

Payment of Government Rent to the Lands Department

1. Duty to settle Government rent

As a property owner, you are obliged under the Government lease to pay Government rent. You should ensure that the Government rent for the property is kept paid up to date including any Government rent which was due before you acquired the property.

2. Amount of Government rent

It is generally based on the amount specified in the Government lease. For Government leases containing a right of renewal for a further term, the rent payable for the renewed term is 3% of the rateable value of the property as at **the date of renewal**. It remains the same until the property is redeveloped.

3. When to pay

Demand notes for Government rent are issued in every six months (in mid-May and mid-November) for rent exceeding \$100 per annum and once every five years for rent of \$100 or less per annum.

4. Consequences of Government rent remaining unpaid

If Government rent remains unpaid, Government may take back the property under the Government Rights (Re-entry and Vesting Remedies) Ordinance (Cap. 126). You will lose your ownership of the property and will incur extra costs to get it back.

5. Before buying a property

You and your solicitor should always check, through our Hotline (by quoting the Government rent reference number of the property) or make a written enquiry, that the Government rent is fully paid before you complete the purchase. A fee of \$86 will be charged for a written reply per property.

6. Notification of change of ownership or correspondence address

You may complete the boxes at the back of the demand note and return it to our office by post or by fax. You may also visit www.esd.gov.hk for 'Easy change of Address' service.

7. Enquiries with the Lands Department

Hotline : 2231 3033

Fax: 2117 1099

Website: www.info.gov.hk/landsd/gov_rent/gov_rent.htm

Address: Government Rent and Premium Enquiries, Lands Department, 1/F, North Point Government Offices, 333 Java Road, North Point, Hong Kong

8. Government rent collected by the Rating and Valuation Department

The Rating and Valuation Department is responsible for collection of Government rent for Government leases provided in the Government Rent (Assessment and Collection) Ordinance (Cap. 515). Such Government rent is usually collected with Rates for property. For enquiry, please contact the Rating and Valuation Department at 15/F Cheung Sha Wan Government Offices, 303 Cheung Sha Wan Road, Kowloon. Telephone No. 2152 2152. Website : www.info.gov.hk/rvd/.