

**Government
Property Agency**
政府產業署

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9 January 2003

BY FAX 2537 1204

Clerk of Public Accounts Committee
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong

(Attn : Mr Colin CHUI)

Dear Mr Chui

**The Public Accounts Committee's consideration of
the Director of Audit's Report No. 27**

Departmental quarters for the disciplined services

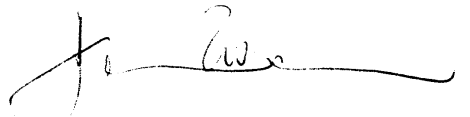
Thank you for your letter of 20 December 2002. You asked whether the de-leasing of leased departmental quarters (DQs) of the Police will result in the return of DQs to the Government Property Agency (GPA) and, if so, how the returned DQs will be disposed of. You also asked the same question in relation to the proposed revision to the Accommodation Regulations (ARs). These will be dealt with separately below.

In respect of your first enquiry, the Committee may wish to note that the demand and supply position of officer grade DQs of the Police is very different from that at the time of the Audit Report. As at 1 November 2002, officer grade DQs of the Police stood at 586 whilst the demand was 693, producing a shortfall of 107. Against this background, the remaining 15 leased quarters out of the original 95 would only be de-leased when the provision of owned replacements so permits. Also de-leasing would not result in the return of DQs to the Agency.

In respect of your second enquiry relating to the revision of ARs, the Committee may wish to note that in consultation with concerned departments and bureaux, proposals have been formulated to separately define quarters provided for specific policy purposes and those provided to meet operational requirements and to tighten the definition, designation, allocation and monitoring of the latter.

Comments from bureaux/departments on the proposed revisions have been addressed and the Administration is working on promulgating the revised ARs as soon as possible. However, the revision of ARs in this respect will not result in quarters being found surplus to requirements. Overall the position as regards DQs in the disciplined services departments as at 1 November 2002 was that the supply of DQs stood at 21 908, whilst the demand was 25 935. There was an overall shortfall of over 4 000 units.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Maria Kwan', written in a cursive style.

(Ms Maria Kwan)
Government Property Administrator

cc Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury
(Attn : Mr Victor Ng)

Secretary for Security
(Attn : Mr D Hooi)