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中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部教育局  
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Government Secretariat, The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region  
The People's Republic of China

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9 November 2009

Clerk to the Public Works Subcommittee  
(Attn: Ms Angel Shek)  
Legislative Council Building  
8 Jackson Road  
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Ms Shek,

**Capital Works Projects of the  
University Grants Committee-funded Institutions**

At the meeting of the Public Works Subcommittee on 7 May 2009, Members discussed the capital works project for the construction of the student hostel, phase 4 by the City University of Hong Kong.

Members have requested the Administration to explore the feasibility of the proposal of converting vacant Government properties into student hostels for use by the University Grants Committee-funded institutions. We have discussed the proposal with the Government Property Agency (GPA). As far as we understand, there are already planned uses for most vacant Government quarters, while others are considered not suitable for student hostel development. A list of currently vacant Government quarters under GPA's purview is at the Annex.

Members have also suggested that the Government should consider Mei Ho House and the Kowloon East Barracks for use as student hostels. While Mei Ho House has already been included in the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme to be converted into a youth hostel by the Hong Kong Youth Hostels Association, the Kowloon East Barracks at Renfrew Road have been in use by the Hong Kong Garrison of the Chinese People's Liberation Army for military purposes.

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We will continue to seek solutions to the shortfall in hostel places. In the last and current legislative sessions, the Government has submitted a number of works projects to the Legislative Council which will provide the institutions with some 6 600 publicly-funded hostel places and thus help to cater for the demand for hostel places at the institutions.

I should be grateful if you could circulate the above information to Members for their reference.

Yours sincerely,



( Amy Wong )  
for Secretary for Education

c.c. SG, UGC (Attn: Miss Connie Hung)

Annex

**Vacant Government Quarters**  
**Under Government Property Agency's Purview** <sup>(1)</sup>

	<b>Property name and address</b>	<b>Current position</b>	<b>No. of vacant units</b> <sup>(2)</sup>	<b>Remarks</b>
1	Ex-Kennedy Town Police Married Quarters Block B 14 Ka Wai Man Road, Kennedy Town	Vacant	191 (191)	The MTR Corporation Limited will demolish Blocks A & C and occupy the sites as works sites for the construction of the West Island Line. Preliminary study has revealed that Block B is not suitable for residential use according to current legislation, nor for leasing out for commercial use. Therefore, demolition is being considered by the Government.
2	Ex-Lai Chi Kok Incineration Plant Quarters 3 Yuet Lun Street, Lai Chi Kok	Vacant	54 (54)	The quarters are not suitable for residential use according to current legislation, nor for leasing out for commercial use. Therefore, demolition is being considered by the Government. As the quarters are adjacent to a site which will form part of the works area of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link, the Government will consider the future use and development of the quarters site and the adjacent land as a whole.
3	Tsz Wan Shan Staff Quarters 57 Sheung Fun Street, Tsz Wan Shan	Vacant	38 (38)	The Government has assessed the feasibility of refurbishing the property for use by disciplined services departments as quarters, and found that such refurbishment works are not cost-effective. Therefore, demolition is being considered by the Government.
4	Kwun Tong Staff Quarters 4 Tseung Kwan O Road, Kwun Tong	Largely vacant	88 (90)	The Government is assessing the feasibility of redeveloping the property for use by disciplined services departments as quarters.

5	Lok Fu Staff Quarters 20 Heng Lam Street, Lok Fu	Partly vacant	32 (43)	The Government is assessing the feasibility of redeveloping the vacant units for use by disciplined services departments as quarters.
6	Tin Wan Staff Quarters 64 Tin Wan Street, Aberdeen	Largely vacant	14 (15)	The Government is assessing the feasibility of refurbishing the property for use by disciplined services departments as quarters.
7 (3)	Wan Chai Police Married Quarters 182 Jaffe Road, Wan Chai	Partly vacant	14 (40)	Located within the Wan Chai Police Station compound.
8 (3)	Western Police Married Quarters-Rank & File 280 Des Voeux Road West	Vacant	104 (104)	Located within the Western Police Station compound.

Note (1) Apart from the quarters buildings listed in the above Table, there are about 116 individual apartment flats under the purview of the Government Property Agency located in buildings in different districts (e.g. Beverly Hill and Elm Tree Towers). These units are not required for use as government quarters. The Agency is leasing out these flats in the market and planning their disposal by sale in future. Another 51 vacant flats (such as 122 Pok Fu Lam Road) are reserved for long-term development.

Note (2) Number in bracket denotes the total number of units in the building.

Note (3) Quarters under the management of Hong Kong Police Force. The Government Property Agency has assisted in the reprovisioning of the departmental quarters on the site.