

**LegCo Panel on Housing
Follow-up to Meeting on 3 April 2000**

**Supplementary Information on
Shared Accommodation in Public Rental Housing**

Purpose

As requested by Members at the LegCo Panel on Housing meeting held on 3 April 2000, this paper provides further information on shared accommodation in public rental housing.

Current Situation

2. The breakdown on the number of shared tenancies with unrelated members including information on the number of these households which are staying in blocks due for redevelopment as at 20 April 2000 is shown at **Annex**. It should be noted that in this paper, the term “shared tenancies” only refers to those households under the category of “sharing arranged by the Housing Department”. Under this category, the parties concerned were **individually screened** or registered under **independent/separate** applications but were subsequently rehoused to one public housing flat by the Housing Department due to an acute shortage of one-person flats.

Existing Policies

Addition

3. Residents belonging to the “sharing with prior consent” category who apply for public rental housing **under one single application form/screening form** are regarded as **ordinary** households. For these households, parties other than the tenants would be treated as authorized persons only. If they request for addition of family members, the prevailing “addition policy” will apply which only allows the tenant’s spouse, dependent parents or dependent children under the age of 18 to be added into the tenancy.

4. For households under the “sharing arranged by the Housing Department” category, all parties in possession of separate application numbers will be termed **sharers** who will have equal status with the tenants in respect of addition of family members.

Splitting

5. As regards the requests for splitting, the Housing Department will continue to give priority to satisfying the housing need of applicants and their families **at the time of application** in accordance with its existing policy. It would be unfair to applicants on the Waiting List and difficult for the Department to entertain indefinitely subsequent requests for additional units due to family growth.

6. Owing to different historical background, it is advisable to adopt a flexible approach in dealing with requests for splitting from sharers and normal households. The Housing Department will continue to take action in resolving dispute cases concerning sharers according to individual merits. For cases involving “sharing with prior consent” households, the prevailing policy that no splitting should **normally** be allowed would be upheld in order to prevent queue jumping as the households concerned are regarded as ordinary households only. Certainly, the Housing Department will respond positively to cases that warrant special consideration.

Housing Department
May 2000

**Shared Tenancies with Unrelated Members
(position as at 20.4.2000)**

	In Comprehensive Redevelopment Programme (CRP) Blocks		In non- CRP Blocks	Total
	Operations Announced	Operations Not Yet Announced		
Elderly Tenancies (Persons involved)	76 (163)	49 (103)	1192 (2640)	1317 (2906)
Non-elderly Tenancies (Persons involved)	50 (238)	34 (149)	657 (2586)	741 (2973)
Total Tenancies (Persons involved)	126 (401)	83 (252)	1849 (5226)	2058 (5879)

Note: Elderly tenancies refer to those with all family members aged 60 or above while non-elderly tenancies refer to all those other than elderly tenancies.