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Panel on Transport  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
Legislative Council Complex  
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Central, Hong Kong  
(Attn: Ms Sophie Lau)

30 July 2019

(Fax no.: 2840 0716)

Dear Ms Lau,

**Legislative Council Panel on Transport**  
**Letter from Hon Jeremy Tam Man-ho on waiting time for**  
**driving tests of non-commercial vehicles**

Thank you for your letter dated 10 May 2019 to the Secretary for Transport and Housing referring Hon. Jeremy Tam Man-ho's enquiries on waiting time for driving tests of non-commercial vehicles. Our reply is as follows.

**Waiting time for road tests**

The average waiting time (in terms of days) for road tests of different types of non-commercial vehicles (i.e. private cars ("PC"), light goods vehicles ("LGV") and motor cycles ("MC")) by applications from candidates submitted through government designated driving schools ("DDS") ("school") and non-DDSs ("non-school") over the past three years (i.e. 2016-2018) is set out in **Annex 1**.

In 2008, the Transport Department (“TD”) set a performance pledge for applicants of driving tests of non-commercial vehicles (i.e. PCs, LGVs and MCs) that road tests would be conducted within 82 days upon application. The pledge was set with reference to the demand for driving tests and the TD’s manpower at that time. Thereafter, the demand for driving tests of non-commercial vehicles increased persistently, with an average annual increase of 9.4% between 2010 and 2016, exceeding the driving test handling capacities of the driving test centres (“DTCs”) and the extent of increase in TD’s manpower. In view of the ever-increasing growth of the demand for driving tests and its unpredictable rate, the TD no longer used the specified number of days for conducting road tests as its target since 2016. Instead, it maintains another indicator of “the actual number of road tests arranged”. Apart from the above modification, the TD has not dropped any service pledges on driving tests. The TD has no plans to change the above arrangement.

To meet the continuous growth in demand for driving tests, the TD has launched various measures in recent years, including recruiting additional Driving Examiners (“DE”), allocating additional resources to recruit full-time or part-time short-term DEs under the “Post-retirement Service Contract Scheme” to conduct driving tests, improving the online repeater early test appointment booking system, etc. in order to enhance the driving test handling capacities. The TD also keeps reviewing the manpower demand and continues to explore the feasibilities of deploying additional manpower resources and better utilising the DTCs so as to shorten the waiting time and enhance the overall service standard of driving tests.

### **Arrangement for using DTCs**

The number of opening days of the DTCs are affected by various factors such as the geographical conditions of the venues, the traffic conditions of the nearby areas, the test demands for various vehicle types, the availability of manpower resources (e.g. staff available for deployment

each day) of the TD, etc. Taking the four DDSs as examples, DDSs in Sha Tin and Yuen Long are more spacious, such that both driving training and driving tests can be provided at the same time. Also, the demand for driving tests is also higher in these two areas. The DTCs in the two driving schools are open for driving tests on every working day. On the contrary, the DDSs in Ap Lei Chau and Kwun Tong cannot handle driving training and driving tests at the same time due to their smaller venues and the restrictions of nearby traffic conditions. Thus, the DTCs in the two schools are unable to open for driving tests on each working day.

The TD also has to balance the waiting time of different DTCs and reserve some days at certain DTCs to meet special demands where necessary, e.g. postponement of driving tests due to bad weather. The numbers of working days on which the DTCs did not open due to the provision of road tests of non-commercial vehicles over the past three years are set out in **Annex 2**. For the numbers of road tests of non-commercial vehicles arranged at the DTCs over the past three years, please refer to **Annex 3**.

### **Manpower deployment of DTCs**

Having regard to the geographical restrictions of the DTCs and the traffic conditions of the driving test routes and the nearby areas, etc., the TD formulates appointment combinations for different vehicle types/test parts (i.e. combinations of DEs that can be arranged for different vehicle types/test parts) and the maximum number of tests for different vehicle types/test parts that can be processed by each DE every day. The TD arranges DEs to conduct road tests according to test demands and other factors instead of according priority to LGVs before PCs or MCs as mentioned in Hon. Tam's letter.

There are a total of 83 DE posts in the permanent establishment of the TD. To meet the service demand for driving tests, the TD created 21 permanent posts of DE over the past three years. A total of nine persons

were recruited as DE II in 2017. The TD started a new round of recruitment exercise for DE II in the third quarter of 2018 and the newly recruited DEs will be expected to join the service in the fourth quarter of 2019 at the earliest. The final number of persons to be recruited is determined by various factors such as actual operational needs, manpower resources planning, staff wastage, and the availability of suitable candidates, etc. For the eligibility criteria for DE II, please refer to **Annex 4**. Apart from meeting the basic eligibility criteria, the candidates must pass a stringent driving skill assessment before being invited for selection interviews. As the candidates must demonstrate sufficient abilities to drive and control the vehicles after obtaining driving licences in order to safeguard the safety of other road users, it is imperative for the TD to be prudent in selecting suitable DEs.

