

 香港房屋委員會  
Hong Kong Housing Authority

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Our Ref

來函檔案： CB2/PS/2/16

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Date

Subcommittee to Study Issues Relating to Animal Rights  
Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road, Central, Hong Kong  
(Attn: Ms. Alice LEUNG, Clerk to Subcommittee)

Dear Ms. LEUNG,

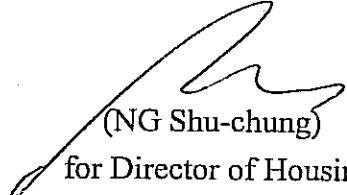
**Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene**  
**Subcommittee to Study Issues Relating to Animal Rights**

**Motions passed at the meeting on 26 June 2017**

Thank you for your letter of 27.6.2017 addressed to the Housing Department (HD) concerning the caption. Regarding the Motion 2 passed under agenda item I "Issues relating to the promotion of animal-friendly measures (including public rental housing, public transport and public open space), HD's response is appended at **Annex I**.

Should you have any enquiries, please feel free to contact Ms. CHENG Yee-ling, Senior Housing Manager/ Tenancy Management Policy at 2761 5838 or Ms. AU Mo-ching, Housing Manager/ Tenancy Management Policy (1) at 2761 5843.

Yours sincerely,

  
(NG Shu-chung)  
for Director of Housing

## **Motion 2**

This Subcommittee urges the new-term Government to be committed to studying a further relaxation of the dog keeping policy in public rental housing ("PRH") estates, so as to alleviate the problem of a large number of dogs being abandoned after their owners have been allocated PRH units.

## **HD's Response to Motion 2**

The mission of the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA) is to provide affordable quality housing to persons with genuine housing needs, including quality management and other related services to meet the needs of our tenants. In formulating the policy of animal keeping in PRH estates, the primary consideration of HA is to build a harmonious community whereby the different interests of all PRH residents are being respected at large.

PRH estates built by HA are of multi-storey building design and densely populated. In consideration that keeping dogs in PRH estates may induce noise and hygiene nuisance, the Tenancy Agreement (TA) stipulates that tenants cannot keep dogs in the premises without the prior consent of the landlord. As tenants are concerned very much on environmental hygiene of PRH estates, HA endorsed in May 2003 the implementation of the "Marking Scheme for Tenancy Enforcement in Public Rental and Interim Housing Estates" (later renamed as the "Marking Scheme for Estate Management Enforcement in PRH estates" (MS)) where unauthorised animal-keeping, including dog has been included as one of the misdeeds under MS. Afterwards, to avoid the possible abandonment of large number of dogs by the tenants, HA subsequently implemented the "Temporary Permission Rule" (TPR) in November 2003 to allow PRH tenants to continue keeping small dogs that had been kept in PRH flats before 1 August 2003 until their natural decease. This arrangement was a one-off measure only.

We understand that there are voices requesting the relaxation of the restriction on the prevailing dog keeping policy. From time to time, even in some spacious high-end private residential estates where dogs keeping is allowed, there is news about conflicts among neighbours arising from issues of dog keeping and also about physical injury caused by the interaction between human beings and dogs. In contrast to these estates, the flat size and common area in PRH are comparatively smaller and more densely populated. As such, there will be more chances of nuisance created by dogs. As public safety is involved, HA has to deal with the matter cautiously in considering the motion.

Notwithstanding the above, as we have to take care of the health need of individual tenants, we have conducted policy reviews. Under the principle of not causing nuisance, HA will grant discretionary approval to tenants with visual/ and hearing impairment to keep guide dog and to tenants, who are recommended by medical practitioners, with the need of keeping a companion dog for mental support.

In order to obtain the latest opinion of our tenants on dog keeping in PRH estates, we have conducted opinion survey by means of Public Housing Recurrent Survey and through Estate Management Advisory Committees in 2016. The result revealed that the majority of the interviewees objected to the relaxation of dog keeping. It can be seen that our prevailing policy has already struck a balance between tenants' aspiration on hygienic, quiet and safe living environment in general and those with special medical needs of keeping dogs. The rights and interests of both parties have been respected under the premise of community inclusion.

In view of the increasing demand of our tenants for quality of life and environmental hygiene in estates, the overall interests and aspirations of all tenants and good management should come first during HA's formulation of animal keeping policy. For prospective tenants awaiting allocation of PRH flat, even if they are keeping dogs all along, they should be treated on par with other tenants and comply with the same terms of the TA after they have been offered PRH flats such that a harmonious community can be upheld. Therefore, HA should maintain the existing dog keeping policy in PRH estates at the present stage.