

香港特別行政區政府

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

政府總部
運輸及房屋局
運輸科

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Transport and
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檔號 YOUR REF.: CB1/PL/TP

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31 October 2014

Panel on Transport
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn: Ms Sophie LAU)

Dear Ms LAU,

Panel on Transport

**Submission on Illegal carriage of passengers for hire or reward
by some light goods vehicles**

Thank you for the letter of the Panel dated 26 June 2014 relaying the concerns of the Taxi & P.L.B. Concern Group on the captioned subject. Our reply is set out below.

The role of goods vehicles is to provide service for the carriage of goods. Pursuant to section 52 of the Road Traffic Ordinance, Cap. 374 (“RTO”), licensed light goods vehicles (“LGVs”) may carry goods for hire and reward. It is an offence for any person to use LGVs for carrying passengers for hire or reward. It is also an offence for a person to solicit or attempt to solicit any person for hire or reward to travel in an LGV.

“LGVs” and “van-type LGVs” are clearly defined under the RTO and its subsidiary legislation. Under the RTO, an LGV (“輕型貨車” in the Chinese rendition) means a goods vehicle having a permitted gross vehicle

weight not exceeding 5.5 tonnes. Under the Road Traffic (Registration and Licensing of Vehicles) Regulations, Cap. 374E, a van-type LGV (“客貨車” in the Chinese rendition) means an LGV constructed with a fully enclosed body which is an integral part of the vehicle. Instead of making amendment to the Chinese rendition, the Administration considers that publicity and education are the more effective means to increase public awareness and understanding of the role of LGVs. To better enhance the understanding of the general public and the LGV trade about the permitted services of LGVs, the Transport Department (“TD”) has all along launched publicity and educational activities through various channels such as the broadcasting of Announcements in the Public Interest (“APIs”). The TD is liaising with the LGV trade to examine the feasibility and effectiveness of placing a label on the body of an LGV for easy identification on a voluntary basis.

Under the existing legislation, LGVs have a maximum passenger seating capacity of five. As at mid-2014, there are about 75 000 LGVs in Hong Kong, around 52 000 of which have been fitted with three to five passenger seats depending on the actual operational needs of individual operators. If the maximum permissible passenger seating capacity is to be reduced to two, the operational flexibility of the LGV trade and the choices of transport means available to the public would be seriously undermined.

The Police will also continue to monitor the situation and take enforcement actions as and when necessary.

Yours sincerely,

(Ms Freda CHAN)
for Secretary for Transport and Housing

c.c.:

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