

To <esnliu@legco.gov.hk>

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Subject Ad Hoc Quota Trial Scheme for Cross-boundary Private Cars

Dear sir / madam,

I write to object to the above scheme on 2 grounds.

First of all the Hong Kong road system can barely cope with the present number of vehicles on our roads with traffic jams and congestion a common occurrence in many areas.

Increasing the number of cars will result in more congestion, especially as visitors from the Mainland will likely want to visit the built up areas of Hong Kong where most tourist attractions exist. Of course 50 cars is not a lot but I can confidently predict that this initial number will surely increase over time.

My second point is the standard of driving on the Mainland. I have visited several cities in China over a number of years and every time I go I am astonished at the local drivers' total lack of respect for any sort of highway code or for the safety of other road users. To imagine that drivers allowed to come to Hong Kong will not bring these extremely bad habits with them is to believe in miracles.

Assessing the prospective driver's ability and mindset is impossible – a paper licence shows that the applicant has passed a test or otherwise obtained a licence – it in no way shows his driving ability and frame of mind. Allowing such people into Hong Kong will give rise to more road accidents and deaths – totally negating the aim of "zero accidents on the road – Hong Kong's goal".

I realize of course that this initiative is but one of the Government's steps to fully integrate Hong Kong with the Mainland – something that Beijing has no doubt requested by the year 2047.

I can only hope that you can resist this particular bit of the integration programme for as long as possible – ensuring a safer traffic environment for all Hong Kong citizens.

Regards  
Derek Mackay