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27 October 2015

Ms Doris LO
Clerk to LegCo Panel on Environmental Affairs
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong.
(Fax no.: 3529 2837)

Dear Ms LO,

**LegCo Panel on Environmental Affairs
Placing skips on roadside recklessly**

The letter from the Panel dated 6 October 2015 refers. We consulted the relevant departments on the captioned matter and a consolidated reply is provided below.

Regarding the roadside skips problem in Tsuen Wan district, the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) and the Lands Department (LandsD) had explained at the Tsuen Wan District Council meeting on 29 September 2015 their enforcement actions, including advices and warnings given and prosecutions taken against the roadside skips in the Tsuen Wan district, especially those related to Mei Wan Street. HKPF will take immediate action at the scene against skips causing serious obstruction on roads or posing imminent danger to the public, including removal of those skips, and will also handle complaints against noise nuisance caused by the operation of the skips. On the two complaint cases against roadside skips at Mei Wan Street, warnings were given to the skip operators by HKPF. LandsD will remove those skips which are still occupying government land after expiry of the specified period stated in the notice posted on the skips by the department.

As for the overall management of roadside skips, in the light of the

recommendations from the Director of Audit's Report No. 61, a Joint Working Group (JWG), led by the Environment Bureau and the Environmental Protection Department and supported by the Development Bureau, Transport and Housing Bureau, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, Home Affairs Department, HKPF, Highways Department, LandsD and Transport Department, has been set up to study ways to enhance and co-ordinate the efforts of various bureaux and departments concerned in the management of roadside skips.

The JWG, after study, has recommended measures to be taken forward in the near term, which include engaging term contract service providers to support law enforcement officers in removing roadside skips within a short time so as to enhance enforcement efficiency; and identifying suitable sites to be made available to skip operators through tendering on short-term tenancies for the storage of "idling" skips, with a view to reducing the number of such skips placed on roads or in public places. The JWG anticipates that the above measures would speed up the removal of roadside skips which have caused road obstruction, enhance the deterrent effect of enforcement actions, and reduce malpractices on the placement of roadside skips by making available places for storage of "idling" skips. The JWG is actively pursuing the preparatory work with a view to introducing these measures in 2016.

The Government will, having regard to the effectiveness of the above measures, consider the need for introducing other institutionalised measures in the longer term, e.g. the proposals made in the motion moved by the Tsuen Wan District Council submitted to your Panel.

Yours sincerely,



(David Ha)

for Director of Environmental Protection