

民政事務總署  
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5 July 2013

**By Fax : 2509 9055**

Ms Alice Leung  
Clerk on Panel on Home Affairs  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Ms Leung,

**Matters relating to street sleepers**

Thank you for your letter addressed to the Secretary for Home Affairs of 20 June 2013. I am authorised to reply to your letter on the captioned matter.

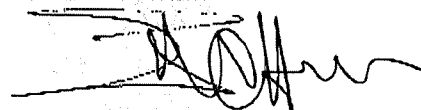
Relevant departments have been concerned about the needs of street sleepers and providing support services to help individuals who were forced into homelessness quit street sleeping. Concerning the case mentioned in your letter, the Social Welfare Department ("SWD") is aware of and following up on the conditions of those street sleeping under the Ferry Street Flyover. The SWD has indeed conducted a number of outreaching visits and provided counselling services through the subvented Salvation Army Integrated Service Team for Street Sleepers ("the Salvation Army") in order to introduce accommodation services and relevant information to them, including emergency and short-term accommodation services, hostels for single persons, private rented abode, etc. to help them quit street sleeping as soon as possible. We understand that eight street sleepers under the Ferry Street Flyover have already quitted street sleeping through the assistance by the Salvation Army recently. The Salvation Army will continue to provide support services to individual street sleepers according to their needs.

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The community greening project mentioned in the letter is a district minor works project under the Yau Tsim Mong District Council ("YTMDC"). The relevant project proposal was first raised at the YTMDC District Facilities Management Committee ("DFMC") meeting in March 2011 with a view to greening the area and improving the environment. With regard to those street sleeping at the above-mentioned site who may be affected by the project, YTMDC has been concerned about their conditions and requesting the SWD to provide them with counselling and support services to encourage and help them to quit street sleeping. The DFMC then endorsed the said greening works in May 2012. The Yau Tsim Mong District Office (YTMDO) consulted residents' organisations, schools, merchants' association nearby and the concerned Area Committee, etc., most of whose replies received during the consultation period were supportive of the said works.

When planning district minor works projects, the YTMDC and YTMDO will continue to make the best effort to listen to and take into consideration the views of different stakeholders and local personalities. With regard to the greening works underneath the Ferry Street Flyover, the YTMDO, Lands Department and SWD had a meeting with representatives for the street sleepers and the Society for Community Organisation (SOCO) on 2 May to understand their accommodation needs and offer assistance to them. Separately, some YTMDC members directly engaged themselves in a dialogue with representatives for the street sleepers and the SOCO at a meeting on 21 June to explain the purpose of the greening works. YTMDC and relevant government departments will adhere to the principles of forthcomingsness and cooperativeness and continue to communicate with local personalities in order to better respond to community needs.

Should you require further information, please contact Mr Charlson CHIU, Assistant District Officer (YTM) at 2399 2128.



(Eric KS HUI)

for Director of Home Affairs

C.C.

Secretary for Home Affairs (Attn.: Mr Kesson Lee)	(Fax: 2591 6002)
Director of Social and Welfare (Attn.: Ms Nancy Kwan)	(Fax: 2764 1242)
Director of Lands (Attn.: Ms Sophia Chiang)	(Fax: 2782 5061)
District Officer (YTM) (Attn.: Mr Charlson Chiu)	(Fax: 2397 3245)