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For Immediate Release

**Competition Commission welcomes rectification by  
Hong Kong Taxi and Public Light Bus Association on taxi rental fee recommendations**

The Competition Commission (Commission) today (12 July 2023) welcomes the issuance of an internal notice by the Hong Kong Taxi and Public Light Bus Association (Association) to its members, stating that it will rectify its previous practice of providing members with recommendations on taxi rental fees.

It came to the Commission's attention that the Association has, from time to time, been issuing non-binding fee recommendations to its members including both corporate and individual taxi owners, suggesting adjustments in taxi rental fees. It was also noted that members did adopt the Association's recommendations on some occasions and made corresponding adjustments. After the Commission met with representatives of the Association to express its concern, the Association responded swiftly and has today issued an internal notice to its members, informing them that the Association will stop providing recommendations on taxi rental fees, and will instead switch to issuing consolidated quarterly data on past taxi rental fees in anonymized format for its members' reference. The Association also reminded its members that they should not coordinate the rental fees they charge to avoid contravention of the Competition Ordinance (Ordinance).

The Commission considers that the Association's rectification of its previous practice will facilitate competition among taxi rental companies by removing influences which may affect their individual determination of taxi rental fees. Taxi drivers may enjoy the benefits of more choices and potentially lower taxi rental fees as a result of effective competition in the sector.

As stated in the Commission's *Guideline on the First Conduct Rule (FCR)*, the FCR of the Ordinance applies to decisions made by trade associations, even if they are non-binding. In particular, the Commission considers the fee scales or price recommendations of a trade association to its members to be potentially harmful to competition. Where members which are undertakings implement an anti-competitive decision of the trade association, the members and the association may both incur liability under the Ordinance. Trade associations must be careful not to engage in anti-competitive arrangements, and should avoid recommending or requiring that members set particular prices or fees for their products or services.

The Commission encourages all trade associations to proactively review their practices and to make changes where needed to ensure full compliance with the Ordinance. Parties which have information about potential anti-competitive practices of a trade association or its members are encouraged to report them to the Commission by telephone at 3462 2118, e-mail ([complaints@compcomm.hk](mailto:complaints@compcomm.hk)), post, or in person at the Commission's office (by appointment only).

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