

香港特別行政區政府  
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

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**By Fax: 2840 0716**

13 August 2019

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**

**Traffic Incident on West Kowloon Highway on 4 March 2019**

I write further to our preliminary response on 14 March 2019 in respect of the letters from Hon Michael TIEN, Hon Andrew WAN and Hon Jeremy TAM to Chairman of the Panel on the captioned subject.

The Transport Department (“TD”) has followed up with the franchisee of Western Harbour Crossing (“WHC”) on the traffic incident occurred on West Kowloon Highway within the tunnel area of WHC, and requested the WHC franchisee to take appropriate improvement measures for enhancing its detection, monitoring and recovery of incidents in order to ensure the safe operation of the tunnel. A brief account of the incident and the new measures undertaken by the WHC franchisee is enclosed at **Annex** for Members’ reference.

Road safety is of utmost importance. Whilst noting that the WHC franchisee has taken measures to enhance its monitoring and incident detection performance for ensuring timely recovery actions, TD will continue to review from time to time the relevant procedures with the WHC franchisee for the latter to take the best possible steps to safeguard road safety within the tunnel area.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

( SOM Yee-man, Emily )  
for Secretary for Transport and Housing

c.c.  
Chairman of the Panel  
Commissioner for Transport (Attn: Ms Candy KWOK)

**Traffic Incident on West Kowloon Highway  
within the Tunnel Area of Western Harbour Crossing  
on 4 March 2019**

***The Incident***

On 4 March 2019, a traffic accident involving the collision of a goods vehicle (“Goods Vehicle”) and a double-deck bus occurred at 10:19 am on West Kowloon Highway within the tunnel area of Western Harbour Crossing (“WHC”) (“the Incident”).

***Investigation by WHC Franchisee***

2. After the Incident, the Transport Department (“TD”) has followed up with the WHC franchisee on the details of the Incident and reviewed with the WHC franchisee the necessary measures to enhance safe operation of the tunnel.

3. According to the WHC franchisee’s information, the incident location was covered by the Closed Circuit Television (“CCTV”) cameras controlled by the WHC franchisee. However, since the relevant CCTV camera had been rotated to another direction to monitor the heavy traffic, the WHC franchisee could not notice the breakdown of the Goods Vehicle until it was reported by a motorist to the toll collector at the toll plaza at around 10:11 am on the day. After being notified of the breakdown of the Goods Vehicle, a patrol vehicle (with a Traffic Supervisor) and a recovery vehicle (with a Recovery Supervisor and a Recovery Officer) of the WHC franchisee arrived at the scene at 10:19 am and 10:20 am respectively.

4. As indicated in its record, the WHC franchisee conducted the first patrol of the day at the accident location during the morning peak on the day.

## *New Measures*

5. After reviewing the information submitted by the WHC franchisee, TD considers that the WHC franchisee should enhance its detection, monitoring and recovery of incidents to ensure the safe operation of the tunnel. In response to TD's request, the WHC franchisee has taken the following new measures -

(a) CCTV Surveillance

On top of the 151 CCTV cameras previously installed within the tunnel area of WHC, the WHC franchisee installed three new cameras and modified the setting of an existing camera from March to May 2019 to increase the traffic surveillance coverage of CCTV cameras so that the WHC franchisee could monitor the West Kowloon Highway within the WHC tunnel area without the need of panning the cameras.

For CCTV cameras at locations that need panning to increase the traffic surveillance coverage, the staff at the Control Room of WHC have been required to pan these cameras at 30-minute intervals, with written panning record.

(b) Patrols for Incident Detection

The patrolling patterns have been re-arranged such that the entire tunnel area would be patrolled at 30-minute intervals, and the patrolling frequency for tunnel tubes has been enhanced to an interval of 15 minutes instead of 30 minutes during night-time or at any time during the single tube operation.

(c) Notice Signs with Emergency Contact

The WHC franchisee has installed 34 notice signs with its emergency contact numbers at the approach roads within the tunnel area of WHC so that road users in need of help could contact WHC staff promptly.

6. In addition to the above new measures, TD has reminded the WHC franchisee of its obligation to, inter alia, closely monitor the road situation, including but not limited to the traffic flow and vehicular breakdown incidents, through all possible means including the provision of sufficient regular mobile patrols within the tunnel area and the use of effective traffic control and surveillance systems. This is to ensure that all incidents or emergency situations within the tunnel area could be handled properly.

**Transport Department**  
**August 2019**