

Legislative Council Panel on Housing

Transfer of Certain Statutory Functions under Housing Ordinance from Chief Secretary for Administration to Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Purpose

This paper informs Members of the Administration's proposal to transfer certain routine functions vested in the Chief Secretary for Administration (CS) under the Housing Ordinance (Cap. 283), to the Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands (SHPL).

Background

2. Following the implementation of the accountability system in July 2002, we have conducted a review, as part of a Government-wide exercise, on whether certain statutory functions of CS should be transferred to SHPL. The intention is to identify and transfer to SHPL those functions that are vested in CS but which fall tidily and clearly within the policy portfolio of SHPL.

Proposed Transfer of Functions

3. Our review has concluded that CS' functions under section 14(4) and section 15(2) of the Housing Ordinance (Cap. 283) to table the Housing Authority's statement of accounts, auditor's report and annual report in the Legislative Council should be transferred to SHPL. Relevant extracts of the Housing Ordinance (Cap. 283) are at **Annex**. In fact, CS has, under the authority of the Specification of Public Office (Cap. 1 sub. leg. C), already delegated to SHPL to perform these functions.

Way forward

4. The proposed transfer may be effected by a resolution of the Legislative Council. We plan to implement the proposal in early 2004.

Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau
December 2003

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| Chapter: | 283 | Title: | HOUSING ORDINANCE | Gazette Number: | L.N. 362 of 1997; 44 of 2000 |
| Section: | 14 | Heading: | Accounts and audit | Version Date: | 01/07/1997 |

(4) The Chief Secretary for Administration shall lay a copy of every such statement and report on the table of the Legislative Council not later than 31 December next following the end of the financial year or before such later date as the Chief Executive may allow. (Amended 16 of 1988 s. 8; L.N. 362 of 1997)

(Amended 44 of 2000 s. 3)

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| Chapter: | 283 | Title: | HOUSING ORDINANCE | Gazette Number: | L.N. 362 of 1997; 44 of 2000 |
| Section: | 15 | Heading: | Annual reports | Version Date: | 01/07/1997 |

(2) The Chief Secretary for Administration shall lay a copy of every such annual report on the table of the Legislative Council not later than 31 December next following the financial year to which the annual report relates or before such later date as the Chief Executive may allow. (Amended 16 of 1988 s. 9; L.N. 362 of 1997)

(Amended 44 of 2000 s. 3)