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By Fax (2509 9055)

Mr Thomas Wong
Clerk to the Legislative Council Panel on Home Affairs
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central
Hong Kong

27 September 2011

Dear Mr Wong,

**Follow-up to the meeting of the Joint Panels
on Home Affairs and Education**

At the meeting of the Joint Panels on Home Affairs and Education held on 13 May 2011, Members discussed the paper "Promotion of Sport in Schools" (LC Paper No.: CB(2)1700/10-11(3)), and the Administration was requested to provide supplementary information relating to the use of public sports facilities by schools. The Administration's response is now enclosed for Members' reference, please.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Benjamin MOK'.

(Benjamin MOK)
for Secretary for Home Affairs

c.c. Secretary for Education
(Attn: Dr Cheung Kwok-wah)

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Director of Leisure and Cultural Services
(Attn: Mr Bobby Cheng)

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For Information**Legislative Council Joint Panels on Home Affairs and Education –
Supplementary Information on Schools using major public sports facilities**

At the meeting of the Joint Panels on Home Affairs and Education held on 13 May 2011, Members discussed the paper “Promotion of Sport in Schools” (LC Paper No.: CB(2)1700/10-11(3)). Members noted that the number of hours that schools used public sports facilities had declined between 2008-09 and 2010-11, and asked for information on –

- (a) the reasons for the decrease in the total number of hours that schools used public sports facilities during the period; and
- (b) a breakdown of the hours of schools’ use of facilities by district.

Possible factors contributing to the decrease in the number of hours that schools used public sports facilities between 2008-09 and 2010-11

2. The extent to which schools use public sports facilities depends on their specific needs and circumstances. We cannot pinpoint with certainty the precise reasons for an increase or decrease in their facilities use. We have nonetheless identified factors that may have had an impact on the extent of schools’ use of public sports facilities between 2008-09 and 2010-11. These factors are –

- (a) *A decrease in the total number of primary and secondary school students between 2008-09 and 2010-11*

Primary and secondary day school students account for over 99% of the total number of students in day schools in Hong Kong. Between 2008-09 and 2010-11, the number of students enrolled in day schools decreased – there was a 10% reduction in the number of primary school students (from 365 056 to 331 112), and 6% in the number of secondary schools students (from 478 173 to 449 737). With fewer students, the demand for sports facilities by schools is likely to decline.

- (b) *A decrease in the number of day schools in Hong Kong between 2008-09 and 2010-11*

As well as a reduction in the number of students, there was a decrease of 23 day schools in Hong Kong between 2008-09 and 2010-11. In districts where more day schools closed, we note a corresponding trend in the decrease in the number of hours that schools used sports facilities

(especially for indoor sports centres). These districts include Tai Po, Sha Tin, Tuen Mun and Wan Chai.

(c) An increase in the number of schools opening their facilities for sports activities.

The Government encourages schools to open their facilities after school hours to other schools for training and competitions. The number of schools that open their facilities to use by other schools has increased from 22 in 2007 to 61 in 2011. This arrangement has increased the number of options schools have for organising sports activities for students and may have reduced their reliance on Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) sports facilities.

(d) An increase in the closure of LCSD's sports facilities for maintenance in 2010-11

As several public sports facilities were used as competition venues for the Hong Kong 2009 East Asian Games, many other facilities that were due to be closed for maintenance and refurbishment around the games period remained open, and the refurbishment works were postponed to 2010-11, when 14 LCSD sports facilities were closed from about 3 weeks to 5 months (see the list at Annex I) at different times of the year. Their closure may have contributed to the decrease in the number of hours that schools used such facilities in 2010-11, as fewer sessions were available for booking.

Breakdown of hours of schools' use of facilities by district

3. The breakdown of the number of total hours of schools' use of sports facilities by the 18 districts is set out at Annexes II and III. There was an overall increase in the use of sports facilities by schools in a few districts, however, in most districts there was a reduction in the number of hours that schools used public sports facilities. The usage rates for some specific facilities in individual districts fluctuated significantly over the period in question, and we will work in greater depth into the possible reasons for this.

