

香港特別行政區政府
商務及經濟發展局
工商及旅遊科



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本函檔號 Our Ref. : TC CR T3 22/22/17

來函檔號 Your Ref. : CB4/SS/1/18

9 November 2018

Ms Wendy Jan
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Ms Jan,

**Subcommittee on
Peak Tramway (Safety) (Amendment) Regulation 2018 and
Peak Tramway Ordinance (Amendment of Section 3(3)) Notice 2018**

Thank you for your letter of 1 November 2018. At the meeting of the Subcommittee held on 31 October 2018, members enquired about some issues relating to the captioned subject. Our response to members' enquiries is set out in the ensuing paragraphs.

(a) The estimated amount of full land premium/market rent and administrative fee for using the additional Government land to be granted to the Peak Tramways Company Limited ("PTC")

As explained in paragraph 17 of the Legislative Council ("LegCo") Brief "Operating Right of the Peak Tramway Commencing 1 January 2026" (TC CR T3 22/22/9) issued on 10 October 2018, the additional Government land is granted to PTC at nominal land premium and nil administrative fee because the sum of consideration chargeable for the first and second ten-year operating rights had already taken into account the land use under

PTC's upgrading plan, which would extend to the additional government land on top of the existing Government land on which the tram track and the four intermediate stations lie. The proposed arrangement was endorsed by Chief Executive in Council in 2015 and was also reported to the Legislative Council in 2015 (set out in paragraph 4 of the above-mentioned LegCo Brief).

The additional land granted to PTC is adjacent to the tramway and of very low development potential. As a matter of fact, the additional land granted to PTC is not free of charge. In formulating the annual consideration payable by PTC based on a rate of 12% of its total revenue generated, the value for PTC's use of the government land, including the additional land, has already been reflected. As the additional land forms part and parcel of PTC's upgrading plan and its use has been reflected in the annual consideration payable by PTC, there is thus no separate assessment on the rent / land premium for the additional land granted to PTC. As regards the administrative fee of the subject direct grant of Short-Term Tenancy, it is \$19,450 if charged.

(b) The number of seated and non-seated passengers in each tramcar before and after increasing the tramcar capacity from 120 to 210 passengers and the factors considered by PTC in determining the new tramcar capacity

Currently the ratio of seated to non-seated passengers in the tramcar is 95 to 25 (79% to 21%). The existing seat rows are spaced at 700 mm pitch and the two-seat benches are 800 mm wide, the three seat benches are 1240 mm wide. There is approximately 10 square metres for standing passengers, i.e. a maximum 2.5 passengers per square metre.

The proposed new tramcars will maintain the seated to non-seated ratio at 79 : 21 (i.e. 167 seated : 43 standing passengers). The seat row spacing and the seat bench widths will also be maintained. There is approximately 25 square metres for standing passengers, i.e. a maximum 1.7 passengers per square metre. This is largely due to the wider gangways at the tramcar doors providing more standing area.

The primary factor considered in determining the new tramcar capacity was the increase in hourly capacity to meet and exceed demand. This was balanced against the increased length and weight of the tramcars, which affects the existing infrastructure and the constrained space in the existing haulage room for the larger haulage equipment required. The tramcar length and door positions are also limited by the existing Upper Terminus platform space.

(c) Details of alternative public transport services to reach the Peak

The requested information is set out below –

<i>Route</i>	New World First Bus Route No.15 Central (Central Ferry Piers) – The Peak	New World First Bus Route No.15B Wan Chai (HK Convention and Exhibition Centre Extension) – The Peak	Green Mini Bus Route No.1 Central (HK Station) – The Peak
<i>Service hours</i>	6:15 a.m. – 1:00 a.m.	12.40 p.m. – 7.40 p.m. (Sundays and Public Holidays only)	6:30 a.m. – 12:25 a.m.
<i>Frequency</i>	<u>Monday to Friday (except Public Holidays)</u> 9 – 30 mins <u>Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays</u> 7 – 30 mins	20 mins	5 – 12 mins
<i>Patronage statistics in 2017</i>	3.5 million	0.1 million	1.4 million

(d) Measures to be taken by the Administration to monitor the progress of PTC's upgrading plan to ensure its timely completion, and the follow-up actions to be taken by the Administration if PTC cannot complete its upgrading plan by 2021

The Administration has formed an inter-departmental working group comprising various government bureaux / departments to examine PTC's upgrading plan and to monitor the works to ensure PTC's upgrading plan would comply with the requisite statutory requirements and be completed in good time. Besides, to monitor the progress of PTC's upgrading plan, the Administration will take various administrative measures, such as maintaining close communications with PTC, requesting PTC to provide progress reports at regular intervals.

