

選舉事務處

REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL OFFICE

香港灣仔港灣道 25 號
海港中心 10 樓

10/F Harbour Centre
25 Harbour Road
Wan Chai Hong Kong

本函檔號 OUR REF : REO10-4/3(Con)XIX
來函檔號 YOUR REF :

圖文傳真 Fax : 2507 5810
電話 Tel : 2827 7047
網址 Web Site: <http://www.reo.gov.hk>

Ms Joanne MAK
Clerk to Panel on Constitutional Affairs,
Legislative Council Complex,
1 Legislative Council Road,
Central,
Hong Kong.

20 June 2017

Dear Ms MAK,

**Legislative Council Panel on Constitutional Affairs
Supplementary Information on
the Introduction of Address Proof Requirement**

During the discussion on the “Review of Penalties and Introduction of Address Proof Requirement in Relation to Voter Registration System” at the meeting of the Panel on Constitutional Affairs held on 19 April 2017, a Member enquired about which Government departments the Registration and Electoral Office (“REO”) would collaborate with in verifying the address information of electors, with a view to exempting electors from the requirement to produce address proofs when updating their registered addresses. The following supplementary information is provided for Members’ reference.

In terms of the updating or verification of electors’ address information, the existing collaborative arrangements between the REO and other departments are as follows:

- (a) To conduct regular data matching with the Housing Department (“HD”) and the Hong Kong Housing Society (“HKHS”) on a quarterly basis, so as to identify tenants who have newly moved into public housing units and tenants who have moved. After the data matching exercise, if it is found that certain electors have newly moved into public housing units or already moved to another public housing unit,

the REO will take the initiative to issue a written notice on change of particulars to help them update their registered address;

- (b) To cross-match with the Home Affairs Department (“HAD”) annually with respect to the registration particulars contained in the final registers for Rural Representative Election and Kaifong Representative Election. If it is found that the residential addresses of certain electors have been changed, the REO will take the initiative to issue a written notice on change of particulars to help them update their registered address; and
- (c) To collaborate with the Immigration Department (“ImmD”) so that electors who update their particulars at the Registration of Persons Offices may, at the same time, request transferring the relevant information to the REO for updating of registration particulars.

At the meeting held on 19 April 2017, we proposed to exempt electors from the requirement to produce address proofs if they have updated their registered addresses through the collaborative arrangements between the REO and other Government departments. As mentioned above, the collaborative arrangements stated in item (a) and (b) involve verifying the addresses of electors with the HD, HKHS and HAD, and then the REO proactively issues written notices on change of particulars to electors with changed addresses in order to help them update their registered addresses. The collaborative arrangement mentioned in (c) above refers to the transfer of updated particulars by the ImmD according to the electors’ consent to the REO for updating of registration particulars.

Therefore, in introducing the address proof requirement regarding applications for change of registered addresses, we propose to exempt the electors concerned from the requirement to produce address proofs if they have been issued with written notices on change of particulars by the REO (item (a) and (b) above refer) or have requested to update their registered addresses (item (c) above refers) under the above collaborative arrangements. This facilitative arrangement is conducive to reducing the impact of the new measure on the existing electors. On the other hand, the REO proposes to work with the HD and HKHS to cross-match data when the REO processes applications for change of registered addresses, so as to ascertain whether the elector concerned is a registered tenant of the relevant housing unit, and whether the address information submitted by the elector concerned is correct, and exempt such electors from the requirement to produce address proofs.

The REO will continue to explore with other departments the feasibility of data matching or transfer of updated particulars to facilitate verification of the electors’ address information and help them update their registered addresses. Consideration will also be given to the appropriateness

of exempting relevant electors from the requirement to submit address proofs in accordance with the actual circumstances.

Members are invited to note the above.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Shum Nam-lung', written in a cursive style.

(SHUM Nam-lung)

for Chief Electoral Officer

c.c. Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (Attention: Mr Ryan CHIU)