

Bills Committee on Buildings (Amendment) Bill 2003

**List of follow-up actions arising from the discussion
at the meeting on 6 November 2003**

The Administration was requested -

- (a) to provide a sample rates demand note which contains a note that the charging of rates on a structure did not connote its legality;
- (b) to consider the feasibility of introducing mandatory or voluntary arbitration to resolve disputes between owners' corporations (OCs) and individual owners in connection with compliance with statutory orders served under the Buildings Ordinance (Cap. 123);
- (c) to consider the feasibility of operating an advisory service counter in the Lands Tribunal (LT) to help resolve disputes between OCs and individual owners in connection with compliance with statutory orders served under BO;
- (d) to advise how far individual owners could seek redress from LT under the Tenth Schedule to the Building Management Ordinance (Cap. 344) in relation to disputes with OCs concerning compliance with statutory orders served under BO;
- (e) to advise whether a reference letter from a registered social worker could be accepted for the purpose of supporting applications for interest-free loans under the Building Safety Loan Scheme from owners who might not fall within the low income category (if the assessment was made in terms of total household income) but whose family members habitually did not contribute to the family expenditure;
- (f) to advise the outcome of the Administration's examination of the feasibility of providing for separate penalties for minor works. A member suggested that a tier penalty system might be considered such as providing for penalties for summary conviction and conviction on indictment; and
- (g) to co-ordinate the attendance of the Home Affairs Department to attend the meetings of the Bills Committee scheduled for 11 or 27 November 2003 to discuss the issue relating to uncooperative owners.