

NOTE FOR PUBLIC WORKS SUBCOMMITTEE OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

Supplementary Information on 177CL – Sha Tin New Town – remaining engineering works

In accordance with the request from Members of the Public Works Subcommittee on 11 May 2005, we have provided the required supplementary information, including the noise impact assessments for the Ronald MacDonald House and other dwellings along To Shek Street vide Paper PWSCI(2005-06)5.

2. We have explained in the Paper that the noise impact at the Ronald MacDonald House is caused mostly by existing roads and the noise levels at the House do not meet the existing criteria for the provision of noise barriers.

3. Subsequent to the issue of the above Paper and in an effort to ascertain how best we can help to address the noise impact faced by the Ronald MacDonald House, we have further discussed the issue with some Legislative Council Members. Paragraphs 4 to 7 below outline our further consideration of the matter and our proposal to alleviate the noise impact on the House.

4. We note that the Ronald MacDonald House is a hostel for the families of children with serious illness receiving treatment at the nearby Prince of Wales Hospital. We also note that these children may also stay in the House with their families while receiving treatment. It is a case of very special nature and after careful consideration, we accept Members' request for providing noise impact mitigation measures for the Ronald MacDonald House as an exceptional case.

5. We have studied the various alternative noise mitigation measures for the Ronald MacDonald House. As it is situated at a level higher than To Shek Street and it more or less levels with the flyover of Sha Lek Road, any noise mitigation measures at To Shek Street such as noise barrier or low noise road surfacing will not be effective in reducing the overall traffic noise level at the House. The noise barrier can only reduce the overall noise level at the Ronald MacDonald House by 0.6 dB(A), whereas low noise road surfacing can only reduce the overall noise level by 0.3 dB(A).

6. Since direct noise mitigation measures are not effective to reduce the overall noise level at the Ronald MacDonald House, we consider that air-conditioning and window insulation should be provided as a last resort. As the House is equipped with full air-conditioning facilities, there is no need for any further such provision. For window insulation, we shall replace the panes of the affected windows with 8 millimetres thick ones for better acoustic insulation. We have discussed this proposal with the Manager of the Ronald MacDonald House, who is receptive to the proposed measure.

7. The cost of the window insulation work will be \$200,000. We will charge it to **177CL** as part of the cost for providing noise mitigation measures.
