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本局檔號 Our Ref. THB(T) CR 10/1016/99  
來函檔號 Your Ref. CB4/PS/1/16

[English translation]

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(Attn: Ms Sophie LAU)  
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3 December 2020

Dear Ms LAU

**Panel on Transport**  
**Subcommittee on Matters Relating to Railways**

Thank you for your letter of 24 June 2020. We provide the following responses to the motion in relation to the “Progress Update of the Construction of Shatin to Central Link” (LegCo paper no. CB(4)719/19-20(01)) passed at the meeting of Subcommittee on Matters Relating to Railways held on 19 June 2020.

The Government will study the responsibilities of MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) on the basis of the conclusions of the Final Report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Construction Works at and near the Hung Hom Station Extension under the Shatin to Central Link Project. If the liabilities of the MTRCL and the relevant contractors are acknowledged, the Government will file claims against them according to the Entrustment Agreement in due course.

The advance works for the installation of automatic platform gates (APG) along the East Rail Line (EAL) stations has commenced. The relevant strengthening works for the platforms, construction of associated system equipment rooms and facilities have been substantially completed while the other advance works is under way. As the door locations of the existing 12-car trains and the new 9-car trains are different, the installation of APG has to commence after fully converting the train fleet for EAL to the new 9-car trains in order to ensure the APG suits the door locations of the new trains. For passenger safety and early completion, MTRCL will commence the installation works as soon as the new 9-car trains are fully operated.

We understand the public concern about the installation of APG under the EAL and the safety of railway service. According to MTRCL's information, there are different safety facilities installed and measures taken for the existing platforms of the EAL, including the application of platform gap fillers to reduce the gap between the platforms and the train compartments; the installation of flash lights at the edge of curved platforms and the issuance of public announcements at platforms and train compartments in order to draw passengers' special attention to the platform gaps. Depending on circumstances, station assistants would be deployed to offer assistance to passengers for boarding and alighting.

Yours sincerely,

[Chinese version signed]

(PANG Ka-yu)

for Secretary for Transport and Housing

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