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for Information

Noise Control (Amendment) Bill 1996

Purpose

This paper informs Members of latest revision to the Noise Control (Amendment) Bill 1996.

Background

2 At the meeting on 25 March 1996, Members considered and endorsed the Noise Control (Amendment) Bill 1996, which proposes controls on noise from alarm systems of unattended vehicles, for introduction to the Executive Council and the Legislative Council.

Revision to the Bill

3 The original version of the Bill has made it clear that the control provisions will be applied to the Crown. However, the Attorney General Chambers has subsequently advised from a technical legal point of view, the proposed controls on vehicle alarms cannot bind the Crown because Government vehicles do not require registration under the Road Traffic Ordinance and thus have no registered owners with whom the legal liability lies. Accordingly, the law draftsman has revised the application clause of the Bill to exclude Government vehicles from statutory controls. The revised Bill is at the Annex.

4 Despite this technical legal complication, it remains our policy intention to apply these controls consistently to all vehicles. We shall hence ensure that all Government vehicles will comply with the same controls through administrative means.