

**Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance Committee Members in
examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06**

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Session No. : 6

File name : HPLB(H)-e1

Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
HPLB(H)001	0525	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	62	Squatter Clearance and Squatter Control
HPLB(H)002	0526	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	62	Squatter Clearance and Squatter Control
HPLB(H)003	0527	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	62	Squatter Clearance and Squatter Control
HPLB(H)004	0528	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	62	Squatter Clearance and Squatter Control
HPLB(H)005	0556	CHAN Yuen-han	62	Squatter Clearance and Squatter Control
HPLB(H)006	0557	LEONG Kah-kit, Alan	62	Squatter Clearance and Squatter Control
HPLB(H)007	0558	LEONG Kah-kit, Alan	62	Squatter Clearance and Squatter Control
HPLB(H)008	0559	LEE Wing-tat	62	Squatter Clearance and Squatter Control
HPLB(H)009	1253	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	62	Squatter Clearance and Squatter Control
HPLB(H)010	1254	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	62	Squatter Clearance and Squatter Control
HPLB(H)011	1255	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	62	Squatter Clearance and Squatter Control
HPLB(H)012	1256	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	62	Squatter Clearance and Squatter Control
HPLB(H)013	1257	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	62	Squatter Clearance and Squatter Control
HPLB(H)014	1609	CHAN Kam-lam	62	Squatter Clearance and Squatter Control
HPLB(H)015	1610	CHAN Kam-lam	62	Squatter Clearance and Squatter Control
HPLB(H)016	1588	LI Wah-ming, Fred	711	
HPLB(H)017	1589	LI Wah-ming, Fred	711	
HPLB(H)018	1590	LI Wah-ming, Fred	711	

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(H)001

Question Serial No.

0525

Head : 62 Housing Department Subhead :

Programme : Squatter Clearance and Squatter Control

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands (Housing)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Please provide the details of the work, the expenditure and the manpower involved in “detering, detecting and demolishing new illegal structures” under this Programme.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : Head 62 covers squatter clearance and squatter control. Under squatter control, the main task is to deter illegal squatting on unleased or undeveloped government lands and leased agricultural lands. Squatter control work in the New Territories is undertaken by the Housing Department, while that in the urban areas and outlying islands is carried out by the Lands Department, with the requisite resources provided under Head 91 “Lands Department: Land Administration”.

For the effective discharge of squatter control duties, the Housing Department divides the New Territories into 4 regions. Squatter control staff patrol the designated routes at least once a week, depending on whether there are squatting black spots along the routes. Upon detection of new illegal structures or erections, squatter control staff will check the land status with the Lands Department, identify the occupants, inspect the structure and find out its use, etc. Upon confirmation that the structure is illegal, squatter control staff will, in accordance with the Land (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance, request the owner to demolish it within 48 hours.

A total of 241 staff members are involved in squatter control, with an estimated expenditure of \$103 million. Apart from regular patrols to deter illegal squatting, these staff members also undertake other squatter management duties under Head 62, such as maintaining the facilities in existing squatter areas, as well as boarding up and demolishing vacated squatter structures.

Signature _____

Name in block letters C.M. LEUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Housing,
Planning and Lands (Housing)

Date 6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(H)002

Question Serial No.

0526

Head : 62 Housing Department Subhead :

Programme : Squatter Clearance and Squatter Control

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands (Housing)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Please provide the details of the work, the expenditure and the manpower involved in the "investigation of cases in which squatters have applied for public rental housing with a view to boarding up or demolishing squatter structures so vacated" under this Programme.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : The policy objective of Head 62 is to reduce the number of squatter structures and the squatter population. When applying for public rental housing, squatter occupants are required to undertake in writing that upon successful application, they have to surrender their squatter structures. Once the applicant is allocated a public housing flat, squatter control staff will carry out investigations on the squatter structure and verify the information of the occupants. After the applicant has been rehoused in public rental housing, the structure will be boarded up and, if possible, demolished (e.g. if the squatter structures nearby are vacated as well) to prevent re-occupation.

"Boarding up or demolishing vacated squatter structures" forms part of the routine duties of squatter control staff. We do not have further breakdowns of the expenditure and manpower involved in this particular duty.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

C.M. LEUNG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Housing,
Planning and Lands (Housing)

Date _____

6 April 2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(H)003

Question Serial No.

