

香港聯合交易所有限公司

THE STOCK EXCHANGE OF HONG KONG LIMITED (A wholly-owned subsidiary of Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited)

Our Ref: HOL20200131-035

31 January 2020

To: Main Board Listed Issuers (Attn: Authorised Representatives) GEM Listed Issuers (Attn: Authorised Representatives) Market Practitioners

Dear Sirs

## **Consultation Paper on Corporate WVR Beneficiaries**

We have today published a consultation paper seeking public feedback on a proposal to allow corporate entities to benefit from weighted voting rights ("WVR"), subject to additional conditions and investor safeguards (the "Corporate WVR Consultation").

The Corporate WVR Consultation builds on reforms to the Hong Kong listing regime that were implemented in April 2018 through the publication of "*Consultation Conclusions Paper on a Listing Regime for Companies from Emerging and Innovative Sectors*" (the "**Rule Chapters Conclusions Paper**"). It fulfils our commitment in the Rule Chapters Conclusions Paper to separately consult on a proposal to allow corporate entities to benefit from WVR.

On 25 July 2018, the Exchange announced that it had decided to defer the Corporate WVR Consultation. At the time, as the WVR regime had only recently been put in place, the Exchange believed it should engage further with relevant stakeholders in order to develop a broader consensus on corporate WVR. Having done so, we are now in a position to launch the consultation.

The Exchange's proposed safeguards seek to address risks that are particular to corporate WVR, such as the risk of an "evergreen" WVR structure, in order to maintain an appropriate level of investor protection.

A summary of the key requirements of the corporate WVR regime proposal is set out in the <u>news</u> release on the HKEX website.



We invite broad market feedback on the substance of its proposals and that should be completed and submitted to us via post, fax or email by Friday, 1 May 2020 as set out in the consultation paper. The consultation paper and the questionnaire are available on the HKEX website:

Subject	Hyperlink
Corporate WVR Consultation	Consultation Paper: <u>https://www.hkex.com.hk/-/media/HKEX-Market/News/Market-</u> <u>Consultations/2016-Present/January-2020-Corporate-</u> <u>WVR/Consultation-Paper/cp202001.pdf</u>
	Questionnaire: https://www.hkex.com.hk/-/media/HKEX-Market/News/Market- Consultations/2016-Present/January-2020-Corporate- WVR/Questionnaire/cp202001q.docx

Yours faithfully For and on behalf of The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited

[Signed]

Bonnie Y Chan Head of Listing