



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部食物及衛生局
Food and Health Bureau, Government Secretariat
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

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4 June 2009

Clerk to the Panel on Health Services
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong
(Attn: Miss Mary SO)

Dear Miss So,

Legislative Council Panel on Health Services

Implementation of Fixed Penalty System for Smoking Offences and Designation of No Smoking Areas at Public Transport Interchanges

At the meeting of the Panel on Health Services on 20 April, the Administration was requested to provide the details of and timetable for the preparation of designating no smoking areas (NSAs) at the 48 covered public transport interchanges (PTIs) on 1 September 2009.

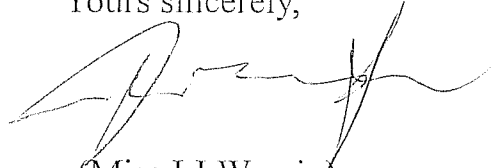
The Administration has undertaken to introduce a fixed penalty system (FPS) after the enactment of the Smoking (Public Health) (Amendment) Ordinance 2006 and to designate no smoking areas at PTIs. Since the passage of the Fixed Penalty (Smoking Offences) Bill in July 2008, the Department of Health (DH) has been coordinating the preparatory work for implementing the FPS including setting up the Fixed Penalty Information System and putting in place the necessary administrative infrastructure.

In parallel, DH has also commenced preparatory work for designating no smoking areas at PTIs. After conducting repeated sites inspections and consultation with relevant government departments (including Lands Department, Transport Department and Department of Justice), the Tobacco Control Office (TCO) of DH identified some 220 PTIs that fulfil the specification in the law for designation as no smoking areas under the Smoking (Public Health) Ordinance. These include 91 covered PTIs, amongst which 43 already fall within the definition of "indoor" under the Ordinance and are thus already NSAs where smoking is prohibited at present.

DH is now proceeding to designate no smoking areas in the remaining 48 covered PTIs starting 1 September 2009. The production of plans and the relevant topographical survey service were contracted out in late 2008 and completed in May 2009. We are now seeking the views of the respective District Councils on the designation of no smoking areas in these 48 PTIs. The necessary notice for the designation is expected to be published in the Gazette by end June and tabled at the Legislative Council within the current Legislative session.

As far as publicity is concerned, we informed relevant venue managers and property owners of the impending new measures and solicited their support. DH is now preparing for the related publicity activities which will be launched about one month before the implementation. The publicity activities will include announcements in public interest on both radio and television, as well as the display and distribution of posters, pamphlets, stickers, and other publicity materials to relevant venue managers and the public. TCO will also take steps to ensure that no-smoking banners and signs are displayed at conspicuous locations within the NSAs of the PTIs to remind the public of the smoking ban.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'LI Wan-in', written in a cursive style.

(Miss LI Wan-in)
for Secretary for Food and Health

C.C.

Director of Health

(Attn: Dr Ronald Lam)