5 April, 2000

Legislative Council Secretariat,
Legislative Council Building,
8 Jackson Road,
Central,
Hong Kong

(Attn.: Mrs Mary TANG)

Dear Mrs TANG,

LegCo Panel on Housing
Follow-up to meeting on 20.3.2000

Thank you for your letter dated 23 March.

The Housing Bureau has conveyed to the Chief Executive the motion passed by the LegCo Panel on Housing at its meeting on 20 March.   The Chief Executive has decided to appoint an independent committee to examine the operation of the construction industry and to make recommendations on measures to improve upon the practices of the trade.   It is expected that the committee will complete its work in nine months' time and submit a report with recommendations to the Chief Executive by the end of the year.   The Chief Secretary for Administration has already announced this decision at the meeting of the Legislative Council today.

As regards the cases of Tin Chung Court and Yuen Chau Kok, the Housing Authority has already taken a series of follow up actions, and has commenced disciplinary and legal actions against the contractors and consultants concerned.   At the same time, the Housing Department has appointed an expert to conduct a comprehensive review of the Department's production process from planning, construction to occupation and to suggest improvement measures.   The review will be completed in the middle of this year.   Regarding the Yuen Chau Kok case, the independent panel's report is expected to be ready in May. When the investigation is completed, the Government will take action to find out whether any civil servants should be held responsible in the Tin Chung Court and Yuen Chau Kok cases.

Enclosed please find the following information requested by the Legco Panel on Housing:

(a)   a report on site settlement situation at Block 2 Phase 1 and Block 11 Phase 3 of Tin Fu Court, Tin Shui Wai; and

(b)   the terms of reference of the investigation panel on accountability for the piling contract at Shatin Area 14B, Phase 2（Yuen Chau Kok）.

(*Signed*)
(Dominic S W Wong)
Secretary for Housing

c.c. Director of Housing