



Mr. Rafael Hui Si-yan  
Constitutional Development Task Force Secretariat  
Constitutional Affairs Bureau  
3/F, Main Wing,  
Central Government Offices,  
Lower Albert Road,  
Central.

2 September, 2005

Dear Mr. Hui,

**Re: Secret ballot to be used at the nomination stage of the Chief Executive election**

Further to our submission dated 31 May 2005 in response to the Fourth Report on Constitutional Development published by the Task Force, Civic Exchange would like to bring one more issue for the Task Force's consideration. We hope this issue will be addressed in the Fifth Report even though the last round of consultation ended some time ago. We believe the issue we bring up however is not a new issue to the Task Force. As such, we hope you can include our views in the consultation.

The current voting system of the Chief Executive (CE) election is that each Election Committee member is entitled to cast a single vote in each round of voting by secret ballot. According to the Chief Executive Election Ordinance, a nomination made by an Election Committee member shall be signified by his signature on the nomination form. However, secret ballot is not adopted at the nomination stage.

Civic Exchange suggests using secret ballot at the nomination stage as well in the next CE election. Civic Exchange believes that adopting secret ballot is one way to achieving political privacy as any attempts to influence an elector's decision by intimidation or bribery could be prevented.

Secret ballot is a common practice in most democracies to make sure that political views are not made known to others except the person casting the vote. The CE Election system has frequently been criticised as "a small circle election" and undemocratic. By extending the practice of using secret ballot to the nomination of CE candidates, we believe this will go some way to positively reform the CE Election system.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

Yanyan YIP  
Researcher (Political Reform)