

Attention News Editors:

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The following is issued on behalf of the Legislative Council Secretariat:

The Legislative Council Select Committee on Building Problems of Public Housing Units met today (Saturday, March 10) to continue its examination of the documents relating to the four incidents under its inquiry, namely the Tin Chung Court, Shatin Area 14B Phase 2, Tung Chung Area 30 Phase 3 and Shek Yam Phase 2 incidents.

After its initial examination of the documents available, including the reports of the various investigations initiated by the Housing Authority (HA) and the Housing Bureau, the Select Committee considered it necessary to obtain further information from the authorities before deciding on the witnesses to be invited to its hearings.

The Select Committee agreed at its meeting today to request HA to provide written information on the organization structure of HA and Housing Department (HD), the internal working of HD on the production of public housing units, the decision on the 5-Year Forecast of the Public Housing Programme and the impact on staff resources for achieving the production of 114,000 public housing units by 2001-02.

The Select Committee also agreed to request the Housing Bureau to provide written information on whether it was aware of the bunching problem encountered by HA in 1995 for achieving the production target and the support it had provided to address the problem. The Housing Bureau would also be requested to explain its relationship with HA and HD over the production of public housing units.

The authorities will be requested to provide the information for the Select Committee's internal deliberations at its next meeting on 17 March 2001. The next meeting will also be a closed meeting.

Attached please find a list of information to be provided by HA and the Housing Bureau as requested by the Select Committee.

End/Saturday, March 10, 2001

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Legislative Council

Select Committee on Building Problems of Public Housing Units

Information to be provided by the Housing Authority

1. Please provide an organization chart of the Housing Authority (HA) and its committees, their responsibilities and chain of command as at April 1995. Has any change taken place since then?
2. Please provide details on the functions, membership and working procedure of the Building Committee as in 1995 and whether its decisions required the endorsement of HA. If not, why?
3. Please explain the internal working of the Housing Department on the production of public housing units.
4. Please provide an organization chart of the Housing Department in 1995, the detailed establishment and organization of the divisions responsible for or involved in the production of public housing units, and how they were related to the committees of HA. Please provide the changes in establishment in these works-related divisions since 1995. Please highlight in the organization chart the specific divisions/units which were involved in the 4 incidents being studied by the Select Committee.
5. When was the decision made on the 5-Year Forecast of the Public Housing Programme aiming at producing 114,000 public housing units by 2001-02?
6. Which parties were involved in making this decision?
7. Was the 5-Year Forecast of the Public Housing Programme and its implications, e. g. impact on staff resources and management of projects, discussed at meetings of HA or any of its committees?
8. Please provide a chart showing the various stages of production of all the public housing projects of HA under construction from April 1995 to March 1999, with indication by the use of colours on the different stages of works involved.

9. Please provide a chart showing the various stages of piling contracts under the charge of the different Chief Structural Engineers in the Housing Department (HD) from January 1996 to March 1999, with indication by the use of colours on the different scales and sizes of projects involved.

10. Please provide details of the Consultant Management System and any manuals relating to the System as in force in 1995/96, 96/97 and 97/98. Whether there was any difference in the chain of command and responsibilities on the part of HD staff as a result of the implementation of this System?

11. Please explain the process in the testing of materials for use in public housing projects.

12. Please provide a comparison of the requirements and standards governing the production of HA housing units and those which are subject to the provisions of the Buildings Ordinance.

13. Which parties were involved in making the decision to exempt HA's projects from the application of the provisions of the Buildings Ordinance and when was this decision made?

14. What measures have been taken by HA to ensure the quality of its public housing units given that the production of which is exempted from the provisions of the Buildings Ordinance?

Information to be provided by the Housing Bureau

1. When was the decision made on the 5-Year Forecast of the Public Housing Programme aiming at producing 114,000 public housing units by 2001-02?

2. Which parties were involved in making this decision?

3. Was the Housing Bureau aware of the bunching problem encountered by the Housing Authority in 1995 for achieving the production target? What support e.g. additional resources for staff, was provided by the Housing Bureau to address the problem?

4. Please explain the relationship among the Housing Authority, the Housing

Department and the Housing Bureau over the production of public housing units, in particular in 1995. What was the Housing Bureau's role in the production process, including its input on papers submitted to HA or its committees, its participation at HA meetings and its working relationship with the staff of the Housing Department (HD)? Has this relationship been changed since then?