

中華人民共和國  
香港特別行政區政府  
政務司司長辦公室



CHIEF SECRETARY  
FOR ADMINISTRATION'S OFFICE  
Government of the Hong Kong  
Special Administrative Region  
of the People's Republic of China

3 June 2013

The Hon Jasper Tsang Yok-sing, GBS, JP  
President  
Legislative Council  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central  
Hong Kong

Dear President,

### The 2014 Policy Address

I am writing to inform you that, after careful consideration, the Chief Executive has decided to deliver his next Policy Address in January 2014. We will also adhere to this timing for the delivery of the Chief Executive's Policy Address for the rest of this term of the government. Let me explain the Administration's rationale for this arrangement.

Taking account of this year's experience, we consider that there are obvious merits in narrowing the time gap between the Policy Address and the Budget in terms of preparation, consultations and implementation. The arrangement enables better coordination and interaction between policy formulation and budgetary planning. It facilitates more comprehensive consultations and informed discussions with Legislative Council (LegCo) Members, various stakeholders and the community at large, such that policy initiative proposals could be considered having regard to public finance priorities. By shortening the time gap between the Policy Address and the Budget, this also ensures that initiatives announced in the Policy Address that require new funding in the subsequent fiscal year will be implemented in the earliest possible. With the two documents delivered back-to-back, they will provide the public with a holistic picture of the Government's comprehensive

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policy initiatives, set against the overall economic situation and relevant fiscal measures.

We have considered the option of reverting to delivering the Policy Address in October and bringing forward the Budget date so that the two can dovetail with each other. However, this is found not feasible as the Budget is constrained by the financial year cycle which runs from April till end March every year. On balance, we are of the view that the optimal arrangements will be for the Chief Executive to deliver his Policy Address in January, followed by the Financial Secretary's Budget in late February/early March.

To facilitate the preparation of the Legislative Council calendar, we aim to finalise the exact dates of the 2014 Policy Address and the 2014-15 Budget by end June. I have asked the Director of Administration to liaise with the LegCo Secretariat on this front.

I also mentioned the above arrangements to the Chairman and Vice-chairman of the House Committee at my regular meeting with them earlier today and sought the Chairman's assistance in informing Members of our plan at the coming House Committee meeting.

Yours sincerely,



( Mrs Carrie Lam )  
Chief Secretary for Administration

c.c. Chairman, House Committee  
SG, LegCo Secretariat