

Response from the Hong Kong SAR Government and the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority

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A. Site Search		
A1.	<p>When did the review of the Mega Performance Venue (MPV) commence? When was it completed?</p>	<p>As reported by the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority (WKCDA) to relevant subcommittee of the Legislative Council (LegCo) in the past years, the MPV in the approved Development Plan is a facility for development through public-private partnership. Hence, its commercial viability is most important. An internal review of MPV commenced in June 2015 and was generally completed in November 2015. The review initially revealed that the co-located MPV and Exhibition Centre (EC) would need to be reconfigured. As such, WKCDA and its consultants continue to study and optimise the use of gross floor area of the site concerned, and consider the establishment of a flexible multi-purpose venue that could be used for performance, convention and exhibition purposes, as well as its positioning.</p> <p>Details of the timeline for the review and study as well as the Board's discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 2015: WKCDA established an internal task force headed by its Chief Operating Officer (other task force members include the Executive Director, Project Delivery; Executive Director, Finance; and Director, Commercial) to study the development of the site reserved for MPV and EC.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="1039 336 2078 587">• July 2015: The Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Chief Operating Officer; Executive Director, Project Delivery; and Executive Director, Finance of WKCDA awarded the consultancy agreement to study the development of the site reserved for MPV and EC in accordance with the procedures and delegated authority. <li data-bbox="1039 639 2078 762">• August 2015: WKCDA reported to its Development Committee that the internal task force was studying the development of the site reserved for MPV and EC. <li data-bbox="1039 815 2078 1114">• October 2015: WKCDA briefed the Executive Committee of the Board on the preliminary findings of the consultancy study. Members of the Executive Committee agreed that the original proposal to build a MPV in the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) was no longer a suitable proposition and agreed in principle to further explore the development of a venue for flexible use. <li data-bbox="1039 1166 2078 1369">• 9 November 2015: WKCDA reported to the Board on the findings of the consultancy study that the original proposal to provide a MPV in WKCD was no longer a suitable proposition. The Board agreed and directed WKCDA Management to further study the site originally planned for the MPV and EC and to

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		<p>optimise the use of the gross floor area of the site concerned and to recommend a detailed positioning of a venue for flexible use for performance, convention and exhibition purposes. The study should also take into account the progress of the Kai Tak Sports Park (KTSP) project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 2016: WKCDA Management approved a consultancy agreement to study the commercial viability and private funding option for a multi-purpose venue for performance, convention and exhibition purposes in accordance with the delegated authority and procedures. • 19 July 2016: The Chief Executive published a blog titled "Hong Kong's biggest ever investment in sport - Kai Tak Sports Park", announcing that the Government will implement the KTSP. • 20 July 2016: After attending the 53rd meeting of the WKCDA Board, the Chairman of the Board told the media that WKCDA was reviewing the site originally planned for the MPV and EC, taking into account the need for Hong Kong to continue the development of convention and exhibition industry and how to maximise the use of exhibition site in WKCD. • 5 September 2016: At its 54th meeting, the Board noted the results of further study on the MPV and EC. After detailed

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		<p>deliberation, the Board agreed that the original plan for the MPV in WKCD was no longer a suitable proposition. The decision was publicised in the press release issued on that day.</p>
A2.	<p>When did the consultancy agreement for studying the development of the site reserved for the MPV and EC commence? How much was the consultancy fee?</p> <p>Which consultancy company is responsible for the study / review?</p> <p>Is the company appointed through open tender?</p> <p>Is the appointment approved by the WKCDA Board? When was it approved?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The study on the development of the site reserved for MPV and EC involved two consultancy agreements, which were awarded by the WKCDA Management in July 2015 and January 2016 respectively in accordance with the delegated authority and established procedures. • The consultancy agreement awarded in July 2015 was awarded to Waters Economics Limited. The work of the consultancy agreement was completed in May 2016 and the fee was \$3.5 million. • The consultancy agreement awarded in January 2016 was awarded to Ernst & Young Transactions Limited. The work of the consultancy agreement was completed in December 2016 and the fee was \$1.2 million.
A3.	<p>Has consideration ever been given to develop the Hong Kong Palace Museum (HKPM) at P12 / P14 (i.e. the site reserved for the Centre for Contemporary Performance and Medium Theatre II)? What was the reason for</p>	<p>The Core Team has initially considered the site at P12/P14 (since most of the arts and cultural facilities on this site have been relocated to Lyric Theatre at P35 forming the Lyric Theatre Complex). However, the parcel P12/P14 is located above the integrated basement and there are many ventilation shafts of the Express Rail</p>

