

Legislative Council Panel on Housing

Update on Enhancement of Closed-Circuit Television Systems in Existing Public Housing Estates

Purpose

This paper is to update Members on the programme to enhance the closed-circuit television (CCTV) security systems in existing public rental housing (PRH) estates under the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA).

Background

2. In November 2009, we briefed the Legislative Council Panel on Housing on the security surveillance system upgrading works in PRH estates. We explained that the existing conventional monochrome CCTV security systems will be replaced by modern digital colour systems. The features of the new digital colour CCTV system are set out below -

- (a) Better video picture quality, which greatly enhances the security function to deter crime.
- (b) More effective and much faster transmission, broadcast and monitoring of colour images with higher resolution.
- (c) Additional cameras will be installed to cover a wider surveillance area extending to crime black spots, blind spots, dark corners of rear staircases and letter box areas, etc. for better protection of tenants and crime prevention.
- (d) The 19” Liquid Crystal Display (LCD) colour monitor displays images simultaneously from a maximum of 16 locations greatly enhancing effective surveillance.
- (e) Transmission of real time images from different blocks to the security control room inside the estate management office over the digital network.
- (f) The digital recording system can serve simultaneous surveillance, playback, real-time viewing, video-recording and searching.

- (g) Storing video-recorded image data in the hard disk for 14 days. The image data recorded on the 15th day will automatically overwrite those stored on the 1st day.
- (h) When a lift alarm button is activated, the captured image will instantly pop-up in full screen on the 19” LCD colour monitor, enabling the security guards at service counters to take immediate action as appropriate.

Benefits of the upgraded systems

3. The upgraded security surveillance systems will enhance the security in PRH estates for tenants and facilitate the Police in their investigation and combating of crime. The new systems are user-friendly in operation and have been well received by PRH tenants.

4. There are also environmental benefits arising from the use of the digital system. Firstly, the video tapes in the Video Cassette Recorder (VCR) used in the previous conventional monochrome CCTV security system at each block are normally replaced every 9 months. Upon the system upgrading, VCR is replaced by the Digital Video Recorder (DVR) using hard disk drive that can last for years before replacement. As such, less material is consumed and the new digital system is more environmental friendly when compared with the previous one.

5. Secondly, the upgraded digital systems will use LCD monitors which can display up to a maximum of 16 images, while the Cathode Ray Tube monitor used in the conventional monochrome CCTV security systems can only display a maximum of four images. Fewer monitors are required in the new systems to display the same number of images when compared to the old systems and less energy is consumed. The overall electrical power consumption for the upgraded systems is therefore much lower.

Privacy Protection

6. Since CCTV security systems may capture images of individuals or information relating to individuals, the HA strictly follows the guidelines issued by the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data. Notices are displayed at the ground floor lift lobby of the

concerned PRH block to notify tenants and visitors in advance that video footage will be used for security and property management purposes. In particular, the DVR, where images captured by the cameras are stored, are protected from unauthorized access. Only authorized management personnel with password access to the DVR can operate the systems, including duplicating, erasing and processing of the video footage.

Works Progress

7. The HA launched the programme to upgrade the security surveillance systems in existing PRH estates in 2007 and it is scheduled for completion in 2013/14. The entire programme is to be implemented in phases as follows -

<u>Phase No.</u>	<u>Financial Year</u>	<u>No. of Estates</u>	<u>No. of Blocks</u>
(Pilot)	2007/08	13	47
Phase 1	2008/09	24	147
Phase 2	2009/10	23	153
Phase 3	2010/11	22	158
Phase 4	2011/12	25	189
Phase 5	2012/13	20	142
Phase 6	2013/14	<u>20</u>	<u>134</u>
Total		147	970

8. So far all works have been completed as scheduled over the last three financial years from 2007/08 to 2009/10. The works progress for year 2010/2011 is satisfactory with works completed in 44 blocks in 8 PRH estates as at end October 2010. In total, upgrading work for 391 blocks in 68 PRH estates has been completed.

9. Members are invited to note the update on the programmes of enhancing CCTV security systems in existing PRH estates.

**Transport and Housing Bureau
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