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Transport and
Housing Bureau
Government Secretariat
Transport Branch
East Wing, Central Government Offices,
2 Tim Mei Avenue,
Tamar, Hong Kong

本局檔號 Our Ref.

來函檔號 Your Ref. CB4/PL/EDEV

20 April 2018

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

Dear Ms Chan,

Panel on Economic Development (“ED Panel”)

**Discussion on the “Report of the Transport and Housing Bureau’s
Investigation into Staff Conduct in the Marine Department in
relation to the Vessel Collision Incident near Lamma Island on
1 October 2012” (“the Report”)**

Thank you for your letter of 13 April 2018 on the captioned.

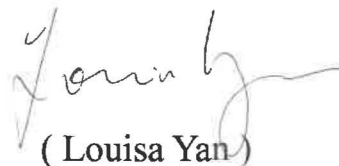
As the ED Panel is aware, during the two periods (from June to August 2015 and from April to May 2017) spanning a total of over 100 days, the Transport and Housing Bureau positively responded to the request of Legislative Council Members (“Members”) and made available the redacted version of the Report for perusal at designated venues by Members who have signed the confidentiality undertaking. The decision to make available the redacted version of Report for Member’s perusal is to enable the Legislative Council (“LegCo”) to discharge its duty of monitoring the work of the Administration. As internal disciplinary investigation reports are not usually disclosed to LegCo or the public, the Administration’s arrangements made in 2015 and 2017 were exceptional. Against this background, it is for consideration

whether there is a compelling practical case to make further arrangements, be it one which is similar to those made before or option (b) as suggested in your letter, for Members to peruse and discuss the redacted version of the Report under the confidentiality undertaking.

With regard to the discussion of the summary of the Report again at an open ED Panel meeting (as suggested in option (d) of your letter), we would note that the summary has already been discussed in detail at the ED Panel meeting on 28 April 2014. We would also note that after the Investigation was completed and the Report submitted to the then Secretary for Transport and Housing on 31 March 2014, there has been no update to the contents of the Report. We consider that priority should be accorded to, and efforts focused on, taking forward the various measures to enhance marine safety. We note that this is a view expressed by many Members of the ED Panel. We already have plans to consult the ED Panel a proposal to reform the regulatory regime for local pleasure vessels, as well as the legislative amendments to strengthen the requirements on provision of lifejackets on local vessels and to implement safety measures during major events at sea. We are also finalising the details on a policy framework to introduce measures to combat drink and drug boating which will entail enacting a new legislation, and will consult the ED Panel in due course. Step by step, the Bureau and the Marine Department are strengthening our marine regulatory regime and implementing proposals to enhance marine safety.

We hope the above will help facilitate Members' consideration in taking forward the matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Louisa Yan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

(Louisa Yan)

for Secretary for Transport and Housing