

( 21 ) in HPLB(P)50/04/16

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Clerk to the Panel  
LegCo Panel on Planning, Lands and Works  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
3/F, Citibank Tower  
3 Garden Road, Central  
(Attn: Ms Anita Sit)

Dear Ms Sit,

**PWP Item No. 469CL – South East Kowloon Development  
Infrastructure at North Apron Area of Kai Tai Airport**

**Consideration for Entrustment of Work to KCRC**

We refer to our letter to you dated 3 February 2004. Some Members have subsequently asked the Government to provide an analysis on the possible benefits of entrusting the captioned works to KCRC. The following is our response.

In considering the possibility of work entrustment to other parties including KCRC, the Government needs to examine carefully whether there will be benefits in terms of work implementation, programming and cost.

On the aspect of implementation, the works proposed to be upgraded comprise demolition of existing buildings and diversion of an existing drainage culvert. After completion of these works, the site will be handed over to KCRC for construction of the Shatin-to-Central Link (“SCL”) rail depot. Construction of the rail depot cannot start before

completion of the building demolition work, as the works have to be carried out in a sequential manner. There is no other interface between Government's work and KCRC's work, so entrustment will not offer any particular benefit as far as work implementation is concerned.

On the aspect of programming, in order to meet the SCL programme, the Government appointed consultants in January 2002 for detailed design of the North Apron infrastructure, including the works now proposed to be upgraded. In June 2002 when KCRC was selected as the SCL operator, the detailed design being carried out by the Government's consultants was already fairly advanced. We had discussions with KCRC at various junctures and both KCRC and the Government considered that there would be no programming benefit for entrustment.

On cost consideration, irrespective of whether KCRC or the Government is to carry out the works, tenders for the works will be invited in the open market. Hence there is no apparent cost benefit for entrustment of the works to KCRC.

I hope the above clarifies the position.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs Lilian Leung)  
for Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

**c.c.**

SETW

(Attn: Mr Raymond Ho)

PM/K, TDD

(Attn: Mr Talis Wong)

HyD

(Attn: Mr Alfred Yau)