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30 July 2013

Ms Miranda Hon  
Chief Council Secretary  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central  
Hong Kong

Dear Ms Hon,

**Panel on Environmental Affairs**

**Subcommittee on Issues Relating to Air, Noise and Light Pollution**

**Follow-up to meeting on 12 July 2013**

I refer to your letter of 12 July 2013. The supplementary information requested by Members of the Subcommittee on Issues Relating to Air, Noise and Light Pollution is set out below.

**Current Legislations on Excessive Street Lighting and Glass Curtain Walls**

The Buildings Ordinance (BO) aims to regulate the planning, design and construction of buildings and associated works on private land and, for this purpose, to prescribe building standards on various aspects such as structural and fire safety as well as health and sanitation. The material, design and

construction of glass curtain walls are subject to the control of the Building (Construction) Regulations (B(C)R). The B(C)R provides, inter alia, that glass curtain walls shall safely sustain the combined dead loads, imposed loads and wind loads, and shall be constructed of non-combustible materials. However, the B(C)R does not include regulation on reflected glare from glass curtain walls.

The Government has preliminarily explored the regulation of glass curtain walls in other jurisdictions. The initial finding is that while there is no specific statutory control on reflected glare from buildings in the jurisdictions studied, some jurisdictions have statutory control on the external reflectance of glass, i.e. the percentage of daylight reflected from an external surface of glass. As reflected glare from glass curtain walls is a relatively new issue in Hong Kong, we will further find out the practices and experience of other countries and jurisdictions in handling reflected glare from buildings, and will take into account such findings in mapping out the way forward.

As regards street lights, the road lighting standards being adopted by Highways Department (HyD) are based on the current most widely adopted international lighting code. HyD has also promulgated internal guidelines that installing street lights on the external walls of buildings should be avoided as far as possible to minimize the impact on residents. In case street lights have to be installed near residential units on lower floors due to site constraints, the HyD endeavours to take practical measures to reduce the impact on residents, such as using cut-off lanterns and light shields.

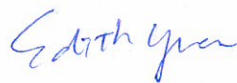
### **Comprehensive Approach to Vet and Approve External Lighting Installations**

Any person intending to carry out building works for erection of supporting structures for the installation of external lightings should, in accordance with the BO, appoint an authorised person and a registered structural engineer to prepare and submit building plans for approval by the BA and obtain written consent from the Building Authority (BA) before commencement of those building works. If those works fall within the description of designated minor works items, they may be carried out under the simplified requirements of the Minor Works Control System without the need to obtain approval and consent

from the BA.

When considering the applications to carry out building works for erection of supporting structures for the installation of external lightings, the BA takes into account the building and structural safety of those building works. Matters relating to light nuisances are not relevant in the context of the BO.

It should also be noted that according to section 14(2)(c) of the BO, neither the approval of any plans nor the consent to the commencement of any building works or street works shall be deemed to grant any exemption from or to permit any contravention of any of the provisions of the BO or of any other enactment. In other words, any approval for the building works for erection of supporting structures for the installation of external lightings does not mean that the requirements under other relevant legislation have also been met. Nonetheless, as regards building works associated with the erection of supporting structures for the installation of external lightings requiring prior approval and consent from the BA, the BD will refer the building plans to relevant departments such as the Lands Department, Highways Department, Planning Department and Transport Department for comment on matters under their respective purview. Should there be any relevant statutory requirements relating to light nuisances, the BD is willing to explore the possibility of referring relevant cases to the responsible department for advice to facilitate the control of light nuisances.



(Ms Edith Yuen)

for Secretary for the Environment