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入境事務處

Immigration Department

14 December 2011

Clerk to the Panel on Manpower
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Complex,
1 Legislative Council Road,
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn.: Mr. Raymond LAM)
Fax: 2869 6794

Dear Mr. LAM,

**Legislative Council Panel on Manpower Meeting on 17 May 2011
Follow-up Items**

The Panel on Manpower discussed the performance of driving duties by foreign domestic helpers (FDHs) at its meeting on 17 May 2011. The responses to the two follow-up items are as follows:

Suggestion to Display Labels on Vehicles

Under the prevailing arrangement, an application for special permission by an FDH will only be approved when the employer provides full justification that his/her FDH has to perform driving duties incidental to and arising from the five broad categories of domestic duties (namely household chores, cooking, looking after aged persons in the household, baby-sitting and child-minding). An FDH must not perform driving duties unless special permission is given. This restriction becomes a condition of stay imposed on the FDH in Hong Kong. Apart from following up complaints, enforcement officers also conduct enforcement actions, investigate suspicious cases and prosecute FDHs who have breached this condition of stay.

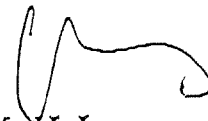
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At the captioned meeting, a member suggested that a prescribed label should be issued to an employer, whose FDH has been granted permission to perform driving duties, to display on the vehicle for identification purpose. After considering the suggestion, the Administration has reservation on its effectiveness. Displaying the label on a vehicle would merely indicate that the Immigration Department has given special permission to a particular FDH to perform driving duties with that vehicle but would not indicate if the FDH driving the vehicle is the one who has been given the special permission or if that FDH has violated the special permission. Notwithstanding the display of the label, enforcement officers would still need to conduct further investigation to confirm whether an FDH is performing driving duties illegally. As such, the label should have little practical use to enforcement work.

Number of FDHs Holding Valid Hong Kong Driving Licence

A member enquired the number of FDHs holding valid Hong Kong driving licence. The Transport Department does not classify driving licence holders according to occupation and thus the concerned figure is not available.

Yours sincerely,



K H Leung
for Director of Immigration