



運輸署
Transport Department



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To: Distribution

19 October 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Review on Driving on Lantau Island Scheme
and Issuance of Lantau Closed Road Permits**

Further to our letter in November 2020 inviting your comments on the introduction of the second phase of Driving on Lantau Island Scheme (“DLS”) and the proposed revised arrangements for the issuance of Lantau Closed Road Permits (“LCRP”), after taking into accounts of comments and views received from various stakeholders, we would like to inform you of the implementation of recommended measures.

Having balanced the views of relevant stakeholders, and taking into consideration of the keen demand on DLS and the continual improvement of traffic conditions and facilities on South Lantau, the Transport Department (“TD”) plans to implement the second phase of DLS in the second quarter of 2022, subject to the epidemic situation and the progress of the provision of additional public parking spaces on South Lantau.

On the other hand, to uphold the principle of approving LCRP applications based on the genuine needs of applicants, TD will implement the revised arrangements for the issuance of LCRPs **with effect from 1 January 2022.**

Details of the review and implementation are set out in the attached paper submitted to the Islands District Council.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss Mini FUNG Sin-ye)
for Commissioner for Transport

[TRANSLATION]

**Islands District Council
Traffic and Transport Committee
Paper T&TC 43/2021**

**Implementation of Revised Arrangements for
Issuance of Lantau Closed Road Permits and
the Second Phase of the Driving on Lantau Island Scheme**

Purpose

This paper briefs Members on the implementation of the revised arrangements for issuance of Lantau Closed Road Permits (“LCRPs”) and the second phase of the “Driving on Lantau Island Scheme” (“DLS”).

Background

2. At the meeting of the Traffic and Transport Committee under the Islands District Council in November 2020, the Transport Department (“TD”) proposed to revise the arrangements for issuance of the long-term¹ and temporary² LCRPs to ensure that such permits are only issued to people with genuine needs to enter South Lantau. TD also proposed to launch the second phase of DLS which will increase the total number of daily quotas from 25 to not more than 50 from Mondays to Fridays (except public holidays) and, on a trial basis, extend the scope to cover motorcycles, and introduce not more than five new quotas per day for hire cars. The current quota level of 40 per day for tour coaches will remain unchanged.

3. TD then consulted relevant stakeholders, including the Lantau Development Advisory Committee, public transport operators, tourism sector and green groups. After considering the concerns from various stakeholders on the proposals, TD will arrange the implementation of the measures by phases. Details are elaborated in the ensuing paragraphs.

¹ Long-term LCRPs are issued to local residents or business operators on South Lantau. Each dwelling unit/shop on South Lantau will only be issued one LCRP upon application. Applicants are required to submit proof of address on South Lantau such as a bill issued by the electricity company or the Rating and Valuation Department, a supporting document issued by the Land Registry, or a rental receipt and a stamped tenancy agreement.

² Temporary LCRPs are issued to people with genuine needs to enter South Lantau temporarily such as indigenous residents who need to go to South Lantau for grave sweeping, residents moving their homes, and those carrying out construction works on the closed road area, etc.

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Implementation of the revised arrangements for issuance of LCRPs

4. In recent years, TD has received complaints of suspected abuse of the application eligibility of LCRPs, including abusive use of authorisation letters and use of abandoned land lots for applications. After reviewing the existing arrangements, TD proposed to revise the LCRP application mechanism to maintain and safeguard the principle that LCRPs are issued to those with genuine needs. As no objection to the revision of the issuance arrangements for long term and temporary LCRPs was received during the consultation, and green groups have also expressed support for the measures, TD will implement the following arrangements from **1 January 2022 onwards**:

Long-term LCRPs

5. For new applications for long-term LCRP, if the applicant is not the address proof holder or registered vehicle owner, he/she must meet the relationship requirement acceptable to TD (e.g. being the spouse, parent/child/sibling, cohabitant, employer/employee of the address proof holder or registered vehicle owner) and provide valid and acceptable documentary proof such as a marriage certificate or birth certificate (see **Annex 1** for details). If the applicant applies for a permit with Land Registry's records, and uses abbreviation and number of a land lot as address, he/she is required to provide supporting documents/proof (e.g. photos and layout/development plans of the lot) to demonstrate his/her needs for accessing South Lantau.

