

Bills Committee on Urban Renewal Authority Bill

Concerns raised at the meeting on 2 May 2000

Members requested the Administration -

- (a) to consider redrafting clause 32(5) in line with section 41(1) of the Mass Transit Railway Corporation Ordinance concerning employment-related matters;
- (b) to confirm whether the Urban Renewal Authority (URA) can ever revise the terms of employment of existing staff of Land Development Corporation who become the employees of URA after the passing of the Bill. The Administration is also requested to clarify whether the terms of employment could be changed on renewal of contract and advise how the Mass Transit Railway Ordinance deals with this issue;
- (c) to advise the decision of the Administration on the executive vis-à-vis the non-executive Chairman model;
- (d) to review the need to confer the Financial Secretary with the power to approve a draft corporate plan or a draft business plan with amendments under clause 18(4) and clause 19(5) respectively;
- (e) to review clause 26(4) as to whether entry into premises by force is an effective mean to ensure completion of a freezing survey of residents within a project area. Members are of the view that the Administration should consider other equally effective but non-violent means which will be more acceptable to the general public, such as by imposing heavy fines for obstructing URA from entering and inspecting premises under clause 26(7); and
- (f) to consider stipulating the consultation mechanism for formulating the Urban Renewal Strategy (URS) in the Bill. Some members are of the view that the Bill should also define URS.

Legislative Council Secretariat

2 May 2000

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PLB(UR) 25/00/04 (00) ^{Pt. 2}
CB1/BC/9/99

4 May 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 2 May 2000.

Our response to the points set out in the second paragraph of your letter is as follows:

- (a) we are prepared to consider adding a new sub-clause to clause 32 of the Urban Renewal Authority Bill similar to section 41(1) of the Mass Transit Railway Corporation Ordinance (Ord. No. 13 of 2000);
- (b) our intention is that employment with the Land Development Corporation and the Urban Renewal Authority (URA) should for all purposes be deemed to be a single continuing employment. The terms of employment may be changed subsequently by mutual agreement between the employees and the URA;
- (c) we will advise Members of our considered position concerning the chairmanship of the URA Board as soon as possible;

- (d) we are prepared to consider deleting the words “with or without amendments” from clause 18(4)(a) and from clause 19(5)(a);
- (e) we consider that clause 26(4) is necessary as a deterrent and as a last resort to deal with very exceptional cases; and
- (f) we are prepared to consider adding the words “, after public consultation,” after “the Secretary” in clause 18(3)(a).

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)