

香港特別行政區政府

創新及科技局

香港添馬添美道二號
政府總部西翼二十樓



INNOVATION AND
TECHNOLOGY BUREAU

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HONG KONG
SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION

20/F, West Wing, Central Government Offices,
2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar, Hong Kong

By email

12 March 2020

Ms Anita SIT
Clerk to Finance Committee
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Ms SIT,

Follow-up questions regarding the Anti-epidemic Fund

Hon Charles MOK wrote to the Finance Committee Chairman on 20 February 2020, requesting a written response from the Administration on the follow-up questions regarding the Anti-epidemic Fund. The reply of the Innovation and Technology Bureau (“ITB”) is as follows.

ITB’s proposals under the Anti-epidemic Fund

ITB, together with our departments and public organisations, have been utilising different innovation and technology solutions to respond to the various challenges in fighting the disease. ITB has earmarked \$1.23 billion in the Anti-epidemic Fund for three technology-related anti-epidemic measures, namely, subsidising technology applications to enable reusability of masks, providing more electronic wristbands and matching smart phones to support home quarantine, as well as a six-month rental waiver for tenants and start-ups at the Hong Kong Science Park, industrial estates and Cyberport.

Enclosure B5 – Technology applications to enable reusability of masks

We have earmarked \$800 million to subsidise technology applications to enable reusability of masks, and are exploring different proposals with relevant parties. However, as the feasibility of different proposals and the supply of related materials are yet to be confirmed, we can only provide a rough estimate at this stage.

In assessing the feasibility of proposals, the important considerations include whether the reusable masks have passed the relevant testing and certification,

whether the raw materials could be imported, as well as whether the masks could be mass produced locally in the short run. The current global demand for anti-epidemic supplies and raw materials is keen and a number of countries have exercised exports controls in varying degrees. The Government will continue to spare no efforts in sourcing and procuring globally through different means.

Enclosure B9 – Supporting home quarantine

We have earmarked \$50 million to procure additional electronic wristbands and matching smart phones, with a view to supporting home quarantine. Once the home quarantine is concluded, we will allocate these smart phones to other Government bureaux or departments (“B/Ds”) for use, such as serving as mobile office after adding in necessary softwares. Electronic wristbands (if reusable) could also be applied by B/Ds in other services, such as taking care of the elderly in need in elderly homes.

The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer has installed Mobile Device Management in all smart phones. This will limit the installation in and use of the smart phone to certain designated functions, such as voice call, video call, WeChat, Whatsapp and positioning. Other functions could not be installed. We can also clear the contents of the phone in remote access, or even suspend its operation, with a view to strengthening information security. In addition, we have also stepped up the security at the Home Quarantine Control Centre, as well as the workflow of collecting and returning smart phones.

Enclosure B17 – Rental waivers for tenants at the Science Park, industrial estates and Cyberport

We have earmarked \$380 million for providing a six-month rental waiver for tenants at the Science Park, industrial estates and Cyberport. Other rental matters will be dealt with by the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation and the Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company Limited in accordance with their established policies.

Yours sincerely,



(Sandy CHEUNG)

for Secretary for Innovation and Technology

cc. Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Attn: Ms Elaine WONG)
Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Attn: Ms Eunice CHAN)