

THE HONG KONG HOUSING AUTHORITY

**Memorandum for the Commercial Properties Committee
and the Building Committee**

Fallen Glass Panel in Ping Tin Shopping Centre

PURPOSE

To inform Members of the latest position of the accidental fall of a child from 1/F to G/F of Ping Tin Shopping Centre on 22 December 1997.

BACKGROUND

2. On 22 December 1997 at about 4:00p.m., a nine year old boy named HO Man-sang, fell from the first floor outside Shop No.106 to the ground floor arcade of the shopping centre as a result of a collapsed glass panel.

3. Ping Tin Shopping Centre was designed by the Department and completed in January 1997. The centre was constructed by Shui On Building Contractors Limited and let to and managed by Wang On Shopping Centre Management Limited under a single operator management contract.

ACTION TAKEN BY THE DEPARTMENT

4. Regional management staff of the Department visited the injured boy on 23 and 24 December 1997 who was admitted to the Union Christian Hospital. Senior directorate have been in contact with the parents of the boy to offer assistance. The Department has also been in contact with the hospital and it is pleased to note that the boy's condition has been recovering from critical to steady.

5. The Department has initiated an independent investigation under the direction of a Chief Maintenance Surveyor to report on the technical issues surrounding the failure of the glass panel balustrade at Ping Tin Shopping Centre on 22 December 1997. A copy of the preliminary report of the investigation is at the **Annex**. A further report on the causes of the failure of the glass panel and procedures relating to the design, construction and maintenance of the balustrade of Ping Tin Shopping Centre will be submitted to a joint meeting of the CPC and BC to be held on 7 January 1998.

6. Of the 119 shopping centres built by the Authority, 28 have glass balustrades. Since the accident, the Department has completed an initial inspection to all shopping centres of similar design and discovered no sign of potential failure. Further technical checks are being carried out.

PUBLIC REACTION

7. There is public concern over the incident. The investigation reports will be made public, and a press release on the preliminary report has been issued.

INFORMATION

8. This paper is issued for Members' information.

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c.c. Members of the Housing Authority

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