

Question on installation of JETCO ATM outside Cheung Chau Pier
(Paper IDC 56/2014)

Written reply of Government Property Agency (GPA)

1. The Government has taken a number of measures to reduce the operating costs of ferry services. One of the measures is to allow the ferry operator to sub-let spaces at piers for commercial or retail activities in order to generate non-fare box revenue to cross-subsidize the ferry operation. Under the existing mechanism, the ferry operator shall obtain confirmation from the Rating and Valuation Department (RVD) that the proposed licence fee for the sub-let space is considered reasonable for the purpose. For the subject application, RVD has advised that the proposed licence fee is below market level and the application is therefore rejected. GPA has contacted Mr. Kwong to further discuss the matter and shall revert to Mr. Kwong once the review is completed by RVD.
2. All ATMs in Government's properties are let out by open tender or quotation at market rent. There is no letting at nominal or concessionary rent.
3. According to the Government accommodation policy, Government properties are primarily for Government use, including the engagement of non-profit making organizations by Government departments to achieve their policy objectives or to provide government commissioned services. Examples are residential care home for the elderly, elderly activity centre, rehabilitation centre and sheltered workshop for handicapped persons etc. These premises are occupied by the non-profit making organizations at nominal rent for provision of Government subvented services. Please note that the above mentioned Government accommodation policy should be distinguished from the measure mentioned in paragraph 1 of this written reply and it is not applicable to the subject case.
4. Under the existing accommodation policy, GPA will arrange letting of any surplus accommodation in the property market by open tender at market rent for commercial and other suitable uses.

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