



YOUR REF 來函檔號: CB4/PAC/R71
OUR REF 本署檔號: L/M to L/M (15) to BD CR/4-35/2 C
FAX 圖文傳真: 2191 4111
TEL 電話: 2626 1546
www.bd.gov.hk

7 January 2019

Urgent by fax 2543 9197

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

Dear Mr. CHU,

Public Accounts Committee
Consideration of Chapter 6 of the Director of Audit's Report No.71
Barrier-free Facilities at Government Premises

I refer to your letter dated 17 December 2018 to the Director of Buildings. We set out below the requested information.

Part 1: Introduction

11) As referred to in paragraphs 1.11, 1.12, 2.8, 2.10 and 2.11, the Task Force convened by LWB aims at examining "the Government and HA premises identified in EOC Report as well as the premises and facilities under the management of B/Ds and the HA which had a frequent public interface". It comprises mainly representatives from 18 B/Ds, of which 8 departments are investigated in the Director of Audit's Report. Before EOC's formal investigation in 2006, were there any regular reviews on the accessibility facilities in B/Ds?

2. Pursuant to the powers under the Buildings Ordinance (BO), the Buildings Department (BD) is responsible for the enforcement of the safety and health standards for the planning, design and construction of buildings and

associated works on private land. As government and HA premises are exempted from the provisions of the BO, the review on the accessibility facilities in these premises is not within the purview of BD.

Part 2: Work of LWB over barrier-free facilities at government premises and BD in updating Design Manual

12) As mentioned in paragraph 2.5, it was agreed in 2010 that a preliminary assessment should be conducted on compliances with the requirements stipulated in "Design Manual: Barrier Free Access 2008" ("DM 2008"). When was the Design Manual last updated before the Administration adopted it as an evaluation basis?

3. The DM was first published in 1984 and was revised in 1997 and 2008 in conjunction with legislative amendments to the Building (Planning) Regulations. In response to feedbacks from stakeholders, including target users, further amendments were made to the DM in November 2012.

13) According to paragraphs 2.24 to 2.27, the Audit Commission ("Audit") indicated that time was unduly elapsed from the endorsement of the draft corrigendum by the Technical Committee on Design Manual to the amendments of DM 2008.

- (a) Why the submission of the draft corrigendum to the responsible Assistant Director of BD for review had been delayed?
- (b) What had been done to rectify the situation?
- (c) What is the timeline for updating DM 2008 for the remaining 71 items?

4. In order to keep the DM under regular review, BD has set up a Technical Committee on Design Manual: Barrier Free Access (TC) in June 2014. The TC collects and considers views and feedbacks from the building industry and stakeholder organisations including rehabilitation sector. On the

advice of the TC and subsequent consultation with BD's various consultative committees¹, amendments to the DM were promulgated in September 2015 and April 2017.

5. To avoid piece-meal updating to the DM and trivial consultations with BD's various consultative committees, proposed amendments to the DM were grouped in batches per the prevailing practices. Recognising that updating to the DM might be unduly prolonged through lack of a designated threshold for triggering DM's updating such as number of amendment items accumulated or time period lapsed after TC's endorsement, BD will adhere to the recommendation in paragraph 2.28(a) of the Audit Report and establish that an updating would be triggered when five or more amendment items are accumulated or that the DM should be updated within 12 months after the amendment items are endorsed by the TC.

6. Of the remaining 71 discussion items mentioned at paragraph 2.26 of the Audit Report, TC had already dealt with 43 discussion items. Among them, amendments to 26 items had already been made at the DM and promulgated in September 2015 and April 2017 while the other 17 items had already been circulated to the consultative committees in early December 2018 for comments. For the remaining 28 discussion items, the recent TC meetings held in July and November 2018 have already started the discussions on nine items, and the other 19 items will be discussed in the TC meetings in 2019.

Part 4: Management of Retrofitting Works for Barrier-free Facilities at Government Premises

14) According to paragraphs 4.17 and 4.20, the friction of the tactile guide path floor tiles used in the 15 venues mentioned in paragraph 4.13 was in compliance with DM 2008 requirements. However, a number of accidents still occurred and complaints were received relating to slippery tactile guide paths of these venues, and the Technical Committee on Design Manual was reviewing the slip resistance requirements on tactile guide path in

¹ These committees are the Building Sub-Committee under the Land and Development Advisory Committee of the Development Bureau and the Authorized Persons, Registered Structural Engineers and Registered Geotechnical Engineers Committee.

this regard. Would the Buildings Department provide the updated progress of the review and the implementation timeline of the improvement measures?

7. Departments concerned aim to complete their review on slip resistance requirements of tactile guide paths in the second quarter of 2019 and BD will then bring up the issue for further discussion by the TC.

8. Should you have any queries, please contact the undersigned at 2626 1546.

Yours sincerely,



(KWONG Wai-lun, Godwin)
for Director of Buildings

c.c. Secretary for Labour and Welfare (fax no. 2537 3539)
Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (fax no. 2147 5239)
Director of Architectural Services (fax no. 2810 7341)
Director of Audit (fax no. 2583 9063)