

To all eligible applicants,

19 July 2021

Express Flat Allocation Scheme (2021) - Invitation Letter

Express Flat Allocation Scheme (EFAS) is an extra scheme in addition to the original public rental housing (PRH) application. Through the EFAS, holders of valid PRH applications who fulfill the eligibility criteria of the scheme may have an earlier chance to be allocated PRH flats. Some flats are offered with rent reduction periods. The EFAS is launched subject to the availability of housing resources and conducted in the mode of self-flat-selection. Most flats to be included for selection are less popular PRH flats. There is no locality restriction for EFAS applicants. Applicants can select a flat in accordance with the number of authorized members in their PRH applications and the allocation standard of individual flats.

Eligible PRH applicants who are interested in joining this scheme with valid PRH application of registration date or equivalent date of registration falling on or before 31 March 2020 (Equivalent date of registration will be adopted if there is one in the application)(i.e. whose application number is **G1449663 / U0471851 or earlier**) with at least half of the family members included in the application have lived in Hong Kong for seven years and holding a valid chance of flat allocation are eligible to apply for joining this Scheme, irrespective of whether they have ever applied for EFAS before. Details of the Scheme and “Application Guide” have been uploaded to HA/HD website(<http://www.housingauthority.gov.hk>: Home > PRH Application > Express Flat Allocation Scheme) for reference. Eligible PRH applicants are advised to download “Application Guide” * at HA/HD website and read it before submission of application during the period from **20 July 2021 to 9 August 2021** to Housing Department (HD). Details of application method are as follows.

1. Application Method

Eligible PRH applicants who opt to join EFAS have to submit application during the period mentioned above by any one of the following ways. **Late applications will not be accepted.**

- (a) **On-line application:** complete and submit the application through ‘e-Service for Public Rental Housing Application’ at HA/HD website (<http://www.housingauthority.gov.hk>: Home > PRH Application > Express Flat Allocation Scheme > ‘e-Services for Public Housing Application’ > Other e-Services for PRH Application > Express Flat Allocation Scheme) (Note: Applicant must register/login e-Services for PRH Application account with valid PRH application for application); or
- (b) Complete the application form attached and then submit by one of the following ways:
Submit the completed original application form in the designated collection box at the reception counter of Podium Level 1, Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA) Customer Service Centre (Address : 3 Wang Tau Hom South Road, Kowloon) during office hours (Collection Box Opening Hours: 8:00 am to 6:00 pm from Monday-Friday, except public holidays); or mail it to Lettings Unit (2), Housing Department, Hong Kong Housing Authority Customer Service Centre (HKHACSC), Podium Level 1, 3 Wang Tau Hom South Road, Kowloon or P.O. Box 89192, Kowloon City Post Office with “Express Flat Allocation Scheme” denoted on the envelope. **Please ensure that mail items should bear sufficient postage with return address before posting.** For mailed application, the submission date of the application will be determined by the postmark date on the envelope. Late applications will not be considered. Acknowledgement letters will be issued upon receipt of applications. Applicant who has submitted the application form by post or by hand may call HA Hotline: 2712 2712 by 7 September 2021 should he/she fail to receive the acknowledgement letter before 1 September 2021.

Please note if there is a tropical cyclone warning signal number 8 or above, or a black rainstorm warning signal in force on 9 August 2021, rendering it impossible for applicants to submit application on that date, the closing date will be postponed until the next working day which does not have any of the above warning signals in force (Working day means a day that is not a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday).

2. Notes for Completing the Application Form

Flats remaining at relatively late stage of flat selection are usually Housing for Senior Citizens (HSC) or Self-contained flats located in relatively remote areas. Thus, the application form contains a part on options(s) on district(s) and flat type(s) of selection for the current phase of EFAS. Applicants shall place a ‘✓’ in the box adjacent to the district(s) and flat type(s) which they are interested to select. When the remaining flats are found located in district(s) and/or type(s) which the applicant has not selected on the application form, HD will not invite the applicant to come for flat selection nor notify the applicant separately.

3. Contact Us

For details of the EFAS, applicants may browse the HA/HD website at <http://www.housingauthority.gov.hk>: Home > PRH Application > Express Flat Allocation Scheme or through the HA Hotline: 2712 2712. Applicants may also enquire their EFAS application stage through the ‘e-Services for Public Housing Application’ in the HA/HD webpage. For the login procedures relating to the ‘e-Services for Public Housing Application’, please refer to the EFAS webpage. EFAS applicants will be updated of the EFAS information through various means including but not limited to sending SMS messages if applicants have provided local mobile phone nos. to HD.

This application is free of charge. If you are not interested in this scheme, you may ignore this invitation letter and need not to reply. For enquiries or *getting a hardcopy of “Application Guide”, please call HA Hotline: 2712 2712.

Lettings Unit (2), Housing Department
(This is a computer generated letter which requires no signature.)