Temporary LCRPs

6. For temporary LCRP applications, given that temporary LCRPs are issued on a short-term basis to those with genuine needs to enter South Lantau, TD will cease the renewal arrangements for such permits. Where necessary, holders of temporary LCRPs may reapply for a LCRP before their expiry date. TD will handle these applications according to the established procedures for processing a new LCRP application. Renewal arrangements will only be applicable to long-term LCRPs. In addition, in order to manage the traffic on South Lantau more effectively, TD will require construction vehicle applicants to be bound by specified routing. This measure was introduced for applications made by government works/government contractors and public utilities/telecommunications companies in January and September 2020 respectively, and will be gradually extended to cover private engineering

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companies.

Enhancement measures

7. During the consultation, TD has also received views from locals on enhancing the issuance arrangements, which include allowing long-term LCRP holders to renew their permits if they wish to change the number of vehicles covered therein, issuing an appropriate number of LCRPs to families living in three-storey village houses registered at a single address, and issuing LCRPs to indigenous residents living outside the closed road area. Having balanced the genuine needs of the residents and businesses on South Lantau, and in order to uphold the principle of issuing LCRPs to those with genuine needs, TD plans to implement the following arrangements from **1 January 2022 onwards**:

- (i) Long-term LCRP holder with a reduced number of vehicles is allowed for renewal application, given that the information of other vehicles remains unchanged; and
- (ii) Family registered at a single address of a three-storey village house is allowed to apply for a maximum of three LCRPs (the upper limit is one for each storey), and the applicant must be the family members of the address proof holder (“family member”) i.e. being spouse, parent/child/sibling, and must provide valid and acceptable documentary proof to prove the declared relationship and their residence at the address, together with a consent form from the address proof holder supporting the application. Except for the long-term LCRP applied by the address proof holder, all permits applied by the family members are temporary LCRP where his/her needs will be subject to regular review. When the family members move out of the address or apply for the permit with another address in South Lantau in the future, they must return the existing LCRP to TD for cancellation.

8. Regarding the proposal of issuing LCRPs to indigenous residents living outside the closed road area, in view of the existing mechanism to issue temporary LCRPs according to genuine needs of the indigenous residents, such as the indigenous residents who need to go to South Lantau for grave sweeping and representatives of the indigenous residents who need to attend official activities, TD will abide by the existing arrangements in considering the issuance of temporary LCRPs according to the genuine needs and justifications of indigenous residents.

Arrangement of implementing the second phase of DLS

9. Since the introduction of DLS in February 2016, there has been substantial demand for its quotas. The quota utilisation rate remains high with the overall utilisation rate exceeding 90%, while the quotas for non-electric private cars (“PCs”) has always been fully utilised (see **Annex 2** for details). Also, TD has from time to time received requests from the public for increasing the number of DLS quotas. Having considered the utilisation of DLS quotas, public demand, road conditions and transport facilities on South Lantau, and environmental concerns etc., TD proposed to increase the number of DLS quotas to 50. During the consultation, TD received diverse views from stakeholders. Those supporting the proposal agreed to increase the number of DLS quotas to enhance the accessibility of the area, facilitate public access to South Lantau and boost tourism development, whereas those having reservations about the proposal expressed concern about the impact on the natural and rural environment of South Lantau, the road safety on South Lantau and the inadequacy of parking facilities on South Lantau to cope with the increased parking demand.

Road safety

10. TD attaches great importance to residents’ concerns about the road safety and parking facilities on South Lantau and is committed to improving the traffic conditions of roads on South Lantau. In this connection, TD worked with the Highways Department to complete 21 road widening and road bend improvement projects along South Lantau Road and Keung Shan Road between 2007 and 2018. TD is now preparing to commence other improvement projects, including road improvement and widening, road bend improvement, as well as provision of additional traffic signs and road markings along Keung Shan Road and Tai O Road. To avoid vehicle collision with cattle, TD has now put up 48 “Beware of Cattle” traffic signs at sites frequented by cattle on South Lantau. In addition, TD made arrangements in March 2019 for works departments to install “Attention to Cattle on Road” traffic signs on the section of Tung Chung Road near Shek Mun Kap Road to alert motorists to the high possibility of encountering cattle on closed roads on South Lantau, thereby enhancing road safety. In fact, statistics on traffic accidents show no upward trend in the number of traffic accidents on South Lantau and TD’s records also reveal no traffic accident involving PCs under DLS since its launch in 2016.

