

立法會

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From : Clerk to Panel

To : Hon Christine LOH (Chairman)
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LegCo Panel on Environmental Affairs

Follow-up to meeting on 2 July 1999

Pursuant to the discussion on the actions to improve air quality at the Panel meeting on 2 July 1999, the Chairman has written to the Administration expressing members' concern about the economical and environmental use of the Government vehicle fleet. The Administration has provided a written response setting out the measures taken and planned by the Government Land Transport Agency to improve the environmental performance of its vehicle fleet.

2. A copy of the Chairman's letter and the Administration's response are attached for members' reference.

(Mrs Mary TANG)
for Clerk to Panel

Encl.

c.c. Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming, SC, JP

Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, JP

Hon Jasper TSANG Yok-sing, JP

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7 July 1999

Mr P B WALKER
Administrator
Government Land Transport Agency
25th floor, Wanchai Tower
12 Harbour Road
Hong Kong

Dear

LegCo Panel on Environmental Affairs

Action to improve air quality

At the Panel meeting on 2 July 1999 when the subject of improvement to air quality was discussed, members expressed concern about the economical and environmental use of the Government vehicle fleet. The Panel was told that the Administration has been taking different measures to this end including freezing new purchases of vehicles, reducing the number of departmental cars, and controlling idling Government vehicles.

As vehicle emissions have been identified as the main source of air pollution, members consider it important that the Government should set a good example on environmental use of the Government fleet. To facilitate consideration of the subject by the Panel, we would appreciate it if you could provide us with the details of the rationalization plan of the Government vehicle fleet, including the objectives, the contents and the timetable for achieving those objectives.

Looking forward to your early response.

Yours sincerely,

(Christine LOH)

Chairman of

LegCo Panel on Environment Affairs

c.c. Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands
(Attn: Mr Kim SALKELD)

Environmental Performance of Government Vehicle Fleet

Purpose

This paper sets out the measures taken and planned by the Government Land Transport Agency (GLTA) to improve the environmental performance of its vehicle fleet.

Present Position

2. There are 7,417 vehicles in the Government fleet. The majority is to meet specific operational requirements, e.g. fire engines, ambulances, refuse collection vehicles, vehicles for disciplined services, lorries and vans for site staff and delivery of equipment. Only about 6% (i.e. 460 vehicles) in the Government fleet are passenger vehicles.

3. In support of Government's environmental protection programmes, the GLTA has taken a range of measures in recent years to improve the environmental performance of its vehicle fleet, as detailed below -

(a) *Reducing the number of diesel vehicles*

As emission from diesel engine vehicles is the main cause of air pollution, GLTA has progressively replaced diesel-engined vehicles with petrol equivalents since early 1996. Of the 7,417 vehicles in the entire Government fleet, 5,437 (or 73%) are petrol vehicles, two are liquified petroleum gas (LPG) vehicles, and 1,978 (or 26%) are diesel vehicles. These 1,978 diesel vehicles are mainly heavy engine vehicles, such as refuse collection vehicles, gully cesspool emptier vehicles and buses, which are kept due to the lack of alternatives in the market. Of these, 754 vehicles meet the Euro II standard, 266 meet the Euro I standard, and 958 are of pre-Euro I standard*.

* Euro I is a stringent emission standard adopted in Europe for diesel engine vehicles. It was introduced in Hong Kong in 1995. Euro II standard is an even more stringent vehicle emission standard introduced in Hong Kong in 1997.

(b) ***Controlling the growth of Government fleet***

Between 1993 and 1998, GLTA had controlled the annual growth rate of Government vehicles at a level below 1.4%. The net growth in the number of vehicles is mainly due to expansion in Government services to meet increasing demand. GLTA also controls the growth of its vehicle fleet by monitoring and increasing the utilisation of existing vehicles. As a result, an annual average of 5% of vehicles, representing 37 vehicles each year, reaching the end of their economic life have not been replaced in the past five years.

(c) ***Introducing environmental-friendly vehicles***

GLTA maintains close liaison with vehicle suppliers to keep abreast of the latest technological development in automobile industry, and takes the lead in testing out suitable environmental-friendly vehicles. For instance, the Agency tried out two electric vehicles in 1994 and two LPG vehicles in 1998. It will launch trials of electric light bus and LPG light bus in 1999-2000.

Air Quality New Initiatives

4. To further improve the environmental performance of Government's vehicle fleet, GLTA has recently drawn up a number of new initiatives -

(a) ***Accelerating the replacement programme for pre-Euro I vehicles***

The Agency aims to replace 958 pre-Euro I heavy diesel vehicles in phases over three years' time starting from 2000.

(b) ***Retrofitting catalytic converters to diesel vehicles***

GLTA will participate in a one-year trial scheme by retrofitting 20 Euro I diesel vehicles with catalytic converters in 1999-2000. A diesel catalyst is expected to reduce the particulate emission of a vehicle by up to 50%.

(c) ***Freezing the growth of passenger vehicles by one year***

The Agency will review the usage of Government passenger vehicles in 1999-2000. Pending the outcome of the review, it will

freeze the growth of Government passenger vehicles in 2000-01.

(d) *Promoting environmental awareness among Government drivers*

In July 1999, GLTA posted new stickers inside car compartments to remind drivers and passengers of the need to turn off engine while waiting. The Agency has also reminded Government drivers on fuel saving and environmental techniques in the GLTA's newsletter issued in July.

(e) *Enhancing environmental performance of contract vehicles*

In addition to price and service quality, environmental performance has been included in tender documents issued after June 1999 as a factor for consideration in evaluating hire car services.

Way Forward

5. GLTA will ensure the timely implementation of the new initiatives to improve air quality, and continue to explore other new measures to further enhance the environmental performance of Government's vehicle fleet.

Government Land Transport Agency

August 1999