

**Replies to supplementary questions raised by Finance Committee Members in
examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08**

**Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands
Session No. : 13**

Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
S-HPLB(H)001	SV015	Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily	62	(2) Private Housing

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-HPLB(H)001

Question Serial No.

SV015

Head : 62 Housing Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Private Housing

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

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

In response to Hon Emily LAU, the Administration undertook to provide relevant information on the resources provided for, including manpower provision, in 2007-08 Estimates in relation to the regulation and monitoring of sale arrangements of first-hand private residential properties to safeguard buyers' interest.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

In 2007-08, the Housing Department (HD) has earmarked provision of \$14.9 million, involving manpower provision equivalent to 12 non-directorate staff and one directorate staff, for enhancing the transparency of the private residential property market to maintain an orderly, fair and free market environment. The tasks include mainly monitoring the operation of developers' self-regulatory regime, the compliance committee of The Real Estate Developers Association of Hong Kong and guidelines for sale arrangements; collecting and maintaining data on private housing supply; releasing data on housing supply in the primary property market; and providing analysis on developments in the private housing market. HD also liaises closely with the Consumer Council and the Estate Agents Authority to jointly monitor the current regime to protect consumers' interest without hindering the free operation of the property market.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Thomas C Y CHAN

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

Date 23 March 2007