Conclusion

4. We will continue to encourage schools to book and use public sports facilities by taking measures such as allowing priority booking by schools and free use of facilities by schools at non-peak hours¹. We will continue to provide new

¹ Schools can reserve facilities one school year in advance for the period from September to mid-July of the following year. This priority booking arrangement applies during normal schools hours, i.e., from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm on weekdays and 7:00 am to 1:00 pm on Saturdays. For swimming pools the arrangement generally applies to the period from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm on weekdays and 8:00 am to 1:00 pm on

sports facilities and improve schools-oriented sports promotion programmes with the aim of ensuring that every school child has the opportunity to play sport, in line with our policy for promoting sport in the community.

Home Affairs Bureau
September 2011

Saturdays. Schools are also allowed to use specified facilities free of charge from opening to 5:00 pm on weekdays between 1 September and 30 June of the following year.

Annex I

**Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Sports Centres Closed for Maintenance in 2010-11**

District	Name of Sports Centre	Closure Period
Eastern	1. Sai Wan Ho Sports Centre	September to October 2010
Yau Tsim Mong	2. Kwun Chung Sports Centre	November 2010
Sham Shui Po	3. Pei Ho Street Sports Centre	September 2010 to February 2011
	4. Shek Kip Mei Park Sports Centre	April 2010
Kowloon City	5. Kowloon City Sports Centre	October 2010
	6. Fat Kwong Street Sports Centre	1 to 27 November 2010
	7. Hung Hom Municipal Services Sports Centre	16 November to 15 December 2010
Wong Tai Sin	8. Ngau Chi Wan Sports Centre	October to December 2010
Kwai Tsing	9. Osman Ramju Sadick Memorial Sports Centre	3 March to 25 June 2010
Tsuen Wan	10. Tsuen Wan West Sports Centre	November to December 2010
Tuen Mun	11. Leung Tin Sports Centre	6 to 31 December 2010
Sha Tin	12. Ma On Shan Sports Centre	April to June 2010
Tai Po	13. Tai Po Sports Centre	April to June 2010
North	14. Luen Wo Hui Sports Centre	November 2010 to January 2011

Remarks : The closure of 14 sports centres at different times in a single year was an exceptional arrangement mainly as a result of the 2009 East Asia Games during which time the normal maintenance and refurbishment programme was postponed.

Annex II**Schools' use of major sports facilities (Overall)**

Facilities	Total hours of schools use		
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Indoor Sports Centres - Arena	153 512	134 255	121 270
Sports Grounds	14 555	13 598	13 752
Artificial Turf Pitches	7 800	6 683	6 389
Natural Turf Pitches	3 748	3 293	3 042
Squash Courts	19 450	17 213	16 981
Tennis Courts	18 094	15 806	14 617

Annex III**Schools' use of major sports facilities By District**

The use of major sports facilities by schools (Central and Western District)

Facilities	Hours used by Schools		
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Indoor Sports Centres - Arena	10 889	11 717	13 532
Sports Grounds	--	--	--
Artificial Turf Pitches #	--	--	115
Natural Turf Pitches	--	--	--
Squash Courts	1 549	1 876	1 624
Tennis Courts	--	--	--

Note :

A new artificial turf pitch at Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park was opened on 1 November 2010.

The use of major sports facilities by schools (Wan Chai District)

Facilities	Hours used by Schools		
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Indoor Sports Centres - Arena	4 667	4 622	4 119
Sports Grounds	774	936	1 161
Artificial Turf Pitches	1 122	875	963
Natural Turf Pitches	1 430	1 439	1 384
Squash Courts	637	551	569
Tennis Courts	3 173	3 084	2 386

The use of major sports facilities by schools (Eastern District)

Facilities	Hours used by Schools		
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Indoor Sports Centres - Arena #	7 032	5 817	5 406
Sports Grounds	991	619	802
Artificial Turf Pitches	1 043	867	733
Natural Turf Pitches	--	--	--
Squash Courts	976	638	542
Tennis Courts	1 686	1 418	1 496

Note :

Sai Wan Ho Sports Centre was closed for maintenance between September and October 2010.

