

**For discussion
on 14 December 2023**

**BOARD PAPER
AAB/20/2023-24**

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE
ANTIQUITIES ADVISORY BOARD**

**HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT IN RESPECT OF
THE CONVERSION OF OLD WAN CHAI POLICE STATION INTO
THE HEADQUARTERS OF AN INTERNATIONAL
INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION**

PURPOSE

This paper seeks Members' views on the findings of Heritage Impact Assessment ("HIA") in respect of Conversion of the Old Wan Chai Police Station ("OWCPS") in Wan Chai, Hong Kong, into the Headquarters of an International Inter-Governmental Organization, namely International Organization for Mediation ("IOMed"), if established in the Hong Kong SAR.

HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT MECHANISM

2. The HIA in respect of the Conversion of the OWCPS into the Headquarters of IOMed was conducted in accordance with the HIA mechanism of the Development Bureau vide Technical Circular (Works) No. 1/2022. The HIA mechanism highlights that every effort should be made to minimise the possible adverse impact on "Heritage Sites". 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 so, the necessary mitigation measures, as endorsed by the Antiquities Advisory Board ("AAB), to be implemented.

THE PROJECT

3. The project proponent is the Department of Justice (“DoJ”) and the project aims to convert and refurbish the OWCPS, a Grade 2 historic building for the purpose of preparing an appropriate site for housing the headquarters of IOMed, including renovation works for the site and existing building, and setting up of office, mediation and related supporting facilities. The scope of project also involves improvement works for barrier-free access and means of escape provisions.

HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

4. The Architectural Services Department (“ArchSD”), the works agent of the project has engaged a heritage conservation consultant to conduct the HIA. ArchSD has submitted to AMO for consideration the HIA report for assessing the heritage impact of the proposed project scope and design. Given that the character defining elements of OWCPS will be repaired as necessary and preserved as far as practicable and the likely impact on the structures will be kept to a minimum through the proposed mitigation measures, AMO, therefore, considers the proposal agreeable from the heritage conservation perspective and is satisfied with the recommended mitigation measures. The salient points of the HIA report and AMO’s comments are set out in **Annexes A and B** respectively. The full HIA report can be accessed vide the link: https://www.aab.gov.hk/filemanager/aab/common/203meeting/HIA_report_OWCPS.pdf.

5. Representatives of DoJ, ArchSD and their heritage conservation consultant will present the HIA report at the meeting. Members are invited to offer comments and advise on the findings of the HIA.

Antiquities and Monuments Office

December 2023

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