

# Extension of temporary measure to withhold issuance of Notice-to-Quit to public housing tenants

The following is issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Housing Authority:

The Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA) today (July 13) announced that public housing tenants in short-term financial difficulty with rents in arrears may submit an application to withhold the issuing of a Notice-to-Quit (NTQ) to the HA between July and December 2023. The HA will temporarily withhold issuing the Notice-to-Quit to the tenants concerned during the period if their applications are approved.

To help those tenants having financial problems get through the hardship during the pandemic, the HA had temporarily withheld the issuance of an NTQ to tenants between May and October 2020 upon approval of their applications. The HA has subsequently extended the measure six consecutive times until June 2023. To tie in with the Government's relief measures, the HA has decided to further extend the measure for another six months to December 2023.

In addition, the HA has all along been providing assistance to public housing tenants who are facing temporary financial difficulties through the Rent Assistance Scheme (RAS). Under the scheme, eligible applicants will be granted either a 50 per cent or 25 per cent rent reduction for a period of two years. When there is an increase in their household income or a change in the number of family members, RAS beneficiaries should take the initiative to inform the HA for a review of their eligibility. The HA will also conduct random checking to guard against possible abuse.

Tenants may contact their respective estate offices or interim housing offices for details.