運輸署
Transport Department

Our Ref.: (92) in TD FP/63/60/3
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By Post and Email

21 February 2025

Mr Kenneth Au-Yeung
President
Hong Kong Physiotherapists' Union
H.K.G.P.O. BOX 889

Dear Mr Au-Yeung,

"Parking Certificate for Drivers Who Carry People with Mobility Disabilities" ("Parking Certificate") on Medical Certificate

I refer to your letter expressing your views regarding the new measures for Parking Certificate dated 17 January 2025. Further to our interim reply of 23 January 2025, please find our substantive reply provided in the ensuing paragraphs.

With effect from 29 January 2021, the Transport Department ("TD") introduced a new measure to extend the eligibility for using the on-street parking spaces designated for the disabled ("disabled parking spaces") to Parking Certificate holders to facilitate the carrying of specified persons with lower limb mobility disabilities ("LLMD"). The new measure is aimed at promoting social integration of disabled persons as well as supporting and easing the burdens of carers. Since the new measure was implemented, the TD and the Ombudsman ("the OMB") have received multiple complaints about cases of suspected abuse, such as prolonged occupation or misuse by Parking Certificate holders for not carrying persons with LLMD when the registered vehicle is driven in and/or out of the disabled parking spaces.

The OMB announced to carry out a Direct Investigation ("DI") on the "Measures and Usage of On-street Parking Spaces Designated for People with Disabilities" in September 2021. The OMB completed the DI and published

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its DI Report in April 2023, in which and among others, observed that Disabled Person's Parking Permit ("DPPP") and Parking Certificate have their own sets of approval procedures and eligibility criteria and the discrepancies between the two in terms of the approval criteria, including the qualified persons to conduct the assessment, caused problems of various degrees. For the DPPP holder, they are the person who is the holder of a certificate signed by or on behalf of the Director of Health or the Hospital Authority within the meaning of the Hospital Authority Ordinance (Cap 113) stating that such person is suffering from a permanent disease or physical disability that causes him considerable difficulty in walking. The OMB recommended the TD to comprehensively review the existing eligibility and approval criteria for the Parking Certificate.

In light of the OMB's recommendations, the TD has carried out a comprehensive review of the application eligibility and approval criteria of the Parking Certificate, as well as other enhancement measures with a view to preventing and tackling abuse use of the disabled parking spaces in consultation with the stakeholders including the disabled groups, DPPP and Parking Certificate holders through different channels including the regular meetings, questionnaires and daily communication.

Having considered the views of stakeholders, the TD has planned to implement a number of enhanced measures on the application eligibility, approval criteria and strengthening deterrence against abuse use of Parking Certificates in various ways on 1 April 2025. In respect of the application requirement, the applicant is required to submit medical proof issued by a doctor from the Department of Health or the Hospital Authority to certify the persons to be carried has considerable difficulty in walking due to diseases or physical disabilities. This is to align with the application requirements for DPPP and the Disability Allowance granted by the Social Welfare Department which also require medical proof issued by a doctor from the Department of Health or the Hospital Authority to certify the persons concerned is eligible for using the Government's resources. This will also eliminate the discrepancy of the approval criteria between the DPPP and Parking Certificate as pointed out by the OMB. TD will continue to closely monitor the demand and utilisation

of disabled parking spaces after implementation of the enhanced measures in April 2025.

We would like to express our gratitude on your concerns about the subject. Should you have any queries, please contact the undersigned at 3842 5827.

Yours faithfully,

(Ms Cherry WONG)
for Commissioner for Transport