

[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 CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando
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: R105)

I refer to the above question which you raised during the examination of the estimates of expenditure for 2016-17 regarding public rental housing (PRH) applications from households with disabled family members. Our reply is as follows.

According to the Hong Kong Housing Authority's prevailing policy, general applicants (including different types of family applicants and elderly one-person applicants) are accorded with priority over non-elderly one-person applicants, and the target is to provide the first flat offer to general applicants at around three years on average. As at end-March 2016, there were about 150 500 general applications for PRH, and their average waiting time (AWT)¹ was 3.9 years.

¹ Waiting time refers to the time taken between the date of registration for PRH and the first offer, excluding any frozen period during the application period (e.g. when the applicant has not yet fulfilled the residence requirement; the applicant has requested to put his/her application on hold pending arrival of family members for reunion; the applicant is imprisoned; etc). The AWT for general applicants refers to the average of the waiting time of those general applicants who were housed to PRH in the past 12 months.

Since family applicants with disabled family members are also “general applicants”, the target of providing the first flat offer at around three years on average applies to them as well, and their waiting time has been reflected in the AWT of general applicants. The Housing Department does not maintain the statistics requested in the question.

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)