

政府總部  
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Miss Mary So  
Clerk, Public Accounts Committee  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Miss So,

### **Follow-up to Public Accounts Committee Report No.39**

#### **Small House Grants in the New Territories**

Thank you for your letter dated 20 January 2014 to the Secretary for Development.

We noted the concern of Public Accounts Committee (PAC) about the progress of the review of the Small House Policy and thank the PAC for its appreciation of the complexity of the issues involved in the review. The Small House Policy involves many complicated and sensitive legal, human right, land use and planning issues and the interests of different parties and stakeholders, and the review needs to be carried out prudently. As reported in our previous replies to the PAC on this same subject, we have made progress on various fronts. For example, Lands Department has simplified a number of procedures of Small House applications with a view to shortening the processing time.

We must, however, point out that the existing Small House Policy has been in operation for a long period of time, and any major change would entail complex legal, land use and planning issues which require careful consideration and wide consultation. Due to the complexity of the issues involved, we are unable to set a definite timetable within which the review will be completed.

We will continue to adopt a practical approach in taking forward the review and will keep in close liaison with the Heung Yee Kuk. We will consult the relevant stakeholders including the rural and the general community when concrete and specific proposals are available.

Yours sincerely,



(Law Kin-wai)

for Secretary for Development

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|------|---------------------------------------------------|-----------|
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|      | Director of Audit                                 | 2583 9063 |
|      | Director of Lands (Attn. Ms Olga Lam)             | 2868 4707 |