

SBCR 1/1/1866/97 Pt.2B

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17 December 1999

Mrs Sharon Tong
Clerk to Panel
Legislative Council
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Mrs Tong,

**LegCo Panel on Security
Meeting on 23 September 1999**

At the Panel meeting on 23 September when Members considered the Year 2000 preparedness of departments and organisations under the Bureau's purview, there was a question regarding the need for Government advice on the use of lifts at 2400 hour on 31 December 1999. We undertook to relay the question to the Information Technology and Broadcasting Bureau for consideration.

According to the Housing Bureau, both the Housing Authority and Housing Society have completed their Y2K rectification work, and confirmed that all lifts in their estates are Y2K compliant. Both organisations have also put in place contingency arrangements to cater for any unforeseen incidents during the rollover to Year 2000. We understand that the Housing Society has decided to suspend lift service in their estates for a very short period during the rollover. The Housing Authority does not see the need to follow suit.

In June 1999, Information Technology And Broadcasting Bureau issued a Y2K checklist on buildings installation advising the public to ascertain whatever the escalator and lifts in their buildings may be affected by the Y2K

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problem. As the regulator of lift and escalator safety, the Electrical & Mechanical Services Department has obtained confirmation from all lift supplies and lift maintenance contractors that they do not envisage that the safety, effective operation and performance of lifts and escalators installed in Hong Kong will be affected by Year 2000 problems arising from these facilitates.

In view of the above, the Information Technology and Broadcasting Bureau, as the overall coordinator on the territory's Year 2000 issues, does not consider it necessary to launch special territory-wide publicity on the issue.

Yours sincerely,

(Ms CHANG King-yiu)
for Secretary for Security

c.c. Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting
(Attn: Mr William Tang) – Fax 2511 1458