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19 December 2017

Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road, Central
Hong Kong

(Attn: Ms Cindy Ho, Chief Council Secretary (1)1)

Dear Ms Ho,

Panel on Environmental Affairs
Follow-up to policy briefing cum meeting on 30 October 2017

Regarding the second motion passed at the meeting of the Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs held on 30 October 2017 (LC Paper No. CB(1)151/17-18(02)), our reply is set out below.

At present, the Lands Department and the Buildings Department have clear guidelines on the circumstances under which small-scale environmental and amenity facilities are allowed at the New Territories Exempted Houses. Before further clarifying the specifications, the Government should also take into account the impacts of such devices on the structural safety of buildings, in addition to environmental protection issues. We will consult relevant bureaux and departments on the feasibility of the proposal.

Village houses in the New Territories are private properties. When installing solar power devices, property owners should also have regard to the limitations posed by the surrounding environment. Given that the locations and sizes of the areas used by the property owners for the installation of solar panels are different, and there are various types of solar panels with different installation requirements available on the market, it may be difficult for the Government to provide with a sample solar panel which is suitable to all village houses. A single sample is also of limited reference value.

To encourage the community to consider adopting distributed RE installations, the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department's website provides

information on the relevant projects, and information, guide and technical guidelines of solar power devices. For details, please refer to the following webpage: http://re.emsd.gov.hk/english/solar/solar_ph/solar_ph_ep.html. At present, the two power companies provide advice on the technical aspects of grid connection to customers interested in installing distributed RE systems. When the new Scheme of Control Agreements come into effect in end-2018 / early 2019, the power companies will introduce further measures to assist customers interested in installing solar panels. We are now discussing with the power companies the detailed arrangements and will announce the same next year.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CL' or similar initials, written in a cursive style.

(Miss Connie LAM)
for Secretary for the Environment