

[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

佛光街 33 號 1 座 6 樓



Transport and Housing Bureau
6/F, Block 1, 33 Fat Kwong Street,
Homantin, Kowloon, Hong Kong

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電話 Tel No. 2761 5049

圖文傳真 Fax No. 2761 7445

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: R030)

I refer to the above question which you raised during the examination of the estimates of expenditure for 2016-17 regarding redevelopment of public housing estates currently under planning. Our reply is as follows.

As pointed out under the Long Term Housing Strategy promulgated in December 2014, while redevelopment may increase public rental housing (PRH) supply over the long term, it will in the short term reduce PRH stock available for allocation. This will inevitably add further pressure on the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA)'s ability in maintaining the Average Waiting Time target at about 3 years. The net gain in flat supply from redevelopment will take a long time to realise, and very often towards the latter if not the last phase of the redevelopment. Hence, redevelopment could at best serve as a supplementary source of PRH supply. It is also not advisable to carry out any massive redevelopment programme which will result in freezing a large number of PRH units that may otherwise be allocated to needy households, given the current high demand for PRH. HA needs to consider the redevelopment of aged estates very carefully.

If it is decided to proceed with redevelopment of individual aged PRH estates, HA will consider various factors including the availability of suitable rehousing resources and will, in accordance with the established

practice, allow sufficient time to consult the relevant District Councils, and give sufficient advance notice to affected tenants well before the clearance operation.

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)