



水務署
Water Supplies Department

BY FAX

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20 April 2009

Secretariat, Committee on Review of Post-service
Outside Work for Directorate Civil Servants
10/F, West Wing, Central Government Offices
11 Ice House Street
Central

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Review of Post-service Outside Work
for Directorate Civil Servants**

I refer to the letter ref. : CSBCR/AP/5-090-005/19 Pt. 4 of 20.2.2009 from the Chairman of the Review Committee to Heads of Grades seeking views on the consultation document. I would like to offer my comments to the Review Committee in the ensuing paragraph.

Generally speaking, I consider that the post-service outside work control regime should continue to, in principle, protect the public interest as well as protecting an individual's right to work and freedom of choice of occupation. The existing control mechanism appears to have struck an appropriate balance between the underlying principles. The restrictions currently imposed on taking up outside employment during an officer's final leave, sanitisation period and control period are considered reasonable and on the whole sufficiently effective in avoiding conflict of interest without unduly restricting retired directorate civil servants to pursue outside employment. Taking also into consideration the post-service employment control mechanisms adopted by the overseas jurisdictions as outlined in the consultation document which are overall speaking less restrictive than that of the Hong Kong regime, there seems hardly be any compelling reasons to apply measures more stringent than the existing criteria in processing such applications, save the strengthening of control on a retired directorate civil servant engaging in any outside employment which would appear to have apparent conflict of interest with his former duties and may cause negative public perception and suspicion of 'deferred' reward.

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Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of stylized, cursive letters that appear to be 'L T MA'.

(L T MA)
Director of Water Supplies

Encl.