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24 March 2017

Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung
Chairman
Panel on Economic Development of the Legislative Council
Legislative Council Complex, 1 Legislative Council Road, Central
Hong Kong
(Attention : Ms Shirley CHAN)

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dear Jeff.'.

**Panel on Economic Development – List of Outstanding Items for
Discussion: Regulation of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)**

At our work plan meeting for the 2016-17 legislative session in November 2016, we discussed and agreed to include the regulation of UAS for discussion at the Panel on Economic Development in the second quarter of 2017, following up on the letter from Hon Jeremy Tam dated 24 October 2016. I now write to inform you and seek your understanding that the item would need to be deferred to the fourth quarter of 2017.

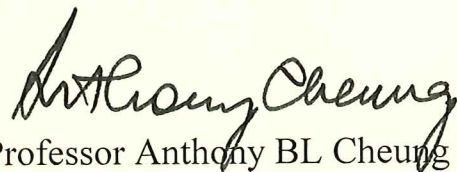
With the rapid technological development of UAS and the increasingly diversified use of UAS, governments all over the world have been actively considering strengthening the regulatory regime specific to the use of UAS. Similarly in Hong Kong, we have been reviewing the existing regulatory framework for the operation of UAS. A key objective of our research work and policy deliberation is to consider how best the current regulatory regime on UAS could be tightened to enhance safety, while balancing the use of UAS for recreational and work purposes and the protection of public safety. There are

complex issues involved as the subject matter encompasses, *inter alia*, technology and operational details, public and aviation safety, law and enforcement, and a broad diversity and competency level of user groups. To seek international expertise to support our review, the Civil Aviation Department has engaged an overseas consultant to assist its work. According to the current work plan, it is envisaged that the findings of the consultancy would be available around end Q3/early Q4 of this year.

In light of the above, it is considered that the Panel's discussion would be more fruitful if it could be deferred to the last quarter of 2017 when the consultancy report is available. Please rest assured that the Transport and Housing Bureau will closely involve the Panel in the policy development process in relation to the regulation of UAS. Your understanding on the deferral of this item would be much appreciated.

If you have any question on the above, please feel free to contact Ms Joyce Chan, the subject Principal Assistant Secretary, by phone at 3509 8195 or by email at joyce_chan@thb.gov.hk.

Yours ever,



(Professor Anthony BL Cheung)
Secretary for Transport and Housing

c.c. DGCA (Attn: Mr Alan Shum)