0527

Head : 62 Housing Department Subhead :

Programme : Squatter Clearance and Squatter Control

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands (Housing)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Please provide the details of the work, the expenditure and the manpower involved in "providing assistance in relocating and rehousing the occupants of illegal rooftop structures displaced by the Buildings Department's enforcement actions" under this Programme.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : The Buildings Department takes enforcement actions against illegal rooftop structures to ensure public safety. In support of such enforcement actions, the Housing Department assists in rehousing the affected occupants according to their eligibility.

On the day the Buildings Department serves a Removal Order under the Buildings Ordinance, the Housing Department carries out a freezing survey to register the occupants of the affected structures and assess their eligibility for public rental housing within 2 to 4 months. For occupants who are ineligible for public rental housing but have special difficulties, the Housing Department will refer them to the Social Welfare Department for consideration of compassionate rehousing.

A total of 82 staff members are involved in squatter clearance, with an estimated expenditure of \$49 million. Besides the works described above, these staff members are also responsible for squatter clearance projects. We do not have further breakdowns of the expenditure and manpower for these two items of work.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C.M. LEUNG

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Housing,
Planning and Lands (Housing)

Date _____ 6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(H)004

Question Serial No.

0528

Head : 62 Housing Department Subhead :

Programme : Squatter Clearance and Squatter Control

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands (Housing)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Please provide the details of the work, the expenditure and the manpower involved in "assisting the Environmental Protection Department to demolish compensated livestock structures on government land" under this Programme.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : Livestock structures affected by the Livestock Waste Control Scheme of the Environmental Protection Department must be demolished after compensation.

Upon payment of compensation by the Environmental Protection Department and the serving of demolition notice to the owners of these structures, the Housing Department arranges contractors to demolish the structures and supervises the entire demolition process. Funding for the demolition is provided by the Environmental Protection Department. This task forms part of the routine duties of squatter control staff. We do not have further breakdowns of the expenditure and manpower involved in this particular duty.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

C.M. LEUNG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Housing,
Planning and Lands (Housing)

Date _____

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(H)005

Question Serial No.

0556

Head : 62 Housing Department Subhead : 000 Operational expenses

Programme : Squatter Clearance and Squatter Control

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands (Housing)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Regarding the net deletion of 35 posts in 2005-06, as put forward in the document, please provide information on:

1. the job natures of the posts to be deleted;
2. the ranks of the posts to be deleted;
3. whether the posts to be deleted are contract staff posts or permanent posts;
4. the justifications for deleting these posts; and
5. how the work of these posts will be absorbed.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : Details of the 35 posts that will be deleted in 2005-06 are as follows:

Job Nature	Rank	Post Nature	No. of Post
Clerical posts	Assistant Clerical Officer	Permanent posts	9
	Clerical Assistant	Permanent posts	25
Secretarial post	Personal Secretary II	Permanent post	1
Total			35

The above posts are no longer required as a result of streamlining initiatives and a reduction in workload. The staff occupying these posts will be redeployed to fill other vacancies in the department.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

C.M. LEUNG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Housing,
Planning and Lands (Housing)

Date _____

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(H)006

Question Serial No.

0557

Head : 62 Housing Department Subhead :

Programme : Squatter Clearance and Squatter Control

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands (Housing)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : In 2004-05, owing to the postponement and rescheduling of some major clearance projects to 2005-06 at the request of works departments, the manpower originally arranged for these projects were deployed to strengthen rooftop structure clearances.

- a) Would the Administration inform this Council whether the staff deployed to strengthen rooftop structure clearances in 2004-05 will be re-deployed to carry out programmed clearances in 2005-06? If it is in the affirmative, will the progress of the rooftop clearances be affected?
- b) Would the Administration inform this Council of the staffing establishment for programmed clearances or emergency clearances as well as rooftop structure clearances in 2005-06?
- c) On what criteria does the Administration allocate the staffing for rooftop structure clearances and programmed clearances?

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply : a) Head 62 covers squatter clearance and squatter control. The 82 staff members under squatter clearance are responsible for carrying out all clearances, including clearance projects of works departments and clearances of illegal rooftop structures. The Housing Department meets the operational requirements through flexible manpower deployment. For example, in carrying out major clearance projects, squatter clearance staff will be deployed from different regional offices to provide assistance depending on the complexity and scale of the projects. Therefore, although the staff deployed to strengthen rooftop structure clearances last year will be re-deployed to carry out clearance projects this year, rooftop structure clearances in 2005-06 will not be affected.