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Parking facilities

11. For parking facilities, the Government has been striving to provide more parking spaces to meet the demand. TD is actively exploring with the Lands Department to turn vacant government land at suitable locations³ into short-term tenancy car parks, with a view to increasing the provision of public parking spaces for PCs. In addition, the Civil Engineering and Development Department plans to explore the provision of about 150 additional parking spaces for PCs at Yim Tin under the Improvement Works at Tai O, Phase 2 Stage 2 project. According to a recent on-site survey conducted by TD on weekdays, there are still public parking spaces available in the daytime at major tourist spots on South Lantau such as Tai O, Mui Wo and Ngong Ping⁴. On the whole, there should be adequate parking spaces on South Lantau to meet the additional parking demand that may be induced by the proposed measures.

12. After balancing the views of different parties, and having regard to the substantial public demand for DLS, and the continual improvement of the traffic conditions and road facilities on South Lantau, TD plans to implement the second phase of DLS **in the second quarter of 2022**, subject to the epidemic status and the progress of the provision of additional public parking spaces on South Lantau.

Arrangement of quotas

13. To promote the use of electric cars for environmental improvement, and in response to noise and safety concerns raised by some stakeholders over motorcycles, TD will cancel the trial of providing DLS quotas for motorcycles and increase the number of quotas for electric cars. As for the quotas for hire cars, TD will allocate quotas to hire cars serving wheelchair users on a trial basis

³ TD has earlier explored with the Lands Department the provision of a short-term tenancy car park at Yim Tin Pok in Tai O to provide about 60 additional parking spaces. Taking into account the cattle inhabiting the lot and public concern about conservation, the Lands Department has expressed reservations about the proposed short-term tenancy car park on the lot concerned. TD is working with relevant departments to identify suitable sites on South Lantau for construction of short-term tenancy car parks or public car parks with the aim of providing a similar number of parking spaces to that of Yim Tin Pok in Tai O in mid-2022.

⁴ It is noted that some motorists, for the sake of personal convenience, have parked or stopped on roads at some locations on South Lantau illegally, or picked up/set down passengers or loaded/unloaded goods in restricted zones, which adversely affected road traffic. TD notes that the Hong Kong Police Force will step up enforcement and prosecution actions against traffic offences, and target black spots of illegal parking with serious traffic congestion in order to improve road safety and alleviate traffic congestion.

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to facilitate persons with disabilities to access South Lantau. The current quota level of 40 per day for tour coaches will remain unchanged. A breakdown of the quota allocation is set out at **Annex 3**.

14. In addition, to further enhance the transparency and fairness in the allocation of DLS quotas, TD plans to introduce a ballot system to allocate the quotas in parallel with implementation of the second phase of DLS (i.e. tentatively in the second quarter of 2022). Details will be announced in due course.

15. Upon implementation of the above measures, TD will closely monitor the traffic conditions as well as the supply and utilisation of parking spaces at various locations on South Lantau, and keep in contact with the Police to step up law enforcement to ensure smooth operation. TD will also prepare driving guides and produce video clips to remind drivers under DLS of the precautions to be taken when driving on closed roads on Lantau Island.

16. Members are invited to note the above arrangements.

Transport Department
October 2021

[TRANSLATION]

Annex 1

**Tightening of the Application Eligibility for Long-term LCRPs
Proof of Relationship and Supporting Documents**

The following are acceptable relationships between the applicant and the address proof holder/registered vehicle owner and the types of supporting documents required:

Acceptable relationship	Type of supporting documents
Spouse	Marriage certificate
Parent/child/sibling	Birth certificate
Cohabitant	Utility bill or bank statement
Employer/employee	Employment contract
Other relationship subject to scrutiny (e.g. relatives taking care of the elderly living alone who need to travel to South Lantau frequently)	Oath

Note: If the applicant is not the owner of the vehicle under application, proof of his/her relationship with the vehicle owner under the above-mentioned categories is required.

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Annex 2

**Utilisation of the Private Car (PC) Quota under DLS
since March 2016**

Year	Utilisation of Quota (%)		
	Non-electric PCs	Electric PCs	Overall
2016^	100	58	92
2017	100	63	93
2018	100	60	92
2019	100	58	92
2020	100	99	100

^ DLS was launched in February 2016.

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Annex 3

Relaxation of Vehicle Access to South Lantau

Allocation of Quotas

	Number of existing quotas	Number of quotas proposed in November 2020	Number of quotas to be implemented
DLS			
Non-electric PC	20	40	40
Electric PC	5	7	10
Motorcycle	0	3	0
Subtotal	25	50	50
Tour Coach and Hire Car Quotas			
Hire Car (on a trial basis)	0	5	5 (only for hire cars serving wheelchair users)
Tour Coach	40	40	40
Total	65	95	95