政府總部 運輸及房屋局

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By email (ssylau@legco.gov.hk)

Ms Sophie LAU
Clerk to Panel on Transport
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

15 April 2020

Dear Ms LAU,

Legislative Council Panel on Transport Joint-submission from non-franchised bus unions requesting to raise the level of one-off subsidy

Thank you for your letter dated 24 January 2020, enclosing the views of the non-franchised bus ("NFB") unions on raising the subsidy for NFBs.

To help the transport trades to cope with the operating pressure in the prevailing economic environment, the Government announced the introduction of a six-month fuel subsidy or a one-off subsidy to the trades on 22 October 2019, including providing a one-off non-accountable subsidy of \$5,000 to each licensed NFB. On 21 February 2020, the Government announced the expansion of the above proposal with a view to providing comprehensive and continuous financial support to various transport trades which are hit by the outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 ("COVID-19") under the Anti-epidemic Fund. Among the

measures, the one-off non-accountable subsidy for each licensed NFB is raised from \$5,000 to \$20,000. The Transport Department issued letters to inform eligible vehicle owners of the detailed arrangements for application for the one-off subsidy in mid-March, and disbursement of subsidies has already started.

In view of the severe impact of the continuous epidemic on various trades in Hong Kong, the Chief Executive announced a series of further support measures on 8 April 2020, including providing an additional one-off non-accountable subsidy of \$30,000 to each licensed NFB. The Government will seek the relevant funding approval from the Legislative Council Finance Committee on 17 April 2020 and will introduce the relevant measures promptly after obtaining the funding approval.

Yours sincerely,

(Nick CHOI)

for Secretary for Transport and Housing

<u>c.c.</u>: Commissioner for Transport (Attn.: Ms Anna YEUNG)