

香港特別行政區政府
保安局



The Government of the
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
Security Bureau

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10 January 2017

Mr Anthony Chu
Clerk to Public Accounts Committee
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Mr Chu,

Public Accounts Committee
Consideration of Chapter 3 of the Director of Audit's Report No. 67
Procurement and maintenance of fire services equipment

Thank you for your letter of 19 December 2016 on the captioned. In consultation with the relevant departments, our response is set out at **Annex**.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex Chan', written over a white background.

(Alex Chan)
for Secretary for Security

c.c.

Director of Fire Services	Fax: 2368 9744
Director of Government Logistics	Fax: 2116 0183
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**Public Accounts Committee
Consideration of Chapter 3 of the Director of Audit's Report No. 67
Procurement and maintenance of fire services equipment**

Security Bureau's Response

Question

According to paragraph 4.12, the implementation of the replacement projects of Fireboat No. 7 and two new speedboats have been delayed for about 3 to 4 years. Did the Fire Services Department (FSD) notify the Security Bureau (SB) about the delay? According to paragraph 4.14, in December 2015, SB informed the Panel on Security of FSD's proposal to procure a new fireboat and a new fast rescue vessel for commissioning in 2018, with a view to enhancing its firefighting and rescue capability in the eastern waters of Hong Kong. Nevertheless, up to August 2016, the procurement proposals of the two new vessels had not yet been submitted to the Marine Department for approval. Does SB consider it possible that the said new fireboat and new fast rescue vessel can be commissioned in 2018 as planned in the light of the prevailing circumstances?

Security Bureau's Response

The Fire Services Department (FSD) reviews from time to time its marine firefighting and rescue strategies in Hong Kong as well as the related equipment required. FSD also conducts risk assessment for different water areas and puts up proposals for procurement and replacement of vessels in the light of operational needs. In processing the vessel procurement and replacement proposals submitted by FSD, the Security Bureau (SB) would scrutinise the proposals to determine whether or not to give policy support and apply for funding. When the funding is approved, FSD and the Marine Department (MD) are responsible for implementing the vessel procurement and replacement proposals.

2. With respect to the procurement matters relating to the replacement of Fireboat No. 7 and the two diving support speedboats as mentioned in paragraph 4.12 of the Audit Report, SB was notified in August 2013 that due to the delay in MD's government vessel building projects, as well as the lack of sufficient staff with relevant experience in the Department, the procurement plans of various vessels of the disciplined services (including the aforesaid fire

vessels) were delayed. SB was concerned about the situation and has been following up with the relevant departments and FSD.

3. As regards the proposal to procure a fireboat and a fast rescue vessel, which was discussed by the Panel on Security of the Legislative Council in December 2015, SB understands that since MD needs to simultaneously plan for the procurement for a number of government vessels (including replacement of old vessels and procurement of new ones), the progress of the procurement of the new fireboat and new fast rescue vessel would also be delayed upon further liaison between MD and FSD. According to the current progress, it is estimated that the construction of the two new vessels would be completed in 2020 for commissioning.

4. Prior to the commissioning of the new fire vessels (including the aforesaid fireboats, diving support speedboats and fast rescue vessel), SB will ask FSD to continue reviewing on a regular basis the inshore installations and all potential fire risks of different water areas, as well as deployment of fire vessels and resources of fireboat stations and their operational strategies, and to put in place appropriate operational arrangements to meet the demand of specific areas or during special periods. In addition, as set out in paragraph 4.11 of the Audit Report, FSD and MD have taken interim measures, including replacing the engines of Fireboat No. 7 and the diving support speedboats to maintain their operational capabilities. We are also aware that MD has implemented a series of improvement measures to expedite the vessel procurement process. Please refer to ~~MD's letter of 3 January 2017 to the Public Accounts Committee~~ for details. *Appendix 29*
