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Legislative Council Secretariat  
Legislative Council Building  
8 Jackson Road  
Central  
Hong Kong  
(Attn: Ms Alice Leung)

7 July 2011

Dear Ms Leung,

**Panel on Home Affairs**

Thank you for your letter dated 8 June to the Secretary for Home Affairs enclosing a copy of a submission from a sports organisation expressing views on the monitoring of Private Recreational Leases (PRLs) and the granting of short-term land leases for the purpose of leisure and sports activities. We are invited to provide a written response to the submission, which is set out in the ensuing paragraphs.

The nature and policy objective of PRLs and Short Term Tenancies (STTs) are different. The former is specifically catered for recreational and sporting purposes while the latter is not designated for any specific purpose and can be granted by different ways.

Under PRLs, non-profit-making clubs and organisations are granted land to develop recreational and sports facilities and associated services through charging usage / service fees from their members or facility users, or through raising funds

themselves. In doing so, these clubs and organisations help to achieve the policy objective of PRLs in the promotion of sports development and provision of recreational and sports facilities. As such, there are conditions in PRLs requiring the lessees to make available their facilities for use by outside bodies.

On the other hand, STTs are to make available vacant government land which has not been designated for a specific use or is not required for development in the near future for temporary use with a view to ensuring temporary beneficial use of such land. Generally speaking, land that is likely to be of general commercial interest is let by open tender. Examples include STTs for stores, fee-paying public car parks and golf driving ranges. Regarding land that is of no general commercial interest and there is only one interested party, the Government may grant land by way of direct grant. Direct grant is sometimes applicable to land used for recreational purpose. STTs normally contain a condition which specifies that the Government may terminate the tenancy by giving a three-month notice, which means the tenant concerned will have to bear a certain degree of risk. Even if an individual tenant is allowed to continue the use of land on a quarterly basis after the expiry of the STT, the tenant may need to cease its use of such land at any time when so requested by the Government.

Based on the above reasons, we are of the view that STTs should not be covered in the discussion of PRLs as their nature and objective are different.

Yours sincerely,



(Benjamin Mok)  
for Secretary for Home Affairs