

From: panel_t/LEGCO

To:

Date: Thursday, August 22, 2013 09:44AM

Subject: Fw: Written Submission by Helen Le, representative of The Lion Rock Institute - Panel on Transport - Meeting (2013-07-19, Friday)

To: panel_t@legco.gov.hk

From: Wilson Li <>

Date: 08/21/2013 02:15PM

Subject: Written Submission by Helen Le, representative of The Lion Rock Institute - Panel on Transport - Meeting (2013-07-19, Friday)

Below is the written submission of the speech given by Helen Le in the meeting of Panel on Transport, 19 July, 2013.

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As the last person to speak, I will not be surprised if I am one of the first to mention the real people that are being hurt in this situation, those that want and need their drivers licence.

It saddens me as I see the learner that doesn't receive their licence due to the shortage that is currently being faced. This is a problem I have witnessed on paper and this is an issue I have witnessed amongst my peers. When I first decided to talk about this issue, the first person that comes to mind is my close friend, who had to wait 9 months to get her licence. This was not from a flaw on her behalf, but due to the failures within our system.

When my eyes turn to the street, I see that father, working a hard job on a minimum wage. As a secondary school drop out, all he wants to do is to improve himself to help support his family. With little qualifications, he tries to become a driver in order to earn more money. He too, must wait to get his license. Time after time, delay after delay and he cannot even get his license. If it took my friend 9 months to get her license, how long will it take him and how long will his family have to struggle?

When I compare this to the experience I had attaining my licence back home in Australia, I remind myself how easy it was. One call was all it took to book my first lesson. Within 2-3 months I was ready for my test. When I compare this to my friend, she had to wait 3 times the amount of time I did. It is that moment when you sit in your car, with the window rolled down, wind in your hair, that moment you feel freedom and the right to adulthood. This is the feeling my friend had to wait 9 months for.

Hong Kong has placed a restriction on the number of private driving instructors out there. This limit is just an arbitrary number created for the vested interest of someone else. Standing before me, I see those that want their voices heard. Why is there even a restriction to the amount of licenses issued? Who determines this arbitrary number? How is it even determined? What will happen after people get their lessons? What about the number of licensing centres available for testing? These are the questions the Lion Rock imposes. It is quite ironic that the government places such a great emphasis on increasing the value of ourselves, yet they refuse people the simple right to get their licence without a great delay.

If a driving instructor is competent, safe and can pass the test, why should he be unable to teach that group of vehicle? If we are in need of more instructors to teach learners, there is no reason for this restriction. It is these barriers that become the issue, and it is these barriers that need to be eradicated to fix the actual issue. We are here so that father, that friend or that colleague can get the licence they need.