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

7 May 2021

Dear Ms LAU,

**Legislative Council Panel on Transport
Follow-up actions to the meeting on 19 February 2021**

Agenda IV:

The introduction of alternative means of emergency exits for light buses

At the meeting of the Panel on Transport (“Panel”) held on 19 February 2021, the Panel requested the Government to provide supplementary information on the major causes of traffic accidents involving public light buses (“PLBs”). Our reply is as follows:

From 2010 to 2020, there were 10 880 traffic accidents involving 11 312 PLBs, close to 60% of which involved PLB drivers as a contributory factor, primarily related to driving inattentively, driving too close to the vehicle in front and driver failing to ensure passenger safety. Other contributory factors to the accidents include drivers of other vehicles (mainly related to driving inattentively, driving too close to the vehicle in front and careless lane changing), environment (mainly related to pedestrian negligence, inadequate light/sign at road work and slippery road caused by weather) and vehicle etc.

The Government has been adopting a multi-pronged approach, including through legislation, enforcement, publicity and education, to enhance the operational safety of PLBs. In particular, the Government amended the Road Traffic Ordinance (Cap. 374) and its subsidiary legislations in 2012, and implemented the following measures to enhance the safety of PLB service –

1. PLB drivers must not drive faster than the road speed limit or 80 km per hour, whichever is lower;
2. PLBs must be installed with an approved speed limiter and an approved Electronic Data Recording Device (commonly known as “black box”);
3. PLB drivers must display the PLB driver identity plate; and
4. New applicants for a PLB full driving licence must attend and complete a pre-service course for PLB drivers.

Furthermore, the Police will continue to carry out enforcement actions against improper driving behaviour of PLB drivers. The Transport Department will also maintain close communication with the PLB trade to remind drivers to obey the traffic laws and observe road safety, and continue to enhance the drivers' safety driving awareness and service quality by way of training and education, including through publicity and collaborating with the Police in organising safe driving seminars.

Yours sincerely,



(Evelyn LAM)

for Secretary for Transport and Housing

c.c.: Commissioner for Transport (Attn: Mr. Pan VANG)