

政府總部
發展局
工務科
香港花園道美利大廈



Works Branch
Development Bureau
Government Secretariat
Murray Building, Garden Road,
Hong Kong

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16 April 2008

Clerk to Establishment Subcommittee
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road, Central
Hong Kong

(Attn: Mr Justin Tam)

Dear Mr Tam,

**Establishment Subcommittee
Follow-up to Meeting on 21 February 2008**

I refer to your letter referenced CB1/F/3/6 of 22 February 2008 to the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury.

At the Establishment Subcommittee Meeting held on 21 February 2008, Members have requested that additional information be provided in connection with the proposed creation of (a) one permanent post of Administrative Officer Staff Grade C in the Works Branch of the Development Bureau (DEVB) as Commissioner for Heritage (C for H); and (b) a new rank and one permanent post of Chief Landscape Architect (CLA) in the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD).

The requested information is provided in the ensuing paragraphs.

(a) Proposed creation of one permanent post of Administrative Officer Staff Grade C as C for H

- (i) The number of enquiries and proposals regarding heritage conservation (with breakdown and types) received by the Administration in the past three years

DEVB has taken up the policy responsibility for heritage conservation since 1 July 2007 from the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB). In compiling the statistics of public enquiries in the past 3 years, the Administration has consulted HAB for the relevant information. In the past 3 years, the number of public enquiries on heritage conservation has increased from 26 in 2005 to 306 in 2006, then to 379 in 2007. This rising trend continued in the first two months of 2008, during which 250 public enquiries were received. Forms of such enquiries include press, e-mail, letter/fax and telephone calls and a breakdown is at Annex.

These enquiries were mostly topical in nature, reflecting those heritage cases and issues which have attracted public attention. Examples include Jessville, King Yin Lei, Central Police Station Compound, Former Central College, etc. Indeed, since the Chief Executive has announced the new initiatives on heritage conservation in his Policy Address in October 2007, the number of public enquiries has increased by folds.

- (ii) The expected timing when the heritage assessment for the 1 440 historical buildings selected from around 8 800 buildings will be completed

Following the recommendation of the Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB), an Expert Panel was formed in March 2005 to conduct an in-depth assessment of some 1 440 buildings with higher heritage value selected from around 8 800 buildings, mainly those built prior to 1950. The Expert Panel comprises experts in various fields including history, architecture, town planning and structural engineering.

This exercise is very important as the assessment results will provide a basis for the AAB to further examine whether and how the present grading system will be improved and the potential number of historic buildings to be conserved. In taking forward this important task, the Panel has adopted a two-stage assessment approach in that the first stage will assess critically the heritage significance of each individual building while the second stage will evaluate thoroughly the comparative ratings of the buildings holistically to enhance the precision and accuracy of the exercise.

The Panel members are undertaking this task on part-time basis and have spent considerable time in conducting site visits and studying information

of the buildings. Given the huge volume of work and the need for thoroughness and comprehensiveness, it is unavoidable that longer time is required to complete the task. We however appreciate the aspiration for the exercise to be completed as early as possible and will make every effort for it to be completed in 2008. The assessment results will then be reported to the AAB for deliberation.

- (iii) New objectives and programme areas/initiatives that have been drawn up by the AAB at its Retreat held on 16 February 2008 having regard to the proposed creation of the position of C for H

The AAB Retreat took place on 16 February 2008 at Nan Lian Garden. Participants were divided into two discussion groups and had actively participated in the brainstorming discussions and expressed valuable views on various topics. These include, inter alia, the roles, functions and operation of the AAB, the grading system of historic buildings, conservation practices, possible areas of improvement, etc. These are being collated for systematic and further discussion by AAB.

(b) Proposed creation of a new rank and one permanent post of CLA

- (i) The selection criteria for the proposed post, including professional qualification and experience

The proposed CLA will head a new Landscape Planning and Greening Division in ArchSD providing strategic professional landscape architectural input in public works projects and providing support in the formulation of policies as well as serving as a focal point for co-ordination amongst departments and parties concerned on landscape planning and greening.

To effectively perform the above duties, it is essential that the proposed CLA must possess the relevant professional expertise as well as the aptitude and experience required. On the professional expertise side, he/she must possess a professional membership of the Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects (HKILA), or equivalent overseas professional membership. In attaining this, he/she has to obtain a degree/diploma in Landscape Architecture or an equivalent qualification acceptable to the HKILA and have at least two years' post-qualification practical training

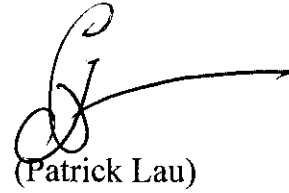
and/or working experience in landscape architecture, and then pass the Professional Practice Examination of HKILA or equivalent. On the aptitude and experience side, he/she must have a wealth of experience in landscape and greening works spanning from planning to implementation of different landscape projects. He/she should also be experienced in managing the administrative, professional, technical and financial aspects of landscape works. In general, a minimum experience of not less than 10 years in landscape architecture work is required. Apart from possessing the necessary professional expertise, he/she must also have good inter-personal skills, be creative and have the vision to pursue new initiatives, etc.

- (ii) Whether and how far the proposed CLA created in ArchSD can effectively co-ordinate efforts across Government bureaux and departments in providing strategic professional landscape architectural input in public works projects and providing support in the formulation of policies as well as serving as a focal point for co-ordinating amongst departments and parties concerned on landscape planning and greening

The proposed CLA will significantly improve the quality of landscape planning and greening work as well as enhance cross-sector collaboration with key stakeholders in the private sector. With a dedicated directorate officer who will focus his/her time and effort in greening work, the Government will be able to address the needs of the community more proactively, speedily and effectively. With his/her wealth of experience and aptitude, the CLA will also be able to spearhead research into new techniques, liaise with government departments to put these into trial, monitor the progress and resolve problems as they arise.

In undertaking his/her work, the CLA will not only have the full support of ArchSD, but also the DEVB. He/she will directly service the Steering Committee on Greening chaired by the Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) where all cross bureaux/departments interface issues and teething problems on landscape planning and greening will be discussed and resolved.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'L' shape with a horizontal line extending to the right, and a vertical line that loops back to the top of the 'L'.

(Patrick Lau)

for Secretary for Development

c.c. SFST (Attn.: Ms Poon Wai-yee
Mr Vincent Chuk)

**Breakdown of Public Enquiries by Year and by Type
(From 2005 to February 2008)**

Year	Press	E-mail	Letter/Fax	Phone	Sub-total	Total by Year
2005	5	4	17	-		26
2006	24	267	15	-		306
2007 (Jan-Jun)	10	29	28	-	67	379
2007# (Jul-Sep)	27	18	8	-	53	
2007 (Oct-Dec)	38	78	48	95*	259	
2008 (Jan-Feb)	22	66	10	152	250	

The Development Bureau has taken up the policy responsibility for heritage conservation since 1 July 2007

* Statistics of telephone enquiries are maintained since October 2007.