

### Email Comments on Discovery Bay Ferry Service

1	<p>本人於愉景灣工作，每日需乘搭愉景灣渡輪往返。最近聽聞愉景灣渡輪就增加票價一事未能落實而會停辦航班服務。如屬實，將對本人往返工作做成極大不便及增加交通費支出。現懇請 貴署跟進此事，務必令停辦航班情況不會發生。</p>
2	<p>我是愉景灣居民，家住處於■■樓■■樓，已居於此地近十五年之久。愉景灣的交通尤其是渡輪服務一直與居民生活息息相關。最近聽聞一項令人憂心的傳言，指船公司跟政府申請船費加價一事未有共識方案，渡輪服務或因此暫需中斷。為此，我和我的家人憂心忡忡，因為渡輪是我和家人上班出入愉景灣之交通工具。若渡輪有任何中斷的可能，我相信愉景灣內，不只是我一人，而是九成的愉景灣居民都必因受其影響提出抗議！故此，政府必須確保渡輪服務不被中斷，以保障居民的生活和權益。如今百物騰貴，船公司加價我是可以理解的。而船費加幅可以透過政府協調而與船公司商議出合理水平。我相信，合理水平的加幅，居民是可以接受的。因此，我促請政府務必務有實際跟進，保證渡輪服務得以維持！</p>
3	<p>I'm a resident of Discovery Bay living in the ■■■ Village for many years and a frequent user of DB ferry service. Recently, I heard that there would be an increase of 9.5% on ferry fares and if it was not approved and the ferry service might be suspended.</p> <p>Whether the increase is justified or not, I strongly object to the disruption of DB ferry services as this would affect my work environment, social life and I believe it would affect my neighborhood in DB as well. I am an employer in Discovery Bay, either an increase or change in current services would greatly affect my business in attracting staffing. Given inflation is around 4% and minimum wage increase, fare increase are evitable but I would strongly advise that any increase be closer to inflation and negotiable among relevant parties.</p> <p>I would strongly urge you all to maintain the stability of DB ferry service.</p>
4	<p>I am ■■■ and a resident in Discovery Bay. Recently there have been much controversy regarding the proposed DB ferry fare increase.</p> <p>After reviewing the financial information provided by the Ferry Operator, I believe that the ferry operator is in a very difficult position. While they are expected to run a high quality ferry service, passengers do not want the fare to</p>

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go up. Looking at their financial situation, I fear that if they are not allowed to raise the fare, the operator may choose to close down the service, or to downgrade the service to a much lower level.

The service is extremely important for a great number of residents in DB. The Transport Department should make sure that there is no disruption to the service. Despite many residents' opposition to the fare hike, some of us understand that the ferry operator (and may other ferry operators in Hong Kong) are incurring significant losses. I therefore, with enormous reluctance, will accept a fare increase.

5 I am the resident of Discovery Bay (DB). I learnt the proposal of ferry increase for DB was not approved which makes me very worried with the continuance of ferry service. Since it is undoubtedly the key transportation means for the residents of DB, this service must be kept. Otherwise, it may trigger to a serious grievance from the public which will not be the outcome that the government wants to see.

Your kind consideration is highly appreciated.

6 I would like to express my worry about the suspension of ferry service of Discovery Bay which is now handling by your department.

I have been a DB residents for over 15 years. As I am working in Central, I have to take such service almost everyday. It is a very convenience and reliable service. I do think near all residents here have the same comments on this.

However, I just heard that the ferry service will be suspended due to your disapproval to the increment of the fee of this.

I understand you, as a official department, have the responsibility to monitor the service and price level of the captioned service. On the other hand, have you considered how the life will be if this service is suspended or provided by another company which has no such experience before?

