

Establishment Subcommittee

Follow-up actions arising from the discussion at the meeting on 10 June 2015

EC(2015-16)2

Proposed creation of one permanent post of Chief Architect (D1) in the Development and Construction Division of Housing Department with effect from the date of approval by the Finance Committee to cope with the additional workload arising from the further increase in public housing production target as pledged in the 2014 Policy Address and promulgated in the Long Term Housing Strategy 2014

- (a) The establishment of the Housing Department (“HD”) responsible for planning and implementation of the public housing programme in meeting the public housing production targets in the past 20 years, and the establishment required for meeting the supply targets in the coming 10 years as promulgated in the Long Term Housing Strategy 2014.**

The following table gives the directorate establishment for the HD and its Development and Construction Division (DCD) which is the main division responsible for the planning and construction of the public housing delivered by the Housing Authority.

As at	HD	HD's DCD
1 April 2002	79*	25
1 April 2007	49	17
1 June 2015	66	29

* Including the directorate establishment of the former Housing Bureau (HB). The former HB and HD were amalgamated into HD on 1 July 2002.

As for the future, as we have explained to Members, to meet the 10-year public housing production targets as promulgated in the Long Term Housing Strategy 2014, we have started work on some projects and are still seeking to identify more suitable sites for public housing production. We will continuously review the manpower requirements having regard to evolving developments, for example, on the progress of land supply and the related work requirements, and propose adjustments to increase or decrease our establishment in the coming years.

(b) The number of supernumerary posts, if any, among the 78 directorate posts in HD and the former Housing Bureau in 2002-2003.

Among the 78 directorate posts at that time, there were 3 supernumerary posts.

(c) HD's measures to reduce disposal of original fixtures and fittings of new public rental housing units by tenants.

The HA adopts a "Functional and Cost effective" principle in the delivery of the public housing developments. Under this principle, all public housing shall meet the basic needs of tenants with a simple, and environment-friendly approach. Inside the domestic flat, except for kitchen and toilet provided with partitioning, floor and wall tiling, there is no partitioning and floor finishes, so that different families can design the internal partitioning and furniture layout according to their own needs.

Meanwhile, findings conducted in some newly completed estates indicated that sink units and cooking benches are the major building components disposed by tenants during intake. Hence, the adjustable synthetic resin cooking bench was adopted for all new projects under design stage from Feb 2013 onwards, so that it could be adjusted to appropriate height at tenants' request during in-take, and minimise the chance of disposal and wastage.