In case PTC's failure or default in completing the upgrading plan on time

falls within any of the situations of default under section 8A of PTC (e.g. PTC fails to comply with a term on which the operating right is granted, fails to operate or maintain the tramway properly which is likely to result in a substantial breakdown of the tramway system or serious injury to persons who travel on the tramway, etc.), the mechanism under section 8B to 8E may come into play.

According to section 8B(2), the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (the “Secretary”) may issue a notice to the company (i.e. PTC) requiring it to remedy the default and take effective measures to the satisfaction of the Secretary. Should PTC fail to comply with a notice issued to it under section 8B(2) of PTO, the Chief Executive in Council may, pursuant to section 8C(3) of PTO, direct the Secretary to issue a notice to PTC informing it of the intention of the Chief Executive in Council to terminate the operating right granted to it.

Further, under section 14D of PTO, if the Secretary opines that the condition of any part of the tramway or of any machinery, plant or equipment of such part is such as to cause, or to be likely to cause, a risk of injury to any person, the Secretary may direct PTC to carry out works or take steps as specified in his order to ensure that the condition of the tramway, or of any part in question, will cease to constitute such a risk.

Please rest assured that the Government will make the best endeavor to monitor the progress of the upgrading plan and ensure that PTC is able to maintain the tramway as an important tourism and recreational facility.

(e) *The improvement measures to be taken to address the long-standing concerns on the queuing and waiting arrangements at the Upper Terminus*

The boarding platform will be widened and lengthened to provide sufficient waiting area for a full tram-load of 210 passengers, an increase of 90 passengers. There will also be an indoor, air-conditioned waiting area for 80 passengers prior to the ticket gates, which is an increase of 40 passengers from the current provision.

After the completion of the upgrading plan, the new Peak Tram’s hourly capacity will exceed the current and forecast demand, and hence queues will not normally build-up at the Upper Terminus.

The Lower Terminus expansion is more extensive than the Upper Terminus for the following reasons – (a) the platforms need to be relocated uphill to house the longer tramcar; (b) the Lower Terminus passenger demand is

greater than the Upper Terminus; and (c) PTC wants to enrich visitors' experience through this provision of entertainment including a display of the Peak Tram history and engineering system.

(f) ***Services PTC provided / to be provided at the termini of the Peak Tramway for assisting elderly, disabled persons and other passengers with special needs in using the Peak Tram service***

PTC currently offers a concessionary rate (55 - 62% discount) to seniors and disabled passengers throughout the year. Operations staff are well-trained to provide assistance and to offer boarding priority for anyone in need, including disabled passengers, pregnant ladies and senior citizens with walking aids.

Currently, there are steps up into the existing tramcar and wheelchair passengers have to be manhandled up a ramp onto the tramcar by PTC's staff. After the completion of the upgrading plan, the platforms and the tramcar floor will be level and the tramcar doors will be wider therefore a wheelchair can roll-on and roll-off with ease. The new tramcar will provide eight fixing spaces for wheelchairs per journey compared to the current provision of two. Furthermore, a wheelchair lifting platform will be added at the Lower Terminus.

(g) ***Reason for the Administration to propose to repeal the term "both compartments" and substitute that with "all compartments" in clause 3 of the Peak Tramway (Safety) (Amendment) Regulation 2018***

The definition of ***tramcar*** under section 2 of the Peak Tramway (Safety) Regulations (Cap. 265A) appears in regulations 4, 18, 21 and 28 of Cap. 265A. These provisions concern the duties of surveyor in examining the tramcar (reg. 4), duties of operator to properly operate the tramcar (reg. 18), as well as duties of company to ensure the safety of tramcar generally (reg. 28). The reason for changing from "both compartments" to "all compartments" is to allow flexibility of the number of compartment. The capacity of a tramcar is limited by regulation 21 of Cap. 265A.

(h) ***Whether the term "所有車卡" (all compartments) has been used in other legislation in relation to public transport***

As to similar reference in other ordinances concerning similar mode of transport, we note the following definitions:

“car” (電車廂) includes *all cars and trucks* used upon the tramway; (section 2 of the Tramway Ordinance, Cap. 107)

“train” (列車) means *any train (or carriage or compartment thereof)* owned by or in the possession of the Corporation. (by-law 2 of the Mass Transit Railway By-laws, Cap. 556B)

“vehicle of the North-west Railway” (西北鐵路車輛) means *any train or carriage or compartment thereof* used on or in connection with the railway. (section 1 of the Mass Transit Railway (North-west Railway) Bylaw, Cap. 556H)

(Emphasis added)

Yours sincerely,



(Miss Maggie Chow)

for Secretary for Commerce and Economic
Development

c.c. Hon Jeffrey LAM, Kin-fung, GBS, JP (Chairman)