

民政事務總署

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HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE LICENSING AUTHORITY

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4 July 2014

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Consultation on
The Review of the Hotel and Guesthouse Accommodation Ordinance**

Operation of hotels and guesthouses in Hong Kong is regulated by the Hotel and Guesthouse Accommodation Ordinance (Cap.349) (the Ordinance). Enacted in 1991, the Ordinance aims to, through a licensing regime, ensure that premises intended to be used as hotels or guesthouses meet the building structure and fire safety standards to safeguard the lodgers and the public.

In recent years, the upsurge of incoming visitors has led to an increased demand for guesthouses, causing nuisance and annoyance to residents in the same private buildings. There have been suggestions that the Authority should refer to the Deed of Mutual Covenant (DMC) of the building and take into account the views of residents when processing a licence application.

On enforcement, over the past few years, there have been multifold increases in enforcement raids against suspected unlicensed guesthouses, but despite continuous efforts on the part of the Office of the Licensing Authority (OLA), illegal guesthouses can never be completely

eradicated. OLA has encountered great difficulties in securing sufficient admissible evidence to institute prosecutions.

Against this background, the Home Affairs Department has recently completed a comprehensive review on the licensing regime and related enforcement powers under the Ordinance. Possible proposals to improve the licensing regime so as to minimize the nuisance or impact caused by licensed guesthouses, and to enhance the effectiveness of enforcement action against unlicensed guesthouses are contained in the attached consultation document which is also uploaded to HAD's website (<http://www.had.gov.hk>).

The consultation period will last for eight weeks from 4 July 2014 till 28 August 2014. You are cordially invited to send us your views on the various proposals by email, mail or facsimile on or before 28 August 2014 :

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 31/F Southorn Centre
 130 Hennessy Road
 Wan Chai, Hong Kong

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(Signed)
(Mrs Alison WONG)
for Director of Home Affairs