

**For discussion
on 29 June 2016**

Legislative Council Panel on Housing

Water Pressure in Public Rental Housing Units

PURPOSE

This paper briefs Members on the situation and the latest progress of the works conducted by the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA) to improve the insufficient water pressure of fresh water supply in public rental housing (PRH) units.

BACKGROUND

2. HA endeavours to provide good living environment for PRH tenants through proper maintenance and good management services. With the gradual enhancement in the living standard of PRH tenants, the usage of plumbing equipment and in turn, the water consumption have increased correspondingly. HA has endeavoured to enhance related facilities for public housing estates to meet daily needs of tenants. In general, the prevailing water pressure is sufficient for tenants to operate appliances, such as, water heaters and washing machines, etc.

3. However, aging, damage or blockage of water pipes and relevant plumbing fixtures may give rise to the insufficiency of water pressure in individual units. Upon receiving reports from tenants on such cases, estate offices will commission works teams to conduct inspections at the units concerned. If such problems are found in the water pipes and their associated parts, works contractors will be instructed to carry out repair and replacement of relevant associated parts as soon as practicable. Generally speaking, the water pressure will improve under normal circumstances.

INSTALLATION OF BOOSTER PUMP SYSTEM TO IMPROVE WATER PRESSURE

4. Upon completion of the aforementioned repairs, if the water pressure remains low, and the same situation is found in other units on the same floor of the same building, Housing Department (HD) will study the feasibility of installing booster pump system in that building, with a view to improving the water pressure comprehensively. In fact, HD has attended to reports made by tenants and installed booster pump systems in over 200 blocks in more than 40 public housing estates.

PROACTIVE FOLLOW UP ON THE SITUATION OF LOW WATER PRESSURE

5. According to records, among the reported cases received by HD in relation to insufficient water pressure in PRH units, about 50 per cent of the cases showed initial improvements after the repair or replacement of water pipes and associated parts.

6. For those cases without immediate improvements, HD plans to install booster pump system in the blocks concerned. This involves 76 blocks in 17 public housing estates. Details are set out at **Annex**.

7. Since the installation of booster pump system involves building alterations and prior approval from relevant departments is required, a longer time is required before completion. The whole process involves feasibility study, building structural assessment, system design, obtaining approval from relevant departments, procurement of materials, as well as construction, installation, final testing and commissioning, etc. HD has proactively commenced the relevant preliminary works, which include feasibility study, planning, system design, etc. The installation works in the estates concerned are scheduled to be completed from 2017 onwards.

CONTINUOUS FOLLOW UP AND IMPROVEMENT ON THE SITUATION OF LOW WATER PRESSURE

8. HA will continue with the prevailing practice to closely monitor and follow up on the water pressure in PRH units, so as to meet the daily needs of tenants and to provide them with a good living environment.

**Transport and Housing Bureau
June 2016**

Annex**Blocks for which the Housing Department plans to
install booster pump system**

Item No.	Estate Name	No. of Blocks Involved
1	Wo Lok Estate	3
2	Lai Kok Estate	8
3	Ma Tau Wai Estate	2
4	Model Housing Estate	1
5	Tai Hang Tung Estate	1
6	Yiu Tung Estate	4
7	Cheung Hong Estate	6
8	Chuk Yuen (South) Estate	8
9	Fuk Loi Estate	4
10	Kwai Shing (West) Estate	3
11	On Yam Estate	5
12	Lung Hang Estate	1
13	Sha Kok Estate	4
14	Sun Chui Estate	3
15	Butterfly Estate	6
16	On Ting Estate	6
17	Yau Oi Estate	11
Total		76