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來函檔號 YOUR REF: CB2/PL/HA

21 March 2014

Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn: Ms Alice LEUNG)

Dear Ms LEUNG,

**Panel on Home Affairs
Leisure Link Computerised Booking System**

I refer to your letter dated 19 February 2014 conveying the views of the public on the booking of leisure facilities of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) by non-Hong Kong residents. Further to our interim reply on 24 February, we are writing to give our reply as follows:

Since its establishment in 2000, the LCSD has inherited the policy of the two former Municipal Councils to allow non-Hong Kong residents to book and use its leisure facilities or participate in its recreation and sports programmes. This arrangement is in line with the policy to promote "Sport for All" and to allow all people, including Hong Kong residents and non-Hong Kong residents working or visiting Hong Kong, to participate in recreation and sports activities and to make bookings through the Leisure Link Computerised Booking System (LLS).

It is clear from the above that the arrangement of allowing non-Hong Kong residents to book and use the leisure facilities or participate in the recreation and sports programmes of the LCSD is not new. However, the LCSD found earlier on that, apart from registering as Leisure Link Patrons (LLPs) online with their Hong Kong identity cards, some members of the public had made multiple registrations by using their travel documents such as passports so as to make bookings in excess of the individual quota. This is unfair as the chances of other people to use the facilities were affected. To prevent the abuse and to act in response to the recommendations made by the Office of the Ombudsman in its direct investigation carried out earlier on, the LCSD introduced the improvement measure of accepting only Hong Kong identity cards for registration as LLPs online on 20 August 2012 after upgrading the computer system. The measure aims to prevent bookings of leisure facilities by members of the public using multiple identities.

Since travel documents are no longer accepted for online registration as LLTPs, visitors or people granted temporary stay in Hong Kong, who are not Hong Kong identity card holders, must register as Leisure Link Temporary Patrons (LLTPs) in order to make bookings online through the LLS. They are required to apply in person at the Leisure Link Telephone Services Centre and produce a valid photo-bearing travel document for verification. To standardise the arrangements for online and counter bookings, the arrangement of accepting only Hong Kong identity cards for online bookings has been extended to cover counter bookings with effect from 1 February 2014. Non-Hong Kong residents who wish to book leisure facilities at the counter in advance can only do so after registering as LLTPs at the Leisure Link Telephone Services Centre.

It can be seen that the measure introduced since August 2012 serves to tighten up the booking and registration arrangements of the LLS and to prevent abuse of the booking system by hirers using multiple identities. Non-Hong Kong residents have not been granted any new booking status or more flexible arrangement as a result of this measure. The validity period of a LLTP registration depends on the permitted period of stay of the applicant and shall not exceed six months. During the period of 18 months since the introduction of the measure on 20 August 2012, only 95 people who are not Hong Kong identity card holders applied for LLTP registration. As at 19 February 2014, only 18 LLTP registrations were valid. According to our record, the average number of sessions available for booking through the LLS is about 760 000 per month. During the period from 13 January to 12 February 2014, a total of 17 sessions were booked by LLTPs. The hirers were Australian, French, Japanese, Malaysian, British and American passport holders.

According to the data, since August 2012, only a very small number of non-Hong Kong residents have applied for LLTP registration during their temporary stay in Hong Kong and their usage of the leisure services of the LCSD is very limited, accounting for about 0.004% of the overall usage. The LCSD will continue to closely monitor the utilisation of its leisure facilities and recreation and sports programmes and take more effective measures to prevent abuse.

Thank you for expressing your concerns over the leisure facilities of the LCSD. Should you have any further enquiries, please contact me or Mr Kelvin CHAN, Leisure Manager (Land-based Venues)1 on 2601 8052.

Yours sincerely,



(Ms LAI Mei-ling)

for Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

c.c. Home Affairs Bureau (Attn: Mr William LEUNG)

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