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	<p>deciding not to use P12 / P14 subsequently and when was the decision made? Who made the decision?</p>	<p>Link (XRL) West Kowloon Terminus extending to a height above the site, which would hinder the feasibility and flexibility of the museum design. In addition, the site is still occupied by the XRL project as a works site.</p> <p>During the period from November 2015 to February 2016, members of the Core Team, without prejudice to confidentiality requirements, discussed with the MTR Corporation Limited, Highways Department, Buildings Department, Fire Services Department, Civil Engineering and Development Department and other technical departments the site development restrictions and noted that there were many technical constraints and uncertainties.</p> <p>Further to the discussion, the Core Team recommended to abandon further study of the use of parcel P12/P14 at end of February 2016. In consideration of other sites, the Chief Secretary for Administration reminded the Core Team, as a principle, no Core Arts and Cultural Facilities which would be developed by WKCDA in later phase should be replaced.</p>
A4.	<p>Mr Rocco Yim has been appointed before the WKCDA Board agreed not to proceed with the development of MPV. Was the MPV not proceed with because of the development of HKPM?</p>	<p>As we have repeatedly emphasised, the timeline has clearly indicated that the Board's decision to discontinue the development of MPV is not related to its agreement to proceed with the development of HKPM.</p>

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		<p>Timeline for studying the construction of the HKPM:</p> <p>In September 2015, the Chief Secretary explored with the Director of Palace Museum the possibility of construction of a museum in WKCD for displaying the exhibits of the Palace Museum. In December 2015, this proposal was submitted to the Central People’s Government by the HKSAR Government through the Chief Executive. The Core Team conducted a site search in early 2016. In May 2016, in view of the special nature of the project and the requirements on the architect as mentioned in B3 below, the Chief Secretary first approached Mr. Rocco Yim to see whether he would be interested in participating in the design of the Palace Museum. With Mr Yim’s agreement, the Chief Secretary /Chairman of the Board directed the CEO of WKCDA to follow up on the matter. CEO under delegated authority appointed Mr Yim to provide advance consultancy services for the P46+P47 site. The scope of works includes preliminary technical study of a multi-purpose venue and a museum.</p>
A5.	Hong Kong has a serious shortage of performance venues. Why is the development of MPV not proceeded with?	<p>The original proposed MPV would have a capacity of 15 000 seats. In carrying out the review of the concerned development, WKCDA has taken into consideration other performance venues of a similar scale, including existing ones and those in the course of implementation. These include the 12 500-seat Hong Kong Coliseum, 14 500-seat Arena in AsiaWorld-Expo, and KTSP, which</p>

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		<p>was announced to be pressed ahead by the Government in July 2016. According to its current plan, KTSP will provide a 50 000-seat Main Stadium and a 7 000- to 10 000-seat Indoor Sports Centre. The latest design of the Main Stadium has taken into account the requirements of large scale entertainment events, with acoustic retractable roof and flexible turf system. The Main Stadium can be turned into different spectator configurations (e.g. 10 000, 20 000 and 35 000) using stage positioning, draping and other means. While sports events will be the primary use of the Main Stadium and Indoor Sports Centre, the Government envisages that slots could be made available for other events, including pop concerts and entertainment activities. The 7 000- to 10 000-seat Indoor Sports Centre in KTSP can meet the market need for an alternative medium-sized venue in the urban area. In view of the above developments and after detailed deliberations, WKCDA Board agreed that the development of the original MPV is no longer a suitable proposition.</p> <p>On the other hand, as mentioned above, WKCDA is considering the development of a multi-purpose venue through public-private partnership on the original site for the co-located MPV/EC. This venue can be used for convention, exhibition and performance purposes.</p>
A6.	Some people are of the view that the	On site selection, the Hong Kong SAR Government has taken into

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	<p>construction of museums in other areas can boost the economic development of the district. Why must the museum be developed in WKCD?</p>	<p>account that WKCD is a biggest ever large-scale cultural investment in Hong Kong and it is developing into a world-class integrated arts and cultural district incorporating local and traditional features and international elements. Hence, it is considered most appropriate to build this museum which features traditional Chinese art and culture in WKCD. In addition to meeting the vision of WKCD becoming the cultural hub of Hong Kong, the museum will also fully complement the arts and cultural facilities under construction or planning in WKCD, enriching the diversity of the facilities of the cultural district and enhancing the attractiveness of the District to the public as well as Mainland and overseas visitors.</p>
A7.	<p>Can the consultancy report be disclosed to the public?</p>	<p>The consultancy report contains information of commercial confidence as well as third party information. However, in order to let the public have a better understanding of the findings of the study, we are pleased to provide relevant consultancy report for reference to the LegCo members under confidentiality arrangement.</p> <p>Indeed, the major findings of the study have already been included in the paper submitted to the House Committee of LegCo.</p>

