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25 November 2016

Ms Connie SZETO
Clerk to Panel on Financial Affairs
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Ms SZETO,

Legislative Council Panel on Financial Affairs

Arrangements of Disposal of Mobile Tablets of the 2016 Population By-census

I am writing to provide information regarding the disposal arrangements of mobile tablets used in the 2016 Population By-census ("16BC"), in response to the discussion at the meeting of the Subcommittee on the Census and Statistics (2016 Population Census) Order ("Subcommittee") on 24 November 2015.

Background

The Order was tabled at the Legislative Council ("LegCo") on 28 October 2015 to provide statutory backing for conducting the 16BC in Hong Kong. At a meeting of the Subcommittee on 24 November 2015, Members requested the Census and Statistics Department ("C&SD") to arrange timely disposal of the mobile tablets purchased for use in the 16BC and suggested C&SD to liaise with relevant Government departments to donate the tablets to parties in need. Members also requested the Administration to report the disposal arrangements to the relevant Panel(s) of LegCo soonest possible upon completion of the 16BC.

Disposal arrangements of the mobile tablets

To ensure timely disposal of the mobile tablets, C&SD had carried out the necessary liaison work and made prior arrangements in the first half of 2016. Soon after the tablets were available upon completion of the 16BC data collection work in early August 2016, C&SD arranged to erase the 16BC data and applications from the tablets and by end October 2016, i.e. within two months' time, the tablets were ready for distribution to parties in need.

With the assistance of the Social Welfare Department, C&SD had identified a number of non-governmental organisations ("NGOs"), particularly those established solely or principally for educational, scientific, cultural or charitable purposes, which would be interested in receiving the mobile tablets. The tablets donated to the NGOs would mainly be deployed for educational use. For instance, many tablets would be used for providing information technology training courses to children, youths, the elderly, and disadvantaged groups.

A total of 5 901 mobile tablets had been procured for the 16BC data collection. Upon discounting those tablets to be retained for Government's internal use and those becoming unserviceable, 5 084 mobile tablets, worth around HK\$7 million, were available for donation to NGOs. The tablets concerned were distributed to 74 NGOs between end October and mid-November 2016.

We should be grateful for your assistance in disseminating the information to Members of the Panel.

Yours sincerely,



(Marion CHAN)

for Commissioner for Census and Statistics