Bills Committee on Landlord and Tenant (Consolidation)(Amendment) Bill 2003

Consolidated list of follow-up actions arising from previous meetings (as at 30 January 2004)

| Date of meeting | List of follow-up actions | Administration's response |
|------------------|--|---|
| 20 November 2003 | (a) To provide the Administration's response to concerns raised by the Hong Kong Bar Association on the proposed relaxation of security of tenure for domestic tenancies. | Administration's response issued for the meeting on 18 December 2003 (CB(1)585/03-04(08)) |
| | (b) To provide information on tenancies of leased premises of different rateable values (RV), particularly those of lower RV which comprise major dwellings of lowincome households. | - ditto - |
| | (c) To provide details of the respondents of the telephone survey, including their status (landlord/tenant) and monthly household income. | - ditto - |
| | (d) To advise the assumptions, including the forecast in flat supply (with figures), which the Administration has made in reaching the conclusion that the proposed relaxation of security of tenure is timely and has no significant implications on tenants, particularly those low-income households. | - ditto - |
| | (e) To provide a flow chart showing the time frames and the procedures through which a landlord can repossess his premises upon expiry of the tenancy agreement after enactment of the Bill as opposed to that under the prevailing repossession process. To also include in the paper the actions which the landlord may take if the tenant refuses to move out of the premises. | Administration's response issued for the meeting on 18 December 2003 (CB(1)602/03-04(05)) |
| | (f) To relay to the Urban Renewal Authority (URA) members the concern that URA will not have to pay any statutory compensation upon redevelopment as a result of the relaxation of security of tenure provisions, which is at variance with its people-oriented approach and contrary to legitimate expectation. To also request URA to prepare a paper setting out the prevailing compensation mechanism in the event of redevelopment. | Administration's response issued for the meeting on 18 December 2003 (CB(1)585/03-04(08)) |

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| | (g) To seriously consider making it a standing arrangement so that past beneficiaries of subsidized home ownership schemes who could not afford private accommodation can be allowed to apply for public rental housing. | - ditto - | | | | |
| | (h) To provide an implementation time-table showing the time frames and sequence of events, including transitional arrangements, after all the proposals in the Bill come into full operation. | - ditto - | | | | |
| 18 December 2003 | (a) To provide a paper (with illustrations) explaining the prevailing compensation mechanism under which compensation, both statutory and ex gratia, is paid to tenants and landlords, including those of leased, vacant and self-occupied premises, in the event of redevelopment. | URA's paper issued for the meeting on 19 January 2004 (CB(1)792/03-04(01)) | | | | |
| | (b) To include in the paper - (i) measures which the Urban Renewal Authority (URA) adopts to assist those tenants who have been evicted before redevelopment commences; and | - ditto - | | | | |
| | (ii) eligibility criteria for compensation for self-occupied premises.(c) To compare the existing compensation mechanism with that after the enactment of the Bill. | - ditto - | | | | |

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|-----------------|-----|---|---|
| 9 January 2004 | (a) | To advise the share of tenancies to be affected by the urban renewal programme as opposed to that of the entire property rental market. | Response awaited |
| | (b) | To critically examine the adequacy of leaving two months for the public to be informed of the legislative changes before the appointed date to implement the Bill taking into account the far-reaching implications of the removal of security of tenure on the existing some 260 000 tenants/sub-tenants. The sudden surge in applications for tenancy renewal within the two-month period will inevitably have an impact on the capacity of the Lands Tribunal. | Response awaited |
| | (c) | To provide a list of suggested information which a landlord may require a potential tenant to provide, on a voluntary basis and without contravening privacy protection, before deciding whether or not to let his property to the tenant. | Administration's response issued for the meeting on 19 January 2004 (CB(1)792/03-04(04)) |
| | (d) | To obtain from the Police the following information - | Administration's response issued for the meeting on 2 February 2004 |
| | | (i) number of reports of alleged offences which emanate from tenancy disputes between landlords and tenants, such as vandalization and default in rent payment, over the past five years; | ((CB(1)901/03-04(02)) |
| | | (ii) number of prosecution against the provision of false information by both landlords and tenants under the Theft Ordinance (Cap. 210) over the past five years; and | |
| | | (iii) revised internal guidelines on the procedures to be adopted in dealing with tenancy disputes in the light of the Landlord and Tenant (Consolidation) (Amendment) Ordinance 2002. | |
| | (e) | To provide, before 29 January 2004, a paper on the feasibility of further streamlining the repossession procedures after the removal of the security of tenure provisions. | Administration's response issued for the meeting on 2 February 2004 ((CB(1)886/03-04(01)) |

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| | (f) To advise the prevailing eligibility criteria for public rental housing (PRH) and the assistance available, from both Government and non-government organizations, to those past beneficiaries of subsidized home ownership schemes who could not afford rented accommodation in the private sector. Consideration should also be given to offering PRH to tenants evicted as a result of the enactment of the Bill. | Administration's response issued for the meeting on 19 January 2004 (CB(1)792/03-04(04)) |
| 19 January 2004 | (a) To ensure impartiality, consideration should be given to offering clearees of the remaining 12 projects of the former Land Development Council (LDC) compensation similar to their counterparts of the previous 13 completed or announced LDC projects or at least give them better terms than other Urban Renewal Authority projects in future. | Response awaited |
| | (b) To provide details of each of the completed LDC projects, including the number of clearees, their choice between rehousing and ex gratia payment, problems encountered such as human problems. | Response awaited |
| | (c) To ascertain the adequacy of the level of assistance to be offered to clearees who are not eligible for rehousing to public housing after the enactment of the Bill. | Response awaited |
| | (d) To avoid possible abuse, consideration should be given to extending the restriction periods for compensation and application for public housing for clearees who have already received compensation in a redevelopment exercise. | Response awaited |

Council Business Division 1 <u>Legislative Council Secretariat</u> 30 January 2004