

香港特別行政區政府

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

政府總部
運輸及房屋局
運輸科

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Transport and
Housing Bureau
Government Secretariat

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檔號 YOUR REF.: CB1/PL/TP

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26 September 2014

Panel on Transport
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn: Ms Sophie Lau)

By Fax: 2978 7569

Dear Ms Lau,

Panel on Transport**Motion on****“Illegal carriage of passengers for hire or reward by light goods vehicles”
passed by the Panel on Transport at the meeting on 18 July 2014**

Thank you for your letter of 21 July 2014 regarding the motion passed at the meeting on 18 July 2014. The Administration’s response is set out below.

The role of goods vehicles is to provide service for the carriage of goods. Pursuant to section 52 of the Road Traffic Ordinance, Cap. 374 (“RTO”), a licensed light goods vehicles (“LGVs”) may carry goods for hire and reward. It is an offence for any person to use LGVs for carrying passengers for hire or reward. It is also an offence for a person to solicit or attempt to solicit any person for hire or reward to travel in an LGV.

“LGVs” and “van-type LGVs” are clearly defined under the RTO and its subsidiary legislation. Under the RTO, an LGV (“輕型貨車” in Chinese

rendition) means a goods vehicle having a permitted gross vehicle weight not exceeding 5.5 tonnes. Under the Road Traffic (Registration and Licensing of Vehicles) Regulations, Cap. 374E, a van-type LGV (“客貨車” in Chinese rendition) means an LGV constructed with a fully enclosed body which is an integral part of the vehicle. Instead of making amendment to the Chinese rendition, the Administration considers that publicity and education are the more effective means to increase the public awareness and understanding of the role of LGVs.

To better enhance the understanding of the general public and the LGV trade of the permitted services of LGVs, the Transport Department (“TD”) has all along launched publicity and educational activities through various channels such as the broadcasting of Announcement of Public Interest (“API”). One of the key messages disseminated to the general public is that passengers using illegal transport service may not have the necessary protection since the third party insurance covering the vehicle involved may be invalid in the circumstances. TD has also reminded mobile phone application software companies producing Apps for hiring services of LGVs of the legal requirements for using an LGV.

To further enhance the publicity and education in this respect, the TD has increased the frequency in broadcasting of API on the radio. Starting from September this year, leaflets on the role and permitted use of LGVs have been distributed to the general public and drivers through various channels like tunnels, fuel stations, TD’s Vehicle Examination Centres, TD’s Licensing Offices and District Offices, etc. These publicity materials have been posted to the TD website and the Government homepage (i.e. “GovHK”).

Regarding the suggestion to introduce labelling of LGVs for easy identification, TD is liaising with the LGV trade to examine the feasibility and effectiveness of placing a label on the body of an LGV on a voluntary basis, as part of the publicity programme.

The Police will also continue to monitor the situation and will take enforcement action as and when necessary.

Yours sincerely,

(Miss Ng Yuk-hang)
for Secretary for Transport and Housing

c.c.:

Commissioner for Transport (Attn: Mr Albert Su and Mr Edmond Poon)
(Fax No.: 2824 0433 and 2381 3799)

Commissioner of Police (Attn: Mr Paul Edwin Stripp)
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