香港特別行政區政府

創新及科技局

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INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY BUREAU

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION

> 26/F, Central Government Offices, 2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar, Hong Kong

> > By Post & E-mail

7 July 2016

Ms Anita Sit Clerk to Finance Committee Legislative Council Legislative Council Complex 1 Legislative Council Road Central, Hong Kong

Dear Ms Sit,

## Finance Committee Meeting on 10 June 2016 Supplementary Information required by the Members for Item FCR(2016-17)38

At the meeting of the Finance Committee on 10 June 2016, when the funding proposal of the Midstream Research Programme for Universities as set out in FCR(2016-17)38 was discussed, Members requested for information on cases under the Innovation and Technology Fund where disbursement of funds was suspended or terminated due to failure to meet project milestones, as well as the gist of discussion between this Bureau and the Education Bureau on midstream research carried out by universities.

In the past five years, 18 research projects under the Innovation and Technology Fund were terminated. Among those projects, two were terminated by the Innovation and Technology Commission due to failure to meet project milestones. Termination of the other 16 projects were initiated by the project coordinators, mostly due to withdrawal of industry co-applicant or failure to collect the pledged industry contribution.

This Bureau has maintained close contact with the Education Bureau in encouraging universities to carry out midstream research, so that more research outcomes could be made available for further downstream research or development of new products or services. We hope that the Midstream Research Programme for Universities, which recently received funding approval by the Finance Committee, will strengthen support for universities funded by the University Grants Committee in conducting theme-based midstream research in key technology areas. We have also suggested to the Education Bureau that, during the process of funding allocation to universities, the work and achievements by universities in midstream and applied research should be taken into consideration.

I should be grateful if you would relay our response to Committee Members for their reference.

Yours sincerely,

(Ricky Chong) for Secretary for Innovation and Technology

c.c.

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