

[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

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27 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. R020 - R021)

I refer to the above questions which you raised during the examination of the estimates of expenditure for 2016-17 regarding allocation of public rental housing (PRH) units to PRH applicants with household size of seven persons or above. Our reply is as follows.

The Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA) conducted a special analysis of the housing situation of general applicants for PRH (i.e. family and elderly one-person applicants) as at end June 2015. The analysis (Paper No. SHC 65/2015) was uploaded onto the website of HA/Housing Department for public information. The analysis indicates that as at end June 2015, the number of family applicants, with household members of five persons or above and had waited for PRH for over three years and without any flat offer, is far lower than that of family applicants of smaller household size.

Since the average household size in Hong Kong has been decreasing, currently large units are no longer designed in new PRH projects in order to optimise the use of valuable land resources. HA relies on refurbished units for

allocation to households with six persons or above. To cater for the demand of large families, when their applications are due for allocation and if refurbished units suitable for such family size are not available at that time, subject to availability of housing resources, we will exercise flexibility in allocating two adjacent new units that meet the standard. Since it would consume more PRH resources in using two units instead of one, given the critical demand of PRH, we have to utilise resources in a prudent manner.

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)