The use of major sports facilities by schools (Southern District)

Facilities	Hours used by Schools		
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Indoor Sports Centres - Arena	6 189	3 794	3 599
Sports Grounds	844	783	776
Artificial Turf Pitches	606	585	569
Natural Turf Pitches	131	101	103
Squash Courts	368	314	585
Tennis Courts	636	463	1 115

The use of major sports facilities by schools (Yau Tsim Mong District)

Facilities	Hours used by Schools		
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Indoor Sports Centres – Arena #	12 046	11 284	8 289
Sports Grounds	--	--	--
Artificial Turf Pitches	743	488	317
Natural Turf Pitches	--	--	--
Squash Courts	900	491	619
Tennis Courts	749	534	275

Note :

Kwun Chung Sports Centre was closed for maintenance in November 2010.

The use of major sports facilities by schools (Sham Shui Po District)

Facilities	Hours used by Schools		
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Indoor Sports Centres – Arena #	10 565	8 819	7 223
Sports Grounds	851	711	820
Artificial Turf Pitches ^	221	--	--
Natural Turf Pitches	658	731	740
Squash Courts	1 824	2 612	3 214
Tennis Courts	712	844	892

Note :

Pei Ho Street Sports Centre was closed for maintenance between September 2010 and February 2011. Shek Kip Mei Park Sports Centre was closed for maintenance in April 2010.

^ Tai Hang Tung Recreation Ground was closed from 5 May 2008.

The use of major sports facilities by schools (Kowloon City District)

Facilities	Hours used by Schools		
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Indoor Sports Centres – Arena #	9 085	8 681	7 472
Sports Grounds	1 446	1 496	1 408
Artificial Turf Pitches	557	584	303
Natural Turf Pitches@	432	189	198
Squash Courts	69	63	45
Tennis Courts	410	405	490

Note :

Three sports centres were closed for maintenance in 2010/11. Kowloon City Sports Centre was closed on October 2010, Fat Kwong Street Sports Centre was closed between 1.11.2010 and 27.11.2010 while Hung Hom Municipal Services Building Sports Centre was closed between 16.11.2010 and 16.12.2010.

@ The Tin Kwong Road Recreation Ground (TKRRG) was closed for maintenance between June to September 2009.

The use of major sports facilities by schools (Wong Tai Sin District)

Facilities	Hours used by Schools		
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Indoor Sports Centres – Arena #	9 605	7 888	7 081
Sports Grounds	911	886	828
Artificial Turf Pitches	674	531	399
Natural Turf Pitches	56	57	23
Squash Courts	549	883	417
Tennis Courts	1 118	962	958

Note :

- # Ngau Chi Wan Sports Centre was closed for maintenance between October and December 2010.

The use of major sports facilities by schools (Kwun Tong District)

Facilities	Hours used by Schools		
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Indoor Sports Centres - Arena	13 545	14 781	12 367
Sports Grounds	942	876	811
Artificial Turf Pitches	543	351	490
Natural Turf Pitches [#]	273	167	27
Squash Courts	482	744	734
Tennis Courts [^]	627	731	1 162

[#] The natural turf at Kwun Tong Recreation Ground was closed for redevelopment since November 2009 and the natural turf pitch at Kowloon Bay Park has been selected as the home venue for staging the first division football match since September 2009.

[^] In 2010-11, more schools applied for using the tennis courts at Ping Shek Playground, Hong Ning Road Park and Shun Lee Tsuen Park Playground.

The use of major sports facilities by schools (Islands District)

Facilities	Hours used by Schools		
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Indoor Sports Centres - Arena	3 967	3 460	5 439
Sports Grounds	203	141	178
Artificial Turf Pitches	284	350	360
Natural Turf Pitches	--	--	--
Squash Courts	244	207	188
Tennis Courts	63	48	54

The use of major sports facilities by schools (Kwai Tsing District)

Facilities	Hours used by Schools		
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Indoor Sports Centres – Arena #	12 437	8 892	8 173
Sports Grounds	1 207	1 182	970
Artificial Turf Pitches ^	--	--	77
Natural Turf Pitches	207	129	116
Squash Courts	2 120	1 063	1 073
Tennis Courts	829	625	546

Note :

Osman Ramju Sadick Memorial Sports Centre was closed for maintenance from 3 March and 25 June 2010.

