

Central
Hong Kong

9 March 2012

Independent Review Committee for the Prevention
and Handling of Potential Conflicts of Interests
8/F. West Wing
Central Government Offices
11 Ice House Street
Hong Kong

Sir

RE: Patronage of Hong Kong Social Clubs

It is my opinion that a Chief Executive ("CE") should not hold the office of "Patron" to any Hong Kong Social Club.

My reasoning is that should a CE hold such office it is possible that the club will feel obliged to waive all (or at least some) charges for meals and refreshments enjoyed by the CE during visits to a club. A similar obligation might arise should a CE avail of any club facilities such as renting items from a DVD library (i.e. waiving the rental and late-return penalty fees), enjoying spa facilities and benefitting from coaching sessions for him and his family members.

Being a patron of an institution, and at the same time enjoying the facilities offered by that institution, could lead to a conflict of interest should the institution feel in any way obliged to 'foot the bill'.

Sincerely
Dennis Frewin

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