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本署檔號 : (3) in WSD/GRG 4-35/4/2/19 (TC 49/2019)  
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來函檔號 : CB4/PAC/R73  
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7 January 2020

Mr Anthony CHU  
Clerk to Public Accounts Committee  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Mr CHU

### Public Accounts Committee

#### Consideration of Chapter 1 of the Director of Audit's Report No. 73

#### Planning, provision and management of public toilets by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

I refer to your letter reference CB4/PAC/R73 dated 24 December 2019 to the Director of Water Supplies requesting information regarding Case 3 in paragraph 3.22 of Chapter 1 of the Director of Audit's Report No. 73.

Please note that the Waterworks Ordinance (WVO) (Cap. 102) does not apply to the Government and hence the concerned project of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) delivered by the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) as the works agent for conversion of an aqua privy into a flushing toilet (Toilet H). Notwithstanding, it has been the practice that ArchSD will follow the requirements of the WVO in the delivery of its projects including seeking approval of the Water Supplies Department (WSD) for its plumbing works.

As requested, the chronology of the case is provided in the attached Appendix A. We would also like to provide your requested information in the attached Appendix B.



If you need further information, please contact the undersigned.

Yours faithfully



( Vitus NG )

for Director of Water Supplies

Encl.

- c.c. Secretary for Development (fax no. 2801 5034)
- Secretary for Food and Health (fax no. 2526 3753)
- Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (fax no. 2524 1977)
- Director of Architectural Services (fax no. 2810 7341)
- Commissioner for Tourism (fax no. 2801 5792)
- Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (fax no. 2147 5239)
- Director of Audit (fax no. 2583 9063)

## Chronology

Item	(Mth .Yr)	Description
1	3.2012	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) submitted a water supply application to Water Supplies Department (WSD) for its project for conversion of an existing aqua privy into a flushing toilet (Toilet H).
2	8.2012	WSD approved the plumbing proposal submitted by Contractor C employed by Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) <sup>1</sup> which would require a new 25mm diameter (dia.) water main to provide supply of fresh water for general ablution, cleansing and flushing purposes in Toilet H. As the existing main providing supply of general ablution for the aqua privy was only 20mm dia., WSD requested ArchSD to design and lay a new 25mm dia. connection main of about 60 metres long outside the lot boundary of Toilet H to replace the existing 20mm dia. water main to meet the water demand.
3	8.2013	Upon reporting completion of the plumbing works in Toilet H by Contractor C, WSD conducted an inspection on the newly completed plumbing works and found that the plumbing works were generally in order. During the inspection, there was no water supply to the newly completed plumbing works in Toilet H and the new 25mm dia. connection water main for providing water supply to Toilet H was still outstanding. WSD thus requested FEHD to complete the new connection water main as soon as possible.

<sup>1</sup> ArchSD was the works agent of FEHD for the project.

## Appendix A

Item	(Mth .Yr)	Description
4	10.2013	WSD approved the alignment for the new 25mm dia. connection water main proposed by Contractor C.
5	9.2014	Contractor C submitted a revised proposed alignment to WSD for the new 25mm dia. connection water main.
6	10.2014	WSD approved the revised proposed alignment for the new 25mm dia. connection water main.
7	8.2015 – 11.2015	Contractor C submitted a revised plumbing proposal to WSD involving revision of the layout of the urinals, water pans etc. in the Male Toilet of Toilet H and the proposal was approved by WSD in November 2015.
8	7.2016	WSD reminded Contractor C to complete the plumbing works in the revised plumbing proposal in Item 7 above and the new 25mm dia. connection water main.
9	9.2016	In response to the reminder of WSD in Item 8 above, FEHD informed WSD that they decided to cancel the application for the water supply for Toilet H upon advice by ArchSD. WSD had no objection to the cancellation of the water supply application.
10	1.2017	Contractor C submitted a new application for water supply to Toilet H for flushing purpose and retaining the existing supply for general ablution (but not for cleansing purpose as in the previous application). The Contractor C also submitted a plumbing proposal proposing to use the existing 20mm dia. connection water main (previously providing water supply to the aqua privy) for providing water supply to Toilet H for general ablution and flushing purposes.

## Appendix A

Item	(Mth .Yr)	Description
11	2.2017	<p>As a follow-up of the cancellation of water supply application for Toilet H in Item 9 above, WSD carried out an inspection of Toilet H regarding the plumbing works in relation to the cancelled water supply application which might have to be dismantled. During the inspection, WSD observed that there was an extension from the existing 20mm dia. connection water main to provide water supply to the newly completed plumbing works under the water supply application in Items 1 and 2 above. As no permission had been given by WSD for such extension which was not in line with the requirement of the Waterworks Ordinance (Cap. 102), WSD requested FEHD/ArchSD to rectify the situation. Nevertheless, WSD noted the connection would not cause wastage of water nor risk of contamination to the water supply system. Besides, WSD noted that Contractor C had submitted a new application for water supply to Toilet H for flushing purpose in Item 10 above which proposed to use the existing 20mm dia. connection water main.</p>
12	9.2017	<p>After Contractor C addressed two rounds of comments by WSD on the new application for water supply to Toilet H in Item 10 above, WSD approved the new application which used the existing 20mm dia. connection water main to provide water to Toilet H for flushing purpose.</p>
13	2.2018	<p>After Contractor C submitted all related documents, completed minor modification at the connection point and installed the water meters, WSD inspected and authorised the water supply to Toilet H for flushing purpose.</p>

### Response to Item (a)

During the inspection in February 2017, Water Supplies Department (WSD) observed that there was an extension from the existing 20mm diameter (dia.) connection water main (previously for providing water supply to the aqua privy for general ablution purpose) to provide water supply to the newly completed plumbing works in Toilet H. As the plumbing proposal submitted by Contractor C of Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) and approved by WSD for the water supply application for Toilet H proposed to lay a new 25mm dia. connection water main from the government water main to provide water supply to Toilet H and no permission had been given by WSD for the extension the existing 20mm dia. connection water main, it did not conform to the requirement of Waterworks Ordinance (WWO) s14 (1) that “no person shall alter an inside service without permission from Water Authority”.

### Response to Item (b)

ArchSD had not informed WSD of the temporary arrangement of extension of the existing 20mm diameter (dia.) connection water main to provide water supply to the newly completed plumbing works in Toilet H. While there was no statutory obligation for ArchSD to inform WSD of the temporary arrangement, ArchSD or its Contractor C should seek permission from WSD for the alteration in the temporary arrangement in accordance with the practice.

### Response to Item (c)

Contractor C of ArchSD submitted a new water supply application for Toilet H in January 2017 for flushing purpose and retaining the existing supply for general ablution (but not for cleansing purpose as included in the previous water supply application). Contractor C also submitted a plumbing proposal proposing to use the existing 20mm dia. connection water main for providing water supply to Toilet H which should be sufficient for providing water supply for general ablution and flushing. The plumbing proposal after being revised to address the comments of WSD was in conformance with the requirements of WSD and the WWO. Therefore, WSD approved the new water supply application and the plumbing proposal without exercising any discretion.