

香港特別行政區政府  
保安局



The Government of the  
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region  
Security Bureau

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28 October 2014

Secretary  
Tuen Mun District Council  
2/F, Tuen Mun Government Offices,  
1 Tuen Hi Road,  
Tuen Mun, N.T.  
(Attn.: Ms Carmen HO)

**By Fax**  
(Fax: 2451 1598)

Dear Ms HO,

**The Role of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative  
Region in Approving the Entry of Mainland Residents**

Thank you for your letter on the captioned dated 23 October 2014 to the Security Bureau. Our reply is as follows.

Article 22(4) of the Basic Law stipulates that, for entry into the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), people from other parts of China must apply for approval. Mainland residents who wish to settle in Hong Kong for family reunion must apply for One-way Permits (OWPs) from the Exit and Entry Administration Offices of the Public Security Bureau of the Mainland at the places of their household registration. The policy objective of the OWP Scheme is not for the admission of talents or investors. Rather, it allows Mainland residents to come to Hong Kong for family reunion in an orderly manner through approval by the Mainland authorities in accordance with the relevant laws and regulations of the Mainland. In the OWP approval process, Mainland residents who meet the eligibility criteria laid down by the Mainland authorities may apply to come to settle in Hong Kong. The HKSAR Government does not see any justifications or needs to change the existing OWP Scheme to add other administrative screening criteria.

Under the policy objective of family reunion, the Mainland authorities have since May 1997 implemented a point-based system, setting out open and transparent criteria to objectively assess the eligibility and priority of applicants. The Mainland authorities also announce on the Internet the points required for approval of OWP applications. According to the survey conducted on new arrivals on the strength of OWP by the Immigration Department (ImmD) at Lo Wu boundary control point, about half of them reunited with their spouses and half reunited with their parents, while a small number reunited with their children or were unsupported children coming to Hong Kong to join their relatives.

New arrivals on the strength of OWP are among the important sources of population growth in Hong Kong. The Administration will consider relevant issues when formulating population policy. Currently, the ImmD and Home Affairs Department collect information of new arrivals at Lo Wu boundary control point and Registration of Persons Office respectively. The information is compiled into a quarterly report which is distributed to the relevant government departments and non-government organisations for reference and also made available on the internet (link: [http://www.had.gov.hk/file\\_manager/tc/documents/public\\_services/services\\_for\\_new\\_arrivals\\_from\\_the\\_mainland/report\\_2014q2.pdf](http://www.had.gov.hk/file_manager/tc/documents/public_services/services_for_new_arrivals_from_the_mainland/report_2014q2.pdf)). The Census and Statistics Department also takes new arrivals on the strength of OWP into account when making population estimates, which provide a common basis for the Government in the long-term planning for education, housing, transport, social services, medical services, etc.

OWPs are documents issued by relevant authorities in the Mainland. The application, approval and issuance of OWPs fall within the remit of the Mainland authorities. The HKSAR Government facilitates at case level, including issuing Certificates of Entitlement to children of Hong Kong permanent residents, and when necessary, rendering assistance in verifying the supporting documents submitted by applicants and their claimed relationship with relatives in Hong Kong (e.g. husband-wife or parent-child relationship). Furthermore, persons whose applications are found to be fraudulent by the HKSAR Government shall have their residence status invalidated and shall be removed, regardless of their years of residence in Hong Kong.

The HKSAR Government always attaches great importance to the views of various sectors of the society concerning Mainland residents settling in Hong Kong, and exchanges views with the Mainland authorities on

the approval of OWPs. Through meetings and exchanges, relevant bureaux and departments maintain close liaison with the Mainland authorities, such as the Bureau of Exit and Entry Administration of the Ministry of Public Security and the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council, to convey aspirations of various sectors in Hong Kong and exchange views. Having considered suggestions from the HKSAR Government and various sectors of the society, the Mainland authorities have adjusted and refined the OWP Scheme from time to time. For example, in 2009, the "eligibility points" for OWP applications of separated spouses were relaxed, thereby shortening their waiting time from five years to four. Also, starting from 2011, the Mainland authorities have allowed eligible Mainland "overage children" of Hong Kong residents to apply for OWP in an orderly manner, utilising residual OWP quota and responding to their request to reunite with their parents in Hong Kong.

The Security Bureau will not be able to send representatives to attend the meeting of the Tuen Mun District Council on 4 November. We will keep in view the suggestions from various sectors of the society and the interests of the local community on the matter. We will also continue to exchange views with the Mainland authorities on the overall usage of OWP quota, and reflect to them the aspirations of the society.

Yours sincerely,



(Leo LI)

for Secretary for Security