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B. Appointment of Design Consultant		
B1.	Was Mr Rocco Yim already involved in the Hong Kong Palace Museum project in June 2016? What is the scope of work? When was the work commenced and completed?	According to the delegated authority and established approval procedures, the WKCDA Management appointed Rocco Design Architects (RDA) Limited under Mr Rocco Yim in June 2016 to provide advance consultancy services for the project. The scope of services include the preliminary technical study on the MPV/EC site (i.e. P46/P47 land parcels) for the integrated development of Exhibition Centre, hotels, offices and a proposed new museum, and to provide conceptual design for reference and cost estimation. The advance consultancy services were largely completed in November 2016.
B2.	Does Mr Rocco Yim receive fees for the provision of advance consultancy services? How much? Who pays for it? Does it involve public money?	The professional fee for the advance consultancy services is \$4.5M, to be borne by WKCDA.
B3.	Why did the WKCDA directly engage Rocco Design Architects Limited to take charge of the design of the Hong Kong Palace Museum without open tendering, which is contrary to the principle of openness and fairness? Will the project be re-tendered?	The WKCDA Management considers that HKPM is a unique museum with very special nature to showcase the precious collections, culture and history of the Palace Museum. WKCDA has the following considerations in engaging the architect for the project: (1) A local Chinese architect who must understand Chinese arts and culture;

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		<p>(2) Understands the vision and development of WKCD; and</p> <p>(3) Possesses the expertise in designing museums of a similar nature.</p> <p>Mr Rocco Yim is a local-born Hong Kong architect with international reputation, and fully complies with the above criteria. His team possesses wide experience in designing and executing museum projects. WKCDA hence directly appointed Rocco Design Architects Limited, under Mr Rocco Yim, as the design consultant according to WKCDA's procurement guidelines.</p> <p>Based on the above considerations, the WKCDA Board considers that open tendering would not be the best option for procuring the design for this project.</p> <p>The Board understands that this special appointment will inevitably arouse public and stakeholders' concerns. The Board reaffirms that this is a very exceptional arrangement. The Board will adhere to the practice of conducting open tender or design competitions in the development of WKCD, and pay due attention to the granting of more opportunities for local young architects, designers and other professionals to participate in the development of WKCD.</p>
B4.	Which party appointed Mr Rocco Yim to provide advance consultancy services?	The WKCDA Management appointed RDA to provide advance consultancy services in accordance with its delegated authority and

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		<p>established approval procedures.</p> <p>Under WKCDA's procurement guidelines, the award of a consultancy agreement with a value of less than \$5 million and the use of single tendering is within the delegated authority of the CEO, Director, Project Control and Executive Director, Finance, without the need of the Board's agreement.</p>
B5.	<p>Had WKCDA received Mr Rocco Yim's design drawings for the museum in July/ August 2016 well before the Board approved the project? Since this was preceded by the appointment of Mr Yim by the Board in November, did it bypass the Board?</p>	<p>Following WKCDA Management's appointment of RDA as the consultant for the advance consultancy services in June 2016, RDA's first submission on the integrated development of the Exhibition Centre, hotels and offices as well as the proposed museum was received at the end of July 2016. Such information was used for cost estimation and assessing the feasibility of development projects so as to facilitate the Board to approve the development of HKPM in WKCD; to accept the donation from the Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJC) Charities Trust; and to engage RDA as the design consultant of the project.</p> <p>Under WKCDA's procurement guidelines, the award of a consultancy agreement with a value of less than \$5 million and the use of single tendering is within the approving authority of the CEO; Director, Project Control; and Executive Director, Finance; without the need to notify the Board. The Authority will report regularly to the Board on contracts awarded under the delegated authority.</p>

