

政府總部
運輸及房屋局
運輸科
香港下亞厘畢道
中區政府合署



Transport and
Housing Bureau
Government Secretariat
Transport Branch
Central Government Offices
Lower Albert Road
Hong Kong

本局檔號 Our Ref. THB CR 5/1951/82
來函檔號 Your Ref. CB1/PI/ES
電話號碼 Tel. No. 2810 2765
傳真號碼 Fax No. 2524 9397

9 August 2007

Clerk to Panel on Economic Services
Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
3/F., Citibank Tower
3 Garden Road, Hong Kong
(Attn : Ms Connie Szeto)

Dear Ms Szeto,

Panel on Economic Services

**The provision of a domestic heliport at the HKCEC
and the draft Wan Chai North OZP**

I refer to your letter of 20 July 2007. After consulting the Development Bureau, Security Bureau, Civil Aviation Department and Wan Chai District Office, we would like to set out the Administration's consolidated responses to the concerns raised by the Hong Kong Regional Heliport Working Group (RHWG) in its letter of 22 June 2007.

Motion by the Panels and Capacity of the Helipad

The Legislative Council (LegCo) Panel on Economic Services and the LegCo Panel on Planning, Lands and Works passed a motion on 28 February 2005, "urging the Government to expedite the provision of a permanent commercial heliport and associated facilities in the central

business district of the Hong Kong Island, and, under the principle of no unlawful reclamation, allow the heliport at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre to accommodate both commercial uses by helicopter operators and government uses”.

In response to the motion, the Administration conducted a further round of site search and confirmed that no suitable sites within the Central Business District could be identified other than a site in front of the Western Park Sports Centre in Sheung Wan, which was previously identified as suitable for heliport development but was objected to by the RHWG.

The Administration took on board the Panels’ request for the planned Government helipad at the north-eastern corner of the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre to accommodate both Government and commercial uses. On 25 July 2005, the Administration explained to the Panels a proposal that, whilst Government emergency and essential flying services must have priority at all times using the Government helipad, the spare capacity of the helipad would be open to commercial uses at a charge to be determined by the Government.

On 24 October 2005, the Administration informed the Panels that under the shared-use arrangement, the Government helipad with a size of about 2,700m² would provide a sufficient capacity to meet the forecast demand for domestic helicopter services up to 2020 and a technical feasibility study would be conducted to take the shared-use proposal forward.

The Administration has since engaged a consultant to conduct the technical feasibility study and inputs from the industry including the RHWG have been sought. We will continue to keep the Panels informed of the progress of this matter.

Public Engagement and Planning Review

The Administration has noted the RHWG’s active participation in the Harbour-front Enhancement Review – Wan Chai, Causeway Bay and Adjoining Areas (HER) conducted by the Harbour-front Enhancement Committee (HEC) in which the RHWG’s expansion proposal of the planned government helipad has been fully considered. The views of the RHWG on the planned helipad site, together with other views of the public on the proposed amendments to the draft Wan Chai

North Outline Zoning Plan (OZP), were included in the Public Engagement Report for the Realization Stage of the HER project which was presented to the Town Planning Board for consideration. The Town Planning Board endorsed the Government's helipad proposal as the basis for amending the draft Wan Chai North OZP No. S/H25/1. Accordingly, the Government's helipad proposal is now reflected in the proposed amendments to the draft OZP gazetted on 27 July 2007 under section 6(7) of the pre-amended Town Planning Ordinance.

The Administration appreciates the RHWG's assistance in obtaining community support for the shared-use of the planned helipad in Wan Chai by commercial operators. However, Wan Chai District Council (WCDC) members' latest views are divided. When the RHWG briefed the Planning, Transport and Environmental Protection Committee of the WCDC in May 2007, some members expressed support for the shared-use by commercial operators provided that Government emergency helicopter service must have priority at all times and the nearby residents would be consulted before the decision was made. Others were concerned about the noise nuisance to the surrounding area. The survey carried out in the Realization Stage of the HER has indicated that 49% of the respondents accepted the planned government helipad at its current size as shown in the Concept Plan for Wan Chai Development Phase II. The HEC has not received many expressed views that supported the RHWG's expansion proposal of the helipad site.

Cross-boundary Services

As regards cross-boundary helicopter services, the Administration estimates that most additional demand for the services would come from travels between Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta Region (PRD). While the Administration is proactively pursuing with the Mainland authorities the operation of cross-boundary services, the heliport at the rooftop of Macau Ferry Terminal (MFT) should be sufficient to meet the forecast services demand, including those from the PRD, up to at least 2015 when the expansion works now underway are completed in 2009. Since the MFT heliport is an elevated heliport, in accordance with the standards promulgated by the International Civil Aviation Organisation, single-engine helicopters are not allowed to operate on it for aviation safety reasons. To facilitate the long-term development of cross-boundary helicopter services, the Administration has reserved a site in the Kai Tak Development area for use as a second cross-boundary heliport in the future. The Kai Tak heliport at the tip of

the former airport runway is on ground level and hence can allow operations of single-engine helicopters. The Administration hopes the industry will continue to support the planned heliport at Kai Tak.

Yours sincerely,



(Esmond Lee)
for Secretary for Transport and Housing

cc Secretary for Development (Attn: Ms Lydia Lam)
Secretary for Security
Director-General of Civil Aviation
District Officer (Wan Chai)