

**The Administration's response
regarding the follow-up action arising from the meeting (public hearing)
of the Legislative Council Panel on Development
on 23 November 2010**

Purpose

The Administration has been requested to explain why its intended sale of Inland Lot No. 564 (“the Lot”) which is currently being occupied by the West Wing of Central Government Offices (CGO) is not inconsistent with the public purpose for which the Lot was resumed.

The Administration's Response

2. The Lot had been held under a Government Lease with a leasehold term of 999 years from 10.3.1883. According to the record of the Land Registry, its former owner was “The Hong Kong Land Investment and Agency Company Limited”. To facilitate the carrying out of the “New Government House and City Development Scheme”¹ (the Scheme), the Lot was resumed by Government in 1934 under the then Crown Lands Resumption Ordinance (the Ordinance) for a public purpose. The Lot has subsequently been used as government offices since the West Wing building was constructed in 1959.

3. Whilst the Scheme (for which the Lot was resumed) was not implemented, the Lot has been used for government offices since 1959. Given the fact that the Lot has been used for the purpose of housing offices of different government departments for many years up to now, the original purpose of the resumption under the Ordinance had been satisfied. Moreover, since the Lot had been formally reverted to Government subsequent to the resumption before it was used for the construction of the West Wing building, the Government's current plan to redevelop the West Wing site is not bound by the original resumption. The currently proposed West Wing redevelopment scheme is not inconsistent with the original purpose of the resumption.

¹ Proposed in early 1930's, the Scheme would involve the development of the area between Queen's Road Central and Lower Albert Road and relocation of the Government House to Magazine Gap. Due to the state of the economy, the Scheme was officially abandoned in 1939.

Development Bureau
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