

**Replies to supplementary questions raised by Finance Committee Members in examining the
Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04**

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Session No. : 17 File name : S-HPLB(H)-e1.rtf

Reply Serial No.*	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
S-HPLB(H)001	Oral	LI Wah-ming, Fred LAU Wai-hing, Emily	62	Squatter and Temporary Housing Clearance and Squatter Control
S-HPLB(H)002	Oral	HO Chun-yan, Albert	62	Squatter and Temporary Housing Clearance and Squatter Control
S-HPLB(H)003	Oral	LAU Ping-cheung	62	Squatter and Temporary Housing Clearance and Squatter Control
S-HPLB(H)004	Oral	LEUNG Yiu-chung	62	Squatter and Temporary Housing Clearance and Squatter Control
S-HPLB(H)005	S038	LAU Ping-cheung	62	Squatter and Temporary Housing Clearance and Squatter Control

- (c) to carry out clearances for development, safety or environmental improvement purposes. We have recently completed the clearance for the construction of Kowloon Canton Railway Sheung Shui to Lok Ma Chau Spur Line. The Deep Bay Link clearance is still in progress. In addition, the Housing Department will also carry out other clearances to be announced in 2003-04. If all on-going and planned clearances proceed on schedule, we expect that some 14 000 structures will be covered, and 7 100 persons will need to be rehoused; and
- (d) to rehouse occupants of illegal rooftop structures affected by the Buildings Department's enforcement actions. We estimate that about 3 200 illegal rooftop structures will be covered in 2003, and about 2 300 persons will need to be rehoused by the Housing Department.

In addition to the above, the Housing Department will also provide temporary shelters and rehouse families affected by natural disasters as they occur.

81% of the total provision under Head 62 is for personal emoluments and the remaining 19% for administrative overheads and operating expenses. There is no separate breakdown for individual clearance projects. Through efficiency savings initiatives and the Second Voluntary Retirement Scheme, we will continue to streamline our operations and reduce the manpower requirements so as to enhance cost-effectiveness.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

C. M. LEUNG

Permanent Secretary for Housing
Planning and Lands (Housing)

31.3.2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-HPLB(H)002

Question Serial No.

Oral Question

Head : 62 Subhead (No. & title) :000 Clearance and Squatter Control

Programme : 6201- Squatter and Temporary Housing Clearance and
Squatter Control

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

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Provide details, including the ranks and grades, of the 24 posts
which had been deleted following the re-organization of former
Housing Bureau and the Housing Department

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan

Reply : Details of the net deletion of 24 posts through re-organisation of
former Housing Bureau and the Housing Department, resulting
in annual recurrent savings of \$26 million, is attached.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

C.M.LEUNG

Permanent Secretary for Housing
Planning and Lands (Housing)

31 March 2003

Re-organization of the former Housing Bureau and the Housing Department

Directorate

Grade	Rank	Creation(+)/ Deletion(-) of Posts
Directorate	Director of Housing (D7)	-1
	Senior Assistant Director of Housing (D3)	-1
	Assistant Director of Housing (D2)	1
Administrative Officer	Administrative Officer Staff Grade 'B' (D3)	-1
	Administrative Officer Staff Grade 'C' (D2)	1
Treasury Accountant	Deputy Director of Accounting Services (D3)	-1
	Assistant Director of Accounting Services (D2)	1
Engineer	Government Engineer (D2)	-1
	Chief Engineer (D1)	-2
Sub-total		-4

Non-directorate

Grade	Rank	Deletion(-) of Posts
Engineer	Senior Engineer	-2
Chinese Language Officer	Senior Chinese Language Officer	-1
Executive Officer	Chief Executive Officer	-2
	Senior Executive Officer	-1
	Executive Officer I	-1
	Executive Officer II	-1
Clerical Officer	Senior Clerical Officer	-1
	Clerical Officer	-1
	Assistant Clerical Officer	-4
Personal Secretary	Senior Personal Secretary	-1
	Personal Secretary I	-2
	Personal Secretary II	-2
Office Assistant	Office Assistant	-1
Sub-total		-20
Total		-24

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-HPLB(H)003

Question Serial No.

Oral Question

Head : 62 Subhead (No. & title) :000 Clearance and Squatter Control

Programme : 6201- Squatter and Temporary Housing Clearance and Squatter Control

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

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Advise the number of additional posts to be deleted in order to achieve the target savings of 1.8% in operating expenses in the coming year.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Ping-cheung

Reply : The Squatter and Temporary Housing Clearance and Squatter Control will meet the target savings of 1.8% in operating expenses through natural wastage of staff and reduced activities in view of the stable situation in respect of squatters. This would involve deletion of 8 posts and savings in operating expenses.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

C.M.LEUNG

Permanent Secretary for Housing
Planning and Lands (Housing)

31 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-HPLB(H)004

Question Serial No.

Oral Question

Head : 62 Subhead (No. & title) :000 Clearance and Squatter Control

Programme : 6201- Squatter and Temporary Housing Clearance and Squatter Control

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

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Advise the measures to be put in place to monitor the performance of private Property Services Companies in the day-to-day management of public housing estates, which had been a cause of concern of various District Councils including the Kwai Ching District Council.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : The Housing Department attaches great importance to monitoring and supervising the performance of property services companies. To ensure a high quality of services, the Department has set up a dedicated team to audit the performance of property services companies and conduct regular and surprise inspections to assess their service standards under an objective scoring system.

We also conduct regular sampling surveys on tenants' satisfaction and consult the Estate Management Advisory Committees (EMACs). Results of the tenants' satisfaction surveys and EMACs' assessments will each account for a part of the performance appraisal scores.

The Housing Department monitors closely all unsatisfactory cases and takes disciplinary actions against property services companies whose performance is not up to the required standard. These actions include warning, suspension from tendering, termination of contract or removal from the Housing Authority's List of Approved Contractors.

According to a Customer Satisfaction Survey conducted in 2002, 53% of the respondents were either very satisfied or satisfied with services provided by private property services companies. We will conduct a thorough review of the system this year with a view to enhancing cost-effectiveness and customer satisfaction in estates with management services outsourced to private companies.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>C.M.LEUNG</u>
Post Title	<u>Permanent Secretary for Housing Planning and Lands (Housing)</u>
Date	<u>31 March 2003</u>

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-HPLB(H)005

Question Serial No.

S038

Head : 62 - Housing Department

Subhead : 003

Programme : 6201 - Squatter and Temporary Housing 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. Under this subhead, the provision for salaries and allowances is \$3,548,167,000 in the Housing Authority. In this regard, will the Administration inform this Council of the number of staff for which the provision is made? Is there any increase/reduction compared with that of the previous year? If there is, please state the posts and the number of staff involved?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Ping-cheung

Reply : The provision of \$3,548,167,000 under Subhead 003 Recoverable salaries and allowances (General) is for salaries and allowances for 9 565 civil servants working in the Housing Department. Compared with last year, there will be a projected net reduction of 579 posts in the Department in 2003/04 in the following grades based on known wastage e.g. officers leaving under the Voluntary Departure Scheme and normal retirement: -

Housing Management and Related Grades	-301 posts
Works Related Grades	-87 posts
Supporting Grades	-191 posts

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C.M. LEUNG

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

Date _____ 31.3.2003