

政府總部  
勞工及福利局  
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政府總部



LABOUR AND WELFARE BUREAU  
GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT

Central Government Offices  
Tim Mei Avenue  
Tamar, Hong Kong

本函檔號 **Our Ref.:** LWB T4/18/29 Pt. 14

來函檔號 **Your Ref.:**

28 December 2015

Mr Colin CHUI  
Clerk to Panel  
Panel on Welfare Services  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central Hong Kong

Dear Mr Chui,

**Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services  
Follow-up Actions for Meeting on 9 November 2015**

At the meeting of the Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services held on 9 November 2015, some Members have inquired about the situation of elderly singletons on the waiting list for public rental housing (PRH). The information provided by the Housing Department (HD) is set out below.

The Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA) effects priority allocation of PRH to elderly one-person applicants through the Single Elderly Persons Priority Scheme (SEPS), with the target of providing the first flat offer for elderly one-person applicants at around two years on average.

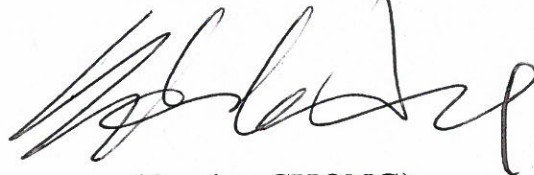
Under the SEPS, one-person applicants reaching 58 years of age may opt to join the scheme, but must have reached the age of 60 at the time of flat allocation. Applicants under this scheme can choose any one district (including the urban district) for PRH allocation. Eligible applicants enjoy priority processing over family applicants. As at March 2015, there were 11 900 applicants under the SEPS. According

to results of the Survey on PRH Applicants 2015, among those who join the SEPS, about 61% were living in private permanent housing.

Elderly one-person applicants, like other eligible PRH applicants, may also join the Express Flat Allocation Scheme (EFAS) to increase their opportunity of accelerated allocation. Flats under the EFAS are generally left vacant for a long period due to their remote location or being less popular. The EFAS is launched annually to invite eligible PRH applicants to join and they can select a flat from the list of flats available without locality restriction. Some flats are also offered with rent reduction periods.

Elderly one-person applicants with urgent housing needs may be offered PRH through Compassionate Rehousing (CR) of the HA which aims at providing PRH to individual or family applicants who have pressing housing needs on social or medical grounds. Under CR, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) assesses individual cases and recommends eligible cases to the HD. Unless SWD recommends special allocation arrangements for the applicant, such as the need to reside in a particular district or estate, in general the HD can offer a PRH unit to the applicant within a short period of time.

Yours sincerely,



(Gordon CHONG)

for Secretary for Labour and Welfare

cc. Director of Housing (Attn : Percy LEUNG)