

財經事務及庫務局
(庫務科)

香港下亞厘畢道
中區政府合署



FINANCIAL SERVICES AND THE
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5 December 2003

Ms Miranda HON
Clerk, Public Accounts Committee
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong
(Fax: 2537 1204)

Dear Ms HON,

**The Director of Audit's Report on the
results of value for money audits (Report No. 41)**

**Chapter 2: Public markets managed by the
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department**

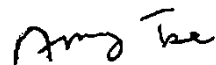
Thank you for your letter of 4 December.

As the Government Property Administrator rightly pointed out in paragraph 6.17 of the Audit Report, public markets are specialist buildings. In line with established policy, the responsibility for the management and use of such buildings rests with the user departments concerned.

With particular reference to the vacant premises cited in the Report, it should be noted that these consist entirely of market stalls. They were specifically designed and built as an integral part of the public markets which will continue to be operated and managed by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department. Any proposals for their alternative use must therefore have due regard to the

compatibility of use, effective operation and efficient management of the public markets proper. With these considerations in mind, it would be appropriate for the Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene to continue to identify alternative use for the surplus market stalls and putting the vacant premises into beneficial use. The Government Property Agency will be pleased to offer assistance and advice in resolving the problems.

Yours sincerely,



(Miss Amy Tse)
for Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury

c.c. Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Government Property Administrator
Director of Audit
Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury
(Attn: Mrs Avia Lai and Mr Manfred Wong)