

**For discussion
on 4 March 2015**

**BOARD PAPER
AAB/3/2015-16**

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE
ANTIQUITIES ADVISORY BOARD**

**HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT
IN RESPECT OF THE WEST WING OF
THE FORMER CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES IN CENTRAL**

PURPOSE

This paper aims to present to Members the findings of the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) in respect of the West Wing of the former Central Government Offices (CGO West Wing) in Central.

HIA MECHANISM

2. The HIA in respect of the CGO West Wing was conducted in accordance with the HIA mechanism introduced by the Development Bureau (DEVB) vide Technical Circular (Works) No. 6/2009. Since its implementation from 1 January 2008, the HIA mechanism for capital works projects emphasises that every effort should be made to avoid or minimise adverse impact by the proposed works arising from Government's capital works projects on "heritage sites"¹. In the submission to the Public Works Subcommittee of the Legislative Council, the works agent is required to include a "Heritage Implications" paragraph to be cleared by the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO), stating clearly whether the project will affect any "heritage sites" and if in the affirmative, what mitigation measures will be

¹ Heritage sites include:

- (i) all declared monuments;
- (ii) all proposed monuments;
- (iii) all sites and buildings graded by the Antiquities Advisory Board;
- (iv) all recorded sites of archaeological interest; and
- (v) Government historic sites identified by the Antiquities and Monuments Office.

taken and whether the public are in support of the proposed measures in the public engagement process.

THE PROJECT

3. The former CGO comprises the Main Wing, East Wing and West Wing. The project involves alteration and conversion of the CGO West Wing (Grade 1 Historic Building) to accommodate offices of the Department of Justice (DoJ) that cannot be relocated to the Main and East Wings of the former CGO, as well as for use by law-related organisations.

The HIA

4. Given the heritage significance of the CGO West Wing, the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) has engaged a heritage consultant to conduct an HIA with a view to examining to what extent the proposed works would affect the historic building and devising mitigation measures if adverse impact is unavoidable.

5. ArchSD has submitted the HIA report on the CGO West Wing to AMO for consideration. Given that all key character defining elements of the CGO West Wing will be preserved and new additions and alterations will be kept to the minimum and can be reversible to the original building fabric when required, AMO, therefore, considers the works proposal agreeable from the heritage conservation perspective and is satisfied with the recommended mitigation measures. Main points of the HIA report and AMO's comments on the report are detailed in **Annexes A and B** respectively. The full HIA report can be accessed via the link http://www.amo.gov.hk/form/HIA_Report_CGOWW.pdf.

6. Representatives of DoJ and ArchSD, as well as their project and heritage consultants, will present the HIA report at the meeting. They will further refine the proposal in the light of Members' comments.

ADVICE SOUGHT

7. Members are invited to comment and advise on the findings of the HIA.

Antiquities and Monuments Office
Leisure and Cultural Services Department
March 2015

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