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26 July 2019

Hon Gary FAN Kwok-wai
Chairman, Legislative Council Panel on Public Service
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Chairman.

Grade Structure Review for Veterinary Laboratory Technician and Medical Laboratory Technician Grades

In view of the serious recruitment and retention difficulties faced by the Veterinary Laboratory Technician ("VLT") grade of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department ("AFCD"), we invited the Standing Commission on Civil Service Salaries and Conditions of Service ("Standing Commission") in mid-year last year to conduct a Grade Structure Review for the VLT grade as well as the Medical Laboratory Technician ("MLT") grade of Department of Health ("DH") which has similar job nature, grade structure and qualification requirements as those of the VLT grade. The Standing Commission has completed the review and submitted its findings and recommendations to the Chief Executive today in its Report No. 61. I enclose a set of the Report, in both Chinese and English, for your reference. The Report has been uploaded

to the website of the Joint Secretariat for the Advisory Bodies on Civil Service and Judicial Salaries and Conditions of Service at www.jsscs.gov.hk.

The Chief Executive has tasked Civil Service Bureau to study and examine the findings and recommendations of the Report in consultation with all parties concerned. In this connection, representatives from relevant government offices intend to brief members of the Legislative Council ("LegCo") Panel on Public Service ("PS Panel") on the Report after LegCo resumes meeting. Since the Report concerns the VLT and MLT grades, we propose, subject to your agreement, that members of the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene and Panel on Health Services be also invited to attend the meeting concerned. Upon receiving the feedback from stakeholders, we will submit proposals on how to take forward the Report to the Chief Executive-in-Council for a decision. LegCo Finance Committee's approval for the resources required for the implementation of the recommendations will be sought, if necessary.

(Joshua Law)

Secretary for the Civil Service

Encl.

c.c. Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki
Chairman, Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

Dr Hon Pierre CHAN
Chairman, Panel on Health Services

Hon Martin LIAO Cheung-kong, GBS, JP Deputy Chairman, Panel on Public Service Professor Sophia CHAN, JP Secretary for Food and Health (w/o encl.)

Dr LEUNG Siu-fai, JP Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (w/o encl.)

Dr CHAN Hon-yee Constance, JP Director of Health (w/o encl.)

Mr Anthony CHU
Clerk to the Panel on Public Service

Miss Josephine SO Clerk to the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

Ms Maisie LAM
Clerk to the Panel on Health Services