

For information

Legislative Council Panel on Transport

Legislative Amendments relating to Disabled Person's Parking Permits

PURPOSE

This paper informs Members of the Administration's plan to introduce legislative amendments to allow the issue, upon application, of a disabled person's parking permit (DPPP) to a disabled person holding a probationary driving licence (PDL).

BACKGROUND

2. With a view to enhancing the ability of disabled persons to move around at will in the community and facilitating their full participation and integration into the community, the Government has been providing a range of driving concessions for disabled persons who drive their own vehicles through the system of DPPP. Under Regulation 27A(3) of Road Traffic (Parking) Regulations (Cap. 374C) (the Regulation), the Commissioner for Transport (the Commissioner) may issue a DPPP to an applicant if he or she is a disabled person holding a full driving licence (FDL) or a learner's driving licence (LDL) which permits him to drive a private car, motorcycle or motor tricycle. The driving concessions enjoyed by holders of DPPP include using parking spaces designated for disabled persons, waiving of fees at metered parking spaces, and a 50% discount on parking fees at Government car parks managed by TD and the Link Management Limited car parks (the relevant parking concessions).

3. The current Regulation does not empower the Commissioner to issue a DPPP to a disabled person holding a PDL. Therefore, a disabled person holding a PDL¹, whilst can legally drive on roads, is unable to obtain a DPPP to enjoy the relevant parking concessions. This appears to be the result of an omission when the PDL scheme was extended to cover private cars and light goods vehicles in February 2009.

¹ As at 9 February 2012, there were 8 disabled persons holding probationary driving licence.

4. The Administration considers that disabled persons holding PDL should also be eligible to apply for DPPP and enjoy the relevant parking concessions. We therefore propose to amend the relevant legislation to allow disabled persons holding PDL to apply for DPPP. In the meantime, the Transport Department (TD) has been providing driving concessions through administrative means, i.e. a 50% discount on parking fees at Government car parks managed by TD and the Link Management Limited car parks, to disabled persons holding PDL.

THE PROPOSAL

5. It is proposed to amend the Regulation to empower the Commissioner to issue a DPPP to an applicant if he is a disabled person holding a PDL which permits him to drive a private car, motorcycle or motor tricycle.

CONSULTATION

6. TD consulted the Working Group on Access to Public Transport by People with Disabilities (the membership of the Working Group comprises representatives of disabled persons groups, public transport operators and relevant Government bureaux and departments). The Working Group supported the legislative amendment proposal in general.

WAY FORWARD

7. The Administration's plan is to submit the above proposed legislative amendments to the Legislative Council for negative vetting in the second quarter of 2012.

ADVICE SOUGHT

8. Members are invited to note the contents of this paper.

**Transport and Housing Bureau
Transport Department
March 2012**