

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 3217)**

Head: (76) Inland Revenue Department  
Subhead (No. & title): ()  
Programme: Not Specified  
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Inland Revenue (TAM Tai Pang)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury

Question:

Regarding residential properties, please advise this Committee of:

- 1) the numbers of agreements for sale and purchase of residential properties in the past 3 years (2021-22 to 2023-24), a breakdown of such numbers by reference to individual buyers holding Hong Kong Identity Card (HKIC), individual buyers not holding HKIC and company buyers, their percentages out of the total number of agreements, and the amounts of consideration involved;
- 2) the numbers of buyers who are incoming talents admitted to Hong Kong via talent admission schemes for each of the past 3 years (2021-22 to 2023-24), and a breakdown of the relevant figures in respect of each talent admission scheme;
- 3) the respective numbers of buyers acquiring residential properties under the stamp duty refund arrangement and the stamp duty suspension arrangement.

Asked by: Hon KAN Wai-mun, Carmen (LegCo internal reference no.: 43)

Reply:

- 1) The numbers of agreements for sale and purchase of residential properties which involved individual buyers holding Hong Kong Identity Card (HKIC), individual buyers not holding HKIC and non-natural person buyers, the proportion of the total numbers, as well as the transaction amount involved in the past 3 financial years from 2021-22 to 2023-24 are shown in the Annex.
- 2) The Inland Revenue Department (IRD) did not keep statistics on whether buyers of residential properties were admitted to Hong Kong via talent admission schemes (except statistics on the number of applicants under the stamp duty refund arrangement and suspension arrangement, and the details are set out in the answer in part 3.)
- 3) For the stamp duty refund arrangement, the IRD can only confirm that the buyers purchased residential properties under the arrangement after they have become Hong Kong permanent residents and applied for stamp duty refund. Up to 29 February 2024, 15 applications made by incoming talents under the stamp duty refund arrangement were approved.

In addition, from the introduction of the arrangement for upfront stamp duty relief for incoming talents on 25 October 2023 to 29 February 2024, 625 applications were approved.

Types of Buyer	2021-22			2022-23			2023-24 (up to 29 February 2024)		
	No.	Proportion	Total amounts involved (\$ billion)	No.	Proportion	Total amounts involved (\$ billion)	No.	Proportion	Total amounts involved (\$ billion)
Individual buyers holding HKIC	69 596	97.96%	635.28	52 981	97.92%	414.11	36 805	96.83%	273.55
Individual buyers not holding HKIC	153	0.22%	1.58	168	0.31%	1.61	314	0.83%	3.09
Non-natural person buyers (Note)	1 292	1.82%	28.6	960	1.77%	14.49	888	2.34%	13.97
<b>Total</b>	<b>71 041</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>665.46</b>	<b>54 109</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>430.21</b>	<b>38 007</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>290.61</b>

Note: Non-natural person buyers include local company and overseas company buyers.

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