

香港特別行政區政府

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

房屋及規劃地政局
香港花園道美利大廈



Housing, Planning and Lands
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30 June 2005

Clerk to Panel on Planning, Lands and Works
(Attn : Miss Odelia Leung)
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road, Central
Hong Kong

[Fax No. 2869 6794]

Dear Miss Leung,

**Certification of Building Plans
by Private Professionals**

I refer to our telephone conversation on 28 June 2005. Regarding a Member's enquiry at the Panel meeting of 28 June 2005 concerning whether Buildings Department (BD) is considering the outsourcing of its plan approval work to private professionals, i.e through some form of self-certification process, I have checked with BD and the following outlines the latest position.

The suggestion on private certification of plans was raised by the Task Force to Review the Construction Stage of the Development

Process (the Task Force) under the Provisional Construction Industry Co-ordination Board.* From BD's angle, the suggestion carries far reaching implications and a number of key issues, including the impartiality of the certifiers, consistency of standards, public receptiveness, the commercial viability of third party checking and availability of insurance to third party checkers would need to be carefully addressed and resolved. In the Task Force's meeting on 18 May 2005, the Task Force decided to commission a consultancy study to examine private certification and formulate proposals for a trial scheme. The Task Force is now drawing up the consultancy brief, and the study is expected to require at least four months for completion. We understand that the Task Force will decide on the way forward when the findings of the study are available. We will be happy to keep the Panel posted of the progress of the consultancy study conducted by the Task Force.

Yours sincerely,



(Ms Olivia Nip)

for Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

*The PCICB was established in September 2001 to spearhead construction industry reforms and to propagate a new culture of change. Pending the formation of the permanent statutory body, the PCICB serves as a focal point to co-ordinate efforts in taking forward the change programme recommended by the Construction Industry Review Committee in its report submitted to the Chief Executive in January 2001.