



政府總部
民政事務局
香港灣仔
港灣道十二號
灣仔大樓二十五樓

GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT

HOME AFFAIRS BUREAU
25/F, WANCHAI TOWER
12 HARBOUR ROAD
WAN CHAI
HONG KONG

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Tel No. : 3102 5991

Fax No : 3102 5997

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Ms Doris LO
Clerk to the Joint Subcommittee to Monitor the Implementation of the
West Kowloon Cultural District Project
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Ms Lo,

**Construction Costs of Artist Square Bridge
in West Kowloon Cultural District**

In response to the letter dated 25 May 2018 to the Chairman of the Legislative Council Joint Subcommittee to Monitor the Implementation of the West Kowloon Cultural District Project (Joint Subcommittee) by Hon TSE Wai-chuen, member of the Joint Subcommittee, requesting the Government and the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority (WKCD) to provide the information on the construction costs of the original design and new design of the Artist Square Bridge, our reply is as follows:

- (1) Please provide detailed cost breakdown and comparison between the original design and new design of the footbridge, including bridge deck, foundations, columns and electrical and mechanical works?**

In consultation with the Joint Subcommittee at its meeting on 11 May 2018, the Government and WKCD listed the cost breakdown of the new design of the Artist Square Bridge in the slide presentation. Recently, WKCD has confirmed and completed the overall design of the footbridge. The estimated construction cost of the footbridge have been updated accordingly and stated in the Public Works Subcommittee discussion paper (Enclosure 2 to PWSC(2018-19)46). The estimated

construction costs of the original design and new design of the Artist Square Bridge are listed out below :

Items	Original Design	New Design
	Estimated Cost (\$ million) (Sep-2016 Prices)	Estimated Cost (\$ million) (Sep-2016 Prices)
Bridge deck and cover	165	134
Substructure (footbridge columns and foundation)	130	48
Staircases, lift tower and E&M works	55	49
Construction cost of footbridge		
Sub-total	350	231
Associated road works, ancillary works and environmental mitigation measures	26	19
Total	376	250

- (2) According to the paper submitted by the Administration, the construction cost of the new design is reduced and the new design involves at least 6 items of change: (a) the overall length of the footbridge has been shortened by about 18 meters, (b) the landing location of the footbridge has been shifted from the central area to the northern side of the Artist Square, (c) as opposed to the originally proposed phased implementation approach, the proposed footbridge will be constructed in one go, (d) the number of supporting piers has been reduced from three to two, (e) exploring the feasibility of direct bearing of the footbridge onto the building structure of Elements, and (f) adoption of an aesthetic design emphasizing simplicity. The Administration is requested to provide a breakdown of the cost saving arising from each of the above item of change.

To facilitate comparison of the original design and the new design of Artist Square Bridge, we mentioned items of change a, b, c, d and f above in the Joint Subcommittee discussion paper (vide LC Paper No. CB(1)908/17-18(01)). In addition, we have indicated that the feasibility of item e was still being studied. Subsequently, the Government and

WKCDAs have further enhanced the design of the Artist Square Bridge including directly bearing the footbridge on the existing structure of Elements. The updated breakdown of the estimated construction cost is stated in the Public Works Subcommittee discussion paper (Enclosure 2 to PWSC(2018-19)46).

As compared to the original design, it is estimated that the new design of the proposed footbridge could achieve an overall saving in the construction cost of about 30%. As the new design of the Artist Square Bridge emphasizes simplicity, which is completely different from its original design and the changes are interrelating, there will be difficulties to provide the cost saving arising from individual change.

- (3) **Whether the Administration has estimated the construction cost of adopting the items of change (a) to (e) above and at the same time retaining the original aesthetic design of the footbridge deck? If yes, what is the construction cost? If not, why?**

On 21 April 2017, the Government consulted the Joint Subcommittee on the funding proposal of the originally proposed footbridge. At the meeting, Members raised concerns on the design and estimated cost of the proposed footbridge and the Joint Subcommittee did not support submission of the funding proposal to the Public Works Subcommittee. In view of Members' concerns, the Government and WKCDAs have critically reviewed the design of the proposed footbridge and considered that the new design should emphasize simplicity with a view to substantially reducing the construction cost. If the original aesthetic design of the bridge deck is retained, the expected cost reduction would not be achievable. Therefore, we did not further consider such proposal.

Yours sincerely,



(Ms YING Fun-fong)
for Secretary for Home Affairs

c.c.

Chief Executive Officer, West Kowloon Cultural District Authority
Project Manager (South), Civil Engineering and Development Department