

Extension of time for Commission of Inquiry to submit report

The Chief Executive in Council approved today (December 4), at the request of 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 Project, an extension of time for the Commission to submit its report to the Chief Executive by February 26, 2019.

The Commission was appointed by the Chief Executive in Council on July 10, 2018, with Mr Michael Hartmann as Chairman and Commissioner and Professor Peter Hansford as Commissioner. It is required to report its findings and recommendations to the Chief Executive within six months from the date of appointment, i.e. by January 9, 2019, or such time as the Chief Executive in Council may allow. In view of the extensive scope of the inquiry, the complexity of the matters under examination and the large number of witnesses involved, the Commission sought an extension of time to consider the evidence and complete its report. Based on its latest work progress, the Commission expects to finish hearing all evidence and the closing addresses by involved parties by late January 2019. The Commission will then proceed to finalise its report.

The Commission is tasked to inquire into the steel reinforcement fixing works and any other works which raise concerns about public safety in respect of the diaphragm wall and platform slab construction works at the Hung Hom Station Extension under the Shatin to Central Link Project implemented by the MTR Corporation Limited. It will also make recommendations on suitable measures with a view to promoting public safety and assurance on the quality of works. The terms of reference of the Commission are in the Annex.