

香港添馬
添美道二號
政府總部西翼二十二樓



Government Secretariat
22/F, West Wing
Central Government Offices
2 Tim Mei Avenue
Tamar, Hong Kong

本函檔號 Our Ref. :
來函檔號 Your Ref. : CB4/PL/EDEV

電話號碼 Tel. No.: 2810 2087
傳真號碼 Fax No.: 2121 1468

22 July 2021

Clerk to Panel on Economic Development
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central
Hong Kong
(Attn: Ms Shirley Chan)
(Email : panel_edev@legco.gov.hk)

Dear Ms Chan,

Thank you for your letter of 13 July 2021 enclosing the letter from Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen dated 9 July 2021. Regarding Hon Tse's suggestion to discuss the Food Truck Pilot Scheme (the Scheme) at the meeting of the Panel on Economic Development (the Panel), our response is as follows:

The two-year Scheme was launched on 3 February 2017. Having regard to the operational issues of food trucks as well as the impact of the riots in 2019 and the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) epidemic, the Government has extended the Scheme twice until 2 February 2022. There are currently 12 food trucks in operation.

The Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (CEDB) and the Tourism Commission under CEDB within its policy framework, have all along been providing support to food trucks as a tourism promotion project and have rendered a lot of assistance and refined the Scheme in response to

the operational difficulties and challenges faced by food trucks in order to expand their business opportunities and flexibility. These work include:

- (a) **Exploring new operating locations continuously** by introducing eight new operating locations, namely AsiaWorld Expo, Science Park, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong Science Museum, Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Port, Tai Po Waterfront Park, Jockey Club HKFA Football Training Centre (HKFTC) and West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD), in addition to the original eight designated locations;
- (b) **Relaxing restrictions** by offering a more flexible operation schedule so as to facilitate the operators to secure location and trading period with more business opportunities such as allowing food trucks to operate in different locations at day time and night time; operators to bid for available location either by drawing lot or on a first-come-first-serve basis; and to swap trading period of the same location with another operator, etc.;
- (c) **Adopting suggestion of the operators** to identify new operating locations. HKFTC and WKCD were suggested by the operators and introduced as new operating locations eventually;
- (d) **Expanding the mode of operation** by allowing food trucks to participate in self-identified events which are open to the public with appropriate licences. Since the commencement of the Scheme, operators have applied for operation in 103 self-identified events and all were approved; and
- (e) **Reducing the operating cost substantially** by allowing operators to opt whether to operate at individual location and pay rental fees for operation days only.

Besides, in view of the impact of the riots in 2019 and the epidemic on food truck operation, a series of helping measures implemented by the Government have also benefitted the operators of food trucks. These measures include waiver for all license fees and first vehicle examination fees for food trucks; a one-off subsidy of \$80,000 to all operators; 75% rental concession at government venues; and facilitating rental reduction of about 30% and 20% for food truck operation at the two theme parks respectively.

Apart from policy support, the business performance of food trucks also hinges upon the business strategy of the operators. Food truck being a commercially operated project, each of the operators participating in the Scheme should also have the requisite operating conditions, for example, the business strategy has to meet the preference and spending power of the patrons, etc., so as to enable them to generate revenue and allow the Scheme to continue. In fact, the business performance of the 12 food trucks currently in operation vary and among which only five maintain relatively regular operation.

Regarding the development of the Scheme and the operation of food trucks, we have already responded to the written question of Hon YIU Si-wing on 23 June 2021. Subsequently, the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development also responded to the oral question of Hon Paul TSE at the meeting of the Legislative Council on 14 July 2021 and listened to the views of the Members. We are reviewing the data and the effectiveness of the Scheme to determine its way forward from the perspective of its sustainability, scalability and contribution to tourism, etc. We have no plan to discuss the operation of food trucks and the way forward in the Panel at this stage.

Yours sincerely,



(Miss Maggie CHOW)
for Commissioner for Tourism