

政府總部房屋局  
**Letterhead of Government Secretariat Housing Bureau**

Our Ref. HB(CR) 3/2/49  
Your Ref.

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12 December 1998

Secretary General  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
Legislative Council Building  
8 Jackson Road  
Central  
Hong Kong

(Attn: Mr Charles Foo)

Dear Mr Foo,

**The Majority Rule for allocation of  
public housing flats to Waiting List applicants**

I refer to your letter dated 3 December 1998 on the captioned subject.

Government is fully aware of the long-term housing needs of new arrivals from the mainland of China. The seven-year residence rule has been established in view of the limited housing resources and the high level of demand for public rental housing from longer-term residents. New arrivals are encouraged and allowed to register on the waiting list for public rental housing so that their applications can be considered once they have fulfilled the seven years' residence rule.

New arrivals who are dependants of applicants already on the waiting list for public rental housing can be included as family members, but allocation of a flat is subject to the majority of the family members having met the seven years' residence rule. Those who are dependants of existing tenants e.g. spouse, unmarried children below the age of 18, etc.

are allowed to join their families in public rental housing and interim housing. Where this results in overcrowded living conditions, these households can apply for transfer to larger flats. Likewise, new arrivals can also take residence in Home Ownership Scheme or Sandwich Class Housing flats if they are dependants of the owners.

Finally, in implementing the residence rule, the Housing Department will exercise flexibility to deal with these genuinely deserving cases for compassionate rehousing on medical or social grounds, upon the recommendation of the Social Welfare Department.

Yours sincerely,

(Ms Lorna Wong)  
for Secretary for Housing

c.c. HB(CR) 4/1/11