

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

**Supplementary Information
on the Preliminary Agreement
between the Government and the Housing Authority**

Introduction

At the Bills Committee meeting held on 26 April 2000, Members considered our paper entitled “Rehousing Arrangements for Tenants Affected by the Resumption of Land for Urban Renewal Authority Projects – Preliminary Agreement with the Housing Authority”. Members have asked for further information concerning the preliminary agreement.

Background

2. The Housing Authority (HA) has agreed in principle to be one of the rehousing agents for the Urban Renewal Authority (URA). A Memorandum of Understanding will be signed between the HA and the URA in respect of the agreed arrangements when the URA is established.

3. The HA will make the following arrangements to assist the URA in rehousing affected tenants:

- (a) an annual quota of up to 1,000 public housing units and interim housing units;
- (b) affected tenants may be offered a one-year advanced allocation under the Anticipatory Housing Scheme of the HA; and

- (c) the HA will consider offering Green Form status to eligible affected tenants for the purpose of applying for various subsidized home ownership schemes administered by the HA, including the Home Ownership Scheme, the Private Sector Participation Scheme, the Buy or Rent Option and the Home Purchase Loan Scheme.

4. The annual quota provided by the HA will be drawn mainly from casual vacancies which may arise from HA's existing public housing estates. New housing units may also be allocated. A choice of flats will be offered to affected tenants, but local rehousing cannot be guaranteed.

Supplementary Information

5. Under the preliminary agreement, the URA will inform the HA of the types of public rental housing units to be required for the coming year. The units required will be classified in terms of flat size and geographical location. The HA will reserve the required units for the URA as far as practicable.

6. The HA will allocate public rental housing units to the URA in batches. The URA will be responsible for allocating these public rental housing units to affected tenants who have fulfilled HA's eligibility requirements.

7. The URA will pool the public rental housing units provided by the HA and the Housing Society so as to enhance the flexibility of the URA in making rehousing arrangements for affected tenants.

8. If an affected tenant is not eligible for public rental housing and has a justifiable reason for not accepting other forms of housing assistance, then the URA may offer cash compensation.

9. If an affected tenant has received cash compensation in lieu of rehousing, he/she will not be eligible for public housing assistance for a specified period of time.

Planning and Lands Bureau
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