

**Case conference on 1 March 2002
attended by LegCo Members, Tai Po District Council members
and representatives of the Administration**

Concerns and policy issues on the processing of small house applications

(A) The following concerns were raised at the above meeting -

- (i) LegCo Members and Tai Po District Council members were concerned about the slow progress of the processing of small house applications. Regarding the Tai Po district, they noted that District Lands Office/Tai Po (DLO/TP) was processing small house applications submitted in January 1997. There were substantial numbers of applications not yet processed by DLO/TP. Details were as follows -

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of applications not yet processed</u>
1997 - 1998	1 312
1998 - 1999	478
1999 - 2000	264
2000 - 2001	216
2001 - present	99

- (ii) The backlog of small house applications was a common problem in villages of other districts.
- (iii) According to the Lands Department, except for very complex cases, a small house grant could be executed by the Department within 8 years from the date of submission of the application.

(B) The following policy issues were referred to the Panel on Planning, Lands and Works —

- (i) Justification(s) for the Lands Department to take eight years to approve a small house grant from the date of submission of the application. Please provide a detailed breakdown of the procedures and time involved under the prevailing mechanism.
- (ii) Measures to be taken by the Administration to expedite the processing of small house applications.