## <u>Government announces list of sixth-</u> cycle designated quarantine hotels

The Government announced today (October 19) the list of designated quarantine hotels for the sixth cycle of the Designated Quarantine Hotel (DQH) Scheme. A total of 40 hotels will provide about 11 500 rooms in the new cycle, which will run from December 1, 2021, to February 28, 2022. The Government may adjust the number of rooms available in this cycle as and where necessary.

A Government spokesman said, "The Government issued letters to some 2 000 hotels and guesthouses with valid licences on September 24 to invite applications for enlisting as DQHs in the sixth cycle. We have received 45 applications.

"Upon assessment, 40 hotels, including 35 in the fifth cycle, were selected as DQHs to join the sixth cycle (see the list in the Annex) to provide about 11 500 rooms of various types and rates for selection by arrivals in Hong Kong from places other than the Mainland and Macao."

The spokesman added, "In view of the strong demand for rooms under the fifth cycle, as well as the several long public holidays to be covered under the sixth cycle, more hotel rooms have been made available under this new cycle in anticipation of a possible increase in market demand."

To further prevent the importation of COVID-19 cases and reduce contact between arrivals and the local community, the Government fully implemented the DQH Scheme and the Designated Transportation Scheme on December 22, 2020, requiring all arrivals from specified places to undergo compulsory quarantine at DQHs. The first and second cycles of the DQH Scheme, each involving 36 hotels, ended on February 19 and April 20 respectively. The third cycle of the DQH Scheme involving 30 hotels ended on June 19. The fourth cycle of the DQH Scheme involving 35 hotels ended on August 31 while the fifth cycle with 36 hotels will end on November 30.

The list of DQHs in the sixth cycle and related details, including room rates, will be uploaded to the thematic webpage at <a href="http://www.designatedhotel.gov.hk">www.designatedhotel.gov.hk</a>.