

LC Paper No. CB(2)247/03-04(02)

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5 November 2003

Ms Doris Chan  
Clerk to Panel  
Panel on Home Affairs  
Legislative Council  
8 Jackson Road  
Central  
Hong Kong

Dear Ms Chan,

**Panel on Home Affairs**  
**Special meeting on 7 November 2003**

Thank you for your letter of 30 October 2003. I would like to respond to points 5, 7 and 8 in the Honourable HO Chun-yan's letter of 29 October 2003 which was attached to your letter.

**Report (Point 5)**

In view of the media interest in and the public concern on Equal Opportunities Commission's decision to terminate its contract with Mr. Patrick Yu, we wrote to the Commission to ask for a report on the matter. We received a report from the Commission on 3 November 2003 and a copy of the Commission's report was sent to you yesterday. We are now studying the report.

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Public Consultation (Point 7)

In June this year, we announced that:

- (a) the Government agreed in principle to the need for legislation against racial discrimination in Hong Kong; and
- (b) a consultation paper on the legislative proposals for the racial discrimination law should be published for public comments.

We have commenced a dialogue with non-governmental organizations concerned about human rights and with representatives of ethnic minorities in Hong Kong concerning our proposal to legislate against racial discrimination. Several meetings and forums have been held for this purpose.

We are now drafting the consultation paper and the Drafting Instructions for the Bill. We intend to issue the consultation paper for public comments early next year and to introduce the Bill into the Legislative Council in the next legislative session (October 2004).

Timetable (Point 8)

Considerable progress has been made in drafting the Drafting Instructions. There are no plans to shelve the legislative proposal or to defer the legislative timetable.

Yours sincerely,

(Stephen Fisher)  
for Secretary for Home Affairs