



## HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT

5<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR, HO MAN TIN GOVERNMENT OFFICES  
88 CHUNG HAU STREET, HOMANTIN, KOWLOON, HONG KONG  
Web site : <http://www.hyd.gov.hk>

## 路政署

香港九龍何文田忠孝街八十八號  
何文田政府合署五樓  
網址: <http://www.hyd.gov.hk>

本署檔案 Our Ref. : ( ) in HyD CR 4-35/1  
來函檔號 Your Ref. : CB4/PAC/R63  
電話 Tel. : 2762 3301  
圖文傳真 Fax : 2714 5203

29 December 2014

Mr Anthony CHU  
Clerk  
Public Accounts Committee  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central  
Hong Kong

Dear Mr CHU,

**Public Accounts Committee**  
**Consideration of Chapter 9 of the Director of Audit's Report No. 63**  
**Provision of cycle track network in the New Territories**

Thank you for your letter of 16 December 2014. Please find below our responses to the issues related to the Highways Department (HyD).

**Paragraph (d) – Item (x)**

The construction works concerned are arranged to be carried out under the term contracts of the HyD as and when the necessary planning and preparation works are ready. Payments were made to the term contractors according to the Schedule of Rates in the relevant term contracts. No additional costs were incurred as a result of the deferred implementation of the works other than the standard adjustments to reflect the cost fluctuation of the works carried out at different times.

**Paragraph (e) – Item (xii)**

There were 24 Category D items under the block vote allocation involved in the repaving of deteriorated cycle track sections, which incurred expenditure of \$5 million in the financial year of 2013-2014 as mentioned in paragraph 4.40 of Chapter 9 of the Report.



**Paragraph (e) – Items (xiii) and (xiv)**

In accordance with the stringent requirements specified in the contracts, the term contractors of the HyD are obliged to carry out regular inspections of cycle tracks, place on record any defects identified which may constitute imminent hazards, and repair such defects within 48 hours of identification. The HyD has internal guidelines on what defects should normally be reported as imminent hazards, which include potholes, hazardous obstructions, etc. Moreover, the HyD has adopted a performance pledge of completing the repair works of potholes on a cycle track which would affect cycling safety within 48 hours after receipt of a related complaint.

In 2013, the HyD received 164 complaints related to cycle tracks, of which 138 cases were handled by the HyD. Among these 138 complaints, only one was identified with defects (in that case it was related to potholes) that might constitute imminent hazards. The repair works were completed within 18 hours upon receipt of the complaint (i.e. within the time frame of 48 hours as specified in the performance pledge of the HyD). The remaining 137 complaints were mainly related to the repair and cleansing of street furniture, minor road surface defects and road works implemented on cycle tracks, which were considered as not involving imminent hazards.

As regards the 11 complaints with the repairs works that took more than six months to complete, those were mostly related to uneven road surfaces and would not cause imminent hazards. Local patching was first carried out to restore the riding quality as necessary, followed by repaving works which took a longer lead time to commence due to the coordination of interfacing issues, seeking of temporary traffic arrangement approval, planning of works arrangements, etc.

**Paragraph (e) – Item (xv)**

As regards inspections of cycle tracks, the HyD has been implementing a comprehensive system to assess in quarterly cycles contractors' performance by means of independent audit inspection conducted on random samples of their road inspections. If their performance level falls below the thresholds specified under the contract, the HyD will follow up in accordance with the contract provisions, including arranging payment deduction as appropriate. The performance concerned will also be reflected in their performance appraisal in order to urge them for improvement.

Yours sincerely,



(W W CHUI)

for Director of Highways

- c.c. Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Fax : 2147 5239)  
Director of Audit (Fax : 2583 9063)  
Director of Civil Engineering and Development (Fax : 2246 8708)  
Commissioner for Transport (Fax : 2802 2361)  
Secretary for Transport and Housing (Fax : 3904 1774)