

**The Administration's Responses to Members' Requests
Raised at the Meetings of the Bills Committee on
Housing (Amendment) Bill 2007
on 17 April 2007 and 26 April 2007**

The consumer price index, nominal wage index and real wage index series for the period between 1996 and 2006 are set out as follows –

Index	Period										
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Apr 05 - Mar 06
Income Index (1996 = 100)	100.0 --	107.2 (7.2%)	110.2 (2.8%)	105.1 (-4.6%)	105.0 (-0.1%)	105.5 (0.5%)	98.7 (-6.4%)	93.3 (-5.5%)	93.2 (-0.1%)	93.7 (0.5%)	94.8 (1.2%)
CPI(A) (Oct 04 - Sept 05 = 100)	104.6 --	110.6 (5.7%)	113.5 (2.6%)	109.8 (-3.3%)	106.6 (-2.9%)	104.8 (-1.7%)	101.4 (-3.2%)	99.3 (-2.1%)	99.3 (0%)	100.3 (1%)	100.7 (0.4%)
CPI(A) (excl. housing expenditure) (Oct 04 - Sept 05 = 100)	100.0 --	104.5 (4.5%)	107.1 (2.5%)	104.1 (-2.8%)	102.2 (-1.8%)	101.4 (-0.8%)	99.1 (-2.3%)	97.3 (-1.8%)	98.9 (1.6%)	100.2 (1.3%)	100.3 (0.1%)
Nominal Wage Index (September 1992 = 100)	136.0 --	144.9 (6.5%)	150.2 (3.7%)	149.6 (-0.4%)	150.4 (0.5%)	151.6 (0.8%)	150.1 (-1%)	147.2 (-1.9%)	145.5 (-1.2%)	146.7 (0.8%)	146.9 (0.1%)
Real Wage Index (September 1992 = 100)	103.2 --	104.2 (1%)	104.4 (0.2%)	108.3 (3.7%)	112.2 (3.6%)	116.1 (3.5%)	117.5 (1.2%)	117.7 (0.2%)	116.3 (-1.2%)	115.8 (-0.4%)	115.6 (-0.2%)

Notes:

- (a) Figures in brackets denote year-on-year change.
- (b) CPI(A) is compiled by the Census and Statistics Department on a monthly basis.

- (c) CPI(A) covers households with monthly expenditure ranging from \$4,000 to \$15,499, excluding recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA).
- (d) Wage index is compiled by the Census and Statistics Department at quarterly intervals based on the data collected from the Labour Earnings Survey (LES).

2. It should be pointed out that wage index only reflects the changes in wage levels of those in employment and relates only to the average of the wage rate of individual employees. It does not capture the impact on household income brought about by changes in the number of working members in a household. In addition, the LES is an establishment survey covering companies and firms in various major industries, excluding self-employed workers such as those in trades of hawkers, construction workers and self-employed taxi drivers/public light bus drivers/lorry drivers. Given these limitations, the movement in wage indices may have little bearing on the movement in the household income of PRH tenants, which is captured by the income index.

3. Since 1997, 36,500 applications have been approved under the HA's Rent Assistance Scheme (RAS). We do not have record on the number of rejection cases or the detailed breakdown of applications by household size groups. As at the end of February 2007, there were some 14,000 households receiving rent assistance and the breakdown by household size groups is as follows.

Household Size	Number of live RAS cases as at end Feb 2007	%
1p	3 212	22.9%
2p	4 058	29.0%
3p	2 131	15.2%
4p	2 822	20.2%
5p+	1 779	12.7%
Overall	14 002	100.0%