

**Subcommittee on Rating (Exemption) Order 2018**

**List of follow-up actions arising from the discussion  
at the meeting on 27 March 2018**

Commencement of the Rating (Exemption) Order 2018

1. Section 1 of the Rating (Exemption) Order 2018 ("the Order") provides that the Order comes into operation on 1 April 2018. According to the Government, the Rating and Valuation Department ("RVD") will start issuing on 28 March 2018 the demand notes for rates payment for the quarter of 1 April to 30 June 2018 ("the first quarter"), and the rates concession amount for the first quarter will be shown in the demand notes. The Administration is requested to explain:

- (a) why the demand notes for rates payment for the first quarter are to be issued before commencement of the Order on 1 April 2018, in particular whether such arrangement is legally acceptable and appropriate and;
- (b) the follow-up actions to be taken by the Government in the event that the Order is amended/repealed by the Legislative Council resulting in changes in the rates concession amount or no rates exemption.

Assessment of rates for properties

2. The Administration is requested to provide:

- (a) information on the top 10 ratepayers who are expected to receive the largest amounts of rates concession, including a breakdown on the number of rateable properties and the amount of rates concession in respect of each of these ratepayers; and
- (b) a sample of the questionnaire used by RVD to collect information from ratepayers on rental particulars and other related information for assessing the rateable values of properties.

Improvement to the rates concession measure

3. Members of the Subcommittee have made a number of proposals to achieve a more equitable distribution of the rates concession amount and to ensure the concession will benefit the needy, including:

- (a) limiting the number of rateable properties per ratepayer eligible for rate concession;
- (b) confining the rates concession measure to tenants and owners of self-occupied properties;
- (c) providing rates concession to ratepayers of residential properties only; and
- (d) requiring the ratepayers to apply to RVD for claiming rates concession.

In this connection, the Administration is requested to:

- (a) provide information on the necessary adjustments to be made to the existing rates collection system and operation of RVD (e.g. requiring owners of the properties to pay rates and register their own names with RVD ("業主實名登記"), amending the Rating Ordinance (Cap. 116), adjusting the accounting and computer systems of RVD etc.) for implementing the above proposals and the costs involved, as well as the Administration's considerations on the proposals; and
- (b) explain how the Government will follow up members' proposals above, including whether it will conduct a feasibility study on the proposals and the timing for completing the study.