

香港特別行政區政府

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

發展局

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13 February 2015

Ms Sharon Chung,  
Clerk to Panel on Development,  
Legislative Council Complex,  
1 Legislative Council Road,  
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Ms Chung,

### **Panel on Development**

#### **Review on the Town Planning Ordinance, Functions of the Town Planning Board and Related Issues**

Thank you for your e-mail dated 15 January 2015 to the Development Bureau, relaying Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN's letter dated 24 November last year to the Chairman of the Legislative Council Panel on Development regarding the review on the Town Planning Ordinance (TPO), functions of the Town Planning Board (TPB) and related issues. For the TPO-related issues in the letter, I am authorised to reply as below.

Regarding the amendments to TPO, the Government proposed in 2002 that priority should be given to those amendments with general consensus and which would bring about immediate benefits to the community. The relevant amendments have been implemented through the Town Planning (Amendment) Ordinance 2004 (the Amendment Ordinance). The Amendment Ordinance aimed at enhancing the transparency of the planning system, streamlining the town planning process, and strengthening enforcement control against unauthorized developments in the rural areas of the New Territories.

Overall speaking, the Amendment Ordinance has come into operation smoothly since June 2005. The public can inspect the statutory plans, planning applications, applications for amendment of plan and the meeting minutes published by TPB, as well as express views on the amendments to statutory plans and planning applications. TPB has taken a major step forward in terms of both transparency and public accountability. The Government currently does not have a set timetable for taking forward further amendments to the TPO.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Cyrus Cheung', written in a cursive style.

( Cyrus CHEUNG )  
for Secretary for Development