issued by the Administration on 29 April and 3 May 2021, the Government intends to move additional Committee Stage Amendments ("CSAs") to the Improving Electoral System (Consolidated Amendments) Bill 2021 ("the Bill") in relation to the Medical and Health Services subsector of the Election Committee ("EC").

2. According to the Bill, the Secretary General of the Hong Kong Red Cross<sup>1</sup> ("HKRC") will be a specified office and HKRC will be a specified entity<sup>2</sup> of the Medical and Health Services subsector.

<sup>1</sup> See section 5E(m) of the Schedule to the Chief Executive Election Ordinance (Cap. 569) (CEEEO) as amended.

<sup>2</sup> See item 13 of Annex 7 of the Schedule to CEEEO as amended.

3. On 6 May 2021, the HKRC has written to the Food and Health Bureau (“FHB”) indicating that –

*“The Hong Kong Red Cross acts at all times according to the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, including the Fundamental Principle of neutrality. In order to uphold [their] mission and roles which are to serve all persons in need of humanitarian assistance, [they] do not engage at any time in discussions of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature, including participation in public elections in Hong Kong.”*


4. The FHB respects and supports HKRC’s request to be removed from the lists of specified offices and specified entities of the Medical and Health Services subsector. In view of the limited number and importance of ex-officio seats in the EC, it is also considered necessary to find a replacement for the ex-officio seats after the proposed removal. Having regard to the three principles, viz. being broadly representative, having substantial connection with the subsector, and adhering to the principle of “patriots administering Hong Kong”, the FHB proposes to include “the Chairman of the Human Organ Transplant Board” as the specified office of the Medical and Health Services subsector.

5. To reflect the above development after the last meeting of the Bills Committee held on 3 May 2021, the Government will move the following additional CSAs –

- (a) amending section 5E(m) of the Schedule to CEEO (as amended by the Bill) by replacing “the Secretary General of the Hong Kong Red Cross” with “the Chairman of the Human Organ Transplant Board”; and
- (b) repealing item 13 of Annex 7 of the Schedule to CEEO (as amended by the Bill).

6. The above proposals are for the Bills Committee’s attention please.

Yours sincerely,

  
(Ms Carmen KONG)  
for Secretary for Constitutional and  
Mainland Affairs

c.c.

Legislative Council Secretariat

Clerk to Bills Committee on Improving  
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