



The Honorable Ronald Arculli, GBS, JP
Chairman, Committee on Review of
Post-Service Outside Work for Directorate Civil Servants
10/F West Wing
Central Government Offices
11 Ice House Street
Hong Kong

16 February 2009

Dear Hon Ronald,

Post-Service Outside Work for Directorate Civil Servants

As an association representing over 120 architects in the Housing Department, we would like to express our concern over the captioned subject.

It is our belief that the right to employment after retirement should not be usurped. Retired professionals, albeit doctors, accountants, lawyers, architects, surveyors, or engineers, are a valuable asset to the community. The experiences they collected over the years can contribute positively to the advancement of their respective professions and the betterment of Hong Kong as a whole.

The existing regulations governing the post-service outside work for civil servants are, in our opinion, effective in preventing possible conflict of interest between civil service job and post-service employment. We should bear in mind that most professionals in the Civil Service work at the frontline and only a handful of them are holding senior policy-setting positions (D4 or above) and/or have direct access to information that may have implications in relation to post-service employment. The current guidelines are readily imposing stringent conditions on these few senior directorate officers, who may or may not wish to apply for post-service employment. More importantly, we firmly believe that rule-abiding civil servants should not be penalized by just a few isolated cases that have drawn special concerns from the community or have been sensationalized by the media.

We have strongly reservations on any across-the-board type of lengthening of the sanitization period or further tightening of the existing policy on post-service employment of directorate civil servants.

We support that clearer guidelines should be in place to allow more appropriate assessment of the post-service employment applications for some members in the senior directorate who have held special or sensitive positions before retirement.

We wish you would seriously consider our views as expressed above and incorporate appropriate recommendations in your consultation paper which we understand will be released very soon.

Yours faithfully,



(Jimmie K K TAM)

Chairman

JKKT/jt

c.c. Members