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10 December 2018

Clerk to the Panel on Home Affairs
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn: Ms Joanne MAK)

Dear Ms Mak,

**Panel on Home Affairs
Letter from Hon SHIU Ka-chun**

Thank you for your letter of 26 November 2018 to the Secretary for Home Affairs regarding the letter from Hon SHIU Ka-chun on the participation in sports by persons with disabilities (PWDs).

Pilot Scheme on Priority Venue Booking

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) launched the pilot scheme on priority venue booking in February 2018 to allow relevant organisations to make priority bookings of facilities in four designated sports centres for non-peak slots to organise sports activities suitable for PWDs. The four designated sports centres, namely Chai Wan Sports Centre, Shun Lee Tsuen Sports Centre (in Kwun Tong), Yuen Chau Kok Sports Centre (in Sha Tin) and Yuen Long Sports Centre, are located in different districts in the territory. In the course of devising the pilot scheme, the LCSD set up a focus group with representatives from relevant organisations of PWDs to formulate the priority booking arrangements and facility enhancement proposals for the designated sports centres. Having considered all relevant factors including the population

size of PWDs in various districts, the location of the sports centres concerned, as well as the recreation and sports facilities and ancillary facilities available in these sports centres, the LCSD decided to launch the pilot scheme on priority venue booking at the above four sports centres¹. The LCSD will conduct a comprehensive review of the pilot scheme after its conclusion in March 2019 to determine, among other things, whether the priority booking arrangement should be extended to other sports centres.

Pilot Scheme on Sports Training Programmes for PWDs

The LCSD is running a series of sports training programmes for PWDs from November 2018 to March 2019 on a pilot basis. These programmes² are offered at no charge to PWDs with physical disability, intellectual disability, and hearing or visual impairment. In the course of planning and formulating the programmes, expert advice was sought from relevant “national sports associations” (NSAs) (including the Hong Kong Paralympic Committee & Sports Association for the Physically Disabled, the Hong Kong Sports Association for Persons with Intellectual Disability, the Hong Kong Sports Association of the Deaf and the Physical Fitness Association of Hong Kong, China) on the arrangement of the courses including the course content, number of sessions, number of instructors and participants for each class, venue and ancillary sports equipment, etc. Experienced and qualified professional coaches are provided by relevant NSAs to conduct the programmes. Depending on the course content and types of disability of the participants, the LCSD would engage additional assistant instructors and sign language interpreters as appropriate to assist in the conduct of the classes. Apart from bringing along an accompanying carer for assistance during classes,

¹ Apart from provision of various barrier-free facilities such as barrier-free entrances/exits, accessible lifts, accessible service counters, accessible toilets and tactile guide paths at the above four designated sports centres, the LCSD has also revised the notices at the venues to facilitate the use of venues by persons with visual impairment, provided lockers with larger storage capacity for PWDs to keep their personal aids (such as crutches), acquired inclusive fitness equipment (such as upper body muscle trainer and multi-functional muscle trainer) for fitness rooms, provided table tennis tables suitable for use by wheelchair users, and installed inductive loop systems at booking counters and check-in counters to facilitate communication between venue staff and hearing aid users.

² Including 24 training courses for PWDs with different types of disability which covered a variety of sports such as badminton, bocce, floor hockey, body-mind stretching, table tennis and fitness exercise.

participants may also furnish information about their disability at the time of enrollment for the programmes so that the coaches can make necessary arrangement beforehand and provide them with suitable coaching during classes. The LCSD will carry out an in-depth review upon conclusion of the pilot programmes early next year, covering various aspects such as the course content, ancillary facilities at the venues, arrangement on the provision of coaches and participants' feedback.

Thank you for your concern on the participation in sports by PWDs.

Yours sincerely,



(Paul CHENG)
for Secretary for Home Affairs