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		When approving the appointment of RDA as the design consultant of the project in November 2016, the Board was aware that RDA had been engaged to conduct a preliminary study for HKPM and the adjoining integrated development of the Exhibition Centre, hotels and offices for establishing schedule of accommodation and project cost of HKPM.
B6.	Was Mr Rocco Yim appointed under two contracts in June and November respectively to provide advance consultancy services and to be the design consultant for the project? What are the reasons? Were the two contracts awarded through direct appointment?	In accordance with the delegated authority, the WKCDA Management appointed Mr Rocco Yim in June 2016 to provide advance consultancy services. Following the Board's on the appointment of RDA on 28 November 2016, WKCDA is in discussion with RDA on the detailed terms of the consultancy agreement. The WKCDA Board endorsed at its meeting held today the budget for the provision of consultancy services for the design and construction of the project.
B7.	What is the consultancy fee for the appointment of Mr Rocco Yim as the design consultant of the HKPM project? Who will pay the consultancy fee?	WKCDA is discussing with RDA the detailed terms of the consultancy agreement. The consultancy fee will be paid from the donation of \$3.5 billion from the HKJC Charities Trust.
B8.	Was Mr Rocco Yim aware that the project was related to HKPM when he was engaged in the advance consultancy services? If not,	When RDA was appointed by WKCDA in June 2016 to provide advance consultancy services and carry out professional and technical study, Mr Rocco Yim would need to know and was aware

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	when did he know about it?	that the study was related to a museum involving exhibits of the Palace's culture.

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C. Construction Cost Estimate/Operating Funds		
C1.	Is the \$3.5 billion donated by the HKJC estimated on the basis of the study and assessment of Mr Rocco Yim's advance consultancy services?	The cost estimate of \$3.5 billion, inclusive of the estimated cost of the construction works (including contingencies and price adjustments), the project design consultant's professional fees, the professional fees for an independent Quantity Surveying Consultant, Resident Site Staff costs, independent contract administration, the Authority's costs and all other necessary capital costs in connection with the project, was calculated by RDA after it has undertaken study and assessment under the advance consultancy services for WKCDA.
C2.	If there is any cost overrun of the project, who will pay? Will it be paid by public money or the HKJC?	The donation of \$3.5 billion from the HKJC Charities Trust is to finance the design, construction and exhibition preparation costs. As the cost estimate is based on a detailed study and assessment conducted by the consultant under the advance consultancy, we are confident that the project will be within budget if it is to proceed as scheduled.
C3.	Who will be responsible for the operating costs of the HKPM?	WKCDA will cover the operating expenses of HKPM including staff salaries, utilities and maintenance costs as well as expenditures on curatorial and educational activities. WKCDA will retain the operating income of HKPM including but not limited to admission fees, programme revenues, venue rental and catering services, and retail (including souvenir sales).

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		<p>Taking into account the international status of the Palace Museum and its collection of precious cultural relics, we expect HKPM will be welcomed by Chinese and foreign visitors, and the admission income, tourist consumption and sales of souvenirs will be higher than other public museums in Hong Kong. The income will subsidise the operating expenses of HKPM and the operating expenses of HKPM will be borne by WKCDA.</p> <p>The HKSAR Government is working closely with WKCDA on the enhanced financial arrangement to address the current financial difficulties it is facing.</p>

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D. Why does the project need to be kept confidential before the signing of the MoU?		
D1.	Who are the members of the core team?	<p>The core team is set up and led by the Chief Secretary for Administration and its members include Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs, Chief Executive Officer of the WKCDA, Deputy Director (Culture) of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), and the former Deputy Director of Architectural Services.</p> <p>The two Deputy Directors are involved for providing expert advice to the Chief Secretary for Administration on loan arrangement for artefacts, exhibition curating and experience in collaborating with the Palace Museum, as well as technical feasibility of development options.</p>
D2.	When was the core team set up?	The Chief Secretary for Administration set up the core team in October 2015 to examine the feasibility of the project.
D3.	Who requested to keep the project confidential?	As we have set out in the paper submitted to the LegCo House Committee, the long-term display of the Palace Museum's collection in Hong Kong requires policy support of the relevant Mainland authorities. This is because the Palace Museum's collections are national treasures, the loan of which to other museums outside the Mainland is subject to stringent State regulations or restrictions. Under the current practice, the number of artefacts on loan to a museum outside the Mainland is normally limited to 120 pieces/sets at any one time, among which less than 20% belongs to grade one

