

Bills Committee on Waterworks (Amendment) Bill 2017

**List of follow-up actions arising from the discussion
at the meeting on 19 May 2017**

The Administration was requested to advise the Bills Committee of:

- (a) a comprehensive account of how the Administration would proceed (e.g. by way of amendment bill, new legislation, charter, or the issue of code of practice, etc.) to deal with the four areas of issues, including the issue under the Waterworks (Amendment) Bill 2017 currently being considered by the Bills Committee, as listed in the holistic review of the Waterworks Ordinance (Cap. 102) ("WVO") and Waterworks Regulations (Cap. 102A) ("WVR") set out in LC Paper No. CB(1)970/16-17(01), namely examining the roles, involvements and responsibilities of relevant parties including the developers, contractors and other persons involved in works related to plumbing systems; examining the licensing/registration regime for parties responsible for the construction, etc. of plumbing systems; reviewing and streamlining the control process on design, construction and approval of plumbing systems; and reviewing and strengthening the regulatory framework of plumbing materials, together with its relevant implementation timetable and progress;
- (b) a detailed explanation of why plumbing workers' worries of the risk of being charged with the offence under the proposed section 14(4) of WVO would be alleviated with the proposed new statutory defence provision under the proposed section 14(5) of WVO, to the effect that a person designated for carrying out the plumbing works, who contravened section 14(3) of WVO, could prove that he or she had no reasonable grounds to believe that the carrying out of the relevant works would contravene section 14(3) of WVO;
- (c) the details of the studies on the establishment of drinking water standards, the sampling protocol, the Water Safety Plan and the relevant proposals completed in March 2017 by the expert consultants appointed by the Development Bureau, including the recommendations and the Administration's timetable to implement the relevant recommendations;
- (d) the relevant skills and training a person had normally acquired to carry out specified plumbing works under the instruction and supervision of a licensed plumber or registered plumbing worker, and the details of such specified plumbing works, as stipulated in the proposed section 15(6)(d) of WVO;

- (e) the details of the arrangement for the Water Authority ("WA") or any person authorized by WA in writing to enter any premises with a warrant or consent of the occupier of the premises concerned to ascertain whether there was in respect of a fire service or inside service any contravention of section 12 of WWO; and
- (f) the details of the arrangement for WA or a public officer authorized by WA in writing to enter any non-domestic premises without a warrant or consent of the occupier of the premises concerned to ascertain whether specified plumbing works were being, or had been, carried out in contravention of the proposed section 15 of WWO.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
25 May 2017