

Mrs. Carrie Yau
Director of Administration
By Fax

Dear Carrie,

Re: LegCo Term and “De-representation” of Constituents

It was good speaking to you this morning. I understand that the Administration is considering whether when the LegCo term ends on 30 June 2000, all serving legislators' offices should be closed, resulting in salaries and all payments being stopped for them to run their offices.

It appears that you have not considered the consequences should you take this decision. It would mean that from 1 July till 10 September, when a new legislature will be elected, constituents will be entirely unrepresented.

Many countries continue to fund serving legislators between the formal end of an elected term and the next election so that the people will continue to be represented. This is a matter of principle and not just a matter of causing inconvenience to legislative staff whose employers may be re-elected and yet they have to be released as the legislative office has to close.

As you had not considered that your decision could result in “de-representing” constituents, I urge you to take this perspective into account in making your final decision.

I also wish to re-emphasize that it would not be open to the Administration to argue that District Councillors could play a representative's role since the two tiers cannot replace each other.

Yours sincerely,

Christine Loh
Cc: Ricky Fung – LegCo Secretariat
Dr. C. H. Leong – LegCo House Committee