

**BILLS COMMITTEE ON
LAND (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS)(AMENDMENT) BILL 2002
MEETING ON 25 FEBRUARY 2003**

Follow-up to meeting on 13 February 2003

In the Bills Committee on Land (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Amendment) Bill 2002 on 13 February 2003, the Administration was requested to follow up on certain issues. The following are the information provided on these issues.

Question (a) To consider devising a charging scheme for economic cost due to excavation works on pedestrian ways and formulating other incentive scheme(s) to encourage road work promoters to achieve timely/early completion of excavation works on pedestrian ways/traffic lanes.

Answer (a) We will look into the possibility of providing incentive to permittees of excavation permits to encourage them to complete excavations earlier than the completion date allowed in the permit. We are currently consulting the construction industry and the utility undertakers about their views on the provision of incentive schemes. We are also seeking their views on the charging of economic cost for excavation on pedestrian ways. We will report to the Bills Committee about the results of the consultation and any proposal on incentive schemes.

Question (b) To consult the construction industry and utility undertakers on the proposed charging/incentive schemes for excavation works as per (a) above.

Answer (b) See our answer to (a) above.

Question (c) To consider standardizing the renditions “excavation permit” and “permit” throughout the Bill.

Answer (c) We have reviewed the Bill and the latest Committee Stage Amendments and would like to confirm that we have already standardized the use of “the excavation permit” and “the permit”. There is no need to make any amendment.

Question (d) To consider whether it is necessary to include “of the permit” after “the permittee” in the new section 10A(4)(b) and other similar provisions in the Bill.

Answer (d) We have reviewed section 10A(4)(b) and other similar provisions and conclude that the inclusion is correct. In every provision where “the permittee of the permit” is used, it is our intention to refer to the permittee of a particular permit and not any permit.

Question (e) To consider whether it is appropriate to specify the ranking of public officers for the review of assessment on certain decision of the Authority under the new section 10(L).

Answer (e) We will revise new section 10L to give more flexibility in case of change of titles of the officers referred to therein by adding terms such as ‘or engineer of equivalent rank’ after the reference to the specific officers mentioned. Committee Stage Amendments to reflect this change will be submitted for the Bills Committee’s consideration in due course.