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Subject Public consultation

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Public consultation

To: Whom it may concern

In answer to the following questions from the consultation.

Licensing System for Travel Agents (Chapter 6)

(10) Do you think a separate licence for travel agents receiving Mainland inbound tours should be introduced in view of the problems associated with those tours?

No, this is discrimination. Regulations should be consistent regardless of the origin of the visitors. The problems associated with the visitors from China are in most cases related to the behavior of the "visitor" not the guide. If visitors violate Hong Kong's laws they should be dealt with by the police, according to our laws and if necessary forbidden by the immigration authorities from entering Hong Kong in the future.

(11) If you think a separate licence should be introduced for travel agents receiving Mainland inbound tours, what additional requirements should be prescribed for this licence?

These agents should take responsibility for the actions of their "guests". Hong Kong people expect people to respect public order and the laws of Hong Kong. These guides should inform their guests, prior to arrival in Hong Kong, about the difference between Hong Kong people's values and Chinese people values. They should emphasize personal and public hygiene and public order.

Would it be unfair to the travel agents receiving Mainland inbound tours if the requirements are more stringent than those for the existing licence?

Yes, going back to point 10, rules need to be consistent. If any visitor breaks the law while in Hong Kong, they must be punished according to the law. Tour guides must be protected against assault from visitors regardless of their origin or nationality.

Further to the above:

Under no circumstance should a tour agency pay compensation to a visitor to Hong Kong without being ordered to do so by a court of law. Any agency agreeing to compensate a visitor or visitors without being ordered to do so by a judge or by a judicial body should have their license to conduct such tours revoked.