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9 January 2020

Panel on Economic Development of the Legislative Council
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn: Ms Shirley CHAN)
(Fax No.: 2840 0269)

Dear Ms Chan,

Panel on Economic Development
Letter from Hon Wu Chi-wai dated 12 December 2019

Thank you for your letter dated 16 December 2019, relaying Hon Wu's questions. I have been authorised to reply as follows.

The Government's Scheme of Control Agreements (SCAs) with the power companies clearly define the respective roles and responsibilities of the Government and the power companies: the Government is responsible for regulating the power companies' performance and investment, while the power companies invest, operate and deliver a reliable supply of electricity. There are no provisions in the SCAs that enable the Government to compel the two power companies to sell or lease electricity-related facilities and assets, nor are there provisions that the Government can invest in such facilities and assets. In accordance with the spirit of the SCAs, the Government should avoid actions that may muddle its role as the regulator, such as turning itself into a government that has financial or operational relationship with the two power companies while being also their regulatory body.

As regards Hon Wu's proposal to grant land to the two power companies by way of short-term tenancy, we do not consider it appropriate. Unlike bus depot sites (generally used for constructing bus maintenance and parking facilities) which are easier to relocate, most of the power companies' land is used for constructing power plants and electricity substations, with a huge amount of electricity supply facilities and cables installed on site and underground. Setting them up requires long-term planning to ensure that electricity supply is stable and safe. Power companies in overseas countries such as the United Kingdom have also been granted long-term land leases by the local government for electricity-related uses. The Chief Secretary for Administration's Office has already explained the Government's position when replying to Hon Wu in September 2019 on the related issues.

Yours sincerely,



(Ms Esther WANG)
for Secretary for the Environment