

政府總部
運輸及房屋局
運輸科
香港添馬添美道 2 號
政府總部東翼



**Transport and
Housing Bureau**
Government Secretariat
Transport Branch
East Wing, Central Government Offices,
2 Tim Mei Avenue,
Tamar, Hong Kong

本局檔號 Our Ref.: THB(T)CR PML 8/10/200/5 Pt. 6

來函檔號 Your Ref.: CB1/PL/TP

Tel No. : 3509 7245

Fax No. : 2523 6242

Clerk to Panel
Panel on Transport
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road, Central
Hong Kong
(Attn: Ms Sophie LAU)
(Fax: 2978 7569)

8 March 2013

Dear Ms LAU,

Panel on Transport
Letter from Hon WONG Kwok-hing

Safety Issues of Local Passenger-Carrying Vessels

Thank you for your letter of 22 February 2013 conveying the Hon WONG Kwok-hing's concern on the safety issues of the local passenger-carrying vessels.

As the inquiry before the Commission of Inquiry into the Collision of Vessels near Lamma Island on 1 October 2012 ("the Commission") is ongoing, the sub-judice rule applies, and it would not be appropriate for the Administration to offer its comment on the views expressed by the expert of the Commission on whether a watertight door should be fitted on the bulkhead between the "tank compartment" and the "steering gear compartment" on "Lamma IV".

The Administration is only in a position to offer general comments as set out in the ensuing paragraphs to address the Hon Wong Kwok Hing's concern.

Generally, in order for new passenger carrying vessels to be licensed for operation in Hong Kong waters, drawings, plans and documents will have to be submitted to the Marine Department for approval. The drawings, plans and documents will be considered for approval by the Marine Department according to the relevant statutory provisions or the Code of Practice, to ensure compliance with the requirements for watertight compartment and life saving appliances.

The Administration will review the regulatory system and the relevant laws with a view to enhancing safety of the local passenger-carrying vessels operating in Hong Kong waters. We will also, as appropriate, follow up on any relevant recommendations which the Commission may make.

Yours sincerely,



(Jack MF Chan)

for Secretary for Transport and Housing

c.c. Director of Marine (Attn: Mr K F CHIK)