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7 September 2023

Ms Joanne MAK
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Ms Mak,

**Panel on Home Affairs, Culture and Sports
Supplementary information on the
Territory-wide Physical Fitness Survey for the Community**

At the meeting of the Panel on Home Affairs of the Legislative Council on 12 July 2021, the former Home Affairs Bureau was requested to provide a response to the suggestion to include testing for osteoporosis as a physical performance test item in the Territory-wide Physical Fitness Survey for the Community (Survey).

The Survey aimed to set up a database on the physical fitness of people of Hong Kong, identify the relationship between physical exercise patterns and physical fitness as well as assist the Government in identifying priority areas for improvement to enhance the overall physical fitness of the community.

The Government attaches great importance to the aging population of Hong Kong. In order to better investigate the physical fitness of the elderly, the upper limit of the elderly age group sampled by the Survey was raised from 69 to 79, when compared to the previous surveys. With this approach, the physical fitness of our elderly population was duly assessed.

Osteoporosis is a medical condition characterised by decreased bone mass, leading to weak and brittle bones that have higher risk of fractures. In order to diagnose osteoporosis, specialised medical equipment is required and results obtained therefrom need to be interpreted by medical professionals. Nevertheless, the staff conducting the Survey would not have the expertise or the necessary equipment to test for osteoporosis. The emphasis of the Survey was on overall physical fitness rather than on a specific medical condition. Since osteoporosis is beyond the context of physical fitness, testing for this medical condition would not be congruent with the primary goal of the Survey.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke, positioned below the text 'Yours sincerely,'.

(Paul CHENG)
for Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism