

### Priority

On application, the grant of priority status for processing submissions for **new buildings** will be considered for the following types of project:

- (a) (i) Urgently required public utility and institutional buildings.
- (ii) Hong Kong Housing Society Projects.
- (b) Projects on lands owned by the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (previously known as the Hong Kong Industrial Estates Corporation).
- (c) Any project submitted for or on behalf of the Urban Renewal Authority by a wholly owned subsidiary company or a joint venture consortium of which the Urban Renewal Authority is a partner.
- (d) Projects that are likely to significantly contribute to the economic growth of Hong Kong.

2. Cases falling within criterion (a)(i) include schools, electricity sub-stations and other buildings of a similar nature where it can be shown that they are urgently required and it would be in the public interest for priority to be granted. Positive support from relevant government departments is required for applications for priority under criterion listed in paragraph (1)(d). It is possible that other high public interest projects not covered by the above criteria may also merit priority for special reasons but this will only be granted in exceptional circumstances and after consultation with the government departments concerned.

3. Application for priority status should accompany the first submission of plans to Buildings Department (BD). Projects only involving alterations and additions of **existing buildings** will not normally be granted priority. However, any projects designed to combat pollution (air, noise or water), or to eliminate or reduce the discharge of existing polluting waste and noxious or toxic effluents, may be accorded priority status.

4. Priority projects will be kept under constant review to ensure that the need for priority treatment is still appropriate. Where a priority project does not proceed expeditiously, its priority status may be withdrawn.

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5. The grant of priority only applies to matters involving BD and will have no bearing on land transactions.

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