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Mr Eddie Mak
Prin AS (CS) (P&L)
Civil Service Bureau
Room 207, 2/F
CGO, Hong Kong

By Fax (2147 3292) and By Post

21 October 2003

Dear Mr Mak,

Public Officers Pay Adjustments (2004/2005) Bill

I suggested in my previous letter to you dated 19 September 2003 that the word "become" in clause 3 of the Bill should be better rendered as "變為". As you may be aware, Miss Betty Cheung, Senior Government Counsel of the Department of Justice, has provided me with some examples in the Laws of Hong Kong where the word "become" was rendered as "改為".

I agree that in Chinese, "改為" is in some context same as "變為". Nevertheless, it is also noted that "改為" usually involves some kind of action or a positive act whilst "變為" bears the connotation of conversion or transformation and no particular action will have to be adopted.

Perhaps, for the information of the Bills Committee, would the Administration explain the operation of clause 3, that is, when and how the pay of a public officer who is remunerated on a delinked starting salary pursuant to the acceptance of an offer of employment or who is promoted to a basic rank on a delinked starting salary *becomes payable* in accordance with a regular civil service pay scale?

I would be most grateful if you let me have a reply in bilingual form before 23 October 2003.

Yours sincerely,

Kitty Cheng
Assistant Legal Adviser

c.c. Legal Adviser
CAS(1)5
Miss Betty Cheung, SGC, DoJ