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16 April 2013

Ms Sophie Lau
Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central
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Dear Ms LAU,

Pedestrians' Right of Way at Zebra Crossings

Thank you for your letter of 10 April 2013, relaying Hon Wong Kwok-hing's enquiry on pedestrians' right of way at zebra crossings. Our reply is in the ensuing paragraphs.

According to Section 31 of the Road Traffic (Traffic Control) Regulations (Cap.374G), "every pedestrian on a zebra crossing shall have precedence while on it over any vehicle and, if a pedestrian is on the zebra crossing before the vehicle or any part of it has come on to or over the zebra crossing, the driver of the vehicle shall accord precedence to such pedestrian". The same Regulations also stipulate that a "zebra controlled area" can be indicated on the road on both sides of the zebra crossing, with white zig-zag lines specifying the area limits. Also, it is stated in the Road Users' Code that when approaching a zebra crossing, the driver should look out for pedestrians waiting to cross and be ready to slow down to stop at the "Give Way" line to let them cross, and that the driver must not stop on the "zebra controlled area" except when giving way to pedestrians. The Regulations and the Code are very clear on the matter.

Given the requirements in the Regulations and the Code, the Police adopt the following enforcement criteria: regardless of whether the vehicle has entered the “zebra controlled area” when the pedestrian steps on the zebra crossing, the driver must stop and give way or else he commits an offence and is subjected to prosecution. The Police will enhance their enforcement actions and ensure that frontline officers act according to such criteria.

The Transport Department will continue to work with the Road Safety Council as well as the Police and other relevant departments to promote road safety so as to raise among drivers and pedestrians a greater awareness in this regard, thus enhancing safety on the road. The 28th issue of the Road Safety Bulletin published in July 2012, for example, explained in detail the rules on using signalised pedestrian crossings and zebra crossings. Messages on road safety are also disseminated via television and radio broadcast to remind drivers and pedestrians of the things to take heed of, including the safe and proper use of zebra crossings, through promotional and educational means.

Thank you for relaying Hon Wong Kwok-hing’s concern and enquiry on the matter.

Yours sincerely,



(Kwong Ka-yin)
for Secretary for Transport and Housing