

[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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本局檔號 Our Ref.

來函檔號 Your Ref. R064

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27 May 2016

Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP  
Room 714  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Hon TSE,

**Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2016-17**

(Question Serial No. R064)

I refer to the above question which you raised during the examination of the estimates of expenditure for 2016-17, enquiring whether the Housing Department (HD) would remove those applications that are no longer eligible for public rental housing (PRH) while awaiting PRH allocation. Our reply is as follows.

For equitable distribution of PRH resources, HD has put in place a checking mechanism to ensure that PRH applicants and their family members fulfill the eligibility criteria for PRH from the date of completing the application form to the date of signing the tenancy agreement of the PRH unit thus allocated.

Specifically, upon receipt of the application forms for PRH, HD will perform preliminary vetting of the eligibility of the applicants. Those who meet the eligibility criteria will be registered. When the applications are due for detailed vetting, the applicants and their family members will be invited to attend detailed vetting interviews, during which they are required to declare their latest household income, total asset value and marital status. They will also be required to provide all requisite information or supporting documents for vetting their eligibility for allocation of PRH. Depending on needs, HD will review cases which have passed the detailed vetting but are still awaiting PRH allocation. If applicants are no longer eligible, HD will cancel their applications.

In addition, HD has also set up the Public Housing Resources Management Sub-section (PHRM) to prevent abuse of PRH resources. Apart from investigating suspected abuse cases, PHRM also conducts random checks on declarations of income and assets made by PRH applicants. At present, PHRM will randomly select a number of cases at different stages of application for in-depth checking. If applicants are found to have provided false information, their PRH applications will be cancelled.

With regard to non-elderly one-person applicants under the Quota and Points System (QPS), both the Long Term Housing Strategy Steering Committee and the Director of Audit's report No. 61 recommended the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA) to conduct regular checking on the eligibility of applicants under the QPS. Since the three-year average waiting time target is not applicable to applicants under QPS, their eligibility can stay unchecked for a long time. They may have gained career advancement or experience changes in other circumstances which render them no longer eligible for PRH while awaiting PRH allocation. In light of the above, HA decided in October 2014 to conduct regular checking on those non-elderly one-person applicants under the QPS who have waited for five years but not yet due for detailed vetting within the next two years.

HA started the relevant regular checking in April 2015. For those applicants who are found to be no longer eligible for PRH; applicants

who indicate withdrawal of their applications; and applicants who do not respond to HD's request for checking, HA will cancel their applications. For those who have passed the checking, they will be subject to further checking five years after the checking date, if they still fall into the target group of checking by then.

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)