

[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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20 May 2016

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 2016-17
(Question Serial No. R006)

I refer to the above question which you raised during the examination of the estimates of expenditure for 2016-17 regarding the vacant public rental housing (PRH) units of the Hong Kong Housing Authority. Our reply is as follows.

Unoccupied PRH units include “lettable vacant units”, “unlettable units”, and “under offer units”. “Unlettable units” are units reserved for specific use, such as, units vacated for clearance programme; as well as vacant Housing for Senior Citizens Type 1 and Converted One-person units pending conversion; which would not be let to PRH applicants. “Under offer units” are those awaiting applicants’ acceptance of the offers and they are expected to be let very soon. As these two types of unoccupied units cannot be allocated to applicants, they would not be included in the calculation of the vacancy rate.

Since the number of lettable vacant PRH units varies from time to time in accordance with the letting progress, the Housing Department only maintains figures as at specific dates. The numbers of lettable vacant units at the end of the past five financial years are set out below -

Year	Number of lettable vacant units
As at 31.3.2012	7 078
As at 31.3.2013	4 137
As at 31.3.2014	3 985
As at 31.3.2015	1 977
As at 31.3.2016	2 400

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)