

政制及內地事務局  
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8 June 2012

Clerk to the Establishment Subcommittee  
(Attn: Ms Connie SZETO)  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central  
Hong Kong

Dear Ms SZETO,

**Establishment Subcommittee**

**Follow-up to meeting on 6 June 2012**

At the meeting of the Establishment Committee of the Finance Committee (FC) of the Legislative Council (LegCo) on 6 June 2012, the Administration was requested to provide information on the official residences for the former Governors, Chief Executive and the three Secretaries of Department. The reply of the Administration is as follows:

According to the record of the Administration, the appointment terms of the former Governor did not require the payment of rent in respect of the official residences.

Regarding the Chief Executive (CE), since the establishment of the HKSAR Government, the remuneration package for the CE comprises housing, free of any rental charge. Subsequent to a review in 2005, the Independent Commission on Remuneration Package and Post-office Arrangements for the CE of the HKSAR proposed that the same arrangement be maintained as part of the new remuneration package for the CE. The proposal was accepted by the Administration and endorsed by the LegCo FC in November 2005.

As for the Secretaries of Department (SoDs), in introducing the Political Appointment System (PAS) in 2002, the Administration proposed that no housing allowance, no passage allowance, no children's education allowance, and no gratuity or retirement benefits should be included in the remuneration package for politically-appointed officials. The Chief Secretary for Administration, the Financial Secretary and the Secretary for Justice would be assigned their respective official residences and would continue to be entitled to the non-accountable entertainment allowance. There would not be any rental charge. The Administration proposed that no rent should be charged to the three SoDs because their official residences were not merely personal housing benefits. Instead, they were often used for official purposes, such as receiving guests and holding meetings. In addition, under the PAS, the three SoDs were not civil servants. The civil service rules in respect of rental charges should not apply. The relevant proposals were endorsed by the LegCo FC in June 2002.

Yours sincerely,

( Ivanhoe CHANG )

for Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs