

香港特別行政區政府
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

房屋及規劃地政局
香港花園道美利大廈



**Housing, Planning and Lands
Bureau**

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17 November 2003

Clerk to LegCo Panel on Housing
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong
(Attn: Ms Sarah Yuen)

Dear Ms Yuen,

**Burning Incense for Worshipping
in the Public Area of Public Housing Estates**

I refer to your letter of 28 October relaying to us the Honourable Andrew Wong Wang-fat's concern over the burning of incense in public areas of public housing estates.

The Housing Department is committed to the faithful enforcement of the terms of tenancy in day-to-day estate management. Under Clause II(12) of the tenancy agreement, tenants should not "do or cause or permit to be done in or upon the said premises or stairs or passages or lifts leading thereto anything that may be or become a nuisance or annoyance to the Landlord or to any of the other occupants of the building of which the said premises forms part". While tenants enjoy freedom of religion and are allowed to perform religious rites inside their flats, such activities must not cause nuisance to other tenants.

If tenants cause nuisance by burning incense and joss paper in public areas, estate management staff will give them verbal advice or written warning to stop the nuisance. If joss-paper containers block the corridors or staircase access, we will issue warnings, allot penalty points and may even terminate the tenancy under the Marking Scheme for Tenancy Enforcement in Public Rental and Interim Housing Estates.

In consideration of customary practice and requests of tenants, during festivals such as Yu Lan Festival, we usually designate suitable open spaces in public housing estates and arrange the necessary facilities for incense and joss-paper burning. This is to prevent nuisance caused by tenants performing rituals in unsuitable public areas.

Please let me know if you require further information.

Yours sincerely,

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

(Miss Joey LAM)
for Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands