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5 January 2012

Ms Miranda Hon  
Clerk, Public Accounts Committee  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
(by Fax : 2840 0716)

Dear Ms Hon,

### **Follow-up to Public Accounts Committee Report No. 39**


#### **Small House Grants in the New Territories**

Thank you for your letter dated 16 December 2011 to the Secretary for Development, conveying the concern of Public Accounts Committee about the progress of the review on the Small House Policy and enquiring whether the Administration has set a definite timetable for concluding the review.

We thank the PAC for its appreciation of the complexity of the issues involved in the review. We must, however, point out that the existing Small House Policy has been in operation for a long period of time, and any major change would entail complex legal, land use and planning issues which require careful consideration. Due to the complexity of the issues involved, we are unable to set a definite timetable within which the review will be completed.

We will continue to adopt a practical approach in taking forward the review and will keep in close liaison with the Heung Yee Kuk. We will consult the rural and the general community when concrete and specific proposals are available.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Derek Lai', written in a cursive style.

( Derek Lai )  
for Secretary for Development