

**For discussion
on 18 December 2009**

**BOARD PAPER
AAB/32/2009-10**

**MEMORANDUM FOR MEMBERS OF THE
ANTIQUITIES ADVISORY BOARD**

**ASSESSMENT OF 1,444 HISTORIC BUILDINGS
FINALISATION OF THE GRADINGS
OF PROPOSED GRADED BUILDINGS**

PURPOSE

This paper requests Members to consider endorsing the grading of the proposed graded buildings for which no adverse comments have been received.

BACKGROUND

2. At the 140th Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB) Meeting held on 4 December 2009, AAB endorsed a three-step way forward as proposed in Board Paper AAB/29/2009-10 to finalise the gradings of the 1,444 historic buildings. Members agreed to the first step of action suggested in the said AAB paper, i.e. to endorse the proposed gradings of buildings for which no adverse comments have been received in the priority order of Grade 1, 2, 3 and nil grading. There are 777 proposed graded items to be dealt with under Step 1. A list of all proposed graded items for which no adverse comments have been received is attached at **Annex** for Members' consideration.

3. Government is committed to considering each and every Grade 1 building as put up by AAB for possible monument declaration. In this connection, the according of Grade 1 status has to be meticulously assessed and rigorously justified. It is therefore suggested that the Grade 1 status of items which Members have never paid a visit to before should be confirmed with the benefit of a site visit. However, it should be noticed that prior consent from the owners of buildings not under government ownership has to be obtained before Members can enter into the buildings for inspection. If owners refuse to give their consent for access, site visits can only be arranged for inspection of the exterior of the buildings concerned.

4. Given the large number of buildings involved, Members may require several sessions of deliberations in considering the proposed grading. Members will be invited to consider those proposed gradings which have not yet been endorsed batch by batch in the coming meetings.

ADVICE SOUGHT

5. With the information provided in paragraphs 1 to 4 above, Members are advised to consider endorsement of the grading of proposed graded items. Members are also welcome to give views as to whether site visits to some Proposed Grade 1 items would be required, before the endorsement of the grading.

Antiquities and Monuments Office
Leisure and Cultural Services Department
December 2009

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