- b) The staffing establishment for squatter clearance in 2005-06 is as follows:

Rank	Establishment
Housing Manager	3
Assistant Housing Manager	9
Housing Officer	48
Assistant Clerical Officer	3
Clerical Assistant	6
Office Assistant	3
Workman II	6
Motor Driver	4
Total	82

- c) Squatter clearance staff are stationed in three regional offices, namely New Territories West, New Territories East and Urban and Islands. They are responsible for implementing clearance projects and clearances of illegal rooftop structures within their respective regions. The Housing Department flexibly deploys its staff having regard to the volumes of work and their complexity to ensure that operational requirements are fully met.

Signature _____

Name in block letters C.M. LEUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Housing,
Planning and Lands (Housing)

Date 6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(H)007

Question Serial No.

0558

Head : 62 Housing Department Subhead :

Programme : Squatter Clearance and Squatter Control

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands (Housing)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : The provision for 2005-06 is \$4.1 million (1.3%) lower than the revised estimate for 2004-05 partly because of the deletion of 35 posts in 2005-06. Please provide information on:

- a) the ranks, job duties, salaries and allowance entitlements of the posts to be deleted; and
- b) whether there will be further deletion of posts in the future. If yes, please give the details. If no, please state the reasons.

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply : (a) Details of the 35 posts that will be deleted in 2005-06 are provided in the table below:

Job Nature	Rank	Salary Range Per Month (\$)	Allowance Entitlement	No. of Posts
Clerical	Assistant Clerical Officer	8,675-18,915	Nil	9
	Clerical Assistant	7,674-14,330	Nil	25
Secretarial	Personal Secretary II	9,245-18,915	Nil	1
Total				35

- (b) After deleting the 35 posts set out above, there are still 398 surplus staff members under Head 62. To avoid forced redundancy, the surplus staff have been redeployed to public housing estates to strengthen estate management. Apart from implementing the Marking Scheme for Tenancy Enforcement in public housing estates, they are also tasked to tackle illegal hawking of cooked food, eliminate obstruction of public places, eradicate mosquito nuisance and assist in promoting cleansing campaigns. Their work will help foster greater awareness of environmental hygiene among public housing tenants. Once the staff occupying these posts have left the service, their posts will be deleted.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C.M. LEUNG

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Housing,
Planning and Lands (Housing)

Date _____ 6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(H)008

Question Serial No.

0559

Head : 62 Housing Department Subhead :

Programme : Squatter Clearance and Squatter Control

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands (Housing)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Please elaborate on the following issues which appear in paragraph 6 –

- a) the clearance projects brought forward from 2004-05 due to postponement or rescheduling of programmes initiated by works departments;
- b) how the Bureau will assist the relocating and rehousing of illegal rooftop occupants displaced by the Buildings Department's intensified enforcement actions.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Wing-tat

- Reply :
- a) As a result of postponement and rescheduling of some development programmes in 2004-05, 13 clearance projects involving about 1 200 structures affecting a total of 1 000 persons from 300 families have been carried forward for implementation this year (i.e. 2005-06), together with those planned for this year. These include 4 projects from the Highways Department, 2 from the Lands Department, 2 from the Drainage Services Department, 2 from the Home Affairs Department, 2 from the Civil Engineering and Development Department and 1 from the Education Department.
 - b) The Government aims at taking enforcement actions against the illegal rooftop structures erected on 700 single-staircase buildings each year for public safety reasons. When the Buildings Department initiates enforcement actions against illegal rooftop structures, the Housing Department will assist in rehousing the affected occupants according to their eligibility. Families who have lived in the illegal rooftop structures for 2 years or more and meet the asset and income limits will be rehoused to public rental housing. Those who do not meet the eligibility criteria but have special difficulties will be referred to the Social Welfare Department for consideration of compassionate rehousing. Throughout the process, the Housing Department collaborates closely with the Buildings Department to ensure that occupants of illegal rooftop structures are properly relocated before the Buildings Department serves the Closure Order.

Signature _____

Name in block letters C.M. LEUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Housing,
Planning and Lands (Housing)

Date 6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(H)009

Question Serial No.

