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Panel on Transport
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn: Mr Lemuel Woo)

Fax no.: 2840 0269

15 May 2018

Dear Mr Woo,

**Panel on Transport
Submission from a member of the public on
driving licence fees for the elderly**

Thank you for your letter dated 24 April 2018 on the captioned.
Our response is as follows.

According to Schedule 2 of the Road Traffic (Driving Licences) Regulations (Cap. 374B) (hereunder “the Regulations”), the fee for issue or renewal of full driving licence (“FDL”) for applicants over the age of 60 (for every year (or any part thereof) of the validity period) is \$52. One of the purposes of the fee is to recover the costs for provision of the services by the Government. In fact, government services are generally charged in accordance with the “user pays” principle to achieve full cost recovery for services provided. Separately, according to the Schedule of the Traffic Accident Victims (Assistance Fund) Ordinance (Cap. 229), the annual levy on holders of FDLs is \$38, which is to establish a fund for assisting traffic accident victims and their dependants. Therefore, the total annual fees charged for issue or renewal of FDL for applicants over the age of 60 are \$90.

On the other hand, under regulations 10(3) and 15(7) of the Regulations, an applicant aged 70 or above for issue or renewal of FDL is required to produce a certificate by a registered medical practitioner to prove his/her medical fitness to drive. This legislation serves to protect the safety of the applicant and other road users.

Under the “Elderly Health Care Voucher Scheme” administered by the Government, an eligible elderly person aged 65 or above (holding a valid Hong Kong Identity Card or Certificate of Exemption) is provided with health care vouchers of \$2,000 a year. Health care vouchers can be used for services provided by private medical practitioners and help relieve the cost of an applicant aged 70 or above for issue or renewal of FDL to obtain a certificate by a registered medical practitioner to prove his/her medical fitness to drive.

Under the above considerations, the Government currently has no plan to waive the total annual fees charged for issue or renewal of FDL for applicants aged 70 or above.

Thank you for your concern on the licensing issues.

Yours sincerely,

(Louis Lo)
for Secretary for Transport and Housing

c.c.:
Transport Department (Attn.: Mr Kenneth Wong) (Fax no.: 2804 2592)