

Representatives of Transport and Logistics Bureau and Transport Department meet with representatives of taxi trade

In response to the requests by some taxi groups, representatives of the Transport and Logistics Bureau (TLB) and the Transport Department (TD) met with the trade this morning (November 21) to understand their opinions and exchange views.

A spokesman for the TLB said that the Government representatives had made it clear at the meeting that the Government will stringently combat the use of motor vehicles for illegal carriage of passengers for hire or reward which constitutes an offence. To enhance the deterrent effect, the Government has proposed to increase the penalty level for the use of motor vehicles for illegal carriage of passengers for hire or reward under the relevant Bill introduced into the Legislative Council (LegCo) for scrutiny in July this year, which includes increasing the maximum fine, as well as lengthening the period of suspension of vehicle licences and the impoundment of vehicles. In addition, after careful consideration of the views of the Bills Committee, the Government will move amendments to further propose increasing the maximum term of imprisonment as well, with a view to enhancing the deterrent effect.

The Government emphasised that a review of the existing legislation will be launched on how to deal with illegal carriage of passengers for hire or reward more effectively. The Government will also explore the regulation of online hire car hailing platforms to step up efforts in combating illegal carriage of passengers for hire or reward.

The spokesman added that the Government will strive to resume the Second Reading debate on the relevant Bills at the LegCo meeting as soon as possible for early implementation of the relevant measures. The Government will also continue to step up enforcement actions against the use of motor vehicles for illegal carriage of passengers for hire or reward.

The spokesman reiterated that the Government has long been concerned about the operating environment of the taxi trade, and will continue to maintain close communication with the taxi trade and listen to their views. The Government hopes that the taxi trade will tackle the issues in a rational and pragmatic manner with the public interest in mind.