

19 April, 2017

Clerk to Subcommittee on Two Proposed Resolutions
under the Fixed Penalty (Traffic Contraventions) Ordinance and
the Fixed Penalty (Criminal Proceedings) Ordinance
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: Two Proposed Resolutions under the Fixed Penalty (Traffic Contraventions)
Ordinance and the Fixed Penalty (Criminal Proceedings) Ordinance**

I support government's proposal to increase the fixed penalty for traffic offences.

Hong Kong's first-ever White Paper on Transport Policy published twenty-five years ago proposed a three-pronged approach to developing our transport system: improving the transport infrastructure, expanding and improving public transport and managing road use. These serve today as the three pillars of Hong Kong's efficient transport system. While the first two pillars have drawn considerable attention, the importance of demand management has tended to be forgotten. However, the experience of neighbouring cities shows that this third pillar is equally important as, if not more important than, the first two.

As an effective measure in managing road use, appropriate enforcement measures are essential for maintaining a safer and more efficient transport system. Similar to other fiscal measures, the penalties for traffic offences should be adjusted in line with inflation to ensure they are set at an appropriate level to encourage compliance with traffic laws and regulations; otherwise, their effectiveness will diminish over time. Therefore, I support government's proposed adjustments of the fixed penalty for traffic offences, as it has not been changed for over two decades. This does not only help alleviate traffic congestion, but also improve road safety, for example, by maintaining adequate visibility of both drivers and pedestrians at critical locations.

I suggest that the fixed penalty of other offences, such as speeding, be also increased in a similar manner, if not more; otherwise, it would send a wrong message to the public that road safety is less important. It would also be desirable if the increase in penalty fees could be channelled into road safety research and education campaigns such as those organised by the Road Safety Council and other non-governmental organisations. Taken together, these measures will help bring us closer to the Council's vision of "Zero Accidents on the Road, Hong Kong's Goal".

Although the increase in fixed penalty may not be welcomed by the driving community, I believe that it will be effective in reducing traffic congestion and enhancing road safety, which in turn will provide them a better driving environment. As a result, it will keep Hong Kong moving, and maintain its world-class, sustainable transport system.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wong', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Professor S.C. Wong, BBS, JP
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