



The Chief Executive  
Hong Kong Government  
Hon CY Leung

15<sup>TH</sup> January 2016

Dear Chief Executive,

Please find herewith our submission to the Legco Panel on Health Services dated 24<sup>th</sup> October 2015, to which we have received no reply.

In particular we bring to your attention the fact that two incumbent members of the Panel on Health Services, Hong Vincent Fang Kang and Hon Wong Ting Kwong are Hon advisors to the Tobacco Control Concern Group, a tobacco industry front group and that the Office of Hon Paul Tse is listed, as below, as a supporting organisation to another Big Tobacco funded front group, HKUAIT / Stopit:

[http://www.stopit.hk/?page\\_id=505&lang=en](http://www.stopit.hk/?page_id=505&lang=en)

- Coalition on Tobacco Affairs (CTA)
- Philip Morris Asia Limited
- The Office of Wong Tai Sin District Councillor Lai Wing-Ho
- **The Office of Legislative Councillor Paul Tse Wai-chun**
- The Office of Tsuen Wan District Councillor Kot Siu-Yuen
- The Office of Tsuen Wan District Councillor Man Yu-Ming
- The Office of Tsuen Wan District Councillor Timmy Chow
- The Office of Eastern District Councillor Marcus Tse
- The Office of Kwun Tong District Councillor Poon Chun-yuen

It is an obvious prima facie conflict of interest that any Legco member, who are paid public servants, should be serving on a Health Committee that has direct input into matters of health and tobacco control measures including excise tax increases, whilst openly being Honorary advisors to a tobacco front group and is prima facie a breach of Article 5.3 of the FCTC Treaty binding Hong Kong.

Neither should district councillors, public servants paid from the public purse, be naively supporting a tobacco funded front group.

Along these lines I provide you herewith attached, a self explanatory letter from WHO FCTC Secretariat head Dr Vera Luiza da Costa e Silva to the Scottish Parliament, which is equally applicable to all ratified FCTC Parties, including Hong Kong.

23/F, 8-Commercial Tower, 8 Sun Yip Street, Chai Wan, Hong Kong  
Charity NGO  
Tel 25799398. Fax (+852) 26027153 Email [chair@cleartheair.org.hk](mailto:chair@cleartheair.org.hk)  
[www.cleartheair.org.hk](http://www.cleartheair.org.hk)



<http://www.bbc.com/news/health-31600118>

**Tobacco Kills Two in Three smokers**

<http://tinyurl.com/hd32dab>

<http://www.asianscientist.com/2015/03/health/smokers-die-habit/>

**Cigarettes will kill two in three Australian smokers, Melbourne University and Sax Institute study finds**

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2563564/>

**Cost of tobacco-related diseases, including passive smoking, in Hong Kong**

Our conservative estimate of the **annual health-related cost of tobacco in Hong Kong** in 1998 is US\$688 million with a range of US\$469–\$916 million. This includes US\$459 million for health care costs (\$341 million for medical care and \$118 million for long term care) and \$230 million for productivity losses. About 23% of the total costs and 28% of the medical care costs were due to passive rather than active smoking. The proportion of the morbidity costs which fell on the public sector was 70% for active smoking and 50% for passive smoking. In addition, there were 6920 (4430–9229) attributable deaths of which 19% were attributable to passive smoking. **If we add the value of attributable lives lost but deduct productivity loss due to premature death to avoid double counting the value of a lost life, the annual cost would be US\$9.4 billion.(HK\$ 73.32 billion per annum)**

Yours sincerely,

*James Middleton*

Chairman