

立法會
Legislative Council

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Report for the House Committee meeting on 16 May 2003

**Non-attendance of government officials at
the meeting of the Panel on Housing on 5 May 2003**

Purpose

This paper reports on the non-attendance of government officials at the meeting of the Panel on Housing on 5 May 2003.

Sequence of events

2. On 7 April 2003, the Clerk to the Panel on Housing issued a letter inviting representatives of the Administration to attend the regular Panel meeting on 5 May 2003 for two discussion items, including item V on “Review of the policy on single-operator markets” which was scheduled to start at 3:30 pm. The Administration was requested to provide the bilingual discussion papers together with the attendance list before 28 April 2003. On 30 April 2003, the Administration forwarded the relevant information paper together with the names of the two officers, namely Mr Chris Roberts and Mr CHEUNG Kin-fat, who would attend for discussion of the item.

3. On the day of the meeting, i.e. 5 May 2003, discussion on item IV was completed as scheduled. There was however no sight of the relevant government officials when members were ready to proceed with the discussion of the item on “Review of the policy on single-operator markets”. At the instruction of the Chairman, the meeting was adjourned for 10 minutes during which the Clerk got in touch with the Administration and was given to understand that due to communication problem on the part of the Administration, the two government officials were not aware of the exact timing of the meeting and thus not able to attend for discussion of the item. The Chairman has no choice but to defer the discussion on the item to the next meeting on 2 June 2003. The Panel considered it necessary to bring the matter to the attention of the House Committee.

4. Following the incident, Mr C M LEUNG, Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands (Housing), sent two letters to the Chairman on 5 and 7 May, apologizing for the inconvenience caused and admitting internal miscommunication over the meeting arrangements. The two letters are attached at Appendices I and II.

Advice sought

5. Members are invited to advise on the way forward on how the matter should be dealt with.

Prepared by
Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
15 May 2003

立法會房屋事務委員會
陳鑑林主席

立法會房屋事務委員會
檢討房屋委員會的整體承租街市

立法會房屋事務委員會今天下午原定討論「房屋委員會整體承租街市」問題，惜由於房屋署負責人員對開會時間有所誤會，以致沒有出席會議，令房屋事務委員會未能如期就有關議題進行討論。

我對房屋署人員未能準時出席房屋事務委員會會議深感遺憾。此事引致委員會主席和委員不便，我謹此向閣下及各委員衷心抱歉。我們會就事件作深入調查，如發現有失職情況，必會採取適當處分。

我得悉這個議題會在六月的會議再行討論，房屋署人員一定會準時出席，解答有關問題。

房屋及規劃地政局常任秘書長(房屋)
梁展文

二零零三年五月五日

立法會房屋事務委員會
陳鑑林主席及各委員

立法會房屋事務委員會
檢討房屋委員會的整體承租街市

就立法會房屋事務委員會，於本年五月五日，在將討論以上議題時，因房屋署負責人員沒有準時出席會議，而令委員會未能就有關議題進行討論一事，我已即時對這事件作出深入的調查，現向委員會匯報調查結果。

根據調查結果顯示，四月初當本署在接獲委員會邀請出席有關會議後，房屋署負責人員已馬上着手草擬有關討論文件，並指定了出席該次會議人員的名單。然而，由於有關通知開會時間的文件，因通訊上的失誤，加上溝通上的不足，而使指定出席人員未能收到確切開會時間的通知，故造成誤會，而未有準時出席會議。

從是次調查中，我們亦認識到，雖然這次事件主要是技術上出了問題，並不涉及因個別員工的失職行為而構成錯失，但調查結果的確反映了我們制度上有不足的地方，以至訊息未能及時得以傳達，而造成了這次罕見的失誤。

在此，我希望就這事件對房屋事務委員會帶來的不便，再次向你及各委員致歉。最重要的是，在找出事件的原因後，我已針對問題的關鍵，包括內部溝通及通訊系統的改善等，採取了措施，以加強保障現行制度，確保今後不會有同類情況發生。

房屋及規劃地政局常任秘書長(房屋)
梁展文

二零零三年五月七日