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TRAN 2/13/29 (00) III

CB1/PL/TP

5 March 2002

Clerk to Panel
Panel on Transport
Legislative Council
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong
(Attn.: Ms Alice Au)

Dear Ms Au,

LegCo Panel on Transport
MTR Concessionary Fares

Thank you for your fax of 7 February 2002.

We have in fact received and replied to the four letters attached to your fax. I would like to reiterate the following points for the Panel Members' information:

- (a) Before 1988, public transport operators received reimbursement from the Government for their costs of providing fare concession to students. In 1988, the reimbursement arrangement was replaced by the Student Travel Subsidy Scheme under which eligible students received direct grants from the Government. All public transport services have since ceased providing concessionary fares for students with the exception of the Mass Transit Railway (MTR) and the Light Rail Transit.
- (b) When the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) first introduced its student fare concessions in 1981, it made reference to the age criteria under the then Student Travel Card Scheme i.e. between 12 and 25. MTRCL has since been using these criteria. According to MTRCL, offering fare concessions to full-time students aged above 25 is expected to have substantial financial implications for the Corporation. It has no plans to offer fare concessions to such students.

- (c) As a preventive measure for any abuse of the Student Travel Scheme, MTRCL will, from time to time, deploy ticket inspectors to conduct ticket inspection. The ultimate objective is to ensure that the interest of the law-abiding and fare-paying passengers are adequately protected.

Yours sincerely

(Clement Chan)
for Secretary for Transport