

香港特別行政區政府

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Your ref.: CB4/PAC/R76  
Our ref.: ITC CR 1/2171/20 Pt.1  
Tel. No.: 2810 2753  
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**By Email**

2 June 2021

Ms Wendy JAN  
Clerk, Public Accounts Committee  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Ms Jan,

**Public Accounts Committee**

**Consideration of Chapter 4 of the Director of Audit's Report No. 76**

**Innovation and Technology Commission: Efforts in promoting  
internationally accepted standards and conformity assessment services**

Thank you for your letter dated 1 June 2021 to the Secretary for Innovation and Technology and the Commissioner for Innovation and Technology.

A consolidated response from the Innovation and Technology Bureau and the Innovation and Technology Commission to questions raised in the letter is enclosed for the Public Accounts Committee's consideration.

Yours sincerely,



( Jenny Lee )

for Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Encl

c.c. Secretary for Innovation and Technology  
Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury  
Director of Audit

## Chapter 4 of the Director of Audit's Report No. 76

### “Innovation and Technology Commission: Efforts in promoting internationally accepted standards and conformity assessment services”

#### Questions and Request for Information

- 1) *Paragraph 3.6 of the Audit Report stated that in recent years, standard publishers uploaded their standards (some were “preview versions” and some were “full versions”) on their websites to meet the need of most users. Besides, the annual number of visitors to the Product Standards Resource Centre (“PSRC”) was less than 10 for 2018 to 2020 (as at September). However, the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) insisted on maintaining the PSRC in its response to Question 5 on 27 May 2021. ITC only agreed to review the operation of the PSRC and consider reducing the scale of the PSRC so that the public can have access to a full preview of standard documents. Does the government agree that such a decision is in line with the principles of cost-effectiveness and effective use of public funds? Why not close down the PSRC and transfer the necessary services to other departments?*
- 2) *ITC has also pointed out in the response to Question 5 the need to maintain the Production Standards Information Bureau (“PSIB”) of which the expenditure in 2019-2020 reached HKD3.5 million, and will only review its operation and scale to cater for the provision of sales service of standards and related publications as well as free technical enquiry service and website updating. Nevertheless, according to table 7 of paragraph 3.10 of the Audit Report, only about 300 technical enquiries were received each year, which means that less than two enquiries were answered per working day if a year has 250 working days. Please elaborate why the PSIB cannot be disbanded and other departments cannot take up its work.*

ITB and ITC's response:

We wish to clarify that the need to maintain the PSRC as mentioned in ITC's response on 27 May is actually referring to the services provided by the PSRC. In response to the decrease in service demand, ITC considers that its other divisions can provide the PSRC services in addition to their existing work, and it is no longer necessary to maintain a dedicated PSIB

**\*Note by Clerk, PAC:** *See Appendix 11 to this Report for the reply dated 27 May 2021 from Commissioner for Innovation and Technology.*

and a physical PSRC. Therefore, ITC plans to abolish the PSIB and the physical PSRC, and redeploy PSIB's staff to other divisions so that public money can be used more efficiently and cost-effectively.

Innovation and Technology Bureau  
Innovation and Technology Commission  
June 2021