

THE HONG KONG HOUSING AUTHORITY

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

**Report on the failure of glass balustrade
at Ping Tin Shopping Centre**

PURPOSE

To receive a report on the failure of a glass balustrade at Ping Tin Shopping Centre, and to decide on the follow up action.

BACKGROUND

2. On 22 December 1997 a glass balustrade at the Ping Tin Shopping Center failed resulting in the injury of a child, who is now recovering. The Department is in frequent contact with the family to render assistance.

3. An independent investigation team was established and a Preliminary report was issued on 24 December 1997. (Paper Nos. CPC 75/97 and BC 201/97 refer). It is understood that the Police are undertaking enquiries.

4. Inspections of 28 shopping centers with glass balustrades was undertaken by Housing Management staff on 23 and 24 December 1997, and warning notices were posted. A further inspection by Maintenance Surveyors has also been completed. No indication of potential failures have been detected.

REPORT

5. The full report of the investigation team titled “Report on Incident at Fallen Glass Panel in Ping Tin Shopping Centre” is at **Annex**.

WAY FORWARD

6. It is proposed, subject to acceptance by Members of the Investigation Team’s findings and recommendations, that -

- (a) Detailed proposals for implementing the recommended improvements be considered by the Building Committee and Commercial Properties Committee.
- (b) Disciplinary action should be considered as follows -
 - (i) Housing Department Staff - The Director of Housing to examine staff accountability and to take appropriate action under the Civil Service Regulations.
 - (ii) Contractor - The Building Committee to examine in accordance with procedures established by the Committee.
 - (iii) Single Operator - The Commercial Properties Committee to examine in accordance with procedures established by the Committee.
- (c) The issue of compensation related to the injured boy be settled by the relevant insurance companies.

PUBLICITY

7. The accident is of considerable concern to the Housing Authority and to the public. It is intended to make the report of the Investigation Team available to the public, and to hold a press briefing and to issue a press release.

DISCUSSION

8. At the joint meeting of the Commercial Properties Committee and the Building Committee to be held on the 7 January 1998, Members will be asked to -

- (a) Note the report of the Independent Investigation Team (para 5).
- (b) Agree to the Way Forward detailed in paragraph 6.

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