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By email

27 September 2018

Clerk to Panel
Panel on Environmental Affairs
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Ms Shek,

Panel on Environmental Affairs: Follow-up to Meeting on 19 July 2018

At the Panel meeting held on 19 July 2018, the Government provided an update on the progress of preparation for implementing the Producer Responsibility Scheme on glass beverage containers. Our responses to the questions by Panel Members are as follows-

(a) whether the Administration would consider earmarking part/all of the proceeds from implementing the Producer Responsibility Scheme on glass beverage containers for supporting the development of the local recycling industry on the basis of "dedicated fund for dedicated use";

In line with the government practice, the container recycling levy collected will go to the General Revenue while the Government will be responsible for paying the costs for collection and treatment of waste glass containers as well as the relevant publicity and promotion work. This arrangement is considered appropriate and will help ensure that the provision of the glass container recycling services will not be affected by the amount of levy collected.

(b) whether and how government departments would give priority to using locally-recycled glass materials/products;

The Government has adopted the Green Procurement Policy under which bureaux and departments are required to take into account environmental considerations when procuring goods and services, including, among others, purchase of products with high recycled content to support growth of the environmental industry. For example, most road maintenance works under the Highways Department have adopted the use of eco-pavers that are produced from the locally-recycled glass materials while other works departments and Housing Department have also been using eco-pavers in their works projects where applicable.

(c) statistics from recent years on the quantity of eco-pavers produced locally from waste glass containers, and the percentages of such eco-pavers that were used (i) locally and (ii) by government departments; and

We do not have information on the quantity of eco-pavers produced locally from waste glass containers. The quantities of locally-produced eco-pavers used by various works departments and the Housing Department in 2016 and 2017 are as follows:

Year	Quantities in square metres
2016	130 000
2017	110 000

(d) why the Administration considered that it was not in the public interest to award the glass management contract for the Kowloon catchment region in the initial open tender exercise and hence subsequently decided to re-tender that contract.

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) invited tenders for the Glass Management Contracts for the Hong Kong Island (including Islands Districts), Kowloon and the New Territories regions respectively in early 2017. In line with the general government practices as adopted in other open tender exercises, EPD assessed and evaluated the Technical Proposal and Financial Offer of the tenders in accordance with the principles and procedures set out in the tender documents approved by the Central Tender Board, and selected the successful tenderers according to the tender acceptance rules stipulated in the tender documents. For the contract for the Kowloon region, having considered the tender assessment outcome and the tender acceptance rules

stipulated in the tender documents, as well as the views of the Central Tender Board, EPD considered that the tender proposal recommended for acceptance according to the tender rules did not meet the value-for-money expectation and hence, it would not be in the public interest to award the contract. EPD therefore decided to cancel the tender. EPD has subsequently amended certain tender requirements in light of the outcome of the tender exercise. With the approval of the Central Tender Board, the contract for the Kowloon region was re-tendered in mid-November 2017 and successfully awarded in April 2018.

Yours sincerely,

(Stephen C.W. Siu)

for Director of Environmental Protection