

Index Page

Replies to supplementary questions raised by Finance Committee Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2016-17

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Session No. : 13

File Name : THB(H)-2S-e1.doc

Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
<u>S-THB(H)01</u>	S0034	WONG Pik-wan, Helena	62	(1) Building Control

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-THB(H)01

(Question Serial No. S0034)

Head: (62) Housing Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Building Control

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing (Housing)
(Stanley YING)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

In respect of the public rental housing estates built after 2005 in the territory, has the Housing Department checked whether the taps and pipes used comply with the relevant standards; whether any leaded soldering materials have been used in breach of the contract; and whether the pipes, meters, valves, etc used are the same as those originally declared?

Asked by: Hon Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan

Reply:

The Government and the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA) have attached great importance to the “excess-lead-in-water in public rental housing (PRH) estates” incident. Therefore, HA announced on 24 July 2015 that water sampling tests would be conducted for all PRH estates in a systematic way, and it was announced on 18 November 2015 that the water tests for all PRH estates had been completed. Amongst them, 11 PRH developments completed in and after 2005 were found to contain samples with lead content exceeding the World Health Organisation (WHO)’s standard, while water samples in the remaining estates were found to comply with the WHO’s standard.

The “Task Force on Excessive Lead Content in Drinking Water” set up by the Government confirmed that leaded solder joints were the cause of excess lead in drinking water; and while copper alloy fittings such as pipes, meters, valves, etc. also leached lead, they did not result in excess lead in drinking water. Water meters used in PRH estates are provided by the Water Services Department (WSD). As the pipes, valves, etc. used in the said 11 PRH developments were on WSD’s directory list of pipes and fittings, they comply with the relevant standards. Since the water samples taken from the rest of the PRH estates completed in and after 2005 complied with the WHO standard, we did not conduct further checks on the pipes, valves, etc. used in these estates after the completion of the water tests.

- End -