

政府總部  
發展局  
規劃地政科



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24 January 2017

**By fax and by email**

Mr. Anthony CHU  
Clerk, Public Accounts Committee  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
Legislative Council Complex,  
1 Legislative Council Road,  
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Mr. CHU,

### **Follow-up to Public Accounts Committee Report No. 39**

#### **Small house grants in the New Territories**

Thank you for your letter dated 10 January 2017 to the Secretary for Development.

We note the concern of Public Accounts Committee (PAC) about the Small House Policy (the Policy) and thank the PAC for its appreciation of the complexity of the issues involved in the review of the Policy. Any review inevitably involves complicated issues in various aspects such as legal, environment, land use planning and demand on land, all of which would require careful examination.

Given the complicated issues involved and the fact that the work priorities of the Development Bureau are to increase land supply in the short to medium term and to implement and control costs of various public works projects, any review or consideration of suggestions to amend the Policy is not

a priority task in the current term of the Government. It is neither realistic nor practicable to complete the review within this term of Government as far as time is concerned. We will continue to handle the review carefully and judiciously, engaging stakeholders as well as the wider community in dialogue over relevant issues as and when necessary.

Moreover, you may wish to note that the Policy is currently under legal challenge by way of a judicial review, and the Government is thus not in a position to make public comments on issues that may prejudice the Government's handling of related legal proceedings.

Yours sincerely,



(Joey TANG)  
for Secretary for Development

c.c.	Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury	Fax No.: 2147 5239
	Director of Audit	Fax No.: 2583 9063
	Director of Lands	Fax No.: 2868 4707