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Ms Sophie LAU
Clerk to Panel on Transport
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

18 October 2018

Dear Ms LAU,

**Legislative Council Panel on Transport
Meeting on 18 May 2018
Supplementary Information**

Regarding the information requested by Members at the captioned meeting, we would like to reply as follows.

(a) Progress of the provision of add-value service to Octopus card users at the bus-bus interchanges on Tuen Mun Road

To further provide convenience to passengers at the bus-bus interchanges (“BBI”) on Tuen Mun Road, the Kowloon Motor Bus Company (1933) Limited (“KMB”) will set up customer service centres and provide Octopus add-value service at the BBIs. The customer service centre at the Tuen Mun-bound BBI is expected to come into operation in the first quarter of 2019. As for the proposed customer service centre at the Kowloon-bound BBI, the Lands Department is following up with the KMB on matters relating to the short term tenancies of government land, with a view to implementing the provision of the facility as early as possible.

(b) Review on the provision of in-harbour ferry routes and piers at the new development areas (such as the West Kowloon Cultural District and the Kai Tak Development Area)

At present, there are facilities such as public piers or landing steps for embarkation and disembarkation on the two sides of Victoria Harbour, including West Kowloon, Hung Hom and Kai Tak. In response to the community's suggestion of exploring more in-harbour ferry routes and the suggestion of introducing "water taxi" in the Development Blueprint for Hong Kong's Tourism Industry¹, the Transport Department ("TD") is working towards enhancing vibrancy of the Hung Hom harbourfront, through preparing for re-commissioning the "Central-Hung Hom" ferry route and launching a pilot "water taxi" service plying Kai Tak, Hung Hom, Tsim Sha Tsui East, West Kowloon and Central; and through injecting commercial elements into the Hung Hom (South) Pier. In this regard, the TD invited submissions for indication of interest in operating the two licensed ferry services during the period from 27 August to 27 September 2018. Two submissions were received during the specified period. The TD is reviewing the submissions and will formulate ferry service proposals with further details for consulting relevant stakeholders. Subject to the consultation progress, the TD plans to carry out a tender exercise for the two ferry services in early 2019, with a view to commencing the service of the "Central-Hung Hom" route and "water taxi"² around the second quarter of 2019 and the first quarter of 2020 the earliest respectively. The TD also welcomes operators to submit applications for the operation of other in-harbour licenced ferry services.

(c) Changes in the manpower situation of bus captains and the frequency of franchised bus services after the recent revisions of the Guidelines on Bus Captains Working Hours, Rest Times and Meal Breaks

To tie in with the implementation of the revised Guidelines on Bus Captains Working Hours, Rest Times and Meal Breaks and to maintain the current level of bus service, the franchised bus companies have been recruiting bus captains actively and have improved their remuneration packages and working environment in order to attract new entrants and reduce staff turnover. The net increase of bus captains (including full-time, part-time and hourly-rated

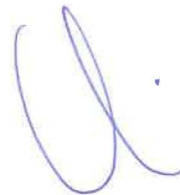
¹ The Commerce and Economic Development Bureau and the Tourism Commission suggest exploring the provision of "water taxi" serving locations with major tourist attractions within harbour, (e.g. Central, West Kowloon, Kai Tak and Tsim Sha Tsui) in the Development Blueprint for Hong Kong's Tourism Industry.

² The gearing up time (and hence the commencement timeframe) of the "water taxi" service may vary depending on the features of the new service.

bus captains) of all the franchised bus companies between March and mid-September 2018 (i.e. the number of new bus captains minus the number of bus captains leaving the companies) was about 120.

The TD has been monitoring the service level of the various bus routes. The franchised bus companies would also suitably adjust their bus services, such as adjusting the journey time, service frequency or number of buses deployed, in the light of road conditions and passenger demand, so as to better meet the passenger demand and actual operational circumstances, and enhance the stability of service frequency.

Yours sincerely,



(Nick CHOI)

for Secretary for Transport and Housing

c.c.: Commissioner for Transport (Attn: Mr Patrick WONG)
(Attn: Ms Stella LEE)