



aqua restaurant group

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16th August 2011

Food Branch
Food and Health Bureau
20/F Murray Building
Garden Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Sir,

Review of Liquor Licensing Public Consultation

I refer to your Consultation document of July 2011 calling for comments on the Liquor Licensing of 'upstairs bars'.

As one of Hong Kong's premier restaurant groups with more than 12 venues in the city we wish you to consider our views:-

- certain 'upstairs bars' may be causing problems and disturbances - it is not surprising that there will be a number of 'poorly-managed disreputable drinking establishments' that cause problems. These problems occur irrespective of whether they are located upstairs or at street level.
- the LLB and Government should focus on identifying and penalising these disreputable drinking establishments
- a broad-brush set of restrictions on 'upstairs bars' will not achieve this and will penalise those who are operating without problem
- restaurants located on higher levels have been operating for many years without incident - in our case our restaurant Aqua located on 30/F of One Peking has been operating for 7 years without incident. If the Government were to introduce restrictions on 'upstairs bars' it should be made specifically clear that restaurants (with a general restaurant license) be excluded.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Ward', written over a horizontal line.

Richard M. Ward
Director