1253

Head : 62 Housing Department Subhead :

Programme : Squatter Clearance and Squatter Control

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands (Housing)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Please provide the details of the work, the expenditure and the manpower involved in the "maintenance of squatter area improvement facilities" under this Programme.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : The Squatter Area Improvement Programme was drawn up in 1983 and completed in 1990. The Housing Department continues to maintain the facilities provided under this programme until the squatter areas concerned are cleared.

In 2004-05, about 70 repairs were undertaken, mainly on public lighting, fire hydrants, sitting-out areas, toilets and refuse collection points in the existing 43 squatter areas. The estimated expenditure on maintenance and electricity charges for 2005-06 is about \$0.75 million, which will be met by the provision under Head 62. The work forms part of the routine duties of squatter control staff. We do not have further breakdowns of the expenditure and manpower involved in this particular duty.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

C.M. LEUNG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Housing,
Planning and Lands (Housing)

Date _____

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(H)010

Question Serial No.

1254

Head : 62 Housing Department Subhead :

Programme : Squatter Clearance and Squatter Control

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands (Housing)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : The Housing Department states that it will “undertake the clearance projects brought forward from 2004-05 due to postponement or rescheduling of programmes initiated by works departments”. In this regard, please:

- (1) provide the details of the work and list out by various works departments the number of the clearance projects brought forward to 2005-06; and
- (2) provide the expenditure and the manpower involved in this programme.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : (1) Under this Head, the Housing Department undertakes clearance projects at the request of works departments in order to provide land for development or other purposes. Specific duties include verifying the eligibility of squatters affected by the clearances, making suitable rehousing arrangements for them and payment of ex-gratia allowance to eligible workshop and store operators.

As a result of postponement and rescheduling of some development programmes in 2004-05, 13 clearance projects involving about 1 200 structures affecting a total of 1 000 persons from 300 families have been brought forward for implementation this year (i.e. 2005-06), together with those planned for this year. These include 4 projects from the Highways Department, 2 from the Lands Department, 2 from the Drainage Services Department, 2 from the Home Affairs Department, 2 from the Civil Engineering and Development Department and 1 from the Education Department.

- (2) A total of 82 staff members are involved in squatter clearance, with an estimated expenditure of \$49 million. They are responsible for clearing illegal rooftop structures and carrying out the clearance projects which have been planned for this year. We do not have further breakdowns of the expenditure and manpower involved in the 13 clearance projects which have been carried forward to this year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters C.M. LEUNG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Housing,
Planning and Lands (Housing)

Date 6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(H)011

Question Serial No.

1255

Head : 62 Housing Department Subhead :

Programme : Squatter Clearance and Squatter Control

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands (Housing)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : The Housing Department states that it will “render data matching support to the Drainage Services Department in flood hazard studies in squatter areas”. In this regard, please provide the details of the work, the expenditure and the manpower involved.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : The Drainage Services Department has been conducting flood hazard studies for the purposes of investigating, assessing and mitigating flood hazards in the squatter areas since 2004. In support of the studies, the Housing Department conducts site inspections and surveys to ascertain the actual number of squatter structures and the population involved, verifies the accuracy of location maps and drawings as well as assists in updating the information on squatter areas. The flood hazard studies will be completed in late 2005.

The extra workload mentioned above is absorbed by existing squatter control staff and resources. We do not have further breakdowns of the expenditure and manpower involved in this particular duty.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C.M. LEUNG

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Housing,
Planning and Lands (Housing)

Date _____ 6 April 2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(H)012

Question Serial No.

1256

Head : 62 Housing Department Subhead :

Programme : Squatter Clearance and Squatter Control

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands (Housing)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : The Housing Department states that it will “continue the work on publicity and elimination of mosquito breeding spots in relation to the control and prevention of dengue fever in squatter areas in the New Territories”. In this regard, please provide the details of the work, the expenditure and the manpower involved.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : The Housing Department implements the following mosquito eradication measures to assist in the control and prevention of dengue fever and Japanese encephalitis in squatter areas in the New Territories:

- (i) disseminating information and publicity materials on mosquito control;
- (ii) eradicating potential mosquito breeding spots (such as containers with stagnant water) and reporting mosquito “black spots” identified during regular squatter control patrols to the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department for prompt follow-up action; and
- (iii) proper disposal of building debris, refuse and abandoned articles from clearance operations and demolition of illegal squatter structures.

The work described above forms part of the routine duties performed by squatter control staff. We do not have further breakdowns of the expenditure and manpower involved in this particular duty.