#### **Arrangement relating to non-test hours of DTCs**

The opening of the DTCs on non-test days or during non-test hours for training purpose involves venue security, management and other technical issues. If any damage is caused to the venue, the driving tests will be seriously affected. Thus, the TD has no plan to open the DTCs on non-test days or during non-test hours for the practices of learner drivers.

#### **Application for driving tests**

The numbers of applications (in terms of number of test forms) for driving tests of non-commercial vehicles submitted through schools and non-schools (i.e. submission to TD directly), and the total numbers of road tests for non-commercial vehicles arranged over the past three years are set out in **Annex 5**.

At present, non-Hong Kong residents can apply for driving tests of non-commercial vehicles. Applicants must complete and sign the Application for a Driving Test, submit the necessary documents as specified in the form and pay the application fees. The numbers of

applications (in terms of number of test forms) for driving tests of non-commercial vehicles made by using Hong Kong Identity Cards and identity documents other than Hong Kong Identity Cards over the past three years are also set out in **Annex 5**.

We would like to thank Hon. Tam for his concern on the driving tests of non-commercial vehicles.

Yours sincerely,



( Miss Alice Wong )  
for Secretary for Transport and Housing

**c.c.:**

Transport Department (Attn.: Ms Louisa Fung) (Fax no.: 2714 4440)

## Annex 1

### Average waiting time (in terms of days) for road tests in 2016-2018

Test type \ Year	PC (Combined) Note 1		LGV (Combined) Note 1		PC (Part B) Note 2		MC (Part B) Note 3		LGV (Part B) Note 1	
	Non-school	School	Non-school	School	Non-school	School	Non-school	School	Non-school	School
2016	189	270	200	276	62	45	N.A.	148	61	45
2017	231	243	238	240	54	46	N.A.	98	52	47
2018	250	249	259	248	53	48	N.A.	63	49	47

Test type \ Year	PC (Part C) Note 4		MC (Part C) Note 4		LGV (Part C) Note 4	
	Non-school	School	Non-school	School	Non-school	School
2016	62	229	164	147	67	229
2017	78	256	189	206	80	257
2018	89	245	261	226	98	244

Note 1: Combined Test (combining Part B Test and Part C Test) is only applicable to PCs and LGVs.

Note 2: Part B Test for PCs and LGVs includes: (i) reversing and parking; (ii) making a three-point turn in a narrow road; and (iii) stopping and starting on a slope.

Note 3: Part B Test for MCs (i.e. Competence Test) includes four designated basic movements conducted at a compound: (i) stopping at designated points; (ii) turning left; (iii) turning right; and (iv) stopping in emergency. To ensure the safety of learner drivers and road users, a candidate must enrol for a mandatory MC training course in a government DDS to acquire the basic knowledge and skills to manoeuvre a MC before applying through DSS for Part B Test conducted at its DTC.

Note 4: Part C Test for PCs, MCs and LGVs mainly tests the driving skills on roads, e.g. changing lanes, overtaking vehicles as well as entering and leaving junctions.

**Annex 2****Numbers of working days on which the DTCs did not open due to the provision of road tests of non-commercial vehicles in 2016-2018**

Year	Number of working days on which the DTCs of the non-DDSs did not open					Total number of working days in that year
	Tin Kwong Road (LGV/MC)*	Chung Yee Street (PC/LGV)	Chak On Road (PC/LGV)	Yau Tong (PC/LGV)*	Wing Hau Street (LGV)	
2016	0	3	70	4	3	247
2017	1	0	43	4	61	247
2018	0	2	52	22	84	246

\* Kwun Tong Driving School uses Tin Kwong Road DTC to conduct road tests for MCs and Yau Tong DTC to conduct Part C Test for PCs and LGVs.

Year	Number of working days on which the DTCs of the non-DDSs did not open				Total number of working days in that year
	Shek Yam (PC/ Light bus/ Public light bus ("PLB"))	Pui Ching Road (PC)	Happy Valley (PC)	So Kon Po (LGV/ MC)	
2016	108	27	55	65	247
2017	118	42	102	73	247
2018	108	24	96	71	246

Year	Number of working days on which the DTCs of the DDSs did not open				Total number of working days in that year
	New Horizon School of Motoring (Ap Lei Chau) (PC/LGV/MC)	Kwun Tong Driving School (PC/LGV/MC (for Part C only))	Hong Kong School of Motoring (Sha Tin) (PC/LGV/MC/Medium goods vehicle ("MGV")/ Private light bus/ PLB)	Hong Kong School of Motoring (Yuen Long) (PC/LGV/MC/MGV/Private light bus/PLB/ Articulated vehicle)	
2016	82	136	0	38	247
2017	99	145	0	34	247
2018	98	146	0	0	246



