

Legislative Council Panel on Housing

Control of Illegal Hawking in Public Rental Housing

Purpose

At the meeting with Legislative Council Members on 29 November 2001, some Sha Tin District Council members expressed concern about the problem of illegal hawking in public housing estates managed by private property services companies. The Housing Department has looked into the situation. This paper informs Members of the arrangements for the control of illegal hawking in public rental housing estates.

Hawker Control Measures

2. The Housing Department is keen to maintain a decent living environment for public housing tenants. Preventing nuisance from illegal hawking is one of the major duties of day-to-day estate management. For estates which have been outsourced to private property services companies, it has explicitly been stipulated in the estate management contracts that the private property services companies should keep the estates under their charge free from hawker nuisance. The Housing Department supervises the performance of private property services companies, including their effectiveness in hawker control. Many property services companies have, through round-the-clock deployment or provision of additional hawker control guards, effectively restricted illegal hawking activities.

3. If private property services companies encounter difficulties in controlling illegal hawking, or if the problem of illegal hawking persists, the Housing Department will step in and take more vigorous enforcement actions like seizures and arrests. Where necessary, the assistance of the Food, Environment and Health Department will also be sought.

Housing Department
November 2002