

Hon Chan Kam Lam, SBS, JP
 Chairman of the Panel on Transport
 Legislative Council
 1 Legislative Council Road
 Central, Hong Kong

16 July 2013

Dear Hon Mr. Chan,

2013 Consultation Paper
Private Driving Instructors' Licenses

Regarding the recent Consultation Paper published by the Transport Department on the upcoming review of the issuing mechanism of Private Driving Instructors' (PDI) Licenses, we are pleased to submit our views for your and the members' reference.

Key benefits of the DDS policy

Members may be aware that the Government ceased to issue new private driving instructors' licenses in the early seventies, and subsequently introduced the first designated driving school (DDS) in the early eighties. The key benefits of the DDS policy were to enable the Government to regulate the standard of driving training, to help reduce traffic congestions in city areas, and to improve overall road safety in the long run. The ultimate objective was to fully regulate on-road driving training over time, whereby designated driving schools would be the only service providers.

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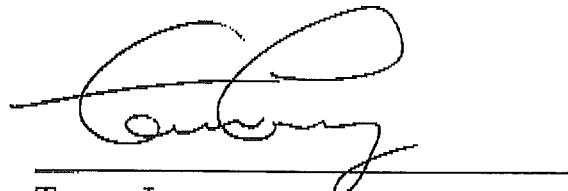
The policy was then further developed into a "two-prong approach" in 1999, which enabled both private instructors and Restricted Driving Instructors (RDI) under the DDS operations to provide driving trainings to the general public to improve quality of driving and enhance road safety in HK.

Review on the issuing mechanism of new PDI licenses

As far as this consultation is concerned, HKSM understands that the consultation mainly focuses on reviewing the private driving instructor license issuing mechanism. In this connection, the consultation may have more direct relevance to the driving instructors currently practicing in the industry. Nonetheless, as an operator of a designated driving school, we welcome the broad involvement of different stakeholders in the industry. While the nine options presented in the Consultation Paper seem to have covered a wide spectrum of considerations, we urge the Government, when deciding to adopt the final mechanism, to take careful considerations to ensure that the road safety of Hong Kong will be safeguarded, the quality of driving training by all operators will be improved, and a healthy development of the driving training industry will be fostered.

Yours faithfully,

For and on behalf of
The Hong Kong School of Motoring



Taurus Leung
Chief Executive Officer