

Panel on Development
Briefing on the proposed Member's Bill to amend the Waterworks Ordinance
(Cap. 102)

Follow-up Issues of the Meeting held on 18 July 2018

At the meeting on 18 July 2018, the Panel on Development discussed the LC Paper No. CB(1)221/17-18(02) on the proposed Member's Bill to amend the Waterworks Ordinance (Cap. 102). The Administration was requested to provide information on the number of inspections conducted by the Water Supplies Department (WSD) at subdivided flats in recent years to check against cases of subdivided flat owners selling or offering for sale water from the waterworks to their tenants. This note sets out our response to the request.

2. Starting from the third quarter of 2017, WSD adopted a proactive approach to seek referral cases for investigation from the relevant non-government organizations (NGOs) whenever there was news reporting overcharging for water cost at subdivided flats. Despite having assistance from NGOs, no tenant of subdivided flat was willing to report their cases to WSD for investigation.

3. Given the above, WSD stepped up measure by conducting inspections on suspected subdivided flats from the second quarter of 2018. In April 2018, WSD obtained a list of buildings with suspected subdivided flats in Kwai Chung District from the Kwai Chung Subdivided Flats Residents Alliance, and carried out five rounds of inspections of those buildings in Kwai Chung District during May to July 2018 with a total of 49 flats identified as suspected subdivided flats. Whilst attempts to approach the tenants of these subdivided flats were made during the inspections, only two tenants answered the door. Both of them were not willing to provide information to WSD for investigation.

4. WSD will continue to work with the relevant NGOs and to conduct inspections on suspected subdivided flats in different districts.

Development Bureau
Water Supplies Department
August 2018