

[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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27 May 2016

Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che
Room 906
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Hon CHEUNG,

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2016-17
(Question Serial No.: R054)

I refer to the above question which you raised during the examination of the estimates of expenditure for 2016-17 regarding the conversion of some public rental housing (PRH) units into small hostels for moderately mentally handicapped persons. Our reply is as follows.

It is the objective of the Government and the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA) to provide PRH to low-income families who cannot afford private rental accommodation. PRH applications have been on the rise. As at end-March 2016, there were already 150 500 general applications, and another 134 300 non-elderly one-person applications under the Quota and Points System. This indicates the keen demand for PRH. With limited housing land resources, HA has to focus its resources in order to fulfill its responsibility of providing PRH to eligible persons to address the housing needs of low-income families who cannot afford private rental accommodation. The Government will plan the provision of the social welfare facilities mentioned in your question under the established mechanism. Both HA and the Hong Kong Housing Society have no plan to convert PRH units into social welfare use.

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)