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Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a civil servant in the Operations Officer Grade of the Civil Aviation Department. In response to your plea for comments on the Consultative Paper on the Civil Service Pay Policy and System issued in April 2002, I have one comment to make.

Paragraph 19(a) of the Paper invites opinions on the need for an overhaul of the civil service pay and policy in Hong Kong. I think it is fair to review the pay and policy of civil service at specified intervals, but NOT in accordance with the wills of those who shouted loudest. In my opinion, should a review on civil service pay policy and structure be decided in the near future, consideration should be given to the fact that such review is conducted at the time of economic downturn when pay scales in most of the private sectors, upon which some of the pay indices are based, have deteriorated drastically. Contributing factors affecting pay indices in the private sectors during periods of economic boom should also be taken into account.

Thank you for your attention.

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Heip