

香港特別行政區政府
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

運輸及房屋局

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20 March 2008

Clerk to LegCo Panel on Housing
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong
(Attn: Ms Sarah Yuen)

Dear Ms Yuen,

Legislative Council Panel on Housing
Review of the Waiting List (WL) Income and Asset Limits for 2008/09

Thank you for your letter of 5 March 2008 relaying the issues raised by Members on the captioned subject at the LegCo Panel on Housing on 3 March 2008. We have already reflected Members' views and suggestions to the Subsidised Housing Committee (SHC) of the Housing Authority at its meeting on 17 March 2008. Details of the views and suggestions raised by Members and the Administration's comments is set out at SHC Paper 11/2008, which has been attached to this letter for Members' information.

You may also wish to know that the SHC has endorsed the proposed WL income and asset limits for 2008/09. For details, please refer to the *Annex C* of the SHC Paper 8/2008 (which is attached to the LegCo paper CB(1)905/07-08(06).) The new limits will be effective on 1 April 2008.

Yours sincerely,

(Vic C H Yau)
for Secretary for Transport and Housing

THE HONG KONG HOUSING AUTHORITY

Memorandum for the Subsidised Housing Committee

Review of the Waiting List Income and Asset Limits for 2008/09

**Views and Suggestions Expressed by Members of LegCo Panel on Housing
at the Meeting on 3 March 2008**

PURPOSE

Pursuant to Subsidised Housing Committee (SHC) Paper No. SHC 8/2008 on the Review of the Waiting List (WL) Income and Asset Limits for 2008/09, this paper reports to Members the views of the Legislative Council (LegCo) Panel on Housing on the findings of the review.

BACKGROUND

2. The SHC considers the WL income and asset limits every March. As the annual review determines the eligibility of public rental housing (PRH) applicants and is therefore a subject of wide public concern, the LegCo Panel on Housing has requested that the Panel be briefed on the review findings and that LegCo Members' views on the review findings be brought back for SHC Members' consideration.

**VIEWS/SUGGESTIONS OF THE LEGCO PANEL ON HOUSING AND
THE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS**

3. The LegCo Panel on Housing discussed the review findings on 3 March 2008 and their views and the Department's comments are summarised in the table below. After the discussion at the SHC on the review findings, the decision on the WL income and asset limits will be forwarded to the LegCo Panel on Housing for their information.

Views/Suggestions of Members of LegCo Panel on Housing	Department's Comments
<p>1. The income limits for applicants who apply for PRH together with their elderly parents should be set at a higher level than that of normal households so as to encourage PRH applicants to live with and take care of their elderly parents.</p>	<p>The existing review methodology adopts an “expenditure-based approach”, which takes into account a household’s housing and non-housing expenditure. We will explore further possible means of providing incentives for households to live with and care for their elderly parents within the framework of the existing review methodology and in line with the principles of fairness and best use of resources to help those in genuine housing need.</p>
<p>2. If the proposed income and asset limits for 2008/09 are accepted, 104 900 households will become eligible for PRH. There were concerns about whether there would be adequate supply of PRH units to maintain the average waiting time (AWT) of general PRH applicants (excluding non-elderly one-person applicants) at around three years.</p>	<p>The Government and the Housing Authority (HA) monitor closely and regularly the demand and supply of PRH units. We are committed to maintaining the AWT of general PRH applicants (excluding non-elderly one-person applicants) at around three years.</p>
<p>3. Members requested to have further breakdowns by household size in the prospective eligible PRH households based on the proposed income and asset limits for 2008/09.</p>	<p>The number of eligible household is a “guestimate” and only gives a rough indication of the position as of 4Q 2007. The number of non-owner occupied households in the private sector will change over time, so will the proportion of them eligible for PRH. It is therefore not advisable to further breakdown by individual household size</p>

ADVICE SOUGHT AND WAY FORWARD

4. Members are invited to note the views/suggestions of the LegCo Panel on Housing and the Department's comments.

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