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Chairman and Members

Working Group on External Lighting

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**Review on Measures Managing External Lighting and Future Developments
(Comments by Designing Hong Kong)**

The Government set up the Task Force on External Lighting in 2011 to advise on the appropriate strategy and measures for tackling nuisance caused by external lighting. The Task Force has submitted a report in 2015 and the government has taken multi-pronged approaches in response.

The Working Group on External Lighting set up in 2018 to succeed the Task Force started a review on the effectiveness of the Charter on External Lighting in September. After launching the Charter in 2016, there is are many shortcomings and more proactive moves, including legislations should be taken to tackle the problem.

Designing Hong Kong herewith offers a number of views.

1. Residents should have the right to the enjoyment of their homes without light pollution. External lighting of buildings affects the living quality of residents nearby. Hong Kong people have the right to live without light pollution, therefore, the Government has the responsibility to fight for the people with all its power, including legislation.
2. We recommend zoning to control the external lighting nuisance in the city. The zoning could make use of existing data, and recognise zones according to different indicators such as land use, building density and building heights. The government can set up different requirements and measures for each zone to cope with light nuisance effectively. External lightings facing residents' window directly should have the strictest measures while measures could be looser if the external lightings are harbour facing.
3. The preset time of the external lighting according to the Charter is now 11 pm or midnight This is too late as most residents are at home in the evening and the external lighting affects their time spending at home and even sleeping quality. Therefore, we recommend the preset time should be sunset for any lightings which facing residential units.
4. The Charter launched for three years ago, but there are still growing numbers of complaints regarding external lighting, especially within residential area. The intention of launching the Charter is good However, as there are no legal consequences for, we suggest the government should speed up the legislation, in response to the latest Policy Address to build a more liveable city in Hong Kong and catch up the energy saving plan by 2025.

Yours,

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