

**MTR submits written account of
temporary steel strutting erected for excavation works
at Exhibition Centre Station of Shatin to Central Link**

The MTR Corporation has today (19 June 2018) submitted a written account to the Government regarding the temporary steel strutting erected for excavation works at Exhibition Centre Station under the Shatin to Central Link Project (SCL).

The works concerned were carried out by Leighton - China State Joint Venture, the main contractor of SCL Contract 1123 "Exhibition Centre Station and Western Approach Tunnel".

There are recent media reports expressing concern as to whether the temporary steel strutting required for the excavation works at the Exhibition Centre Station was erected in accordance with relevant specifications and requirements. Excavation works are taking place in between diaphragm walls and temporary steel strutting is erected at specified intervals as the excavation goes deeper.

Leighton - China State Joint Venture has been installing the temporary steel strutting in accordance with the contractual requirements. However in May and June this year the Corporation recorded two locations where the works were not carried out in accordance with the approved working method, when excavation exceeded the allowable depth before installation of the fifth and final layer of temporary steel struts. In the relevant areas, the upper four temporary steel struts have all been installed.

Leighton - China State Joint Venture has the obligation to carry out the works in accordance with all the approved working drawings and method statements. The Corporation issued to Leighton - China State Joint Venture two Non-conformance Reports (NCRs) on 10 May and 11 June 2018, requiring the submission of a remedial proposal together with the design check of the Excavation Lateral Support (ELS) system stability for the Engineer's approval.

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Safety has always been the Corporation's top priority. Throughout the excavation works, the Corporation has continuous instrumentation monitoring over the construction site to ensure the overall integrity and safety of the structures. The stringent monitoring regime includes diaphragm wall inclinometers, strain gauges on the temporary steel strutting, settlement markers and diaphragm wall inspections. Bi-weekly inspections by the Registered Geotechnical Engineer are also carried out in accordance with the statutory Site Supervision Plan approved by the Buildings Department. Following further inspection carried out by the Registered Geotechnical Engineer he confirmed on 18 June 2018 that, from early May 2018 to date, there was no stability concern on the diaphragm wall and the corresponding excavation works are safe.

Leighton - China State Joint Venture submitted a remedial proposal and design amendment to the Corporation on 19 June which are being scrutinised by our engineering staff. Following checking, the Corporation will submit the remedial proposal to the Government for approval. When the remedial proposal is approved, Leighton - China State Joint Venture will carry out the required rectification works which will be closely monitored by the Corporation's on-site inspectorate staff.

Following the issue of NCR by the Corporation, Leighton - China State Joint Venture has taken considerable time, after the issue of NCR by the Corporation, to submit the remedial proposal and the design amendment which ultimately has to be submitted to Government. The Corporation regrets not informing Government of the matter at an earlier stage and not stopping the excavation work below the allowable depth pending the Contractor's response to the NCR.

Safety has always been the first priority of the Corporation, and there are established procedures in our project management regime to ensure safety and quality of construction works. The Corporation detected the non-compliance by Leighton - China State Joint Venture and will handle the matter strictly in accordance with the contract. The performance of contractors will be taken into account in future tendering exercises. The required rectification works will be implemented as soon as possible. There is no impact on the overall structural integrity of Exhibition Centre Station and on the overall programme of the project.

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About MTR Corporation

MTR Corporation is regarded as one of the world's leading railway operators for safety, reliability, customer service and cost efficiency. In its home base of Hong Kong, the Corporation operates ten commuter railway lines, a Light Rail network and a high-speed Airport Express link on which about 5.8 million passenger trips are made on a normal week day. Another 6.5 million passenger trips are made on the rail services it operates outside Hong Kong in the Mainland of China, the United Kingdom, Sweden and Australia. In addition, the Corporation is involved in a range of railway construction projects as well as railway consultancy and contracting services around the world. Leveraging on its railway expertise, the Corporation is involved in the development of transit-related residential and commercial property projects, property management, shopping malls leasing and management, advertising media and telecommunication services.

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