

<i>Press July 11, 1996</i>	
<b>Headline :</b>	<b><i>Overcrowding Relief Modified</i></b>
<b>Content :</b>	<p>The following is issued on behalf of the Housing Authority :</p> <p>The Housing Authority's Management and Operations Committee today (Thursday) noted modifications to be made to arrangements for relief of overcrowding with a view to improving efficiency and effectiveness.</p> <p>The Chairman of the Committee, Mr Chan Kam-man, said that overcrowded households would in future be invited to indicate their interest in taking up the flats available for overcrowding relief.</p> <p>"Every month, we will make offers to those who have shown their interest in the available flats. Flats which are not taken up in three months will be allocated to meet demand from other categories."</p> <p>"However, the existing practice of freezing the eligibility of families refusing offers for three times without good reasons will not apply to those who have been invited to indicate their interest but cannot get a larger flat because of low priority," he said.</p> <p>"We expect that tenants will welcome such modified arrangements which are fair, open and customer-oriented."</p> <p>"Information on the flats available and results of these exercises will be displayed on notice boards in estate offices," he added.</p> <p>Following implementation of the revised arrangements last year, overcrowded households had been listed according to their living density for making direct offers of suitable flats.</p> <p>The number of families living at a density below 5.5 square metre per person had been reduced by 17 per cent from 50,755 in March 1995 to 42,127 in March 1996.</p> <p>In 1995/96, 2,831 overcrowded families had moved to larger public rental flats, representing an increase of 60 per cent over a total of 1,783 families in 1994/95.</p> <p>"Among those who refused our offers, 72 per cent did so because they did not like the flats, or the flats offered did not match their preferences in terms of floor level, orientation or location."</p> <p>"Among more than 6,000 households living at a density below 4.5 square metre per person, 40 per cent indicated no interest to move mainly due to various reasons, such as unwillingness to sever social and community links, desirable location or orientation of their existing flats, imminent prospect of or readiness to switch to home purchase, and imminent prospect of redevelopment," he said.</p> <p>"We expect that the acceptance rate in flat allocation will be higher with the modified arrangements and tenants will therefore be able to improve their living condition," Mr Chan said.</p>

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