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30 April 2018

Secretary General
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn: Ms Sophie LAU)

Dear Ms Lau,

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

Letter from Hon CHAN Chi-chuen dated 13 April 2018

We refer to your letter dated 16 April 2018, enclosing a letter from Hon CHAN Chi-chuen dated 13 April 2018 in respect of the preparatory works being conducted by the Mainland personnel at the West Kowloon Station Mainland Port Area (“MPA”) prior to the operation of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (Co-location) Bill (“Bill”). Our reply is as follows.

Commencement date of the Ordinance

(Part (1) of Hon CHAN Chi-chuen's written enquiry)

Pursuant to Clause 1(2) of the Bill, the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (Co-location) Ordinance ("Ordinance"), as it is after the passage of the Bill, comes into operation on a day to be appointed by the Secretary for Transport and Housing by notice published in the Gazette. The MPA will be established and commissioned upon the operation of the Ordinance. This commencement date will be the date of "commissioning" of the West Kowloon Station MPA mentioned in Article 4 of 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 ("XRL") for Implementing Co-location Arrangement and the Decision of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress on 27 December 2017.

As for whether the Hong Kong Section of the XRL will be commissioned on the same day when the Ordinance comes into operation, the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region understands that the Mainland personnel needs to conduct final preparatory works at the West Kowloon Station MPA prior to the commissioning date of the Hong Kong Section of the XRL, such as ensuring that all requisite materials have been delivered to the MPA and familiarising themselves with the relevant operational procedures. We are considering whether it would be necessary for the Ordinance to come into operation in a short period of time before the commissioning of the Hong Kong Section of the XRL, so as to ensure that the West Kowloon Station MPA can operate smoothly after the commissioning of the Hong Kong Section of the XRL. The relevant details will require further discussions with the Mainland.

Facilities in the MPA

(Parts (2) to (4) of Hon CHAN Chi-chuen's written enquiry)

To dovetail with the target commissioning of the Hong Kong Section of the XRL in September 2018, installation works of clearance facilities are underway at the West Kowloon Station MPA. The delivery and installation works of the relevant facilities are conducted in accordance with Hong Kong law. After the completion of installation works, personnel of the Mainland Authorities Stationed at the MPA will conduct testing to ensure that the facilities can operate properly. Such testing will be conducted strictly in accordance with Hong Kong law.

Prior to the establishment of the MPA, any material delivered by the Mainland Authorities Stationed at the MPA to the West Kowloon Station will be handled in accordance with and governed by Hong Kong law. As per our understanding, the Mainland does not have any plan at present to transport guns to the West Kowloon Station MPA prior to the commissioning of the MPA (i.e. the commencement date of the Ordinance).

Yours sincerely,



(Ronald CHENG)

for Secretary for Transport and Housing

c.c. Secretary for Justice
Secretary for Security