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25 February 2015

Secretary General
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn.: Ms Macy NG)

By Email and Fax
(Fax. no.: 2978 7569)

Dear Ms Ng,

**Legislative Council Panel on Transport
Meeting on 25 November 2014
“Universal Accessibility” Programme**

Supplementary Information

At the meeting of the Legislative Council Panel on Transport held on 25 November 2014, some members requested the Government to provide information about the proposals raised by the public for locations outside the ambit of the “Universal Accessibility” Programme and managed by the Hong Kong Housing Authority (“HKHA”) and the MTR Corporation Limited (“MTRCL”), and whether the two organisations would implement these proposals.

As stated in our discussion paper, when the new policy on “Universal Accessibility” was announced in August 2012, we invited members of the public to propose lift locations at public walkways (i.e. public footbridges, elevated walkways and subways maintained by the Highways Department) where they considered necessary. Response from the public was overwhelming, and lift installations at about 250 public walkways were proposed during the period of proposal invitation in 2012.

Moreover, during the period of proposal invitation in 2012, we also received about 2,750 proposals falling outside the ambit of the new policy. They involved about 380 locations, including walkways managed by the HKHA and the MTRCL. After consolidating the relevant information, we have referred the proposals to the related organisations for consideration and follow-up. In this regard, the responses provided by the HKHA and the MTRCL are at **Annex I** and **Annex II** respectively.

Yours sincerely,

(Nicky NG)
for Secretary for Transport and Housing

c.c.

Director of Highways (Attn.: Mr Raymond KONG) (Fax. no.: 2714 5198)

**Proposals Raised by the Public for Locations
outside the Ambit of the “Universal Accessibility” Programme and
Managed by the Hong Kong Housing Authority**

Since 2008, the Hong Kong Housing Authority (“HKHA”) has been implementing a programme to enhance the pedestrian access in existing Public Rental Housing (“PRH”) estates. The enhancement works include the provision of lifts in external areas within PRH estate boundaries to connect elevated platforms with larger level differences and at PRH blocks built without lift services. In the light of the new policy on “Universal Accessibility”, the HKHA has also considered adding lifts beside existing footbridges located within PRH estate boundaries and connecting PRH estates. The Lift Addition Programme has become an on-going programme of the HKHA. To date, the HKHA has installed a total of 70 lifts, six escalators and 18 footbridges in 29 existing PRH estates, where the most urgent needs for lift addition have been addressed.

With respect to the lift addition proposals collected from various regions and referred by the Highways Department, the HKHA will prioritise the proposals as a whole in consideration of factors including topography, existing accessibility of footbridges, social acceptability, technical feasibility, effective use of public resources, etc. The HKHA is now adding 13 lifts in eight estates, which include lifts in external areas and beside existing footbridges within PRH estate boundaries. All the projects are under construction and anticipated to be completed in or before 2017.

The HKHA will continue to listen to and examine lift addition proposals within existing PRH estate boundaries from the public for planning lift addition works in future.

**Proposals Raised by the Public for Locations
outside the Ambit of the “Universal Accessibility” Programme and
Managed by the MTR Corporation Limited**

At present, there is at least one barrier-free access in every MTR station to facilitate the mobility impaired to enter and exit. These accesses are equipped with passenger lifts, wheelchair aids, stair lifts or ramps.

The MTR Corporation Limited (“MTRCL”) strives to, as far as practically feasible, install at each station one lift connecting the concourse and the street level. Up to now, about 90% of MTR stations already have lifts connecting the concourse and the street level, or that the station concourse is either at-grade level, equipped with ramps for wheelchair users or passengers can make use of the lifts at nearby shopping mall or station to enter and exit the station such that lifts are not necessary.

For the remaining eight stations not yet provided with lifts connecting the station concourse and the street level, i.e. Prince Edward, Yau Ma Tei, Shau Kei Wan, Sai Wan Ho, Admiralty, Diamond Hill, Fortress Hill and Tin Hau, lift installation works have already begun at the first five stations. For Diamond Hill Station, the installation works will be carried out alongside the construction works of the Shatin-to-Central Link project. As regards Fortress Hill Station, the MTRCL plans to extend the two existing lifts adjacent to entrance/exit A that are connecting the street level and the mid-level downwards to the underground station concourse. For Tin Hau Station, the MTRCL has studied many different options, but yet to identify a suitable location for lift installation due to geographical, ownership and technical constraints. The MTRCL is actively looking into a feasible option for the installation works. Apart from Tin Hau Station, all other MTR stations are expected to be equipped with lifts (or, lifts are not necessary) by 2018 to facilitate passengers travelling from the station concourse to the street level.

Besides, the MTRCL will also provide one additional lift each at Lai Chi Kok, Tsim Sha Tsui and Lai King Stations. The lift at Lai Chi Kok Station has been in operation since February 2015, while the lift at Tsim Sha Tsui Station is anticipated to be in operation by the second half of 2015 and the lift at Lai King Station by the first half of 2016.