

SCAP

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Anger at sculpture rejection

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Legislators are to complain to the Chief Secretary over the Urban Council's refusal to allow the *Pillar of Shame* sculpture commemorating the Tiananmen Square massacre to be displayed at its venues.

Urban councillors refused this week to overturn a decision by the Recreation Select Committee rejecting the booking application by the Hong Kong Alliance in Support of the Patriotic Democratic Movement in China.

At the Legco panel on Broadcasting, Culture and Sports, Andrew Cheng Kar-foo, of the Democratic Party, described the decision as political censorship and asked whether officials and urban councillors had colluded to reject the application.

But the administration denied there was any political censorship on its part.

Members passed a resolution to write to Anson Chan Fang On-sang, urging her to investigate whether officials had failed to maintain political neutrality in handling the alliance application.

Panel members will also write to Urban Council chairman Dr Ronald Leung Ding-bong, condemning the decision to turn down the booking application.

They accused the department of misleading councillors by saying a display of the sculpture for a prolonged period might cause inconvenience to users of Kowloon Park or Chater Garden.

Oscar Ho, exhibition director of the Hong Kong Arts Centre, described the move as "openly using a political reason" to reject the public display of a work of art.