

26 January 2018

Public Accounts Committee
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central Hong Kong
(Attn: Mr Anthony CHU)

Dear Mr CHU,

**Follow-up to Public Accounts Committee (PAC) Report No. 64
Buildings Department's Actions on Unauthorized Building Works (UBWs)**

Thank you for your letter dated 5 January 2018. Please find the required information as follows for PAC's reference.

In view of the sheer quantity of existing UBWs, the Buildings Department (BD) adopts a "risk-based" approach to prioritise its enforcement actions. Under the current UBWs enforcement policy promulgated in 2011, BD will take enforcement action against actionable UBWs by issuing statutory orders to the owners concerned for removal of the UBWs. Information on the categories of actionable UBWs is set out in the pamphlet issued by BD titled "Premises Without Unauthorized Building Works Put Your Mind At Ease". A ground floor unauthorized shop structure within an exit staircase rendering the width of the means of escape inadequate or without the provision of fire resisting construction constitutes obvious hazard or imminent danger to life or property and is therefore considered an actionable UBWs item.

While BD will from time to time engage outsourced consultants to assist in the inspection and administrative work related to enforcement action against UBWs, actual enforcement actions against UBWs are carried out by BD officers in accordance with the Buildings Ordinance and the prevailing enforcement policy. Therefore, there is no question of different enforcement criteria and priorities being adopted with regard to cases involving outsourced consultants engaged by BD.

Yours sincerely,



(CH HO)

Assistant Director / Existing Buildings 2
for Director of Buildings

c.c. Secretary of Development (Attn: Miss Nettie NG) Fax no: 2899 2916
Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury Fax no: 2147 5239
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