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**(Translation)**

5 April 2016

Panel on Environmental Affairs  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central  
Hong Kong

(Attn.: Ms Angel SHEK)

Dear Ms SHEK,

**Panel on Environmental Affairs**  
**Regulation of roadside cargo compartments (commonly known as “skips”)**

I refer to Panel on Environmental Affairs' letter of 23 February 2016 to the Secretary for the Environment.

On request of the Panel for the Administration to arrange early reporting of the work of the Joint Working Group (the “JWG”) set up for enhancing management of roadside skips, the JWG has now planned to report the progress of implementation of the measures in enhancing management of roadside skips at the Panel's meeting of 25 April 2016. The JWG will submit the work progress report of the JWG to Members for reference before the meeting.

As requested by the Panel, please find enclosed a copy of the Administration's recent reply of 1 February 2016 to the enquiry of the Public Accounts Committee of the Legislative Council.

Yours sincerely,

(Joe Fong)

for Director of Environmental Protection

encl.

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c.c.

(Joint Working Group)

Secretary for the Environment

Secretary for Transport and Housing

Secretary for Development

Director of Lands

Commissioner of Police

Commissioner for Transport

Director of Highways

Director for Food and Environmental Hygiene

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**CONFIDENTIAL**

1 February 2016

The Public Accounts Committee  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central  
Hong Kong

(Attn.: Mr. Anthony CHU)

Dear Mr. CHU,

**Follow-up to Public Accounts Committee Report No. 61  
Management of Roadside Skips**

I refer to the letter from the Public Accounts Committee to the Chief Secretary for Administration dated 8 January 2016. I am authorized to give the reply on her behalf.

The Administration attaches great importance in tackling the problems caused by roadside skips, and has set up a Joint Working Group (JWG) led by the Environment Bureau and the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) to actively investigate ways to enhance and co-ordinate the work of relevant Government Bureaux and Departments in managing roadside skips. The JWG comprises the Transport and Housing Bureau, the Development Bureau, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, the Home Affairs Department<sup>1</sup>, the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF), the Highways Department, the Lands Department (LandsD) and the Transport Department.

The review conducted by the JWG found that the main reason of placement of skips at roadside locations under complaint was due to a lack of proper storage locations, in particular during the night time. The skip operators placed their idling skips on the roadside for convenience. As the root of the problem is due to a lack of proper storage locations for idling skips, relying solely on enforcement of relevant laws would not be able to resolve the problem. To tackle the issue, and in order to reduce the number of skips placed in public areas, our priority is to provide proper storage areas for placing skips, to be backed up by speedy removal of roadside skips that caused obstruction to traffic so as to further deter malpractices of the skip operators. We believe that these two measures, which can be implemented in a relatively shorter time, should effectively alleviate the problems caused by roadside skips.

<sup>1</sup> To attend on a need basis.

Below are replies to the specific questions in your letter, after consulting the relevant Government Bureaux and Departments:

(a) Latest enforcement actions of the HKPF and the LandsD

The HKPF and the LandsD have been taking proactive enforcement actions on roadside skips. The HKPF received 1,230 and 1,208 complaints about roadside skips in 2015 and 2014, respectively. Among the complaint cases received by the HKPF, the number of cases with skips identified by the police officers at the scene was 1,030 cases for 2015 and 1,046 cases for 2014. Advice and/or warning were given by the HKPF under the Summary Offences Ordinance (Cap. 228), such that about 80% of the skip(s) were removed by the skip operators themselves within a few hours after issuance of the advice/warnings. The number of skips removed by the HKPF's contractor was 4 in 2015 and 5 in 2014. The number of summons for prosecution issued by the HKPF was 10 in 2015 and 13 in 2014.

The LandsD received 858 and 1,164 complaints about roadside skips in 2015 and 2014, respectively. For about 99% of these cases, the skips were removed by the skip operators usually within two days after posting of notices by the LandsD under the Land (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance (Cap. 28). The number of skips removed by the LandsD's contractor was 8 in 2015 and 14 in 2014. The LandsD had successfully prosecuted a case involving roadside skip, and the defendant was fined \$1,500 by the court.

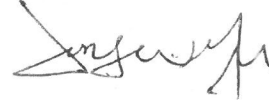
(b) and (c) The strategies and action plans for regulating and facilitating skip operations

As mentioned above, the two measures which can be implemented in a relatively shorter time, namely to provide proper storage areas for placing skips to be backed up by speedy removal of roadside skips that caused obstruction to traffic, should effectively alleviate the problems caused by roadside skips.

In the annual progress report submitted to PAC in November 2015, the JWG proposed to, in order to address the issue of lack of proper storage area for skips, make available to skip operators through tendering short-term tenancies (STT) sites for storage of skips. We have already identified two pieces of land for the purpose, and are working on the terms and conditions for leasing the STTs. We will shortly consult the relevant District Councils of the two identified sites. Depending on the outcome of the consultation, we plan to tender out the STTs in the second quarter of 2016 so that the trade would have suitable locations for placement of skips within 2016. Besides, in order to enhance enforcement efficiency, we have prepared the terms and conditions for a service contract with a view to engage a service provider to support the enforcement departments in speedy removal of skips. This contract service will be commissioned in parallel with the provision of the STT sites for placement of skips so as to increase the deterrent against malpractices.

The JWG will firstly implement the short-term measures above, and having regard to the effectiveness of the short-term measures, consider if there is a need to introduce further measures, such as formulating a regulatory system for skips.

Yours sincerely,



(Joe Fong)  
for Director of Environmental Protection

- c.c. The Chief Secretary for Administration (fax no. 2524 5695)  
Secretary for the Environment (fax no. 2537 7278)  
Secretary for Transport and Housing (fax no. 2537 6519)  
Secretary for Development (fax no. 2845 3489)  
Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (fax no. 2147 5239)  
Director of Lands (fax no. 2152 0450)  
Commissioner of Police (fax no. 2520 1210)  
Director of Audit (fax no. 2583 9063)