

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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15 February 2011

Clerk to LegCo Panel on Housing
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road, Central
Hong Kong
(Attn: Miss Becky Yu)

Dear Miss Yu,

**Legislative Council Panel on Housing
Meeting on 3 January 2011 – Follow-up Action**

At the meeting of the Legislative Council Panel on Housing on 3 January 2011, Members requested for information on application and allocation of public rental housing (item 7 in the list of follow-up actions). The information is attached at Annex for Member's reference please.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vincent Tang', written over a vertical line that extends downwards.

(Vincent TANG)

for Secretary for Transport and Housing

Application for and Allocation of Public Rental Housing

The Government and the Housing Authority (HA)'s policy is to provide public rental housing (PRH) to those who cannot afford private rental accommodation, and the target is to maintain the average waiting time (AWT) of general Waiting List (WL) applicants at around three years (excluding the non-elderly one-person applicants under the "Quota and Points System (QPS)").

Number of WL applications and allocation

Over the past five years, i.e. 2006/07, 2007/08, 2008/09, 2009/10 and 2010/11 (from April to October 2010), the number of new registrations and rehoused applicants are as follows:

	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11 (April to October 2010)
New registrations	36 300	25 500	34 500	41 900	24 400
Rehoused applicants	18 700	13 000	24 600	20 900	10 600

AWT and the time required for the second or the third flat offer

Under the established calculation methodology, the AWT of general WL applicants refers to the average time taken between registration on the WL and the first flat offer for those rehoused to PRH in the past 12 months, excluding any frozen period during application, for example, when the applicant has not yet fulfilled the residence requirement, the applicant is imprisoned, or the applicant has requested to put his/her application on hold pending arrival of family member(s) for family reunion, etc. While eligible applicants may be given three flat offers, all applicants are provided with a suitable rehousing opportunity at the first offer. It is a matter of personal choice if the applicants choose to decline the first flat offer to wait for subsequent offers. Thus, the waiting time is counted up to the first flat offer only.

In respect of AWT for general WL applicants (excluding the non-elderly one-person applicants under the QPS) which refers to the average period between registration and the first flat offer, AWT over the past five years are as follows :

	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	In the 12 months before the end of October 2010
Average waiting time	1.8 years	1.9 years	1.8 years	2.0 years	2.0 years

The aforementioned calculation methodology counting the time between registration and first flat offer forms the basis for formulating and maintaining the target of keeping the AWT at around three years. We have not calculated the average of the actual time for rehousing as this would include acceptance of the second or third flat offers.

However, we can provide the following supplementary information for reference. For those general WL applicants (excluding one-person applicants) who rejected the first offer, in 2008/09, the average time taken between the first and second offers, and between the second and third offers for those with third offers, was about five or six months plus; in 2009/10, it was about four to five months plus; and from April to end of October 2010, it was about five to six months. We do not have the figures for 2007/08 or before.

Statistics on acceptance of flat offers

As regards the statistics on acceptance of flat offers of general WL applicants (excluding those subject to the QPS) in the past five years, figures are as follows:

	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11 (April to October 2010)
Accepted the first offer	32%	36%	20%	21%	19%
Accepted the second offer	27%	31%	39%	41%	46%
Accepted the third offer	41%	34%	41%	38%	35%

* Percentage figures may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

**Housing Department
February 2011**