

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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18 April 2013

Clerk to LegCo Panel on Housing
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central
Hong Kong

(Attn: Ms Miranda Hon)

Dear Ms Hon,

Legislative Council Panel on Housing

**Subcommittee on the Long Term Housing Strategy
Meeting on 27 February 2013
Follow-up Action**

Thank you for your letter of 7 March 2013, referring Members' request for information.

On the issue of subsidised housing provided by the Hong Kong Housing Society (HKHS), the HKHS implemented the Flat-for-Sale Scheme (FFSS) and the Sandwich Class Housing Scheme (SCHS) in the past. These were subsidised sale units for low to middle-income households to help address the home ownership needs of the public. The FFSS was launched in 1986 to provide subsidised sale flats to low income groups. There are altogether 10 FFSS projects, providing a total of 10 360 FFSS units. The SCHS was introduced in 1994 to provide affordable housing to

middle-income families. There are altogether 10 SCHS projects, providing a total of 8 920 SCHS units. Both schemes were put to an end following the Government's withdrawal from the subsidized housing market in 2002.

In 2011, the HKHS was tasked to develop the Greenview Villa at Tsing Luk Street, Tsing Yi. The Greenview Villa is a subsidised sale project and provides a total of 988 units. Construction is expected to be completed in early 2015 but the units are being sold in advance of completion. Flat selection is being arranged for successful applicants at the moment. In view of the enthusiastic response from public towards the project, the Government has set aside a site in Sha Tin for the HKHS to develop a similar housing project, which will provide around 700 small and medium-sized units. We will continue to work closely with the HKHS in the provision of subsidised housing.

As regards the information on frozen WL applicants involving single-parent families, according to the Population Census 2011, single parents are defined as mothers or fathers who are never married, widowed, divorced or separated, with child/children aged under 18 living with them in the same household.

Although applicants for public rental housing (PRH) are required to declare their marital status and family members' relationship with the applicant in the application forms, the Housing Authority (HA) does not collect information on an applicant's current family composition and with whom the applicant is currently living. As a result, the HA cannot determine whether single-parent families are involved. For example, an applicant who is divorced may choose to live on his/her own and apply for PRH as a non-elderly one-person applicant through the Quota and Points System. As the applicant is not required to declare whether he/she has a child and whether he/she is currently living with the child in the same household, the HA cannot ascertain whether it is a single-parent family case. On the other hand, if an applicant's spouse and/or children are currently not living in Hong Kong, they cannot be included in the application form as family members and therefore, the HA does not know the family composition of the applicant. Therefore, the HA does not have statistics on the number of cases involving single-parent families whose PRH applications were frozen due to applicants' failure to fulfill the seven-year residence requirement.

Nonetheless, the HA has reviewed and relaxed the seven-year residence rule on several occasions over the years to facilitate the integration of new arrivals into Hong Kong. At present, eligible applicants on the WL would have already fulfilled the seven-year residence rule when half of the

family members have lived in Hong Kong for seven years at the time of PRH allocation. Regardless of whether the main applicant can satisfy the residence rule, if at least half of the members of the applicant family satisfy the seven-year residence rule at the time of allocation, a PRH flat can be allocated to them when their turn is due. All members under the age of 18 are deemed to have satisfied the seven-year residence rule if they have either established the birth status as permanent residents in Hong Kong or, regardless of their place of birth, one of their parents has lived in Hong Kong for seven years.

Yours sincerely,

(Original Signed)

(Vincent TANG)

for Secretary for Transport and Housing