

**The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region**

政府總部

發展局

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BY FAX AND BY MAIL

5 June 2013

Clerk to Public Account Committee  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central  
Hong Kong  
(Attn. : Ms Mary SO)

Dear Ms So,

**Public Accounts Committee  
Consideration of Chapter 1 of the Director of Audit's Report No. 60  
Conservation of monuments and historic buildings**

Thank you for your letter of 8 May 2013. The following are our responses to the questions as set out in your letter.

**Questions (a) and (b)**

2. The 10 graded buildings cited in para. 4.6 – 4.8 of the Audit Report are located on unallocated land with no user identified. Earlier this year the Development Bureau has reviewed with the relevant departments the management and maintenance responsibilities in respect of the 10 unallocated Government graded buildings, as a result of which relevant departments have been requested to carry out the maintenance works. The exercise is now in progress. Furthermore, while relevant bureaux and departments will put in concerted efforts to identify gainful uses for these buildings, it should be noted that such uses might not be readily identified in view of the inherent site constraints.

### **Question (c)**

3. While owners of privately-owned monuments are responsible for their maintenance, they can seek assistance from the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) to carry out maintenance works for them if necessary. Based on the requirements identified through inspections, the AMO will prioritize maintenance works for privately-owned monuments according to the following criteria:

- (i) urgency (e.g. public safety concerns);
- (ii) condition of the monuments;
- (iii) promotion of heritage tourism (e.g. monuments along heritage trails); and
- (iv) cost of the works (availability of funds).

4. For Government-owned monuments and graded buildings that are in use by different departments, they are maintained by the respective departments and their works agents. For privately-owned graded buildings, the owners are responsible for the maintenance.

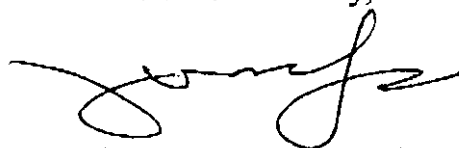
### **Question (d)**

5. So far, the AMO has not encountered difficulties in carrying out maintenance works for monuments, nor have such maintenance works been delayed, due to shortage of construction workers.

### **Question (e)**

6. Regarding whether experience could be drawn from Macao on using conservation of monuments and historic buildings to complement its work in promoting tourism, we wish to inform the Committee that we have been taking into account the tourism aspect in our heritage conservation work. For example, we have organised the heritage tourism expo to showcase our rich built heritage throughout our territory (including the Hong Kong International Airport), Beijing and Macao; published a booklet “Notes of a Heritage Visitor” introducing six tour routes which have been distributed free of charge and uploaded onto our website (<http://www.heritage.gov.hk/en/doc/heritageBookletEng.pdf>); and selected suitable historic buildings for public access and guided tours under the Heritage Fiesta. We will consider whether and how our work can be further enhanced on this aspect.

Yours sincerely,



( Miss Queenie Lee )

for Secretary for Development

C.C.

Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury	(Fax No.: 2147 5239)
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