FILENOTE

Title of meeting:	Meeting with Dr Stanley Lai, SC, on feedback to public consultation on the SP Proposal
Date:	15 March 2018
Time:	11.30am
Venue:	Ministry of Health
Attendees:	Allen & Gledhill: Dr Stanley Lai (SL) MOH: Mr Amrin Amin (AA), Dr Derrick Heng (DH), Ms Jayne Lim (JL)

Summary

This meeting was scheduled at the request of SL, acting on behalf of Philip Morris Singapore Pte Ltd ("PMS"), to discuss the matter of standardised packaging for tobacco products.

SL indicated that his focus was on protecting intellectual property ("IP") rights and allowing owners of trade marks to exercise their rights to display them on packaging. In this regard, he had previously suggested that MOH consider an alternative to standardised packaging (hereinafter referred to as the "PMS Alternative").

SL presented the PMS Alternative (see Annex) and showed an example of a cigarette box which had been mocked-up with the PMS Alternative. He suggested that the graphic health warnings on the PMS Alternative could even be increased to 85%-90% of the standardised faces of the box, and that while the current iteration of the PMS Alternative permitted 4 panels of the box to retain trademarks, other iterations with fewer panels could also be considered.

SL indicated that he would not be submitting any formal feedback to the current public consultation, as his views had already been set out in previous submissions. It was suggested that the presentation which had just been made could be submitted to MOH formally (with an accompanying cover letter) and documented as part of the consultation process. SL agreed to do so (NB – see note below).

MOH indicated that it had assessed the PMS Alternative and while details of the PMS Alternative had not been shared in the public consultation paper, the PMS Alternative had been considered by MOH in arriving at its preliminary assessment of the SP Proposal. Should a decision be made to adopt standardised packaging, the Government would ensure consistency with its international obligations with respect to intellectual property rights

AOB

None.

There being no other matters, the meeting ended at 11.46am.

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Note: On 16 March 2018, SL informed MOH that he would not be submitting a written response to the public consultation, in view of earlier submissions he had already made.