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Tel No : 2892 5101

Fax No. : 2838 0757

10 December 2013

Clerk to Panel on Development
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road, Central
Hong Kong
(Attn: Ms Sharon Chung)

Dear Ms Chung,

Panel on Development
Follow-up to the meeting on 26 November 2013

Capital Works Reserve Fund
Head 708 Subhead 8001SX

At the meeting of the Legislative Council Panel on Development held on 26 November 2013, the Administration was requested to provide information about the criteria for determining the type, number and scale of welfare facilities to be provided in new/redevelopment public housing projects as well as vacant premises in completed public housing estates and public facilities in each financial year.

For new/redevelopment public housing projects, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has been maintaining close liaison with the Housing Department (HD) to explore the provision of suitable social welfare facilities at the preliminary planning stage. In determining the type, number and scale of welfare facilities to be provided in the projects, SWD and HD consider such factors as the development parameters of individual new/redevelopment public housing projects, the supply of and demand for welfare services in the local community and nearby areas, the floor area requirements and planning

restrictions (e.g. height restriction) of the proposed facilities. In this way, suitable welfare facilities will be provided to best meet the development and needs of the community.

Under the existing mechanism, when implementing new/redevelopment public housing projects, HD and relevant departments (including SWD) will jointly consult the District Council concerned and local stakeholders (such as residents of the housing estates affected by redevelopment projects) to seek their views on the projects concerned and details of the proposed community or welfare facilities to be incorporated. SWD and HD will then further review the need to revise the type, number and scale of the welfare facilities in the light of the views collected.

Separately, HD regularly informs SWD of details of vacant non-domestic premises in existing public housing estates available for welfare lettings. SWD also gathers information about vacant government premises from the Government Property Agency. SWD will consider the demand for welfare services, the location, area and restricted uses of the premises as well as the views of the locals to decide whether the premises are suitable for setting up welfare facilities. If the premises are suitable for such uses, SWD will apply for using the premises from departments concerned in accordance with the prevailing procedures.

Yours sincerely,



(KOK Che-leung)
for Director of Social Welfare

c.c. Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury
(Attn: Ms CHOI Suet-yung, Jasmine)

Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Attn: Ms LUI Siu-man, Amy)