Signature

Name in block letters

C.M. LEUNG

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for Housing,
Planning and Lands (Housing)

Date

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(H)013

Question Serial No.

1257

Head : 62 Housing Department Subhead :

Programme : Squatter Clearance and Squatter Control

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands (Housing)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Please elaborate on the number of ranks and the amount of salaries involved in the deletion of 35 posts by the Housing Department in 2005-06.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : Details of the 35 posts that will be deleted in 2005-06 are listed in the table below :

Rank	Salary Range per month (\$)	No. of Post
Assistant Clerical Officer	8,675 – 18,915	9
Clerical Assistant	7,674 – 14,330	25
Personal Secretary II	9,245 - 18,915	1
	Total	35

The posts will be deleted within 2005-06, resulting in a saving of about \$3.29 million in personal emolument. The full-year annual savings in personal emolument thereafter are about \$6.57 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

C.M. LEUNG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Housing,
Planning and Lands (Housing)

Date _____

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(H)014

Question Serial No.

1609

Head : 62 Housing Department Subhead :

Programme : Squatter Clearance and Squatter Control

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands (Housing)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Regarding the planned deletion of 35 posts in 2005-06, please provide information on the posts to be deleted, their main duties, the reasons for deleting the posts and the savings that can be achieved.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kam-lam

Reply : Details of the 35 posts that will be deleted in 2005-06 are listed in the table below :

Job Nature	Rank	No. of Post
Clerical posts	Assistant Clerical Officer	9
	Clerical Assistant	25
Secretarial post	Personal Secretary II	1
	Total	35

The above posts are no longer required as a result of streamlining initiatives and a reduction in workload. The staff occupying these posts will be redeployed to fill other vacancies in the department. The posts will be deleted within 2005-06, resulting in a saving of about \$3.29 million in personal emolument. The full-year annual savings in personal emolument thereafter are about \$6.57 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

C.M. LEUNG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Housing,
Planning and Lands (Housing)

Date _____

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(H)015

Question Serial No.

1610

Head : 62 Housing Department Subhead :

Programme : Squatter Clearance and Squatter Control

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands (Housing)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

- Question :
1. Currently, how many buildings with illegal rooftop structures remain in Hong Kong? How many occupants are involved? How long will it take to have all these structures demolished and what are the provisions involved?
 2. How is the annual clearance programme devised? The clearance target for 2005 has dropped significantly to 700 buildings, representing a decrease of 12.5% against the figures of 2004. Please state the reasons.
 3. How long will it normally take for the affected occupants to be rehoused? Are there effective measures to prevent the erection of new structures?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kam-lam

- Reply :
1. Under the illegal rooftop structure clearance programme of the Buildings Department, there are still about 2 100 single-staircase buildings with illegal rooftop structures which will be cleared within the next 3 years. Since the Housing Department only carries out a freezing survey on the day the Buildings Department serves the Clearance Order, the exact number of occupants living in the structures is not available at the moment.

From 2001-02 to 2006-07, the resources required for enforcement against illegal rooftop structures are provided under Head 82 "Buildings Department: Buildings and Building Work". The financial provision for 2005-06 is about \$23.4 million. The Housing Department is responsible for relocating the affected occupants with resources provided under Head 62. Since this is part of the duties of squatter clearance staff, we do not have further breakdowns of the expenditure and manpower involved in this particular duty.

2. In April 2001, the Government started implementating the Comprehensive Strategy for Building Safety and Timely Maintenance to clear the 12 000 illegal rooftop structures on 4 500 single-staircase buildings within 7 years. The Buildings Department's target is to cover 700 single-staircase buildings each year. From April 2001 to the end of 2004, the Buildings Department has already cleared the illegal rooftop structures on 2 400 single-staircase buildings. The remaining 2 100 buildings will be covered by the end of 2007.

The indicators under Head 62 reflect the Building Department's target of covering 700 single-staircase buildings each year. In 2004, with circumstances permitting (e.g. the affected cases are of a simpler nature), the Buildings Department managed to clear more illegal rooftop structures than the set target. Correspondingly, the Housing Department rehoused the occupants of illegal rooftop structures on 850 buildings. The clearance indicator of 700 buildings for 2005 is the same as that set for the previous years. There is no reduction in target.

