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29 April 2020

Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road, Central
Hong Kong
(Attn: Mr Derek LO)

Dear Mr LO,

Progress of Task Force for Study on Tenancy Control of Subdivided Units

Regarding the letter to the Legislative Council Panel on Housing dated 27 March 2020, we would like to provide our reply concerning the progress of Task Force for Study on Tenancy Control of Subdivided Units as follows:

- 2. According to the Long Term Housing Strategy Annual Progress Report 2019, it is estimated that there were 96 400 households live in subdivided units ("SDUs"). These households may bear hefty rents and other unfavourable tenancy arrangements. There are views that any assistance provided by the government to households, such as rent allowance or one-time electricity subsidy and water charges reductions, may not benefit households in SDUs without proper tenancy control. However, we also understand that tenancy control is a very controversial issue, and there is no consensus in the community so far. In the current situation where housing supply is still tight, the implementation of tenancy control of subdivided units may have an adverse effect, so we considered that it is necessary to conduct a study before making the decision.
- 3. In this connection, the Transport and Housing Bureau has appointed the Task Force for Study on Tenancy Control of Subdivided Units ("Task Force") on 16

April 2020¹ for a term of 18 months till October 2021. The Task Force, comprising members from various sectors of the community, is going to study the feasibility and options for tenancy control of subdivided units, as well as, other related issues of tenancy control. The first meeting of the Task Force was held on 29 April 2020.

4. During the study, the Task Force will maintain communication with relevant stakeholders and parties and listen to their opinions. The Task Force will announce the details of the study on tenancy control of subdivided units in due course.

Yours sincerely,

(LAI Chun Fai, Alex)

For Secretary for Transport and Housing

¹ https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202004/16/P2020041600303.htm