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14 May 2003

Clerk to Panel
Panel on Planning, Lands and Works
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong
(Attn. : Mrs Queenie YU)

(Fax : 2869 6794)

Dear Mrs Yu,

Panel on Planning, Lands and Works

**Issues raised at LegCo Members' meeting
with Tuen Mun District Council Members on 28 November 2002**

I refer to your letter of 29 April 2003 to the Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands which has been referred to us.

We understand that the Deep Bay Link project requires the clearance of 12 pigeon farms on private agricultural land. On 7 March 2003, the Finance Committee (FC) approved the payment of ex-gratia allowance (EGA) to pig and poultry farmers legitimately operating on private agricultural land whose farm structures are not covered in the 1982 squatter control survey conducted by the Housing Department and

are affected by land resumption and clearance. Hence, the 12 pigeon farmers will become eligible if they meet the criteria for the payment of the EGA.

Regarding Members' views on the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme, we would like to clarify that the Scheme is a support service run by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) to promote active cultivation of arable land through match-making landowners with potential tenants. Under the scheme, the department also provides agricultural services to the tenants such as technical advice on soil improvement, husbandry practices, and irrigation and drainage improvement. The Scheme does not form part of the land compensation policy although farmers affected by land resumption may seek help from AFCD.

Should you wish to seek any clarifications, please feel free to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

(Ms Priscilla TO)
for Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

c.c. SHPL (Attn. : Miss WONG Yuet-wah – 2845 3489)
DAFC (Attn. : Mr Clive LAU - 2152 0319)