

香港特別行政區政府

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

政府總部
運輸及房屋局
運輸科

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Transport and
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(By email and fax)

By Fax: 2840 0716

8 March 2018

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

Dear Ms LAU,

Panel on Transport

**Letter from Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai
requesting to discuss the traffic accident on Fanling Highway**

Thank you for your letter of 15 February 2018 to the Secretary for Transport and Housing referring the letter from Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai about the traffic accident on Fanling Highway. We also received from the Security Bureau the letters of the Clerk to Panel on Security to the Secretary for Security on the same issue. Having consulted the Security Bureau and Hong Kong Police Force (“Police”), the Government’s reply is as follows.

At around 5:30 pm on 11 February 2018, while patrolling along San Tin Highway, a Police Constable of Traffic New Territories North Region observed that a private car was travelling at a high speed in Fanling direction and changing lanes recklessly, posing a great threat to other road users. Suspecting that the private car driver had committed serious traffic offences, the Police Constable turned on the siren and red and blue lights, and attempted to intercept the private car for investigation. However, the driver ignored the Police Constable's instruction and accelerated to flee. The Police Constable thus conducted a pursuit and alerted other patrolling officers. When the private car reached Fanling Highway near Fanling MTR Station, it lost control and caused multiple crashes with vehicles in front. The traffic accident resulted in serious damage to the private car itself and three other private vehicles in front. A supporting Police Motorcycle in front was also damaged. Three civilians and one Traffic Police officer were injured, while the driver and passenger of the private car were killed. Traffic New Territories North Region is conducting in-depth investigation into the incident and will interview and follow up with relevant parties related to that traffic accident.

The Police advise that they have promulgated guidelines regarding pursuit of vehicles. The concerned Police officer will have regard to the actual circumstances, assess the risks posed by the subject vehicle remaining on the road and consider taking appropriate actions to arrest a person committing serious driving offences, including dangerous driving, driving under the influence of drink or drugs, or failing to stop after an accident. Since the driver of the private car in that incident continued to pose serious threat to other road users, the Police officer took enforcement action taking into account the situation at the scene to ensure the safety of other road users. The Police will review traffic enforcement guidelines from time to time and take stringent enforcement action against driving behaviours that endanger road safety so as to ensure public safety. The Police have established a review committee to conduct a comprehensive review on the existing guidelines related to high speed pursuit.

The Police are conducting a full investigation regarding the incident and will submit a comprehensive report to the Coroner in due course. The Police consider that if the Coroner decides to conduct a death inquest, all relevant case details and evidence will be disclosed during the court proceedings, and hence it is not appropriate to discuss the details of that case in public at this stage. We note that the Panel on Security intends to discuss this issue at its next meeting. The Government has advised the Panel on Security that it will be pleased to discuss the Police's relevant enforcement principles.

Yours sincerely,

(Ms Winnie WY Wong)
for Secretary for Transport and Housing

C.C.

Secretary for Security (Attn : Mr Andrew Tsang) Fax No.: 2810 7702
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