

中華人民共和國
香港特別行政區政府
政務司司長辦公室



CHIEF SECRETARY
FOR ADMINISTRATION'S OFFICE
Government of the Hong Kong
Special Administrative Region
of the People's Republic of China

25 January 2018

Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, SBS, JP
Chairman of the House Committee
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Chairman,

**Special meeting of the House Committee of the Legislative Council
to discuss co-location arrangement of the
Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link**

The Government is aware that the House Committee of the Legislative Council (LegCo) intends to convene a special meeting to discuss the co-location arrangement of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (XRL) at the West Kowloon Station.

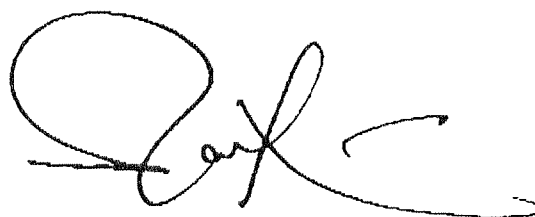
The Government appreciates that there are concerns in the Hong Kong community on the implementation of co-location arrangement. Following the passing of a motion by LegCo on 15 November 2017 supporting the Government to take forward follow-up tasks of the co-location arrangement, the Government and the Mainland signed the Co-operation Arrangement between the Mainland and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region on the Establishment of the Port at the West Kowloon Station of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong

Kong Express Rail Link for Implementing Co-location Arrangement (Co-operation Arrangement) on 18 November 2017 to formally commence the "Three-step Process". Subsequently, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPCSC) made a decision (Decision) on 27 December 2017 approving the Co-operation Arrangement, which signified the accomplishment of the second step in the "Three-step Process", thereby providing a firm legal basis for the implementation of co-location arrangement.

At this juncture, the first two steps of the "Three-step Process" have been completed, and the third, final, step is the local legislative process. Pursuant to the NPCSC's Decision and the approved Co-operation Arrangement, the Government has completed the drafting of the relevant bill, which will be published in the Gazette tomorrow and introduced into the Legislative Council for First Reading and Second Reading on 31 January. Following the publication of the bill, then when read together with the NPCSC's Decision and the Co-operation Arrangement which have already been published, Members and the public will have a full and comprehensive understanding of the overall co-location arrangement.

In view of the above, the Government is of the view that it is more appropriate for Government officials to comprehensively address Members' queries or concerns on the co-location arrangement when the bill is being scrutinised by the Bills Committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Matthew Cheung Kin-chung', written in a cursive style.

(Matthew Cheung Kin-chung)
Chief Secretary for Administration

c.c. Secretary for Justice
Secretary for Transport and Housing
Secretary for Security
Director of Administration