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11 February 2000

Ms Mary Tang
Clerk to the LegCo Panel on Housing
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong

LegCo Panel on Housing
Follow-up to Special Meeting on 21 January 2000

I refer to your letter of 22 January 2000 requesting the Administration to provide the time frame for implementing policy and legislative changes to put the Housing Authority's construction works under the ambit of the Buildings Ordinance.

The Administration is fully aware of Members' concern about the subject and is examining the implications of the proposal. However, as rightly pointed out by the Secretary for Planning and Lands in his speech delivered during the Motion Debate on the review of the Buildings Ordinance at the LegCo sitting of 26 January 2000, a number of policy, legal, technical and resource issues require careful consideration. (Extract of Secretary for Planning and Lands' speech is enclosed at Annex.) Hence, it would not be appropriate for the Administration to rush to a decision.

The Administration will keep Members informed of developments. Members can rest assured that both the Administration and the Housing Authority take an open and responsible attitude towards the current review on building quality and will not compromise public safety.

Yours sincerely,

(Andrew Wells)
for Secretary for Housing

c.c. Chairman, Hong Kong Housing Authority
Secretary for Planning and Lands
Director of Housing
Director of Buildings