

[Translation]

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**Transport and  
Housing Bureau**  
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Secretary General  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central, Hong Kong  
(Attn: Mr Lemuel WOO)

[Fax no.: 2840 0269]

13 June 2018

Dear Mr WOO,

**Panel on Transport  
Licence Period for Ferry Services**

Regarding follow-up item (b) raised at the meeting on 16 March 2018, our Bureau and the Transport Department (TD) hereby provide a consolidated reply.

In accordance with section 29(2) of the Ferry Services Ordinance, the licence period for ferry services shall not exceed in the aggregate a period of 10 years. Prior to the expiry of the 10-year licence period of a particular ferry service, the TD would invite interested parties to submit Expressions of Interest for the operation of the service. If there are more than one ferry service operators indicating interest in operating the ferry service, the TD would conduct a tendering exercise.

Within the 10 years between 2008 and 2017, two licensed ferry operators (each of them operated one ferry route) did not apply for licence extension after the expiry of the three-year licence period. During the same period, the TD processed a total of 74 applications for licence extension, involving 25 ferry

routes. Having considered the relevant factors (including the performance of the operators, the outcomes of the local consultations and feedback of passengers), the TD approved all applications for licence extension. Moreover, the TD conducted 18 rounds of tendering exercises for 23 ferry routes and only one operator failed to obtain the licence for the ferry route it had previously operated. The licences for other ferry routes were granted to their respective original operators.

Yours sincerely,

(Vivian HO)  
for Secretary for Transport and Housing

c.c.:  
Commissioner for Transport

(Attn: Ms Fiona CHU)