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		<p>relics, and the loan period is normally limited to about three months. The successful implementation of the HKPM project requires the support of relevant Mainland authorities (including Ministry of Culture, State Administration of Cultural Heritage and the Palace Museum). Moreover, the discussion with HKJC Charities Trust on possible donation should not be disclosed either. Hence, all stakeholders have to keep the exploratory discussions in relation to the project confidential.</p>
D4.	<p>When did the core team start discussion with the relevant Mainland authorities on the HKPM project?</p>	<p>After the core team has conducted preliminary study and has liaised with and obtained positive indication from the Chairman of HKJC, the Chief Secretary for Administration submitted a project proposal to the Central Government through the Chief Executive's Office in December 2015. The Chief Executive and the Chief Secretary Administration also separately raised the proposal with the Minister of Culture. The subsequent discussion with the relevant Mainland authorities was facilitated by the Palace Museum.</p>
D5.	<p>Are the core team members participating in the project in their personal or official capacity? Are their supervisors aware of their involvement?</p>	<p>All the core team members participated in the preparatory works of the project are in their official capacity.</p> <p>As regards Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs, Deputy Director (Culture) of LCSD and the former Deputy Director of Architectural Services, their respective supervisors, namely Secretary for Home Affairs, Director of Leisure and Cultural Services and Director of</p>

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		Architectural Services, are aware of and agree to their involvement in the preparatory work for a cultural facility in the WKCD although the supervisors did not participate in the relevant work.
D6.	What is the role of the Architectural Service Department in the project?	The former Deputy Director of Architectural Services provides expert advice to the Chief Secretary for Administration on technical feasibility of development options during the initial stage of the preparatory work, including providing technical support in assessing suitability of sites with a view to identifying an appropriate site in the WKCD for the development of the museum, as well as assessing the implementation time table of the project.
D7.	What is the role of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department in the project?	The Deputy Director (Culture) mainly provides expert advice on loan arrangement for artefacts, exhibition curating and experience in collaborating with the Palace Museum.

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E. "In Touch with Palace Museum" campaign organised by LCSD		
E1.	Is the "In Touch with Palace Museum" campaign introduced by LCSD intended to help promote the HKPM project?	<p>Since the LCSD has signed a cooperation agreement with the Palace Museum in 2012, the two sides started to have close collaboration in the three areas of artefacts exhibition, conservation and training of professionals and have achieved satisfactory results. LCSD and the Palace Museum have all along been seeking to further extend the scope of cooperation. With the support of the Palace Museum and riding on the thematic exhibition of "Ceremony and Celebration – The Grand Weddings of the Qing Emperors" featuring the collection of the Palace Museum commenced in late November 2016 in the Hong Kong Heritage Museum, LCSD launched a nine-month campaign titled "In Touch with Palace Museum" from November 2016. The campaign will enable the public to learn about the culture, art, history and architecture of the Palace Museum from different perspectives through a wide range of exhibitions related to the culture of the Palace Museum, talks and education and promotion activities. This campaign is a new collaborative initiative developed on the existing platform formed between LCSD and the Palace Museum over the years. The WKCD is not a party to the campaign and the campaign is not aiming to rally support for the HKPM project.</p>
E2.	Who fund the cost of the "In Touch with Palace Museum" campaign, including the cost of \$3.8 million for the related TV	The HKJC Charities Trust has all along sponsored LCSD's thematic exhibitions on the Palace Museum in the past and also accords importance to the development of local arts and culture (including

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	programme? Is it funded by the \$3.5 billion donation by the HKJC Charities Trust?	<p>public education) in recent years. The educational activities under the “In Touch with Palace Museum” campaign receive sponsorship from the HKJC Charities Trust. The campaign comprises exhibitions, talks, workshops, radio and TV programmes with a total budget of \$17 million, out of which \$8.66 million is sponsored by the HKJC Charities Trust (including \$3.8 million for sponsoring the production of the TV programme “In Touch with Palace Museum”).</p> <p>The remaining amount is funded by LCSD’s annual provision on cultural promotion.</p> <p>This sponsorship is not related to the \$3.5 billion donation by the HKJC Charities Trust to the WKCDA.</p>
E3.	Is the Palace Museum related-display mounted by LCSD in the Central MTR station a promotional effort for the HKPM project?	<p>The display in the MTR station is not an advertisement. It is an exhibition to introduce the culture and architecture of the Palace Museum curated by Mr Chiu Kwong-chiu, a renowned cultural practitioner on Palace Museum. Mr Chiu, born in Hong Kong, is a famous expert on the Palace Museum in Hong Kong and in the Mainland. He has served as advisor of LCSD’s thematic exhibitions on the Palace Museum for many times, including “The Secret Garden of Emperor Qianlong”, “Western Scientific Instruments of the Qing Court”, and “Ceremony and Celebration – The Grand Weddings of the Qing Emperors”, etc. Mr Chiu has published 14 books related to the Palace Museum.</p>

