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9 April 2009

Ms Joanne Mak
Clerk to Bills Committee
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road, Central
Hong Kong

Dear Ms Mak,

**Bills Committee on Road Traffic (Driving-offence Points) (DOP)
(Amendment) Bill 2009**

At the Bills Committee meeting on 30 March, members asked for the number of cases of successful execution of non-appearance arrest warrants issued to persons who committed scheduled DOP offences and failed to appear in court in recent years.

We have checked with the Judiciary for the information over the past 3 years. The position as at early April 2009 is summarized in the table below:

	2006	2007	2008
No. of DOP-incurred traffic summonses	23,519	24,243	27,651
No. of non-appearance arrest warrants ('NAW') ¹ issued against the above summonses	129	152	172
No. of NAW executed	116	131	100
Successful execution rate (%)	90%	86%	58%

¹ The number was net of the NAW cancelled. NAW would be cancelled as a result of appearance of the defendant at court shortly after the NAW was issued.

The execution rates for non-appearance arrest warrants arising from summonses issued in 2006 and 2007 are consistently over 80%. We expect the same level of execution will be achieved for 2008 over time.

At previous meetings, an execution rate of about 80% was mentioned. This rate was arrived at by comparing the total number of traffic arrest warrants received and executed by the Police in 2008 in respect of all traffic offences (including those traffic summonses that do not incur DOP). The basis for arriving at this rate is different from those presented in paragraph 2 above, which is confined to DOP-incurred traffic summonses issued in respective years.

Yours sincerely,

(Rosanna Law)

for Secretary for Transport and Housing