

**Response to “Time, effort wasted in bid to learn new trade”
– ST Forum, 29 Sep 2014**

10 Oct 2014

Dear Editor

We refer to the letter “Time, effort wasted in bid to learn new trade” by Mr Winston Cheng Kheng Sen (29 Sep 2014) on CEA’s rejection of his application to be registered as a real estate salesperson.

2 Mr Cheng had submitted an application for registration as a salesperson. In his application, Mr Cheng had declared that he was working in a public sector organisation. As public sector employees need the support of their employer to conduct part-time work, CEA advised him to seek approval from his employer for his application to be a salesperson. In the letter submitted by Mr Cheng to CEA, his employer had allowed him to be registered as a salesperson but did not allow him to conduct estate agency work.

3 To be a competent salesperson, one must be able to practise the skills and knowledge he acquired to conduct estate agency work. CEA rejected his application as Mr Cheng is unable to carry out estate agency work due to the restriction imposed by his employer. CEA’s reasons were communicated to Mr Cheng on several occasions. Nevertheless, we thank Mr Cheng for his feedback and will update the information on CEA’s website to indicate clearly that an applicant’s intent and ability to practise may be taken into consideration as part of approval process by CEA.

Yeap Soon Teck
Deputy Director (Licensing)
Council for Estate Agencies