Some residents may object the increment of the fee of the ferry, anyway, as a regular patron, I think the proposed increment is reasonable and acceptable to

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	<p>me and many other residents. The proposed increment level obviously lower than the accumulated inflation rate these years. Together with the factor of minimum wages, it is understandable to have review of the fee.</p> <p>In this connection, please consider to accept the application for the request of increasing of fee by the service provider in order to let the service uninterrupted. Otherwise, I do think most of the residents will escalate and seek media to disclose such unfairness to DB residents.</p>
7	<p>I am a resident of Discovery Bay and I would like to take this opportunity to voice out that in view of the recent ferry fare increase i would like to stress that me and my family support the increase, since to my knowledge that the ferry company does run at a loss every year and they could easier pull out of the ferry business and as a resident i do not want this to happen. I like the ferry service and they are improving year by year and if the increase is not that significant, I think Transport department should approve the increase and let the ferry service continue.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
8	<p>I and my families have been living in Discovery Bay for years. Although there is a tunnel, we still use ferry mainly daily. I heard that the ferry may be stopped on 1 May. As the government department controlling transportation in HK, you must take care of the need of ferry passengers. No resident will accept any disruption to the ferry service. To relieve residents' financial burden, government should subsidize our ferry service just like other outlying islands. We are tax payers too.</p>
9	<p>I am so shocked when I know that ferry service would be suspended if TD does not approve the 9.5% increase! I have been living in DB for over 20 years and I and my family are very satisfied with the reliable and efficient ferry service. We are the tax payers and I do not see the reason to suspend the existing ferry service. I thought the government ought to ensure the smooth running and stability of the ferry service as transportation is an essential element for every small town including DB.</p> <p>I am living in [REDACTED] Village. Please look into the matter to protect the</p>

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	welfare of DB residents.
10	<p>I am a resident in Discovery Bay. I was told by my neighbour this morning that the ferry service may be suspended. If it is true, it will cause great inconvenience to me as I and wife are working in Central. We can't live without the DB ferry service.</p>
11	<p>I'm writing this to the Transport Department to express my view of Discovery Bay Ferries. I own a place in Discovery Bay and am very concerned about the well being of Discovery Bay particularly its transports which would affect all residents and impact on the future development of Discovery Bay.</p> <p>I personally think Discovery Bay ferry is the best grade commuter ferry service in Hong Kong contributing to the success and up market image of Discovery Bay. I have recently learned that they are now asking for a fare rise of about 9.5%, and ferry service might not be continued if the 9.5% fare rise cannot proceed.</p> <p>Although nobody welcomes fare rises, it should be a mere fact that the costs of operating ferries are also rising. Fare rises are happening all over Hong Kong in the recent year, from food and commodities in supermarket, school fees to house prices and rent. I am therefore not surprised of a fare rise for the ferries.</p> <p>My worry is not about the rise in prices but the suspension of the ferry service and schedule. I'm extremely worried of this schedule suspension as this is the key and only direct transport to Central where most commuters work. This will hugely affect all residents of Discovery Bay.</p> <p>I am of the view that the fare rise is a fair deal if Discovery Bay ferry will maintain its quality service which is an essential aspect for me and my family to continue living here and keeping our interests here. We cannot afford any suspension of the ferry service. It will be a lose lose lose situation for all residents, and the future of Discovery Bay.</p> <p>As a well above average tax payer in Hong Kong for many years and a true middle class (or perhaps classes below John Tsang who claims to be "middle</p>

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	<p>class") who contributes more taxes than receiving real services from the government, I hope I can count on the government this time to ensure no disruption to the ferry service of Discovery Bay.</p>
12	<p>My family owns properties in DB and is quite concerned about rumour that the ferry service will be suspended if TD does not conclude the fare review. Ferry service is essential for my family and the government must ensure no disruption to the ferry service. Your attention would be appreciated.</p>
13	<p>I would like to tell you that I bought a flat in Discovery Bay 3 years ago mainly because of their ferry service to Central as I am working in a bank in Des Voeux Road. It will be a shock to me if suddenly the ferry service is suspended and all residents in DB will have no choice but have to switch and take the bus/MTR to Central. Oh my God.</p>