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香港特別行政區政府

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

運輸及房屋局

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5 December 2014

Secretary General
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn: Ms Shirley Chan)

Dear Ms Chan,

Provision of subsidized residential care places in public housing units

Thank you for referring us the Hon Fernando CHEUNG's letter dated 20 November 2014, setting out his views on the provision of subsidized residential care places in public housing units.

Provision of subsidized residential care places for the elderly and persons with disabilities is under the policy purview of the Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB). It would be appropriate to discuss issues relating to the supply and waiting time for these subsidized residential care places at the Panel on Welfare Services instead. Regarding the suggestion of using public housing units as subsidized residential care places, we would like to reiterate that the objective of the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA) is to provide public rental housing (PRH) to low-income families who cannot afford private rental accommodation, with the target of maintaining the average waiting time for general applicants for PRH (i.e. family and elderly one-person applicants) at around three years. The HA will face greater challenges in future. As announced in the 2014 Policy Address, the Government has adopted the total housing supply target of 470 000 units for the coming 10 years, with public housing accounting for 60%. This includes about 200 000 PRH units and about 80 000 subsidized sale units (mainly Home Ownership Scheme units). The HA must focus its efforts and resources to fulfill its duty in the provision of public housing. If we convert public housing units into residential care places, the number of units available to PRH applicants will be reduced and this also will

lengthen the waiting time of existing PRH applicants. We consider that this suggestion is not in line with the housing policy objective of the Government and the HA.

Yours sincerely,

(Original Signed)

(Jerry CHEUNG)
for Secretary for Transport and Housing