

政府總部
環境食物局



Environment and Food Bureau
Government Secretariat

Our ref: EFB 9/55/01/120

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26 July 2001

Clerk to Legislative Council
Finance Committee
Legislative Council Building
Attn.: Ms Pauline Ng
[Fax No. 2869 6794]

Dear Ms Ng,

**One-off Grant to Encourage the Replacement
of Diesel Taxis by LPG Taxis**

Further to our letter dated 6 June 2001 on the above, we would like to inform the Finance Committee that we have completed the review on whether the deadline of 31 December 2001 for application for the LPG taxi grant by owners of diesel taxis aged 7 years or above should be extended. The results are as follows-

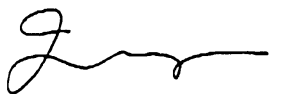
- (a) As at mid-June 2001, around 7,300 of the 9,800 diesel taxis which would have reached the age of 7 or above by end-2001 have already been replaced by LPG taxis. As the provision of LPG filling facilities have been improved, the total LPG filling capacity should be able to meet the demand from LPG taxis even at a replacement rate of 1,000 per month, we consider that the deadline should not be extended. To extend it would counter the objective of the incentive scheme, which is to encourage early replacement, particularly of the older and more polluting diesel taxis.
- (b) However, we consider that there is a case for extending the deadline for the Lantau diesel taxis which will become 7 years old or above by end 2001. The first LPG filling point on Lantau became available only on 31

March 2001. Hitherto, the closest filling point for Lantau LPG taxis was at Tsing Yi. LPG taxis had to pay toll for crossing the Lantau Link to get to Tsing Yi for refilling. As Tsing Yi is outside of their permitted operating area, they had to travel without passengers between Lantau and Tsing Yi. That could reduce their in-service time and affect their business. All these could have a discouraging effect on owners of Lantau diesel taxis to replace their vehicles with LPG ones before 31 March 2001. We therefore consider that owners of Lantau diesel taxis that will age 7 or above by end 2001 should be given a longer time to apply for the grant. We will extend the deadline of 31 December 2001 by six months to 30 June 2002 for these Lantau taxis.

We reported our decisions at a joint meeting of the Environmental Affairs Panel and Transport Panel on 4 July 2001. Members of the Joint Panels supported our decisions. We have also informed the taxi trade of our decisions.

I should be grateful if you could inform Members of the Finance Committee of our decisions.

Yours sincerely



(Ms Ivy Law)

for Secretary for the Environment and Food

cc: Secretary for the Treasury (Attn: Mr Manfred Wong)

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