Express Flat Allocation Scheme (EFAS) (2021)

Application Guide

- a. Housing Department (HD) will set the priority for Flat Selection based on the following order: -
- (i) Suitable for two heads or above families and Single Elderly Persons Priority Scheme applicants:
 - (1) Application with earlier Registration date/Equivalent date of registration (Equivalent date of registration must be adopted if there is one for the application);
 - (2) G-No. with smaller number;
 - (3) U-No. with smaller number.
 - (ii) Suitable for Non-elderly One-person Applicants under Quota and Points System (QPS):
 - (1) Applicant with higher points under QPS;
 - (2) Applicant older in age;
 - (3) Application with earlier Registration date/Equivalent date of registration. (Equivalent date of registration must be adopted if there is one for the application);
 - (4) G-No. with smaller number;
 - (5) U-No. with smaller number.
- b. The first batch of flat selection is for household of two-head or above and is tentatively scheduled for around late September or early October 2021. The second batch is for one-person applicants and will tentatively be commenced in December 2021. Letters of notification for flat selection will be sent in batches to applicants who meet the requirements about one week before their flat selection date according to their flat selection priorities. Change of corresponding address should be reported in writing to HD immediately. Failure to do so may affect the chance of invitation for flat selection. HD reserves the right to change or postpone the date of flat selection. HD will upload the list of flats available for selection to the HA/HD website around two to three days before the commencement of flat selection process for applicants' information. The above arrangements made by the HD shall be final.
- c. Applicants may call the HA Hotline: 2712 2712 for progress enquiry. HD will keep applicants informed of the latest flat selection progress through the HA/ HD webpage and Headline Daily, am730 and The Standard.
- d. There is no locality restriction for flats being selected. Applicants can choose only one flat from the list of flats available for selection in accordance with the number of authorized members on his/her PRH application (the computer record of applications should prevail) and the allocation standard of each flat displayed for selection. Each applicant will only have one opportunity to select a flat under the same scheme and the selection (including the selection made by the authorized person) is irrevocable once it is made.
- e. In view of that there will be large number of applications against uneven distribution of limited flats available for selection in various districts; **HD cannot guarantee that every applicant is able to select a flat or being invited to attend the flat selection session under the Scheme.** HD will invite applicants to join the flat selection session only when there are flats available in their selected districts and flat types.
- f. Applicants should update any changes of their family size or particulars (e.g. addition or deletion of family member, change of marital status, change of applicant, or change of the intention to join 'Harmonious Families Priority Scheme' (HFPS)) to HD in writing before the flat selection procedures because such updated information will affect the eligibility of the application, the order of priority for flat selection, the date for flat selection and the size of flat to be allocated, etc. Under normal circumstances, request for addition or deletion of family members during flat selection will not be entertained. Therefore, the applicant must complete the formalities for information update before flat selection. Whether the applicant will be allocated with the selected flat will be subject to his/her fulfillment of the eligibility vetting or review for PRH.
- g. Flats available for selection under this Scheme including HSC units. There is no age restriction for allocation of HSC units at present but tenants may have to share some facilities (e.g. kitchen and toilet, etc.) with other residents, and the share of common facilities area has been included in the internal floor area of an individual HSC unit.
- h. The flat list for selection would include PRH flats converted from Interim Housing (IH) units and being equipped with smaller toilet and kitchen. For the flats marked as "Converted Flat" in the list, their internal partition and facilities are different from a standard PRH flat. Some of these flats may also need to share the gate with adjacent flat(s).
- i. For applicants joining HFPS through two PRH applications, if they wish to join EFAS, they have to change their PRH applications to "Ordinary Families" and give up the six-month period of priority processing applicable to HFPS applicants. If applicants fail to select a flat under EFAS and still meet the criteria, they may join HFPS again and resume their original priority of registration. Applicants applying for two PRH units under one PRH application are allowed to select only ONE flat under EFAS.
- j. If an applicant has applied for "White Form Secondary Market Scheme (WSM)" and EFAS at the same time, in case the HA or the Hong Kong Housing Society (HKHS) has issued the Letter of Nomination, or if the applicant through WSM has successfully purchased a flat in the HOS Secondary Market of the HA or the Flat For Sales Scheme Secondary Market of the HKHS, his/her PRH application (including EFAS) will be cancelled. If an applicant has successfully obtained allocation of a PRH flat through EFAS, his/ her application of WSM will be cancelled automatically.
- k. If the PRH application has been verified as eligible for PRH and the application is ready for allocation (except for frozen cases), joining this scheme will not affect the chance of being allocated a flat under the normal queue. It is thus possible that offer letter will be issued under his/her normal PRH application, inviting the applicant to complete the intake formalities (including final offer). In that case, the applicant has to decide whether to accept the offer or not. If he/she accepts the offer and completes all the intake formalities, his/her EFAS application will be cancelled. If the applicant refuses the offer, his/her EFAS application will not be affected provided that he/she still holds valid chance of housing offer(s) upon that refusal. If the applicant refuses to accept the final offer leading to cancellation of his/her PRH application, his/her EFAS application will be cancelled accordingly.

