

TAC discusses measures for enhancing personalised and point-to-point transport services

The following is issued on behalf of the Transport Advisory Committee:

The Transport Advisory Committee (TAC) was briefed by the Government today (April 11) on a series of measures to improve the business environment of the taxi trade, enhance the overall quality of personalised and point-to-point transport services, and reform the taxi industry.

The TAC Chairman, Professor Stephen Cheung, said, "Members welcome the various measures proposed by the Government to enhance the operation and competitiveness of taxis, which include introducing a taxi fleet management regime, increasing the maximum passenger seating capacity of taxis, as well as introducing a taxi-driver-offence points system and a two-tier penalty system so as to enhance punishment for certain taxi-driver-related offences of a more serious nature and improve the overall taxi service quality.

"The TAC also discussed the fare increase applications submitted by the taxi trade and noted its latest operation status. In deliberating on the fare increase applications, we have considered and balanced all relevant factors, including the financial viability of taxi operation and public acceptability.

"Similar to other fare increase applications, the TAC will submit its advice to the Government for consideration by the Chief Executive-in-Council," Professor Cheung added.

In addition, Members were briefed on the proposed measure to increase the penalties for illegal carriage of passengers for hire or reward by motor vehicles, with a view to enhancing the deterrent effect and safety protection for passengers.