^ A new artificial turf pitch at Tsing Yi Northeast Park was opened for public since 7 June 2011.

The use of major sports facilities by schools (Tsuen Wan District)

Facilities	Hours used by Schools		
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Indoor Sports Centres – Arena #	7 314	5 832	3 755
Sports Grounds	630	235	460
Artificial Turf Pitches	--	--	--
Natural Turf Pitches	123	63	74
Squash Courts [^]	1 195	962	890
Tennis Courts	192	76	86

Note :

Tsuen Wan West Sports Centre was closed for maintenance between November and December 2010.

[^] The Squash courts at Tsuen King Circuit Sports Centre were closed for maintenance during November to December 2010 while one of the courts at the Tsuen Wan West Sports Centre was closed for renovation between 22 January 2011 and 18 March 2011.

The use of major sports facilities by schools (Tuen Mun District)

Facilities	Hours used by Schools		
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Indoor Sports Centres – Arena #	13 446	12 170	9 856
Sports Grounds	1 071	980	1 048
Artificial Turf Pitches	353	375	435
Natural Turf Pitches	96	125	51
Squash Courts	1 810	1 385	1 773
Tennis Courts	2 193	2 110	1 458

Note :

Leung Tin Sports Centre was closed for maintenance between 6 and 31 December 2010.

The use of major sports facilities by schools (Yuen Long District)

Facilities	Hours used by Schools		
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Indoor Sports Centres -- Arena	10 669	9 141	9 453
Sports Grounds	1 504	1 505	1 442
Artificial Turf Pitches	--	--	--
Natural Turf Pitches	63	47	62
Squash Courts	2 360	1 772	1 589
Tennis Courts	539	383	426

The use of major sports facilities by schools (Sha Tin District)

Facilities	Hours used by Schools		
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Indoor Sports Centres – Arena #	5 572	4 541	4 748
Sports Grounds	1 332	1 231	1 037
Artificial Turf Pitches	566	680	793
Natural Turf Pitches	59	34	56
Squash Courts	1 516	1 372	1 057
Tennis Courts@	3 114	1 922	1 939

Note :

Ma On Shan Sports Centre was closed for maintenance between April 2010 and June 2010.

@ The tennis courts at Tsang Tai Uk Recreation Ground were closed for maintenance one by one between April 2010 and August 2011.

The use of major sports facilities by schools (Tai Po District)

Facilities	Hours used by Schools		
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Indoor Sports Centres – Arena #	7 881	4 756	3 265
Sports Grounds	568	673	592
Artificial Turf Pitches	419	356	293
Natural Turf Pitches	--	--	--
Squash Courts	1 896	1 381	1 596
Tennis Courts	753	732	581

Note :

Tai Po Sports Centre was closed for maintenance between April to June 2010.

The use of major sports facilities by schools (North District)

Facilities	Hours used by Schools		
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Indoor Sports Centres – Arena #	5 032	3 679	2 283
Sports Grounds	731	734	656
Artificial Turf Pitches	405	318	273
Natural Turf Pitches	217	207	206
Squash Courts	689	603	191
Tennis Courts	570	720	416

Note :

Luen Wo Hui Sports Centre was closed for maintenance between November 2010 and January 2011.

The use of major sports facilities by schools (Sai Kung District)

Facilities	Hours used by Schools		
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Indoor Sports Centres – Arena	3 571	4 381	5 210
Sports Grounds	550	610	763
Artificial Turf Pitches	264	323	269
Natural Turf Pitches	3	4	2
Squash Courts	266	296	275
Tennis Courts#	730	749	337

The tennis courts at Po Tsui Park were closed for renovation between October and December 2010.