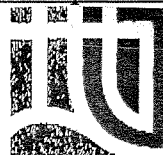


LC Paper No. CB(2)2709/10-11(04)



地政總署總部
LANDS DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS

我們矢志努力不懈，提供盡善盡美的土地行政服務。
We strive to achieve excellence in land administration.

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By Fax (2509 9055)

30 September 2011

Legislative Council
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong
(Attn: Hon WONG Sing-chi)

Dear Mr Wong,

**Subcommittee on Residential Care Homes (Persons with Disabilities)
Regulation and Residential Care Homes (Persons with Disabilities)
Ordinance (Commencement) Notice 2011**

Thank you for your letter dated 22 September 2011.

We would like to advise that Lands Department is not involved in the processing of the Residential Care Homes (Persons with Disabilities) ("RCHD") licence applications made under the above Ordinance. We are only involved when there is a need to issue a waiver to facilitate the operation of the RCHD in a premises where the user of the lease does not permit such operation. As a matter of fact, there are quite a number of leases in Hong Kong in which the operation of the RCHD is always permitted under the lease conditions. These include land granted for "Non-Industrial" purpose, or under the "Virtually Unrestricted" lease.

Nevertheless, we share your concern that there may be an influx of applications for waivers permitting the use of premises for RCHD after the above Ordinance comes into operation. To address this, Lands Department is going to adopt a streamlined procedure in order to shorten the processing time. This includes the circulation of the waiver application to the concerned departments

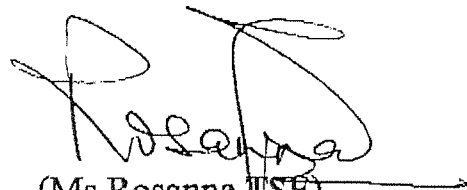
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including District Offices who should provide their comments within 14 days. In this respect, we do not envisage any problems with the departments except for the local consultation in which the District Officer may at his discretion decide to carry out. Any local objection received will then be referred to the Director of Social Welfare for assistance to resolve.

Regarding the waiver fee assessments, all cases will for at least an initial period of one year be undertaken on a centralized basis at Lands Department Headquarters. Under the proposed streamlined procedures, we anticipate that subject to the time taken by the Director of Social Welfare to resolve any local objection, the processing time for a waiver would be shortened to around 3 to 4 months.

Please rests assure that we will work closely with the concerned departments in particular the Social Welfare Department to agree on the streamlined procedure in processing the waiver for the RCHD.

Yours sincerely,



(Ms Rosanna TSE)
for Director of Lands

c.c. All DLOs with copy of letter dated 22.9.2011 from LegCo
Sub-committee