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28 September 2007

Clerk to the Panel on Security
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong
(Attn : Mrs Sharon TONG)

Dear Mrs Tong,

**Legislative Council Panel on Security
Provision of Emergency Ambulance Services**

I refer to the list of follow-up actions as at 30 May 2007 and would like to provide the Administration's response to Item 3 on the list.

Quantitative Analyses of the Additional Demand for Emergency Ambulance Service Arising from Various Developments (e.g. the opening of Diseyland, development of Lantau Island, etc.)

In general, the demand for emergency ambulance service (EAS) is affected by, *inter alia*, the size of the population (including resident and transient population), the demographic structure, and the level of economic activities. The Fire Services Department (FSD) has no available information for assessing whether the occurrence of such calls is exclusively due to certain activity or development. However, in the case of an ambulance depot with a specific catchment area, FSD is able to isolate the EAS calls from the area. For example, in the case of Penny's Bay, the breakdown of the number of calls from the area in the past few years is as follows :

Year	2005	2006	2007 (up to 30 June)
Number of EAS Calls	442	647	245

Note : The Penny's Bay Ambulance Depot was put into operation on 21 December 2004. The Hong Kong Disneyland was opened on 12 September 2005.

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Regarding the manpower for the provision of EAS, given the rising demand in recent years, FSD has obtained exceptional approval in the past few years to recruit disciplined grade staff despite the general civil service recruitment freeze. 216 ambulance personnel were recruited in three years from 2004-05 to 2006-07. Further recruitment exercises are being conducted. FSD will continue to keep in view the manpower requirements in light of the latest service needs.

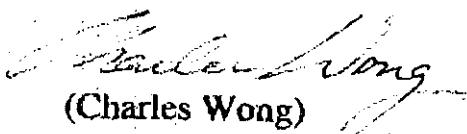
Response Time Performance in the New Territories before and after the Introduction of the Third Generation Mobilising System

The Third Generation Mobilising System (TGMS) was put into operation in the New Territories (NT) on 1 March 2005. The response time performance (RTP) in the six-month periods before and after the introduction of TGMS in the NT is as follows.

Month	Before introduction of TGMS in the N.T.						After introduction of TGMS in the N.T.					
	Sept 2004	Oct 2004	Nov 2004	Dec 2004	Jan 2005	Feb 2005	Mar 2005	Apr 2005	May 2005	Jun 2005	Jul 2005	Aug 2005
RTP (NT)	88.5%	90.3%	90.0%	89.5%	88.6%	89.6%	80.7%	86.8%	85.0%	86.3%	88.3%	88.8%

The average RTP in the NT continued to improve in 2006 (90.8%) and in the first half of 2007 (91.0%)

Yours sincerely,


(Charles Wong)
for Secretary for Security

c.c. Director of Fire Services (Attn : Mr CHAN Chor-kam)