

CONFIDENTIAL

BY HAND

Date: April 23, 2007

To: Mr. Keith Ho
Wilkinson & Grist Solicitors & Notaries
Prince's Building, 6th Floor
Chater Road, Hong Kong
Acting on behalf of
The Commission of Inquiry on Allegations relating to
The Hong Kong Institute of Education (the "Commission")

From: Katherine Ma Miu-wah (Ms)

Subject: **Statement (4)**
In response to your further questions dated April 19, 2007

Dear Mr. Ho,

I refer to your letter dated 19 April 2007 to me which I only received on 21 April.
Below are my answers:

1. I recall that there was a meeting between myself and Professor Luk in his office in June 2004 but I cannot recall the exact date. The details of what I recalled are outlined in paragraphs 80-83 of my statement (2) dated 16 April 2007.
2. I do not recall I have any sight or knowledge of the set of draft notes of a senior management meeting on 30 June 2004 that you refer to in your letter. Although it's not in my memory now, I would not be surprised if I had attended that particular meeting because I often attended similar meetings on need basis

3. I did not recall "who suggested that had been misquoted, or what the source of the information that Dr Cheung had been quoted was. I had no recollection that "there was a telephone conversation between EMB and DCIA (this is the abbreviation of my title) and subsequently a rumour that IED had issued a statement on opposing the hiring freeze, which has not happened at all". Although it's not in my memory now, I would not be surprised of the conversation because there were a number of instances where I was in contact with relevant EMB personnel on media related matters.
4. As the Director of Communications and Institutional Advancement, I am responsible for the official statements and press releases issued by the Institute. As a matter of fact, the Institute issued a press release to all major media in Hong Kong on 20 May 2004, titled "HKIEd supports fair and open competition for teaching posts". It was posted on the Institute's website which the public can have access to. (Exhibit KMa-18)
5. On 30 June 2004, in view of possible media enquiry for an official stance of the Institute on the surplus teacher issue, my office has issued an Internal Communication Reference to relevant staff members, titled: 'STANDBY Line to Take on 'Teacher Employment' upon the lift / extension of the freeze period'. (Exhibit KMa-19). At HKIEd, a 'Line-to-Take' is not intended to be issued to the press pro-actively and indiscriminately. It only serves the purpose of helping the Institute personnel to respond verbally to individual media enquiries with a consistent Institute stance.
6. In this Line-to-Take, it was suggested that HKIEd should "lie low" and refrain from making comments because any comment would likely irritate / alienate either the Government or the union / surplus teachers, and polarize the interest of our students/ graduates vs. surplus teachers. In case there was no choice but that HKIEd must comment, we suggested key messages which called for 'an equitable and amicable solution' to solve the surplus teacher issues.
7. I have further checked with the media executive who was the first line of contact. She recalled that there were only 1-2 members enquiring on the Institute's official position on the 'surplus teacher' issue and our position as outlined in the Line-to-Take was duly conveyed to the enquiring journalists.

Statement (4) by Ms Katherine Ma Miu-wah

In the meantime, I understand that my handwritten notes submitted as Exhibits to the Commission are too rough to be read and understood by others. I now attach a set of typed up copy. (Exhibit KMa – 20). I have noted in this document that the handwritten notes are taken with NO intention of them being complete or comprehensive in respect of what was discussed at the meetings.

Please note that the names of some participants in the 24 April 2004 Retreat and 26 June 2006 Meeting were withheld in the typed-up notes as I'm not sure if their identities are relevant to the scope of inquiry.

I hope the above information is helpful to the Commission in its process of inquiry.

Kindly please acknowledge receipt of the statement. Thank your for your attention



Katherine MA Miu-wah