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11 March 2021

Clerk to Panel on Public Service
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn: Ms Maggie CHUNG)

Dear Ms CHUNG,

Legislative Council Panel on Public Service
Follow-up to meeting on 17 February 2021

Thank you for your letter of 23 February 2021 to the Secretary for the Civil Service relaying the enquiries made by the members on the mechanism under the current civil service system for monitoring the implementation of major public works projects by public organisations. In consultation with the Development Bureau and Transport and Housing Bureau, my consolidated reply is as follows:

When a public organisation is engaged to implement major public works projects, the Government will put in place a number of monitoring measures to ensure the projects will be implemented on time and within budget, whilst satisfying quality and safety requirements. In the course of implementing such projects, the Government oversees and monitors the projects through committees set up at different management levels. The public organisation engaged will also be required to submit reports on project progress, financial and technical matters on a regular basis to facilitate Government oversight. In addition, the Government puts in place mechanisms to enhance its monitoring over cost, programme and quality.

As regards the Shatin to Central Link (SCL) Project, the Government entered into an Entrustment Agreement with MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) in 2012 entrusting MTRCL as the project manager to take forward the design, construction, testing and commissioning of the project. For the issues identified in the Final Report of the Expert Adviser Team on the SCL Project, the Government has put forward a series of enhanced monitoring, control and regulatory strategies for new railway projects, including enhancing project supervision and communication platforms, strengthening monitoring and checking levels, introducing a new project safety review procedure, setting up proactive reporting and early warning mechanisms, improving project delivery performance monitoring of MTRCL and building-up of a collaborative culture. At the same time, the Government proposed to establish a Railways Department specifically tasked to supervise and monitor the planning and delivery of railway projects, so as to restore the public's confidence in the quality of railway projects. The Government will also study the responsibilities of MTRCL and pursue the claims against MTRCL according to the Entrustment Agreement as and when appropriate.

Yours sincerely,



(Leo LI)

for Secretary for the Civil Service

cc: Hon KWOK Wai-keung, JP
Chairman, Legislative Council Panel on Public Service

Secretary for Development (Attn: Miss CHAN Hiu Ching, Heather)
Secretary for Transport and Housing (Attn: Miss IP Wing Ka, Winca)