**Annex 3**

**Numbers of road tests for non-commercial vehicles arranged at  
DTCs <sup>Note 1</sup> in 2016-2018**

DTC	2016			2017			2018		
	PC	LGV	MC	PC	LGV	MC	PC	LGV	MC
Happy Valley DTC	9 736	N.A.	N.A.	8 378	N.A.	N.A.	8 989	N.A.	N.A.
So Kon Po DTC	N.A.	9 120	1 124	N.A.	7 595	1 836	N.A.	7 489	1 840
New Horizon School of Motoring (Ap Lei Chau)	3 965	3 691	3 028	3 625	3 239	3 047	4 430	3 684	2 165
Chung Yee Street DTC	5 661	6 680	N.A.	8 645	9 758	N.A.	9 504	9 246	N.A.
Tin Kwong Road DTC	N.A.	9 141	4 655	N.A.	9 103	4 875	N.A.	9 640	4 387
Yau Tong DTC	1 953	12 166	N.A.	1 861	12 273	N.A.	1 585	11 277	N.A.
Pui Ching Road DTC	12 730	55	N.A.	11 913	56	N.A.	12 597	40	N.A.
Chak On Road DTC	720	7 482	N.A.	1 038	9 109	N.A.	716	8 721	N.A.
Kwun Tong Driving School	1 295	1 427	3 859	1 131	1 369	3 666	1 283	1 248	3 460
Kwai Shing DTC <sup>Note 2</sup>	N.A.	10 813	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Wing Hau Street DTC <sup>Note 3</sup>	N.A.	2 104	N.A.	N.A.	9 122	N.A.	N.A.	7 115	N.A.
Shek Yam DTC	5 593	N.A.	N.A.	4 988	N.A.	N.A.	5 779	N.A.	N.A.
Hong Kong School of Motoring (Sha Tin)	8 303	9 298	6 342	8 409	9 640	5 376	7 815	9 056	4 601
Hong Kong School of Motoring (Yuen Long)	3 478	6 472	3 513	4 040	6 743	3 224	4 671	7 603	3 367
Total	53 434	78 449	22 521	54 028	78 007	22 024	57 369	75 119	19 820

Note 1: Including the numbers of cases in which the road tests were conducted and the road tests could not be conducted due to absence or other reasons (e.g.

due to bad weather on the test day, sudden breakdown of a test vehicle,  
etc.)

Note 2: Kwai Shing DTC has been closed since 29 October 2016

Note 3: Wing Hau Street DTC started operation on 4 November 2016

**Eligibility criteria for DE II**

Applicants for the post of DE II must possess the following academic qualifications and meet the language proficiency requirements and driving capability standards:

- (1) Academic qualification requirements:
  - (i) obtaining Level 2 or equivalent or above in five subjects in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSEE), or equivalent; or
  - (ii) obtaining Level 2/Grade E or above in five subjects in the Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination (HKCEE), or equivalent; and
  
- (2) Language proficiency requirements: i.e. obtaining Level 2 or above in Chinese Language and English Language in HKDSEE or HKCEE, or equivalent;
  
- (3) Having the following driving licences:
  - (i) a valid Hong Kong (HK) driving licence for LGV (code 2) for 6 years;
  - (ii) a valid full HK driving licence for MC (code 3);
  - (iii) a valid full HK driving licence for PLB (code 5) and MGV (code 18); and
  
- (4) Having no conviction for careless driving under section 38 of the Road Traffic Ordinance (Cap.374) over the previous two years; for various dangerous driving offences and drink or drug driving related offences under sections 36, 36A, 37, 39, 39A, 39B, 39C, 39J, 39K, 39L, 39O (1), and 39S of the Road Traffic Ordinance (Cap. 374) over the previous five years.

**Numbers of applications for driving tests and road tests relating to non-commercial vehicles in 2016-2018**

- (1) Numbers of applications for driving tests of non-commercial vehicles submitted through schools and non-schools (in terms of number of test forms)**

Year	Applications from schools	Applications from non-schools	Total number of applications
2016	55 240	98 023	153 263
2017	54 098	103 614	157 712
2018	55 520	99 522	155 042

- (2) Total numbers of road tests arranged for non-commercial vehicles\***

2016	2017	2018
154 404	154 059	152 308

- \* Including the numbers of cases in which the road tests were conducted and the road tests could not be conducted due to absence or other reasons (e.g. due to bad weather on the test day, sudden breakdown of a test vehicle, etc.)

**(3) Numbers of applications for driving tests of non-commercial vehicles made by using Hong Kong Identity Cards and identity documents other than Hong Kong Identity Cards (in terms of number of test forms)**

Year	Numbers of applications for driving tests of non-commercial vehicles (in terms of number of test forms)	
	Applications made by using Hong Kong Identity Cards	Applications made by using identity documents other than Hong Kong Identity Cards
2016	152 956	307
2017	157 365	347
2018	154 769	273

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