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9 January 2017

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Public Accounts Committee
 Legislative Council
 Legislative Council Complex
 1 Legislative Council Road
 Central, Hong Kong
 (Attn: Ms. Angela CHU)

Dear Ms. CHU,

Public Accounts Committee
Consideration of Chapter 1 of the Director of Audit's Report No.67
Maintenance and safety-related improvements of
public rental housing flats

Thank you for your letter dated 30 December 2016, please find our reply as follows:

(a) *Fire safety of the Public Rental Housing (PRH) Estates before full implementation of the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance*

The purpose of the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (FS(B)O) is to provide better protection from the risk of fire for occupants of, and visitors to, composite buildings and domestic buildings which were constructed, or with their plans of buildings works first submitted for approval on or before 1 March 1987. However, this does not imply that these buildings have imminent fire danger. It is noted that Housing Department (HD) is endeavoring to comply with the requirements under the FS(B)O and has already carried out improvement works to some fire service provisions of the existing PRH blocks with a view to enhancing their fire safety level. Therefore, the existing PRH blocks are basically safe from the fire safety point of view.

(b) Concrete measure to ensure fire safety improvement works in PRH estates are efficiently vetted and formally accepted

Since the accepted fire safety improvement proposal can generally be applied to all the PRH blocks covered by the prototype and that HD, Fire Services Department (FSD) and Buildings Department (BD) had agreed on the streamlined vetting procedure during the inter-departmental meetings, we anticipate that the vetting process will be shortened and conducted more efficiently. Also, apart from the regular meetings amongst the working level of the enforcement authorities and HD to resolve problems arise during the implementation of the FS(B)O to the PRH estates, the three departments have agreed to hold inter-departmental liaison meetings regularly to review the progress.

(c) Timetable for implementing the FS(B)O for all PRH estates

While BD will continue to collaborate with HD on the carrying out of fire safety improvement works for PRHs, HD is in a better position to confirm the timetable for implementing such works for all PRH estates.

Should you have any questions, please contact our Chief Building Surveyor/ Fire Safety, Mr. Michael PANG, at telephone no. 2135 2401.

Yours sincerely,



(HUI Siu-wai)
Director of Buildings

c.c. Secretary for Development - Attn: Mr David Ng (fax no. 2899 2916)
Secretary for Transport and Housing (fax no. 2523 9187)
Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (fax no. 2147 5239)
Secretary for Security (fax no. 2868 9159)
Director of Housing (fax no. 2761 6700)
Director of Water Supplies (fax no. 2802 2537)
Director of Environmental Protection (fax no. 2891 2512)
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