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		<p>This exhibition is part of the educational activities under the “In Touch with Palace Museum” campaign by LCSD, aiming to bring the culture of the Palace Museum to different communities and neighbourhoods. The exhibition is not a promotion for the HKPM. LCSD has stringent financial discipline and mechanism in place to audit expenses incurred for exhibitions.</p>

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F. Public Consultation		
F1.	Why is the launch of the public consultation postponed to today? Is it because of dissenting views from members of the WKCDA Board?	<p>As explained in the press statement yesterday (9 January), at the special meeting of the House Committee of LegCo on 6 January, the Chief Secretary/Chairman of the Board of WKCDA gave a full account of the process and considerations leading to the development of the HKPM in WKCD. Despite the detailed explanation, the WKCDA is aware of diverse remarks and comments on the project and concerns expressed by the community about the process over the weekend. The WKCDA takes the view that these public concerns, if not addressed as soon as possible, would divert attention from the public consultation. We therefore hope the Chief Secretary/Chairman of the Board of WKCDA can host the press conference to give a detailed explanation so as to address the public concerns.</p> <p>No matter during the briefings by the Chief Secretary for the Board members of WKCDA in October and November 2016 or the Board meeting in November 2016 as well as in member's involvement after the announcement of the project, Board members unanimously support developing the HKPM in WKCD and agree to further enhance the project through undertaking the planned public consultation.</p>
F2.	Why did WKCDA keep holding back information and only release such information when pressed by the public,	After signing the MoU, we have been explaining the project to the public in a highly transparent and responsible manner which includes organising a press conference at the Palace Museum on 23 December

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	<p>instead of explain the whole course of events in one go, aggravating public suspicion and misunderstanding?</p>	<p>2016, the initiative taken by the Chief Secretary in speaking to the media at the airport when she returned to Hong Kong on 26 December 2016, and the immediate arrangement of the attendance for the LegCo meeting. We have provided a very detailed paper to the House Committee of LegCo and the Chief Secretary / Chairman of the WKCDA Board has spent about 40 minutes to give a full account of the process and considerations leading to the development of the HKPM in WKCD. Indeed, during the meeting of the House Committee, the speech by the Chief Secretary for Administration has been interrupted as a member considered her speech is too long and detailed.</p> <p>As it is not feasible to explain every single detail of the year-long preparation process in a paper within a short period, when submitting the paper to the House Committee, we have focused on the key concerns of the LegCo members and the public expressed prior to the meeting. And in response to the further queries by LegCo members, the media and the community over the weekend, we issued a press statement on last Saturday (7 January) and organised this press conference today so as to address the concerns of the public as far as possible.</p>
F3.	<p>What are the reasons for not announcing the six-week public consultation on the day the MoU was signed? Is the public consultation a</p>	<p>We must emphasise that the upcoming public consultation is neither a makeshift remedy nor an afterthought. It is indeed part of our original plan. This explains why the Chief Secretary took the</p>

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	makeshift remedy in face of the public reaction?	<p>initiative to respond to the press when she returned to Hong Kong from Beijing on 26 December, indicating that the public engagement work could commence given the MoU for the project has been signed.</p> <p>Indeed, WKCD attaches great importance to public engagement and has established the Consultation Panel in accordance with the WKCD Ordinance. We have already scheduled a meeting on 12 January for the Consultation Panel to discuss this project. We will invite the Consultation Panel to continue to play its role in serving as a bridge between the WKCD and the public in implementing this important project.</p>
F4.	Why did the Chief Secretary for Administration / Board Chairman mention on the day of the signing ceremony that there was no such need for undertaking the consultation or the procedure of seeking approval again?	<p>On the day of the signing ceremony, a reporter mentioned that there have been various debates on the planning of WKCD in the past. Indeed, the land use planning of WKCD has already undergone a prolonged consultation process which includes the years-long consultation exercise on the draft Development Plan as well as the statutory representation process. The Hong Kong Palace Museum is a use always permitted under the approved Development Plan and the proposed gross floor area and building height do not exceed the stipulations on the relevant sub-zone of the Development Plan. As it is fully compatible with the planned land use, in responding to that question raised by the reporter, the Chief Secretary for Administration / Chairman of the WKCD Board mentioned that</p>

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		there was no such need for undertaking the consultation or the procedure of seeking approval again for the land use planning of WKCD.