

For Information**Legislative Council
Panel on Environmental Affairs****Implementation of the Extension of
Plastic Shopping Bag Charging to All Retail Outlets:
Follow-up Actions**

At its meeting on 15 December 2014, the Panel on Environmental Affairs (“EAP”) discussed the progress of the Government’s trade facilitation and publicity actions for the implementation of the extension of the Plastic Shopping Bag Charging (“PSB Charging”) starting from 1 April 2015. This note sets out the Administration’s response to the request for supplementary information.

(a) *provide statistics on the reduction in the number of plastic shopping bags (“PSB”) distributed by registered retailers after the implementation of the Environmental Levy Scheme on Plastic Shopping Bags (“the Levy Scheme”);*

2. Prior to the implementation of the Levy Scheme, we did not have statistics on PSBs distributed by different sources. Through surveys on PSB disposal at landfills conducted in 2009 and 2010 (i.e. before and one year after the implementation of the Levy Scheme), we estimate that the avoidance in the number of PSBs distributed by registered retailers in one year after the launch of the Levy Scheme in July 2009 could be as high as 90%. With the implementation of the Levy Scheme, registered retailers are required to submit quarterly returns on, amongst other things, PSBs distributed at their registered retail outlets and on that basis we have compiled the relevant statistics at **Annex A**.

(b) *provide statistics on the use of large black plastic garbage bags for waste collection after the implementation of the Levy Scheme; and*

3. We do not have the statistics being requested. Industrial-sized garbage bags (irrespective of colour) are widely used in Hong Kong. While individual government departments may have reported their usage in response to the LegCo questions, we have not conducted any studies

on the use of such garbage bags generally in Hong Kong before or after the implementation of the Levy Scheme.

(c) *provide statistics on the import of PSB after the implementation of the Levy Scheme.*

4. We do not have the statistics being requested. At present, the Census and Statistics Department collates trade statistics on domestic import and export of Hong Kong using the information collected from the import/export declarations lodged by importers and exporters. There is however no specific merchandise classification code as “plastic shopping bags”. We have been conducting landfill surveys to assess the disposal situation of PSB for the purpose of monitoring the effectiveness of the Levy Scheme and have not conducted other studies on the import of PSBs.

Environmental Protection Department
February 2015

**Number of Plastic Shopping Bags
Distributed by Registered Retailers**

Period	Number of Registered Retailers	Number of Registered Retail Outlets	Number of PSBs Distributed ('0 000)
Q3 2009	41	3,014	1,346
Q4 2009	40	3,015	1,276
Q1 2010	41	3,041	1,342
Q2 2010	40	3,081	1,142
Q3 2010	41	3,167	1,254
Q4 2010	40	3,146	1,244
Q1 2011	42	3,205	1,307
Q2 2011	41	3,234	1,253
Q3 2011	42	3,266	1,392
Q4 2011	42	3,319	1,408
Q1 2012	42	3,328	1,446
Q2 2012	41	3,321	1,414
Q3 2012	41	3,372	1,557
Q4 2012	41	3,380	1,538
Q1 2013	40	3,338	1,596
Q2 2013	40	3,351	1,569
Q3 2013	42	3,420	1,719
Q4 2013	47	3,473	1,710
Q1 2014	48	3,488	1,734
Q2 2014	48	3,501	1,693
Q3 2014	48	3,506	1,852