

香港特別行政區政府  
消防處



香港九龍尖沙咀東部康莊道一號  
消防總部大廈

**FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT**  
**GOVERNMENT OF THE HONG KONG**  
**SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION**

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9 January 2017

Mr Anthony CHU  
Clerk to Public Accounts Committee  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central  
Hong Kong

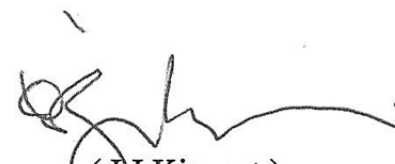
Dear Mr CHU,

**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 ("PRH") flats**

Thank you for your letter dated 30 December 2016. This Department's responses to the questions raised are set out in the Appendix to facilitate the Committee's consideration of the captioned Chapter of the Audit Report. The Chinese translation of our responses is also attached.

Yours sincerely,



( LI Kin-yat )  
Director of Fire Services

c.c. Secretary for Transport and Housing (Fax: 2523 9187)  
Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Fax: 2147 5239)  
Secretary for Security (Fax: 2877 0636)  
Director of Housing (Fax: 2761 6700)  
Director of Buildings (Fax: 2868 3248)  
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FP(FS)/C 133/01

Encl.

**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 (“PRH”) flats**

**Response to Questions**

<i>Enhancing fire safety of old public rental housing estates</i>	
(a)	<i>Whether the delay in implementing the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (“FS(B)O”) would undermine fire safety of the concerned PRH estates? Would the Housing Department (“HD”)/the Fire Services Department (“FSD”)/the Buildings Department (“BD”) consider undertaking alternative fire safety enhancement measures in the interim before the full implementation of FS(B)O to enhance fire safety for the concerned estates?</i>
	While the HD is endeavoring to comply with the requirements under the FS(B)O in PRH blocks, it does not affect the fire safety of the buildings having regard to the fact that the fire safety provisions in the existing PRH blocks meet the prevailing standard at the time of their construction. Both enforcement authorities, viz the BD and the FSD, have collaboratively provided assistance and advice to HD with a view to ensuring that the enhancement of fire safety standard in the concerned PRH blocks are carried out efficiently. It is also noticed that improvement works are being carried out in various PRH blocks and some fire service installations and equipment (such as emergency lighting system and automatic sprinkler system) have been or are being installed in the concerned PRH blocks. Such measures would definitely enhance the overall fire safety standard.
(b)	<i>According to paragraphs 6.20 and 6.21, both the Director of Buildings and the Director of Fire Services agree with the audit recommendation in paragraph 6.18 that they should work in collaboration with the Director of Housing to ensure that the fire safety improvement works for meeting the FS(B)O requirements in PRH estates are efficiently vetted and formally accepted. Are there any concrete measures to ensure the works could be efficiently vetted and formally accepted?</i>
	To assist HD in implementing the FS(B)O in the PRH blocks smoothly, inter-departmental meetings amongst HD, BD and FSD have been held regularly. Being one of the enforcement authorities, FSD will continue to

	<p>provide assistance and advice to HD regarding any proposals on fire safety improvement works. In addition, FSD is also committed to conducting acceptance inspection upon being notified of the completion of such works by HD. As a matter of fact, the detailed arrangement and procedures was already agreed by all departments during the inter-departmental meeting.</p>
(c)	<p><b><i>Have HD, BD and FSD come up with a timetable for implementing the fire safety construction works for all PRH estates?</i></b></p>
	<p>While FSD will continue to collaborate with HD to carry out the fire safety improvement works for PRHs, HD is in a better position to confirm the timetable for implementing such works for all PRH estates.</p>