

政府總部
運輸及房屋局

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**Transport and
Housing Bureau
Government Secretariat
Transport Branch**

East Wing, Central Government Offices,
2 Tim Mei Avenue,
Tamar, Hong Kong

本局檔號 Our Ref.

來函檔號 Your Ref. CB4/PAC/R69

19 January 2018

Mr Anthony CHU
Clerk to Public Accounts Committee
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Mr Chu,

Public Accounts Committee

**Consideration of Chapter 2 of the Director of Audit's Report No. 69
Procurement and maintenance of government vessels**

Thank you for your letter of 5 January 2018 on the captioned, requesting information with regard to measures taken by the Transport and Housing Bureau ("THB") to address the shortage of vessel maintenance contractors in Hong Kong. Our response is set out below.

As reported by the Director of Marine at the hearing on 4 January 2018, the Department maintained a list of contractors who were eligible to bid government's vessel maintenance contracts. THB had not been informed of the issues concerning vessel maintenance contractors.

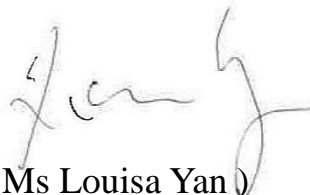
Notwithstanding this, THB is aware that there has been a general scaling down of ship maintenance industry in Hong Kong, mainly because nowadays it has been more common for ship building to be carried out in the Mainland of China.

In April 2014, THB established the \$100-million “Maritime and Aviation Training Fund” (“MATF”). Among the established incentive training schemes funded by the MATF is the “Ship Repair Training Incentive Scheme” (“SRTIS”).

SRTIS aims to attract people of suitable caliber to receive training and become skilled workers to alleviate the workforce shortage in the ship repair industry, so to enhance the competitiveness and the professionalism of the industry. Under the Scheme, a maximum subsidy of \$54,000 is provided to eligible graduates of the Vocational Training Council who have enrolled for apprenticeship in the ship repair industry over a maximum period of 36 months. We will from time to time consult the industry and the related education institutes on the MATF and operation of subsidy schemes, as well as explore other possible measures and policies to further strengthen the human resources in the vessel maintenance industry, with a view to addressing its manpower shortage problem.

Your letter also requested information on the regular meetings between THB and the Marine Department. We will provide our response to this matter soon.

Yours sincerely,



(Ms Louisa Yan)

for Secretary for Transport and Housing

c.c. Director of Marine (Fax No. 2850 8810)

Secretary for Financial Services & the Treasury (Fax No. 2147 5239)

Director of Audit (Fax No. 2583 9063)