

香港特別行政區政府

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

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運輸及房屋局
運輸科

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By Email and Fax

31 May 2016

Ms Sophie Lau
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central
Hong Kong
(Fax No.: 2978 7569)

Dear Ms Lau,

Panel on Transport

**Increase in Fixed Penalty for Congestion-related Traffic Offences
Motion passed at the meeting on 16 December 2015**

Thank you for your letter dated 16 December 2015 seeking the Government's response to the motion passed at the captioned meeting.

We would like to point out that the Government has been adopting a multi-pronged approach to tackle road traffic congestion. In particular, the Government will continue to take forward in phases the host of short, medium and long-term measures recommended by the Transport Advisory Committee ("TAC") to alleviate road traffic congestion, having regard to stakeholders' views, feasibility of available options and overseas experience, etc. For example, we commenced a three-month public engagement exercise for the Electronic Road Pricing Pilot Scheme in Central and its adjacent areas in December 2015, and will commission an in-depth feasibility study to develop detailed options for further public engagement. The Transport Department ("TD") will also commence a parking policy review in 2016-17, with priority accorded to considering and meeting the parking need of commercial vehicles. To reduce vehicles circulating on roads looking for available parking space, the TD has contacted operators of commercial public car parks to encourage them to

provide real-time information on parking vacancies of their car parks. The TD is also enhancing its traffic information system so that the real-time parking vacancies data can be disseminated to the public through TD's websites and mobile applications.

On the enforcement side, the Police, under the Selected Traffic Enforcement Priorities 2016, will take stringent enforcement actions against offences causing accidents and obstructing traffic flow. The Police will also take concerted enforcement actions against illegal parking, in particular double parking.

The level of fixed penalties of the Congestion-Related Traffic Offences has remained the same since the last increase in 1994. The Composite Consumer Price Index ("CCPI") has, in the meantime, substantially increased by 54% from 1994 to the first quarter of 2016. As one of the measures to alleviate traffic congestion, the TAC has recommended raising the level of fixed penalties having regard to CCPI increase since 1994 to restore the deterrent effect. We will consider the introduction of the required legislative amendments at an appropriate time having regard to the Panel's views as well as various comments received.

Yours sincerely,

(Miss Amy Tse)
for Secretary for Transport and Housing

c.c.

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