

Witness statement of LAI Wai-yin

I, LAI Wai-yin, also known as Vanessa Lai, the Executive Officer (Secretary for Transport and Housing's Office) ("**EO(STHO)**") of the Transport and Housing Bureau ("**THB**") of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, do say as follows:-

1. I make this statement pursuant to the directions given by the Commission of Inquiry into the Diaphragm Wall and Platform Slab Construction Works at the Hung Hom Station Extension under the Shatin to Central Link ("**SCL**") Project of 1 August 2018 ("**1 August Letter**"). Save as otherwise stated, the matters stated in this statement are either within my knowledge or obtained from perusal of the relevant file records of the THB which I have access to, and are true to the best of my information, knowledge and belief.

2. This witness statement addresses Question 12 at page 17 of the 1 August Letter concerning the events set out in a press release published by the THB on 9 June 2018.

3. I have taken up the post of EO(STHO) since 18 May 2015. I work under the direct supervision of the Administrative Assistant to the Secretary for Transport and Housing ("**AA/STH**").

4. The Secretary for Transport and Housing's Office ("**STHO**") has set up a general email account (sthoffice@thb.gov.hk) ("**STHO's email account**") and a hotline (telephone number: 3509 8153) for receiving emails and phone calls enquiries and/or complaints from the public. As the post holder of EO(STHO), one of my job duties is to screen all emails received by the email account for passing on to corresponding officers for follow up action in accordance with the established practices of the STHO. The phone calls to the hotline are handled by Ms. So Pui-yin, the Assistant Clerical Officer (STHO) 2 ("**Ms PY So**"), who reports to me on the calls received.

5. On 15 September 2017 at 1106 hours, an email with the subject 'Request for a Joint Interview on the Construction Works of Hunghom

Station Extension' which was sent by Mr Jason Poon of the China Technology Corporation Ltd (“CT”) and copied to Anthony Zervaas of Leighton Asia, was received by the STHO’s email account (“CT’ email”). A copy of CT’s email is produced in Mr Leung Sai-ho (“Mr SH Leung”)’s witness statement to the Commission as “LSH-1”.

6. On the same day at 1117 hours, I referred the CT’s email to Mr Raymond Cheng, the then Principal Assistant Secretary for Transport and Housing (Transport) 7 (“Mr Raymond Cheng”), for his follow up and reply, with a copy to Mr Keith Giang, the then AA/STH (“Mr Keith Giang”) and Mr SH Leung, the then Assistant Secretary (Transport) 7B (the subordinate of Mr. Raymond Cheng). A copy of my said email is produced in Mr SH Leung’s witness statement to the Commission as “LSH-2”.

7. After office lunch hour between around 1400 hours to 1500 hours on the same day, Ms. PY So approached me and verbally informed me that a member of the public whose name was Mr Poon had called the hotline of STHO earlier the same day. Ms PY So told me that Mr Poon referred to his email about the Mass Transit Railway Corporation Limited and a contractor named Leighton sent to the THB on that day, and he requested for reply by a THB officer. Ms PY So passed me a mobile phone number provided by Mr Poon. Hence, I called Mr SH Leung by phone to convey Mr Poon’s request and his mobile phone number for Mr SH Leung to follow up the matter.

8. Later in the afternoon at 1608 hours on the same day, an email sent by Mr SH Leung in reply to the CT’s email was received by the STHO’s email account. I then forwarded the said email from Mr SH Leung to Mr Keith Giang for his information. A copy of my said email to Mr Keith Giang is produced in Mr SH Leung’s witness statement to the Commission as “LSH-9”.

9. On 18 September 2017 at 1922 hours, an email from Mr Jason Poon of CT to Mr SH Leung was received by the STHO’s email account (“CT’s 2nd email”). In view of the contents of CT’s 2nd email, no further action was taken by me regarding CT’s email.

10. I confirm that the contents of this Witness Statement are true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.



LAI Wai-yin

7 September 2018