

**Legislative Council Panel on Housing
Arrangements for Victims of Fire in Fa Yuen Street**

Purpose

This paper briefs members on the rehousing arrangements for the victims of the fire in Fa Yuen Street.

Current Policy

2. Generally speaking, victims rendered homeless by a fire and in need of temporary accommodation will be admitted to Po Tin Transit Centre of the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA) for a period of no more than three months through referral from relevant departments. They will move back to their original flats upon the completion of renovation works.

3. If the Buildings Department (BD) confirms that the concerned premises need to be permanently evacuated, fire victims who have already stayed in the temporary housing for three months and passed the “homeless test” and found to be eligible for public housing through the Waiting List (WL) can be rehoused to the interim housing flats in the New Territories where they will wait for the allocation of public rental housing (PRH) through the WL.

4. For those victims who have already registered on the WL, the Housing Department (HD) will allocate PRH flats to the eligible households in accordance with the prevailing PRH allocation policy with reference to the priority of their applications on the WL, the size of their families and the districts they have chosen. Such an arrangement is to prevent unfairness to the over 165 000 applicants currently on the WL.

5. For individual families with urgent housing needs on special grounds such as medical or family reasons, the HD can arrange compassionate rehousing for them upon the recommendation of the Social Welfare Department (SWD).

Rehousing Arrangements for the Victims of Fire in Fa Yuen Street

6. As regards the recent fire in Fa Yuen Street, the HD has exercised flexibility under the existing policy and arranged temporary accommodation in Shek Lei for the affected fire victims to tide them over this difficult period. As mentioned above, they should normally stay in the temporary accommodation for not more than three months. The HD, in collaboration with the SWD, will provide appropriate assistance as far as possible for individual households which have special difficulties, taking into account their actual circumstances.

7. A total of 68 households consisting of 136 people affected by the fire in Fa Yuen Street have moved to the temporary accommodation in Shek Lei. Amongst them, 21 households have already registered on the WL before they moved to the temporary accommodation and their PRH applications will be processed by the HD according to the established procedures. In addition, the HD has received 16 compassionate rehousing cases (including a household which has not moved to the temporary accommodation in Shek Lei and six households which have already registered on the WL) referred by the SWD and the cases are being processed.

8. Members are invited to note the above arrangements for the Fa Yuen Street fire victims.

Housing Department
January 2012