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本函檔號 Our ref. : L/M (2) to TC CR T1/22/8/3 Pt.6

來函檔號 Your ref.: CB4/PL/EDEV

16 June 2020

Ms Shirley Chan  
Clerk to Panel on Economic Development  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central, Hong Kong  
(Fax: 2840 0269)

Dear Ms Chan,

### **Resumption of People Flow between Hong Kong and Macao/Shenzhen**

Thank you for your letter dated 25 May 2020, enclosing the Hong Kong Tourism Association (“HKTA”)’s letter dated 24 May 2020 to the Chairman of the Panel on Economic Development. As regards the suggestion to resume the people flow between Hong Kong and Macao/Shenzhen in HKTA’s letter, in consultation with relevant bureaux, our reply is as follows:

The situation of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) outbreak in Hong Kong and the number of confirmed cases have slightly stabilised in the past month or so, but remain very volatile, with local cluster cases reported again recently. At the same time, the global situation remains severe. Therefore, there is a need to continue restrictions of movement of people between Hong Kong and other places and implement compulsory quarantine measures to prevent imported cases. The Government’s priority at the moment is to incorporate disease prevention and control, as well as infection management, into the new normal of the daily operation of the society. To this end, the Government has gazetted amendments to the Compulsory Quarantine of Certain Persons Arriving at Hong Kong Regulation (Cap. 599C) and the Compulsory Quarantine of Persons Arriving at Hong Kong from Foreign Places Regulation (Cap. 599E) on 2 June 2020. The amendments have been effective from 0:00 am on 5 June 2020, where a mechanism has been introduced to empower the

Secretary for Food and Health to specify two categories of places. For persons arriving from these categories of places:

- (1) For Category 1 specified places, those persons will be subject to compulsory quarantine arrangements; or
- (2) For Category 2 specified places, those persons will be excluded from the requirements in respect of the compulsory quarantine arrangements subject to meeting certain conditions (such as obtaining a negative COVID-19 test result).

The above arrangements pertaining to Category 1 and 2 places are applicable to places both within and outside China. The relevant amendments provide a statutory basis on which the Government may make, based on latest developments, assessment on the latest public health risks of relevant countries and regions, and in turn determine their category of specified places as the epidemic situation changes locally and overseas. The relevant mechanism provides the Government the flexibility to discuss immigration control measures other than compulsory quarantine with relevant regions subject to their public health risks, thus encouraging gradual resumption of movement of people and thereby spurring related economic activities. The Government has all along maintained close communication with Mainland and Macao on this front under the framework of joint prevention and control. The Government will announce the relevant details as soon as possible should there be new arrangements.

Yours sincerely,

( Carol Or )  
for Commissioner for Tourism