

**Bills Committee on Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong
Express Rail Link (Co-location) Bill**

**List of follow-up actions arising from the discussion
at the meeting on 13 March 2018**

Government response

The Administration was requested to consider a member's suggestion of forwarding the submission dated 12 March 2018 from the Hong Kong Bar Association in respect of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (Co-location) Bill to the Central Authorities.

The Co-operation Arrangement between the Mainland and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region on the Establishment of the Port at the West Kowloon Station of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link for Implementing Co-location Arrangement (“Co-operation Arrangement”) signed between the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (“HKSAR”) and the Mainland on 18 November 2017 was submitted by the State Council to the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress (“NPCSC”) for deliberation. Following deliberation in group meetings, the NPCSC voted to adopt the Decision on 27 December 2017 which approved the Co-operation Arrangement and confirmed that it was consistent with the Constitution of the People’s Republic of China and the Basic Law. Both the Decision itself and the Explanations of Director Zhang Xiaoming of the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office of the State Council at the NPCSC meeting on 22 December 2017 have explained in detail the legal basis of the co-location arrangement.

Ultimately, the Co-operation Arrangement can only be implemented smoothly in the HKSAR in accordance with law after the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (Co-location) Bill (“Bill”) has been scrutinised and passed by the Legislative Council (“LegCo”) of the HKSAR. In the course of scrutiny of the Bill, we believe that LegCo Members will take into account different views in society, including the submission made by the Hong Kong Bar Association to the Bills Committee dated 12 March 2018. This submission has been published online and widely reported by the media. We do not see a need for the

HKSAR Government to forward to the Central Authorities a submission to the LegCo from a particular individual or organisation. The Government will continue to clearly explain the legal basis for the Bill and details of its implementation and strive to ensure the passage of the Bill in a timely manner, thereby allowing the commissioning of the Hong Kong Section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link as originally scheduled.

Transport and Housing Bureau
Department of Justice
21 March 2018