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16 October 2020

Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn: Ms Joanne MAK)
Fax: 2509 9055

Dear Ms MAK,

**Panel on Home Affairs
Supplementary information on participation in the
School Sports Programme**

At the meeting of the Panel on Home Affairs of the Legislative Council on 24 March 2016, the Home Affairs Bureau was requested to provide supplementary information on participation rate in the School Sports Programme (SSP) and the respective reasons for schools not taking part.

The SSP serves to complement the efforts of schools in encouraging students to participate in sports activities during their leisure time. SSP also helps raise the sports performance standard among students, identify potential student athletes for further development and nurture sports volunteers to assist in organising sports activities in schools. Participation in SSP is entirely voluntary.

The participation rate of schools under SSP increased from 90% in 2015-16 to 93% in 2018-19. In 2018-19, over 8 500 sports programmes were organised for over 635 000 students under SSP. In 2019-20, due to the impact of social unrest in the second half of 2019 and the pandemic situation in 2020, some of the sports programmes planned under the SSP had to be cancelled. As a result, the participation rate dropped to 88% with 6 549 sports programmes delivered for 537 540 students.

Based on the feedback from non-participating-schools, many of them consider themselves as self-sufficient in providing sports activities and training courses for their own students. Other schools cited competing priorities in the use of school facilities (e.g. other extra-curricular activities), and the heavy commitments of teachers and students as reasons for not joining SSP.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Paul Cheng', written in a cursive style.

(Paul Cheng)
for Secretary for Home Affairs