

4 JANUARY 2019

CEA launches first phase of Property Agents' Transaction Records Initiative and Update on 2019 Licensing and Registration Exercise

The Council for Estate Agencies (CEA) has launched the first phase of the Property Agents' Transaction Records Initiative (房地产经纪交易记录) to publish the records of residential transactions facilitated by property agents in Singapore. From 4 January 2019, information on completed resale transactions for Housing and Development Board (HDB) flats closed by registered property agents will be made available on the <u>CEA Public Register</u> on the CEA website.

Enhancing information transparency and engendering trust

- 2. The initiative to publish property agents' transaction records is aimed at making property agents' information more transparent to consumers for their selection of a property agent to help them buy, sell, or rent a residential property. Property agents will be able to provide verified records of their experience in closing residential transactions, which will help them build and sustain consumer trust.
- 3. The CEA Public Register was introduced on 1 January 2011 to increase transparency and foster confidence in the estate agency industry. It is the primary platform for the public to check whether an individual is a registered property agent and whether a company is a licensed property agency.

- 4. In the first phase of the Property Agents' Transaction Records Initiative, a property agent's records for HDB flat resale transactions will be shown on his or her profile on the Public Register, with the following information:
 - the transaction completion date;
 - the general location of the property; and
 - the party (i.e. buyer or seller) the agent represented in the transaction.

A summary of the key features of the initiative and screenshots of how an agent's transaction records are presented is at <u>Annex A</u>.

- 5. The additional information can provide consumers with a clearer understanding of the agent's experience in terms of how active he or she has been in the last two years in closing HDB resale transactions, in which HDB towns, and whether he or she was acting for the buyer or the seller.
- 6. The published records of HDB flat resale transactions closed by property agents are based on the information submitted to HDB in the course of the HDB flat resale transaction process. The information will be updated on the 15th of each month and will reflect records of transactions completed within the last 24 months from the date of access¹. This is to ensure that consumers have access to the most recent transaction records. Records older than 24 months from the date of access, starting from 1 January 2017, are available at Data.gov.sg, the government's one-stop portal to publicly available datasets from public agencies.
- 7. CEA had consulted industry stakeholders including the industry associations, Key Executive Officers of property agencies, property agents, as well as consumers in developing the Property Agents' Transaction Records Initiative, and before deciding on the information to be displayed. The initiative was refined after receiving and incorporating feedback from these key stakeholders.

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¹ For example, on 15 February 2019, records of HDB resale transactions completed from 1 February 2017 to 31 January 2019 will be reflected in an agent's profile. Records of transactions completed in February 2019 will be updated and reflected on 15 March 2019.

- 8. In the second phase of the initiative, CEA plans to make available property agents' records of HDB renting out of flat transactions, as well as private residential sales/purchase and lease transactions from end-2019.
- 9. The Property Agents' Transaction Records Initiative is one of the recommendations under the Real Estate Industry Transformation Map (ITM). The Real Estate ITM was launched in February 2018 with a view to enable property agencies and agents to enhance productivity, innovate, raise professionalism, and build stronger client relationships to remain relevant in the industry.

Completion of 2019 Licensing and Registration Exercise for property agencies and agents

10. As at 1 January 2019, there were 1,229 licensed property agencies and 29,146 registered property agents. The number of licensed property agencies and registered property agents as at 1 January over the last three years is shown below:

	As at 1 Jan 2017	As at 1 Jan 2018	As at 1 Jan 2019
Number of property agents	28,397	28,571	29,146
Number of property agencies	1,286	1,269	1,229

- 11. CEA issued 57 new property agency licences and 1,198 new property agent registrations throughout 2018. A total of 59 property agency licences and 2,091 property agent registrations lapsed after 31 December 2018.
- 12. The breakdown of property agencies by number of agents is at Annex B.
- 13. On the launch of the initiative to publish property agents' transaction records and the latest registration and licensing numbers in the estate agency industry, Ms Chia I-Ling, Director, Policy & Licensing (政策与执照颁发司长

谢忆翱), said: "Notwithstanding a slight increase in the number of registered property agents compared to the same time last year, the industry continues to face a challenging road ahead with rising consumer expectations and technological disruption. In order to remain relevant, it is vital that the real estate agency industry keeps up its efforts to transform itself and enhance its professionalism. The availability of property agents' verified transaction records online is one such effort to help property agents build stronger relationships with their clients, as greater transparency increases consumers' confidence in engaging property agents."

