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**環境保護署**

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30 July 2020

Chief Council Secretary (1)1  
Council Business Division 1  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road, Central  
Hong Kong  
(Attention: Ms. Angel SHEK)

Dear Ms. Shek,

**Panel on Environmental Affairs**  
**Follow-up to meeting on 16 December 2019**

I refer to the motion passed under agenda item IV “Overall strategy for improving air quality” at the meeting of the Panel on Environmental Affairs on 16 December 2019, our response is set out in the Annex for Members’ perusal please.

Yours faithfully,

(Dave T. Y. HO)  
for Director of Environmental Protection

Encl.

**Administration's response to the motion passed under agenda item IV**  
**"Overall strategy for improving air quality" at the meeting of the**  
**Panel on Environmental Affairs on 16 December 2019**

Section 7A(2) of the Air Pollution Control Ordinance (APCO) stipulates that the Secretary for the Environment may from time to time review the Air Quality Objectives (AQOs) for an air control zone to ensure that they are the objectives that should be achieved and maintained in order to -

- (a) promote the conservation of air in the zone in the public interest; and
- (b) promote the best use of air in the zone in the public interest.

2. Protection of public health is already and will remain as a key public interest consideration when the Government was considering whether and to what extent the AQOs should be revised. Other factors, such as technological feasibility, social and economic considerations also form part of the public interest considerations.

3. The air quality management policy of Hong Kong is to continuously improve air quality by the implementation of various control measures to reduce emissions from power plants, industrial activities and motor vehicles, etc. in order to progressively achieve the ultimate targets of the World Health Organisation Air Quality Guidelines (WHO AQGs) for public health protection.

4. The Environment Bureau (ENB) has reported to the Panel on Environmental Affairs (Panel) at its meeting on 16 December 2019 the overall air quality improvement achieved in recent years and also brought forward the tightening of the three AQOs (which included 24-hour AQO for sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), the annual AQO for fine suspended particulates (FSP/PM<sub>2.5</sub>) and its 24-hour AQO with an adjustment of the number of allowable exceedances) pursuant to the recommendations of the review completed at the end of 2018, with a view to progressively tightening the AQOs to the ultimate targets of the WHO AQGs in a practicable way. ENB also briefed the Panel Members on the overall strategy to improve air quality and part of the proposed new measures to be implemented at the meeting, and further new measures at the Panel meeting on 22 January 2020.

5. The Government is preparing for the next AQOs review, and will report the review progress to the Panel in due course.

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