

Legislative Council Panel on Housing

Qualification for Registration as Registered Professional Housing Managers under the Housing Managers Registration Ordinance

Purpose

This paper sets out the Administration's response to the proposal raised by the Hon Lau Ping-cheung that members of the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors, by virtue of their professional knowledge and experience in housing management, should automatically be qualified for registration as Registered Professional Housing Managers (R.P.H.M.).

Background

2. The Housing Managers Registration Board was established under the Housing Managers Registration Ordinance ("the Ordinance") (Cap. 550) in 2000. It is an independent statutory body tasked to, among other things, set and review the qualification standards for registration as R.P.H.M.

3. Under the Ordinance, members of the Hong Kong Institute of Housing are automatically qualified for registration as R.P.H.M. Holders of other qualifications, such as surveyors, will also be qualified if they meet the following requirements :

- (a) at least three years of professional experience in housing management, one of which should immediately precede the application for registration; and
- (b) submission of three papers on housing management, two of which should concern housing management in relation to legal, financial and social aspects.

Current Position

4. The Housing Managers Registration Board is of the view that the professional education and training required for membership of the Hong Kong Institute of Housing differ from those required for other built-discipline professional bodies, with the former focusing more on housing management. The requirements for membership of the Hong Kong Institute of Housing are :

- (a) a holder of Diploma in Housing Management of the School of Professional and Continuing Education of the University of Hong Kong, and employment in a housing body for not less than 5 years; or
- (b) a degree holder with honors of Bachelor of Arts in Housing Studies offered by the Department of Public and Social Administration of the City University of Hong Kong, and employment in a housing body for not less than 5 years.

In the case of the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors, its members specialise in a combination of built-discipline subjects, some of which, e.g. valuation of land, are not directly related to housing management. Therefore, like persons who are not members of the Hong Kong Institute of Housing, members of the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors applying for registration as R.P.H.M. would have to satisfy the Housing Managers Registration Board that they have fulfilled the requirements set out in paragraphs 3(a) and (b) above, and that they possess relevant professional experience of a standard not less than that required of a member of Hong Kong Institute of Housing.

5. Having considered the proposal and arguments advanced by the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors, the Housing Managers Registration Board decided in August 2001 that professional surveyors who have applied for registration before 28 February 2002 would be required to submit only one paper on housing management instead of three papers in fulfilling the requirement mentioned in paragraph 3(b). Since the implementation of this relaxation, the Housing Managers Registration Board has received no further suggestions from the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors on registration-related matters.

Way Forward

6. The Housing Managers Registration Board will continue to monitor the implementation of the Housing Managers Registration Ordinance.

Housing Department
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