財經事務及庫務局

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FINANCIAL SERVICES AND THE TREASURY BUREAU

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1 March 2021

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

Dear Ms SIT,

Legislative Council Finance Committee Follow-up Reply to the Briefing by the Financial Secretary and the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury on the 2021-2022 Budget on 25 February 2021

At the captioned briefing, members requested the Administration to provide supplementary information on the administrative expenses of the Consumption Voucher Scheme. Our reply is as follows.

When preparing the budget for the Consumption Voucher Scheme, the Government has set aside about \$600 million to meet administrative expenses. These include increasing staff in different departments to assist in preparing and implementing the Scheme, setting up related computer systems and other ancillary facilities, paying service fees to assisting agencies (e.g. operators of stored value facilities), setting up enquiry hotlines, conducting publicity and promotion, etc. The Government is taking forward in full swing the preparatory work, including identifying suitable operators of stored value facilities and discussing further the implementation details as well as the expenditure involved. Therefore, the present budget for administrative expenses is only a very rough estimate. In implementing the Scheme, we will use public funds carefully based on actual requirements and strive to reduce administrative expenses as far as possible.

Yours sincerely,

(Ricky CHONG) for Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury

c.c.: Administrative Assistant to Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Attn: Ms Rico TAM)