

**Extract of the minutes of meeting
of the Home Affairs Panel on 27 July 1998**

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V. Any other business

Briefing on Hotel Accommodation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 1998

[Paper No. CB(2)81/98-99(04)]

28. Members noted the information paper on Hotel Accommodation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 1998. Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs 5 (PAS(HA)5) informed members that the Bill sought to amend the definition of “hotel” and “guesthouse” to the effect that establishments which offered accommodation to limited categories of persons and to guests only with prior reservations would fall within the jurisdiction of the Hotel and Guesthouse Accommodation Ordinance (the Ordinance) (Cap. 349).

29. In response to a member’s enquiry, PAS(HA)5 confirmed that the proposed definition of “hotel” and “guesthouse” would exclude service apartments which offered accommodation on the basis of tenancy agreement for one month or more. The Secretary for Home Affairs could exempt this category of establishments from licensing by issuing an order under section 3 of the Ordinance.

30. A member pointed out that holiday flats were put under regulation of the Ordinance upon its enactment in 1991. He asked whether the Administration would consider excluding these holiday flats from the licensing scheme under the Ordinance, having regard to the fact that most of these holiday flats were situated in low-rise buildings and had lower fire risks. In response, PAS(HA)5 said that the Administration had considered the views of the holiday flats operators. Since such flats were low-rise, the Administration agreed that holiday flats should be subjected to slightly different licensing requirements according to their fire and building risks. In this connection, Chief Officer/Office of the Licensing Authority confirmed that less stringent licensing requirements would be imposed on holiday flats. At the member’s request, PAS(HA)5 undertook to provide further information to the Panel highlighting the differences in licensing requirements for holiday flats and hotels/guesthouses.

Adm

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