

[Translation]

香港特別行政區政府

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

運輸及房屋局

香港九龍何文田

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 來函檔號 Your Ref. R065

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22 May 2015

Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
 Room 1017
 Legislative Council Complex
 1 Legislative Council Road
 Central, Hong Kong

Dear Dr Hon CHEUNG,

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2015-16
 (Question Serial No.: R065)

I refer to the questions you raised during the examination of the estimates of expenditure for 2015-16 regarding the handling of tenancy abuse cases by the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA).

In the past five years, the Housing Department (HD) has conducted some 8 000 investigations of suspected tenancy abuse cases on average every year. In the course of investigation into public rental housing (PRH) abuse cases, some PRH households might voluntarily surrender their PRH units to HD. Others simply abandon the unit or cease to pay rent upon finding out that they are being investigated, since they are well aware that the units will be recovered due to PRH abuse. HD eventually recovered the units because of rent-arrears. As it is difficult to classify the relevant cases, HD does not keep the breakdown of the statistics. However, according to HD's record, about 400 PRH units were recovered through the issue of notice-to-quit as a result of investigations into tenancy abuse cases.

In the same period, the Central Investigation Team of HD received some 2 000 suspected PRH abuse reports/enquiries on average every year. But we do not have the breakdown of the investigation results.

Moreover, from 2010 to 2014, the number of appeals heard in relation to tenancy abuse is 1 332, among which the number of notices-to-quit cancelled or amended by the Appeal Tribunals is 502. A breakdown of the cases by category is as follows –

	Number of Appeals Heard	Number of Notices-to-Quit Cancelled or Amended by the Appeal Tribunals
Non-occupation	1 111	401
Subletting	1	1
Illegal activities	126	76
Non-domestic usage	5	3
False declaration	89	21
Total	1 332	502

We do not have the information about the average time gap between the termination of tenancy and the actual removal of tenants, resulting from the termination of tenancy due to tenancy abuse cases in the past five years.

Yours sincerely,

(Original Signed)

(Jerry CHEUNG)

for Secretary for Transport and Housing

c.c.

Clerk to the Legislative Council Finance Committee (Attn: Mr Daniel SIN)
Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Attn: Ms Emily TSANG)