

香港特別行政區政府

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

規劃地政局的信頭

Letterhead of PLANNING and LANDS BUREAU

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13 June 2000

Miss Odelia Leung
Clerk to Bills Committee on the
Urban Renewal Authority Bill
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Miss Leung,

**Bills Committee on the
Urban Renewal Authority Bill**

Thank you for your letter of today's date.

Our response to the points raised by Members is as follows:

(a) Clause 12(1)

Clause 12(1) of the Urban Renewal Authority Bill (the Bill) provides that:

“(1) The Authority may lend money on such terms and conditions as the Authority thinks fit to any person or persons for the purposes of implementing a project of the Authority.”

The Urban Renewal Authority (URA) is empowered to lend money “to any person or persons” and this description includes property owners and tenants. We do not think it is necessary to state explicitly in this clause that the URA may lend money to property owners and tenants affected by land resumption for URA projects.

(b) New clause 17A(2)

We are prepared to revise new clause 17A(2) (public consultation before finalizing the urban renewal strategy). We will let Members have our revised Committee Stage Amendment (CSA) on this shortly.

(c) Flow chart

A flow chart showing the major steps in processing objections to a development project is at the Annex.

(d) Clause 21(3)

We propose to add the following to clause 21(3) of the Bill:

“an assessment by the Authority as to the likely effect of the implementation of the development project including, in relation to the residential accommodation of persons who will be displaced by the implementation of the development project, an assessment as to whether or not, insofar as suitable residential accommodation for such persons does not already exist, arrangements can be made for the provision of such residential accommodation in advance of any such displacement which will result as the development project is implemented”.

The above formulation is similar to that in clause 22(3)(c) of the Bill. We will let Members have our CSA on this shortly.

(e) New Clause 23B(8)

We now propose to delete new clause 23B(8) and (9) and amend clause 23B(7) accordingly. The effect of this is that the hearing of an appeal shall be in public.

(f) Costs

New clause 23B(16) provides that the Appeal Board may order any party to an appeal, including the appellant, the Secretary for Planning and Lands or the URA, to pay the costs and expenses incurred by the Appeal Board in hearing and determining the appeal.

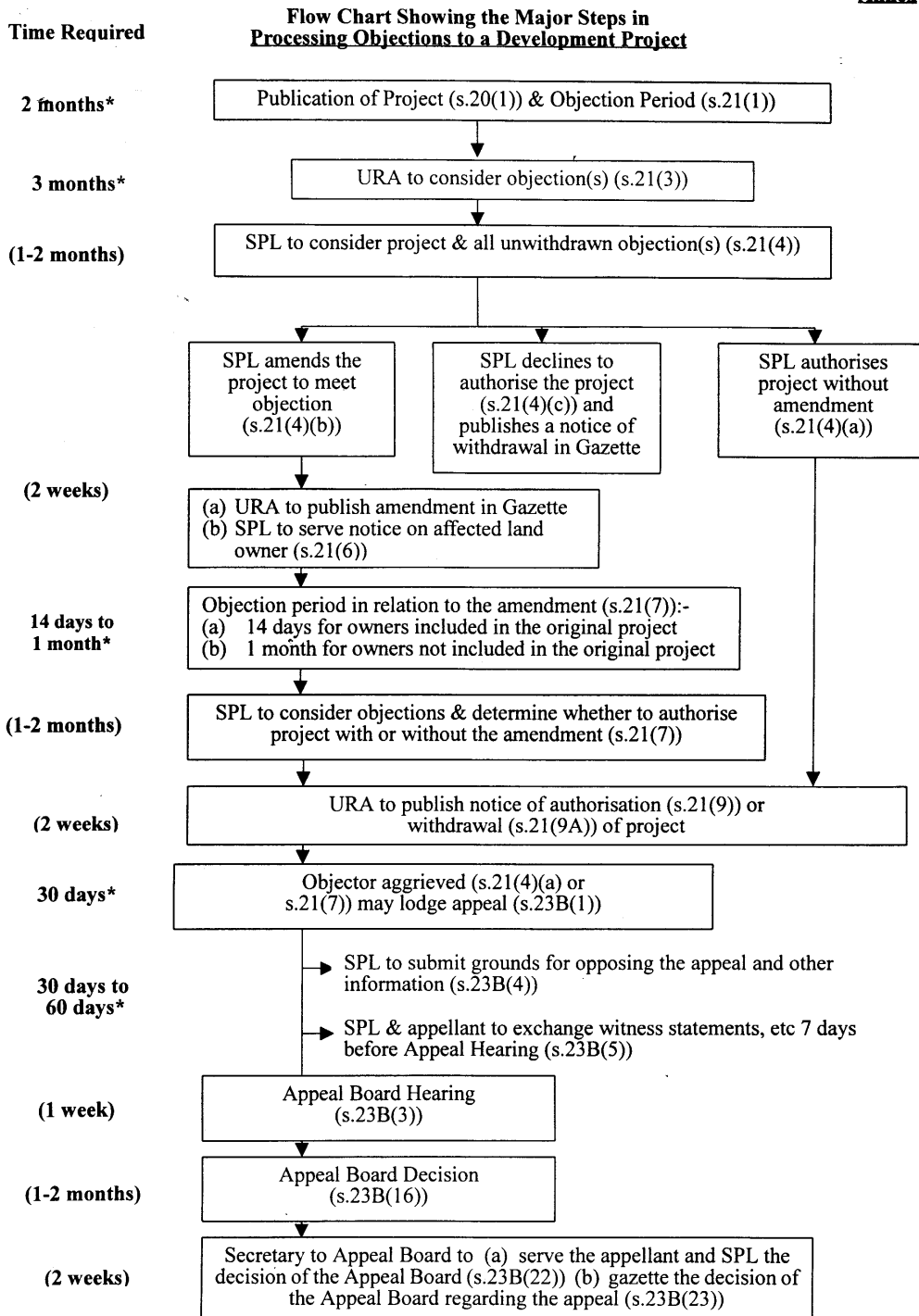
On the basis of the costs and expenses of the Town Planning Appeal Board, we estimate the costs and expenses for the Appeal Board to be established under clause 23A would be about \$24,000 for a 2-day appeal hearing.

Yours sincerely,

(Stephen Fisher)
for Secretary for Planning and Lands

c.c. Department of Justice
(Attn: Mr J D Scott and Ms R Chai)

Director of Planning
(Attn: Mr T K Lee)



Total Time = 12 to 17 months (about)

* statutory time period
() estimated time (non-statutory)