3. Generally speaking, upon the Buildings Department serving a Clearance Order on owners of the illegal rooftop structures, the Housing Department will verify the eligibility of the occupants for public rental housing and make suitable rehousing arrangements for them within two to four months depending on the scale of the Buildings Department's enforcement action. Families ineligible for public rental housing but have special difficulties will be referred to the Social Welfare Department for consideration of compassionate rehousing.

To deter new illegal rooftop structures, the Buildings Department cooperates with public utility companies and Government departments such as the power companies, the Water Supplies Department and the Rating and Valuation Department. Clearance actions will be taken immediately upon notification of applications for supply of electricity or water for new rooftop structures. Moreover, upon receipt of complaints concerning illegal structures, the Buildings Department will promptly carry out inspections and clear any illegal structures.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	C.M. LEUNG
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands (Housing)
Date	6 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(H)016

Question Serial No.

1588

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 711 - Housing

Subhead :
B564CL, B569CL

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

R10. What are the progress of the following projects? What are the fundings allocated for 2004-05 and 2005-06 used for? When will the projects be completed? Do they deviate from the completion dates anticipated when the projects were approved?

(a) B564CL – Development near Choi Wan Road and Jordan Valley

(b) B569CL – Development near Choi Wan Road and Jordan Valley – consultants' fees and site investigation

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

The site formation works for B564CL at the development near Choi Wan Road and Jordan Valley are about 70% completed. The remaining infrastructure works (like footbridges) are planned to commence at the end of 2005. When the projects were approved by the Finance Committee in 2001, the anticipated completion date was mid-2006. However, in light of the revised programme for the housing developments and school developments in the area concerned, the construction works have been revised accordingly for completion in stages from 2006 to 2010.

The funds allocated to B564CL and B569CL in 2004-05 and 2005-06 are used for payments of construction works, consultants' fees and site staff cost.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

T K TSAO

Director of Civil Engineering
and Development

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(H)017

Question Serial No.

1589

<u>Head</u> : Capital Works Reserve Fund Head 711- Housing	<u>Subhead</u> (No. & title) :	B126WC - Water supply to housing developments at Anderson Road, near Choi Wan Road and Jordan Valley B127WC - Mainlaying within development near Choi Wan Road and Jordan Valley
---	--------------------------------------	--

Programme : -

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : What is the progress of the following projects? For what purposes will the provisions in 2004-05 and 2005-06 be used? When will the projects be completed? Are the anticipated completion dates deviated from the estimate at the funding approval stage?

- (a) B126WC -Water supply to housing developments at Anderson Road, near Choi Wan Road and Jordan Valley;
- (b) B127WC -Mainlaying within development near Choi Wan Road and Jordan Valley.

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

- (a) B126WC:

Project B126WC was part-upgraded to Category A as B128WC "Remaining waterworks for development near Choi Wan Road and Jordan Valley" on 25 February 2005. Works will commence in June 2005 for completion in January 2008 as originally planned. There is no provision in 2004-05 while the provision in 2005-06 is for payment of the construction works of the water supply system.

(b) B127WC:

To improve project interface, the water mainlaying works have been incorporated into the site formation and associated infrastructure contract under B564CL “Development near Choi Wan Road and Jordan Valley”. The mainlaying works are in progress and expected to be completed in mid 2006, which means a six-month delay over the original completion date. The delay will not affect the housing development since the population intake will only commence in 2008.

The provisions in 2004-05 and 2005-06 are for payment of the mainlaying works.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: William C G KO

Post Title: Director of Water Supplies

Date: 2 April.2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(H)018

Question Serial No.

1590

Head : 711 Housing

Subhead : B100HX

(Minor housing development related works, studies and investigations for items in Category D of the Public Works Programme)

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands (Housing)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : For block allocation items under Subhead B100HX "Minor housing development related works, studies and investigations for items in Category D of the Public Works Programme", please list out in details the projects that are located within the Kwun Tong and Wong Tai Sin districts.

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply : The following two projects under Subhead B100HX are located in Kwun Tong and Wong Tai Sin districts -

(a) detailed design of water supply (comprising mainly service reservoirs and associated pumping facilities) for the proposed housing developments near Choi Wan Road and Jordan Valley; and

(b) a land contamination study and site investigation for the proposed site formation and infrastructure works at Diamond Hill Comprehensive Development Area.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

C.M. LEUNG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Housing,
Planning and Lands (Housing)

Date _____

6 April 2005