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23 February 2018

Ms Shirley CHAN  
Clerk to Panel on Economic Development  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Ms CHAN,

**Legislative Council Panel on Economic Development  
Meeting on 22 January 2018**

At the Legislative Council Panel on Economic Development meeting on 22 January 2018, during discussion of the item on the making and amending of subsidiary legislation under the Merchant Shipping (Safety) Ordinance (Cap. 369) and the Merchant Shipping (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Ordinance (Cap. 413) for implementing the requirements of three international conventions of the International Maritime Organization (“IMO”), Members requested information on the number of ocean-going vessels entering Hong Kong waters based on their places of registry, as well as the details of the control and management of ballast water of ships within Hong Kong waters. The requisite information is set out in the ensuing paragraphs.

**Number of Ocean-going Vessels Entering Hong Kong Waters**

The breakdown of ocean-going vessels entering Hong Kong waters in the past three years based on their places of registry is set out at **Annex**.

## **Control and Management of Ballast Water within Hong Kong Waters**

The Marine Department ("MD") will conduct random inspections to ensure that ocean-going vessels ("OGVs") have met the standards as set out in the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments ("the Ballast Water Management Convention") of the IMO. MD will examine the validity of a ship's certificate, the ballast water management system, as well as the mandatory documents required on board under the Ballast Water Management Convention, including a ballast water management plan and a ballast water record book. In case of doubt, MD can take ballast water samples for testing against the standards stipulated in the Ballast Water Management Convention to confirm whether the discharge procedures have been followed and standards have been met. Under our legislative proposal, MD may prosecute the ship owner and master if the discharge procedures are found to be non-compliant. MD may also inform the Flag Administration of the OGV concerned of any non-compliance identified to deter future occurrences.

Should you have further enquiries, please feel free to contact me at 3509 8162. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,



(Ms Louisa YAN)  
for Secretary for Transport and Housing

### Number of Ocean-going Vessels Entering Hong Kong Waters

Place of Registry	2015	2016	2017*
Panama	1 239	1 219	1 054
Hong Kong, China	865	888	791
Liberia	543	546	481
Singapore	470	486	452
Marshall Islands	376	411	408
China	560	535	403
Malta	158	206	211
United Kingdom	159	143	118
Bahamas	122	112	103
Republic of Korea	117	112	100
Vietnam	62	84	89
Cyprus	84	114	87
Portugal	31	52	58
Belize	41	51	56
Antigua and Barbuda	81	64	54
Taiwan	73	130	46
Germany	58	48	43
Denmark	59	45	32
Japan	21	39	31
Greece	55	44	30
Sierra Leone	24	34	26
Thailand	34	31	26
Philippines	31	20	24
Italy	25	23	20
Others**	344	354	271
<b>Total</b>	<b>5 632</b>	<b>5 791</b>	<b>5 014</b>

\* The latest figures are up to 30 September 2017.

\*\* Administrations that had fewer than 20 ocean-going vessels entering Hong Kong waters annually, such as France, Indonesia and Norway.