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運輸及房屋局

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Transport and
Housing Bureau
Government Secretariat

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本局檔號 Our Ref. THB(T) A 26/17/7
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21 February 2022

Ms Shirley CHAN
Clerk to Panel on Economic Development
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Ms Chan,

Panel on Economic Development

**Joint letter from Hon LUK Chung-hung and Hon TANG Ka-piu
dated 4 February 2022**

Thank you for your letter of 7 February 2022, attaching the joint letter from Hon LUK Chung-hung and Hon TANG Ka-piu of 4 February 2022 concerning quarantine arrangements for air crew of Cathay Pacific Limited (“Cathay Pacific”). Please find below the response from the Transport and Housing Bureau.

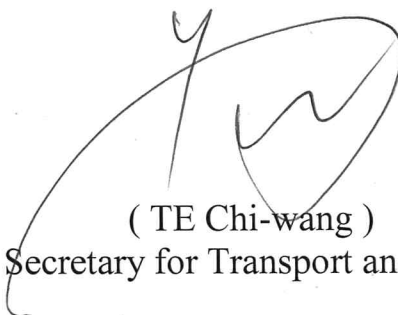
Based on the latest global and local epidemic situations, the Government has all along put the quarantine arrangements for air crew under continuous review and made timely adjustments. We aim at guarding against imported COVID-19 cases, while maintaining smooth air cargo services into and out of Hong Kong in order to meet the daily needs of the public and maintain the normal operation of our society and economy.

Regarding the issue concerning locally based air crew returning to Hong Kong on aircraft carrying cargo only and going home direct to undergo self-isolation after laying over at outports, as well as the cases of Cathay

Pacific's locally based air crew allegedly contravening the Government's quarantine requirements during home isolation, the Chairman of Cathay Pacific has already submitted a written explanation to the Chief Executive. The Government also noted the statement issued by Cathay Pacific on 11 January 2022. After seeking legal advice, the Police laid charges on the individuals concerned on 17 January 2022. The Government will continue to follow up seriously. If the investigation identifies other sufficient evidences, the Government will take further legal actions. As the subject matter involves legal proceedings, the Government is not in a position to comment further nor participate in panel discussion at this stage.

The Government has recently reviewed and enhanced the quarantine arrangements for air crew in a holistic manner. More stringent measures have been put in place to manage the potential risks of air crew on local public health, and monitoring has been further stepped up, in order to ensure that airlines and air crew strictly comply with the relevant requirements. The Government will continue to review and adjust the quarantine arrangements for air crew, taking into account various factors, including the latest developments of the epidemic situation, public health risk assessments and the operational needs of the aviation industry, with a view to taking forward anti-epidemic measures hand in hand with stakeholders across different sectors in our society. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'Y' shape followed by a circular flourish.

(TE Chi-wang)

for Secretary for Transport and Housing