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The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

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Ms Sophie LAU
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

15 November 2017

Dear Ms LAU,

Legislative Council Panel on Transport

**Joint Letter dated 23 October 2017 from
Hon Wilson OR and Hon CHAN Han-pan
on the Shortage of Parking Spaces in Hong Kong**

Thank you for your letter dated 27 October 2017 enclosing the joint letter from Hon Wilson OR and Hon CHAN Han-pan.

The Government has been closely monitoring the demand for and supply of parking spaces in various districts across the territory. With priority accorded to the parking demand of commercial vehicles and a transport policy centred on public transport, the Government will provide an appropriate number of parking spaces for private cars if the overall development permits, but such number of parking spaces should not attract those passengers of public transport to opt for private cars instead. To address the shortage of parking spaces for commercial vehicles, the Government has actively rolled out various immediate measures. A consultancy study on commercial vehicle parking will commence soon with a view to formulating measures for meeting the parking demands from

commercial vehicles. Regarding the suggestions raised by Hon OR and Hon CHAN for increasing the number of parking spaces, our reply is set out below.

(1) To review the planning standards and guidelines immediately so as to increase the supply of parking spaces for commercial vehicles, private cars and motorcycles in new development projects

The Government will review from time to time the standards and guidelines in relation to the supply of parking spaces set out in the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines (HKPSG) and will make revisions as appropriate. Factors to be considered include utilisation rate of various types of parking spaces, social and economic factors affecting vehicle fleet growth, etc. Subject to the results of the consultancy study on parking for commercial vehicles and after reaching community consensus, we will, where appropriate, revise the standards for parking spaces and loading/unloading spaces for commercial vehicles in the HKPSG. It is anticipated that revisions to the HKPSG will require deliberations between relevant bureaux and departments.

Moreover, as stated in the Chief Executive's 2017 Policy Address, the Government will implement a series of short- and medium- to long-term measures to increase parking spaces in various districts having regard to the local situation. One of the measures is to require developers to provide parking spaces at the higher end of the range under the HKPSG. The Government will also require developers to provide additional parking spaces for public use in suitable projects taking into account the needs of the districts. The specific number of parking spaces to be provided in those developments need to be considered having regard to individual circumstances, including the local shortfall of parking spaces, the impact on the development project and the traffic impact on the local road network, etc.

(2) To improve the parking problem of school buses and expedite the implementation of the measure which allows school buses to park at schools during night time

We are currently studying whether school buses should be allowed to park at the car parks or playgrounds of schools during night time. The Transport Department is actively examining the feasibility of the arrangement with the Education Bureau and the Lands Department. As we have to consider various factors, such as the safety of students, we have yet to reach a final decision. Once a specific plan is formulated, we will brief the Panel on Transport on the relevant arrangement.

(3) To assist in the introduction of advanced automated parking system

The Government will consider whether to introduce mechanical parking system having regard to factors such as cost-effectiveness, resources required, technical feasibility, and whether such system is suitable for use in Hong Kong in terms of the physical environment.

(4) To implement the construction of multi-storey public car parks

At present, the Government mainly provides parking spaces through private development projects in various districts under the Land Sale Programme to reduce the demand for government multi-storey public car parks. In addition, land resources in Hong Kong are limited. Generally speaking, sites suitable for multi-storey car park uses also have potential for other development purposes. Integrating the planning of public parking spaces and development projects is the best means to optimise land use and more beneficial to the community as a whole.

As mentioned in the Chief Executive's 2017 Policy Address, we will actively provide public car parks in suitable new government, institution and community facilities, having regard to factors such as the demand and supply situation of parking spaces in the districts concerned as well as the traffic impact.

Thank you for Members' valuable advice.

Yours sincerely,



(Miss SOM Yee-man, Emily)
for Secretary for Transport and Housing

C.C.:

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