- l. When an applicant has successfully selected a flat, HD will arrange a detailed vetting interview for him/her immediately if his/her public housing eligibility has not yet been verified. The interview will be conducted within one month from the flat selection date. For rational use of public housing resources, HD will not consider postponing the interview for more than two months from the date of flat selection. The applicant must attend an interview as scheduled to complete required procedures. Failing to do so, the EFAS application will be cancelled, and the selected flat will not be reserved.
- m. Applicant who has been confirmed eligible for PRH will receive offer letter within one month from the date of letter of confirming his/her eligibility for PRH or the flat selection date (whichever is the latter). He/she is required to complete the intake formalities at the respective estate office on the date specified in the offer letter. HD will not consider any request to postpone the date of issuance of offer letter in order to optimize the use of public housing resources.
- n. The Subsidised Housing Committee (SHC) of HA endorsed on 29 September 2005 that tenants departing from PRH (including IH) with rent arrears unsettled would be blacklisted. The ex-tenant or any members aged 18 or above of such households are required to settle all rent arrears and debts incurred in the past before they can be allocated a PRH unit through the PRH Application. [Applicable to ex-tenants whose flats are recovered by HD after 30 September 2005]. For applicants who are blacklisted under this circumstance, they are not allowed to attend the flat selection procedures unless all rent arrears and debts incurred have been settled before their scheduled flat selection date under the Scheme. Failing which the EFAS application will be cancelled.
- o. The SHC of HA endorsed on 26 October 2005 that ex-tenants of PRH (including IH) with tenancies terminated by HA, their application for PRH will be debarred for two years, counting from the date of termination of the previous tenancy. The above restrictions apply to ex-tenants with date of termination of their previous tenancies fall on or after 1 January 2006. Their EFAS application will not be accepted if the respective PRH application is within the two-year restriction period. The EFAS application will be cancelled even though the debarred records are created after the application closing date.
- p. Applicant who has obtained a PRH flat through EFAS and subsequently applies with Green Form (GF) for purchase of a flat under HA's Home Ownership Scheme (HOS) or HKHS's "Subsidised Sales Flats Project" (including surplus HOS and new HOS flats) within three years from the initial commencement date of the tenancy agreement, he/she will be treated as White Form (WF) applicant in the flat selection order and will be put under the WF queue. Any flat taken up by him/her will be counted against the WF quota. Upon purchase of such a flat, he/she will have to surrender his/her PRH flat to HA like the other GF applicants.
- q. Applicants housed through EFAS will not be eligible to apply for the sale of flats under GF Subsidised Home Ownership Scheme (GSH) within three years from the initial date of tenancy commencement of their PRH units.
- r. **Having accepted the flat through EFAS, the applicant and his/her family members cannot request for any transfer within three years from the commencement date of the tenancy agreement. At flat selection, applicants are therefore required to sign an undertaking to acknowledge that they cannot request a transfer within three years from the date of commencement of the tenancy agreement in respect of the selected flat.** HD may exercise discretion for special cases verified by relevant departments/organization, or transfers upon demand of the HD.
- s. Tenants who take up PRH flats with effective vacancy period of 12 months or more will be granted 50% reduction on monthly rent. The period of rent reduction is determined by the period of effective vacancy of a flat ("Effective vacancy period" is the period during which the unit is under normal letting so that it may differ from actual vacancy period). Tenants cannot apply for HD's Rent Assistance Scheme during the period. (Remarks: If Comprehensive Social Security Assistance recipients residing in public housing receive any rent-free incentives or rent-reduction incentives, Social Welfare Department will stop the rental allowance or will only pay rental allowance at an amount equal to the actual rent paid resulting from the rent-reduction incentives, subject to the maximum rent allowance entitled. For further enquiries, please contact the responsible Social Security Field Unit.)
- t. The SHC of HA endorsed on 31 October 2016 that only one round of flat selection would be conducted starting from 2017/18 EFAS exercise.
- u. HA/HD in general will not accept underpaid mail items. Mail items addressed to HA/HD without sufficient postage will be returned by Hongkong Post to the sender, who will be charged with the deficiency plus a surcharge. Mail items without return address will be disposed of by Hongkong Post in accordance with her established procedures for handling undeliverable mails. For proper delivery of mail items to HA/HD, and to avoid unnecessary delivery delay or unsuccessful delivery, applicants are requested to ensure that mail items should bear sufficient postage with return address before posting.
- v. It is anticipated that there will be a lot of applicants joining this scheme and it takes time for HD to handle the large volume of applications. Hence, applicants might have to wait for about 4-5 months for the flat selection upon the launch of the scheme. If during which there are new policies/regulations being endorsed by HA and if there are implications on the applicants joining this scheme, we will alert concerned applicants of the changes through different channels.
- w. This Application is free of charge. Anyone who offers to assist in the application in return for remuneration should be reported to the Police, Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) or HA immediately. Attempted bribery is also an offence in law. HA will refer such case to ICAC for investigation and cancel the application.
- x. The personal data in the application form are furnished to HA for the processing of application for current EFAS exercise. Pursuant to the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (Chapter 486), the applicant is entitled to request for access to those personal data related to him/her stated in the application form. Where necessary, such requests should be made in writing and directed by post or by fax (2761 6363) to the Department Data Protection Officer of Housing Authority Headquarters, 33 Fat Kwong Street, Homantin, Kowloon. A fee may be charged for the request for access to or correction of personal data.

Contact Us

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