



The EAA and the estate agency trade representatives actively participate in the stakeholder consultation on the “Basic Housing Units” regulatory regime

(14 January 2025) The Estate Agents Authority (“EAA”) and the estate agency trade representatives today attended a stakeholder consultation session hosted by the Housing Bureau (“HB”) to listen to the HB’s proposals on the Basic Housing Unit (“BHU”) regulatory regime and give feedback, to provide useful references for the HB’s next steps.

The EAA’s Chairman Mr Simon SIU Chak-yu, BBS, JP, new Chief Executive Officer Mr Gordon LEUNG Chung-tai, Director of Operations Mr CHAN U Keng, and the representatives from the trade including the presidents and vice-presidents of eight major estate agency trade associations attended the consultation session.

During the session, the Secretary for Housing Ms Winnie HO Wing-yin, JP, led other major HB officials to brief the EAA and trade representatives on the Government’s proposal on the BHU regulatory regime, and listened to the opinions of the EAA and trade representatives.

EAA’s Chairman Mr SIU Chak-yu said that the EAA fully supports the Government’s efforts to find a long-term solution to the problem of substandard subdivided units (“SDUs”).

On the other hand, in January 2022, the EAA issued practice guidelines to the estate agency trade in sync with Government’s tenancy regulation on SDUs. In the past three years, in addition to educating the trade on the new ordinance and guidelines on SDUs through different channels and sanctioning the non-compliant licensees, the EAA also had liaison with



relevant organisations to explain to SDU tenants the EAA's guidelines for the estate agency trade so that SDU tenants would better understand the responsibilities of estate agents, to protect tenants' rights and interests.

At the briefing session today, the EAA once again calls on the trade to comply with the guidelines, in not providing assistance to landlords to contravene the security of tenure requirements or overcharging public utilities and services.

The Government has now proposed to formulate a BHU regulatory regime through legislation. In future SDUs have to meet the stipulated minimum standards and certified as BHUs before they can be legally rentable, and concerned parties will be subject to regulations. The estate agency trade representatives have listened to HB's introduction and provided feedbacks.

In the future, the EAA will pay close attention to the legislative process of the Bill on BHUs, maintain close communication with the Government and the estate agency trade, and update the guidelines on estate agency's handling of subdivided unit leasing if necessary. The EAA will also strengthen trade education to ensure the estate agents' compliance. When the BHU regime is implemented, the EAA will also conduct a publicity and education campaign.

Photo:



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