

**For information
on 28 September 2005**

**Paper for Bills Committee on the
Revenue (Personalized Vehicle Registration Marks) Bill 2005**

Purpose

This paper provides the Administration's response to the questions raised by Members at the meeting of the Bills Committee on the Revenue (Personalized Vehicle Registration Marks) Bill 2005 (the Bill) held on 28 June.

Personalized Vehicle Registration Marks (PVRMs) to be reserved

2. In drawing up the list of PVRMs to be included in the reserve list (for sale by auction at a time to be determined by the Commissioner for Transport (C for T)) in Schedule 5A, the Administration has the following considerations in mind: reserving more of the registration marks which are expected to be popular on one hand and allowing more flexibility for members of the public to propose their own PVRMs on the other. In view of Members' suggestion, we have no objection to including PVRMs of three or four identical letters in Schedule 5A. The revised list is shown in **Annex**. Committee Stage Amendments will be proposed.

Recalled PVRMs

3. The Administration considers that, if the circumstances under which C for T recalled a certain PVRM have changed, the concerned PVRM could be 'revived' for sale by auction again after a new application therefor is considered under the proposed regulation 12C by C for T and is determined to be acceptable by him under the proposed regulation 12F. We suggest that if the previous holder of the PVRM still has interest in the mark, he should participate in the public auction and bid for it again, but not be accorded priority.

4. To avoid futile applications for recalled PVRMs, the TD will provide a channel for potential applicants to check if their preferred PVRMs have been recalled so that they can make an informed decision before submitting an application.

Pros and cons of issuing a certificate of allocation for PVRMs

5. Our original proposal is to issue a certificate of allocation ('the certificate') to PVRM holders. The certificate will serve to prove the ownership of the PVRM. It would contain the name of the PVRM holder, the display formats, the auction date and price, and the terms and conditions to be observed by the PVRM holder. It would also state that the PVRM may be recalled by C for T, in which case the holder would be refunded the auction price. The certificate would provide a more convenient means for potential buyers to check details of the PVRM and better protect their interests. The only downside to users, as pointed out by some Members, would be that the PVRM holders would have to keep this document safe.

6. In response to Members' suggestion, the Administration has reviewed the need for retaining the certificate and critically examined the pros and cons of dispensing with the certificate.

7. Some of the information which is intended to be included in the certificate is already provided in the Vehicle Registration Document (VRD), such as the name of the PVRM holder (i.e. the vehicle owner) and the display format of the PVRM. We consider that if it is decided to dispense with the certificate, the other information (i.e. the auction date, auction price and terms and conditions) can be made available on TD's website and in its licensing offices for public enquiry. A note may also be added to the VRD to remind the vehicle owner/potential buyer as to how details of a PVRM may be checked. Modification of the existing licensing system to include information such as the auction date and auction price in the VRD would, however, come at a cost and incur further delay.

8. We welcome Members' views on whether or not they consider that the proposal to issue the certificate should be dispensed with.

**Treasury Branch
Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau
September 2005**

Annex

The revised list is as follows:

Item	
1.	B, C, D, E, G, H, J, K, L, M, N, P, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y and Z
2.	AA, BB, CC, DD, EE, FF, GG, HH, JJ, KK, LL, MM, NN, PP, RR, SS, TT, UU, VV, WW, XX, YY and ZZ
3.	AAA, BBB, CCC, DDD, EEE, FFF, GGG, HHH, JJJ, KKK, LLL, MMM, NNN, PPP, RRR, SSS, TTT, UUU, VVV, WWW, XXX, YYY and ZZZ
4.	AAAA, BBBB, CCCC, DDDD, EEEE, FFFF, GGGG, HHHH, JJJJ, KKKK, LLLL, MMMM, NNNN, PPPP, RRRR, SSSS, TTTT, UUUU, VVVV, WWWW, XXXX, YYYY and ZZZZ