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**Transport and
Housing Bureau**
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By email

6 August 2018

Mr Lemuel Woo
Clerk to Panel on Transport
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Mr Woo,

Panel on Transport

Letter from Hon Jeremy TAM Man-ho on bus services

Thank you for your letter of 24 April 2018. Our reply on the captioned subject is as follows.

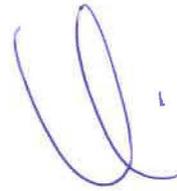
Regulation 74 of the Road Traffic (Construction and Maintenance of Vehicles) Regulations (Cap. 374A) provides for the total number of standing passengers that may be carried on a bus. When conducting vehicle type approval examinations on various models of franchised buses, the Transport Department ("TD") should ensure that their design and construction (including the calculation of the maximum number of passengers) comply with the requirements of the relevant Regulations. At present, the standard adopted under the relevant legislation relating to the number of standing passengers that may be carried is more or less the same as that in the United Kingdom and the European Union.

When the TD reviews the service frequency of bus routes with bus companies, apart from making reference to the conditions for increasing vehicle allocation and/or frequency laid down in the "Guidelines on Service Improvement and Reduction in Bus Route Development Programmes" ("Guidelines") (i.e. the occupancy rate reaches 100% during any half-hour of the peak period and 85% during that one hour), other factors (such as providing a more comfortable environment for passengers travelling on long-haul routes and the views of the District Councils, etc.) would also be considered flexibly for increasing the vehicle

allocation to enhance the service level as appropriate. If the passenger queues and waiting time for individual bus routes are persistently long, the TD will request the bus companies to suitably enhance the service frequency having regard to the actual circumstances.

In response to the Member's requests, the TD will review the requirements on the number of standing passengers on buses under the existing legislation and examine the actual situation, including the travelling environment of different routes and the demand for vehicle services, with a view to exploring whether there is room for revising the requirements.

Yours sincerely,



(Nick Choi)

for Secretary for Transport and Housing

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