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**Transport and
Housing Bureau**
Government Secretariat

Transport Branch
East Wing, Central Government Offices,
2 Tim Mei Avenue,
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Our Ref.: THB (T) L2/1/47 (17)
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Ms Sophie LAU
Clerk to Subcommittee on Matters Relating to Railways
Legislative Council Panel on Transport
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

16 July 2018

Dear Ms LAU,

Retrofitting of Platform Gates along East Rail Line

At the meeting of the Subcommittee on Matters Relating to Railways on 2 February 2018, the Transport and Housing Bureau was requested to provide supplementary information on the captioned subject. The response given by the MTR Corporation Limited regarding the captioned subject is attached for the Secretariat's reference.

Yours sincerely,

(Veronica TSE)
for Secretary for Transport and Housing

c.c.:

MTR Corporation Limited (Attn: Mr Y.C.CHAN, Senior Manager – External Affairs)

MTR Corporation Limited
Supplementary Information on
Retrofitting Platform Gates along East Rail Line

Passenger safety has always been the top priority of the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL). Currently, there are different safety facilities to ensure passenger safety on the platforms along the East Rail Line (EAL). These include provision of yellow strips and warning signs on the platforms to remind passengers not to stand beyond the yellow line. In addition, station assistants are deployed to stations where necessary to assist passengers in boarding and alighting. Platform supervisors on the EAL also closely monitor the boarding and alighting of passengers on the platforms.

We are aware that passengers may enter the track area due to different reasons, including picking up personal belongings, feeling unwell or losing balance. Therefore, the MTRCL has been making public announcements and conducting publicity at stations to call on passengers to stand clear of the platform edges out of safety concern. Passengers should not trespass onto the track under any circumstances. If necessary, they may seek assistance from the station staff. As for the frontline staff who have to be on duty at stations, the MTRCL has been offering them professional training, such as emergency handling, first aid and operational safety of stations, so that they can take the initiative to provide appropriate assistance to passengers in need during their daily work. Besides, when performing their daily duties, frontline staff would be more alert to passengers who are emotionally unstable, acting strangely, drunk and feeling unwell; and take the initiative to offer assistance to avoid any accidents. For cases of passengers entering the track area, the Operations Control Centre has a set of established procedures and guidelines to handle such cases, with due emphasis on protection of passenger safety as a priority consideration. Train service will be adjusted and staff will be deployed to help the passenger concerned to return to the safe area on the platform as soon as possible.

To tie in with the operation of the North-South Corridor of the Shatin to Central Link (SCL), stations along the EAL will be equipped with Automatic Platform Gates (APGs). The relevant works are underway as scheduled. Before the commencement of the retrofitting works, platforms have to be strengthened in advance and equipment rooms and facilities for the relevant signalling system have to be constructed. Currently, the platform strengthening works and construction of equipment rooms for the signalling system along the EAL have been substantially completed. The subsequent floor tiling and repair works are being carried out. Separately, the existing 12-car trains on the EAL will be replaced with 9-car trains in future. The locations of the doors of the existing trains and the new trains are different.

In order to align the APGs along the EAL with the train doors, the APG retrofitting works will commence only after the EAL is entirely operated by new trains. In view of the public concerns about the adoption of new trains and the carrying capacity, the MTRCL is considering replacing the EAL trains gradually after the Tai Wai to Hung Hom Section (Tuen Ma Line) is commissioned and the diversion of passengers is achieved. According to the current plan, the North-South Corridor of the SCL will be commissioned in 2021.

MTR Corporation Limited

July 2018