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26 April 2016

Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn: Ms Shirley CHAN)

By Fax & By Post
(Fax No: 3151 7052)

Dear Ms Chan,

Review on Public Cargo Working Areas

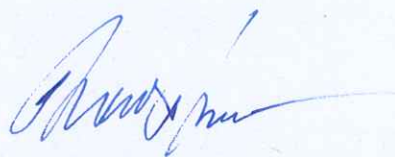
Thank you for your letter of 1 April 2016, enclosing a letter from the Joint Alliance of Public Cargo Working Areas (“Joint Alliance”) to Legislative Council Panel on Economic Development on the findings and recommendations of the Review on Public Cargo Working Areas (“Review”).

The Director of Marine met with some 20 representatives of the Joint Alliance on 13 April 2016 to exchange views on the tendering arrangements for the berths in Public Cargo Working Areas (“PCWAs”), the tenure of Berth Licence Agreements (“BLAs”) and the discount fee for Vehicle Entry Ticket (“VET”). The Government cherishes the contributions of the cargo handling trade to Hong Kong’s economic and social developments, and understands the trade’s requests. At the meeting, we explained in detail the rationale of the Review recommendations and the arrangements of the new round of tenders.

The Marine Department (“MD”) has endeavoured its best to strive for the best arrangement for the trade while balancing the demands of different sectors and organisations, including the District Councils and residents, the Harbourfront Commission and our Container Terminal. In view of the expiry of the current BLAs on 31 July 2016, the representatives of Joint Alliance accepted that MD would launch a new round of tenders for the PCWA berths on 15 April as originally envisaged, so as to ensure that PCWA operators can continue their operations from 1 August 2016.

MD launched the tender exercise for PCWA berths on 15 April 2016. As regards the VET discount proposal, we are working on the requisite legislation, with a view to expediting the process for the early benefit of the trade.

Yours sincerely,



(Ivan SHUEN)
for Secretary for Transport and Housing

cc Director of Marine Attn: Mr F L CHEUK (Fax No: 3101 0914)