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COMMUNICATIONS AND
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COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT BUREAU

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By email

8 September 2021

Mr Colin CHUI
Clerk, Legislative Council Panel on Health Services
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Mr Chui,

**Enquiry on quarantine exemption of
overseas film personnel undertaking location filming in Hong Kong**

I refer to the two emails dated 23 August 2021 from the Legislative Council Secretariat to the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development respectively, relaying a letter from Hon Michael Tien to the Chairman of the Panel on Health Services on the captioned subject. I am authorised to provide a consolidated reply.

The film sector is an important pillar of the creative industries in Hong Kong. The Film Services Office of Create Hong Kong under the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau has all along been providing our full assistance to overseas and Mainland film crews to conduct location filming in Hong Kong.

Currently, in accordance with the established mechanism under the

Compulsory Quarantine of Persons Arriving at Hong Kong from Foreign Places Regulation (Cap. 599E), bureaux/departments may, having regard to the criteria listed in section 4(1) under Cap.599E and after considering the public health risk assessment from the Food and Health Bureau, submit applications for exemption for consideration by the Chief Secretary for Administration.

Personnel granted such exemption must comply with a series of designated infection control measures and conditions to minimise any transmission risks and contact with the public. These measures may include but not be limited to vaccination prior to arrival, self-isolation at designated places of stay and following pre-determined work-related itineraries, multiple testing and securing negative COVID-19 results on arrival and at subsequent intervals, point-to-point transportation and prohibition of using public transport, requirement on dining alone in a private room and prohibition of dining in restaurants etc. Moreover, exempted persons are subject to medical surveillance during their stay in Hong Kong as required by the Department of Health.

Bureaux/departments sponsoring the applications will ensure that the relevant persons comply with all the conditions. Any breach of exemption conditions will result in the revocation of the exemption status and the relevant persons will be transferred to quarantine centres for compulsory quarantine. The respective organisations of exempted persons are also required to implement necessary measures to ensure compliance with all the infection control measures and conditions.

Regarding the recent case concerning the quarantine exemption of an overseas film personnel undertaking location filming in Hong Kong, the subject personnel has obtained exemption from quarantine under Cap. 599E for performing designated professional work in Hong Kong. The subject activity is conducive to maintaining the necessary operation and development of Hong Kong's economy, notably the provision of opportunities for local film and performing arts practitioners to collaborate with overseas streaming platforms and participate in the production of a major drama series. The exempted personnel must comply with designated infection control measures and conditions, including following pre-determined work-related itineraries (e.g. filming, costume fitting, rehearsals and business meetings). This

Bureau has carried out regular checks, verifications and monitoring to ensure compliance. No breach of the exemption conditions by the personnel concerned has been identified during the monitoring period.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Elina Chan', written over a large, thin, hand-drawn loop that forms a stylized signature element.

(Mrs Elina Chan)
for Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

c.c.

Hon Elizabeth QUAT, BBS, JP, Chairperson, Legislative Council Panel on Health Service

Chief Secretary for Administration (Attn: Miss Jenny SZETO)

Secretary for Food and Health (Attn: Ms Nicky LEUNG)