

The 1st Meeting
of the Working Group on Concern over the Development of the Central Police Station
Compound (CPS) and Former Police Married Quarters (PMQ) (2016-2017)

Central Police Station (“CPS”) Compound

The Government in partnership with the Hong Kong Jockey Club (“HKJC”) are taking forward the CPS Compound revitalisation project, which includes construction works for new buildings, conservation works for historic buildings, infrastructure works within the Compound, and road improvement works in the vicinity of the site.

2. At around 10 pm on 29 May 2016, façade of Block 4 (i.e. the Married Inspectors’ Quarters) of the CPS Compound partially collapsed. The Government is gravely concerned with this incident. No work was being carried out at the time and no one was injured. The revitalisation team of HKJC including its Registered Structural Engineer arrived at the site right after the incident and carried out assessment on the situation. Separately, relevant government departments/offices including the Buildings Department (“BD”), the Commissioner for Heritage’s Office (“CHO”) of the Development Bureau (“DEVB”), the Antiquities and Monuments Office (“AMO”) and HKJC inspected the site on 30 May, with a view to gathering more information. CHO, HKJC, AMO and BD also attended an informal meeting of the Central and Western District Council on 31 May to listen to views and recommendations from Members. BD has already commenced an independent investigation on the matter.

3. HKJC’s contractor has carried out emergency strengthening works for the east portion of the Married Inspectors’ Quarters. BD, together with the Registered Structural Engineer for the project, completed their inspection on 7 June and confirmed that the east portion was safe and stable. With BD’s agreement, the Police re-opened the temporarily-closed section of Arbuthnot Road on the same day. HKJC’s contractor has removed loose and unsafe materials from the damaged part of the building and carried out on-site sorting to identify reusable materials. Propping installation inside the west portion of the Married Inspectors’ Quarters started on 20 June 2016 and is expected to be completed by the end of July 2016. Detailed investigation will be carried out after this is completed.

4. HKJC will continue to liaise closely with BD, and the revitalisation works

at the CPS Compound will be gradually resumed after it is confirmed to be safe. As at mid-July, the two new buildings (i.e. the gallery building and the auditorium building), E Hall and B Hall of Victoria Prison, and the Prison Yard have been confirmed to be safe and works have resumed. Safety confirmation work on the other buildings will continue and HKJC will report progress to the public as appropriate.

5. HKJC has set up an independent review panel comprising outside professionals to look into the cause of the incident and to recommend improvement measures. The panel is chaired by Dr Greg Wong, a past President of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers. The other two panel members are Mr Benny Lai, who is a Registered Structural Engineer, and Mr Simon Wiltshier, a Chartered Structural Engineer from Australia. The panel has commenced work in July.

6. In the meantime, HKJC and its revitalisation team are actively drawing up the restoration plan of the Married Inspectors' Quarters during which AMO will provide comments. Should the restoration plan significantly affect the heritage value of the monuments, AMO will request HKJC to consult the Antiquities Advisory Board ("AAB") at an appropriate juncture and seek the approval of the Antiquities Authority (i.e. the Secretary for Development) before implementation.

HKJC
July 2016