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15 December 2017

Miss Cindy HO
Clerk to Panel on Environmental Affairs
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

(FAX : 3529 2837)

Dear Miss Ho,

**Discussion on Local Regulatory Control of the Use and Sale
of Products Containing Microbeads**

Thank you for your letter dated 28 November 2017 to Mr K.S. WONG, the Secretary for the Environment, about the enquiries raised by Hon KWOK Wai-keung regarding the consultancy study on microplastics to be conducted by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD). I am authorised to provide a reply.

As mentioned by the Secretary for the Environment at the Legislative Council meeting on 22 November 2017, in order to assess more accurately the environmental impact of microplastics in the local context, and to learn more about the specific details and implementation approaches of the bans on personal care and cosmetic products (PCCPs) containing microplastics in the international arena, the EPD will commence a consultancy study to formulate proposals applicable to Hong Kong. The study will, inter alia, gauge the views of local stakeholders such as the manufacturers and retailers of PCCPs and the beauty industry on the regulatory control of products containing microplastics.

The EPD is currently making preparations for the tendering of the one-year consultancy study, which is expected to commence in early 2018.

The EPD will closely monitor other countries' developments in the regulatory control of microplastics-containing PCCPs and make reference to the study recommendations in deciding on the appropriate control framework for Hong Kong. During the course of the study, we will encourage the relevant trade to voluntarily stop selling microplastics-containing PCCPs, and also urge consumers to choose alternative products with a view to minimising potential pollution to the marine environment.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daisy', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

(Ms Daisy LO)
for the Director of
Environmental Protection