About the Council for Estate Agencies

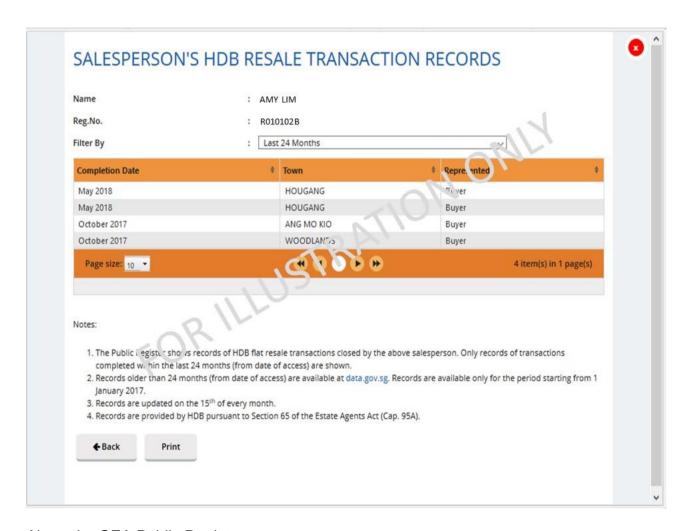
The Council for Estate Agencies (CEA) is a statutory board established in 2010 under the Estate Agents Act to regulate and promote the development of a professional and trusted real estate agency industry. The key responsibilities of CEA are to license property agencies and register property agents, promote the integrity and competence of property agencies and property agents, and equip consumers with the necessary knowledge to make informed decisions in property transactions involving property agents. For more information, please visit: www.cea.gov.sg.

Annex A

Property Agents' Transaction Records Initiative

With effect from 4 January 2019, the following information on completed resale transactions for Housing and Development Board (HDB) flats closed by registered property agents in the past 24 months will be made available on CEA's Public Register:

- the transaction completion date;
- the general location of the property; and
- the party (i.e. buyer or seller) the agent represented in the transaction.

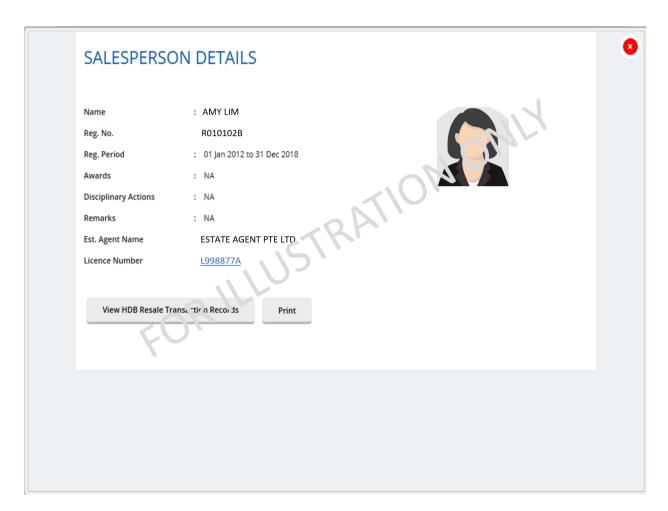


About the CEA Public Register

CEA's Public Register lists all licensed and registered property agencies and agents:

A property agency's profile includes information such as its licence number,
licence validity period, and the list of registered agents in the agency.

 A property agent's profile includes information such as the property agent's name and the agency he or she is representing, registration number, and registration validity period.



Annex B

Size of property agencies by number of agents, as at 1 Jan 2019

Size of property agency	Number of property agencies
>500 agents	7
51-500 agents	18
31-50 agents	12
11-30 agents	57
1-10 agents	1,135

10 largest property agencies by size, as at 1 Jan 2019

Property agency	Number of property agents
PropNex Realty Pte Ltd	7,400
ERA Realty Network Pte Ltd	6,490
OrangeTee & Tie Pte Ltd	4,056
Huttons Asia Pte Ltd	3,067
Savills Residential Pte Ltd	672
KF Property Network Pte Ltd	632
SRI Pte Ltd	591
Global Alliance Property Pte Ltd	434
SLP Scotia Pte Ltd	377
C&H Properties Pte Ltd	316