

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

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

[Session No. : 18] [File name : HPLB(PL)-e1.doc]

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)001

Question Serial No.

0116

Head: 138 Government Secretariat: Housing, Planning and Lands
 Bureau (Planning and Lands Branch)

Subhead (No. & title):

22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

42 Electrical and Mechanical Services Department

43 Civil Engineering Department

82 Buildings Department

91 Lands Department

100 Marine Department

110 Territory Development Department

118 Planning Department

Programme: (2) Buildings, Lands and Planning

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Regarding consultancy studies for policy making and assessment (if any) commissioned by the above bureau and departments, please provide details in the following format:

(1) Please provide the following details on the consultancy studies for which financial provision has been allocated respectively in 2001-02 and 2002-03:

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees (\$)	Progress on consultancy studies (Planning/ In progress/ Completed)	The Administration's follow-up action on the study reports and the progress made	Reasons for no follow-up action on the study reports and whether other measures are available to deal with the subjects under study

- (2) Please provide the following details on the consultancy studies for which financial provision has not been allocated respectively in 2001-02 and 2002-03, though consultancy studies have been made during the year:

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees (\$)	Progress on consultancy studies (Planning/ In progress/ Completed)	The Administration's follow-up action on the study reports and the progress made	Reasons for no follow-up action on the study reports and whether other measures are available to deal with the subjects under study

- (3) Has financial provision been allocated for commissioning consultancy studies in 2003-04? If yes, please provide the following details:

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees (\$)	Status of consultancy studies (Planning / In progress / Completed)

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply: Consultancy studies commissioned by the Planning and Lands Branch of the Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau and departments under its purview in respect of Policy Area 22 : Buildings, Lands and Planning are as follows-

- (1) consultancy studies for which financial provision has been allocated respectively in 2001-02 and 2002-03

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees (\$)	Progress on consultancy studies (planning/ In progress/ Completed)	The Administration's follow-up action on the study reports and the progress made	Reasons for no follow-up action on the study reports and whether other measures are available to deal with the subjects under study
2001-02					
Anthony Ng Architects Ltd.	Consultancy to review Building Regulations on lighting and ventilation of buildings (BD)	1,800,000	In progress	N.A.	N.A.
Hyder Consulting Ltd.	Consultancy to review Building	447,000	In progress	N.A.	N.A.

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees (\$)	Progress on consultancy studies (planning/ In progress/ Completed)	The Administration's follow-up action on the study reports and the progress made	Reasons for no follow-up action on the study reports and whether other measures are available to deal with the subjects under study
	Regulations on drainage of buildings (BD)				
MDR Technology Ltd.	Thematic household survey on aspirations and experience of taking up residence in the Mainland of China (PD)	191,000	Completed	Findings used for planning analysis in the Hong Kong 2030 Study	N.A.
Environmental Resources Management Ltd.	Study on revitalization of Tai O (PD)	945,000	Completed	Recommendations used as input to update outline development plan	N.A.
MDR Technology Ltd.	Cross Boundary Travel Survey 2001 (PD)	2,889,000	Completed	Results used to analyse cross boundary travel characteristics and published in the "Report on Northbound - Southbound"	N.A.
LD Asia and Atkins China Ltd Joint Venture	The Focus Study on Aberdeen Harbour (PD)	1,006,000	Completed	Proposals for local upgrading and improvement being taken forward by relevant Government departments. Long-term proposals to be further considered pending the future development strategy of Ocean Park being formulated.	N.A.

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees (\$)	Progress on consultancy studies (planning/ In progress/ Completed)	The Administration's follow-up action on the study reports and the progress made	Reasons for no follow-up action on the study reports and whether other measures are available to deal with the subjects under study
RMJM (HK) Ltd.	Urban Design Guidelines for Hong Kong (PD)	473,000	Completed	The Administration is now examining possible mechanisms to implement the recommendations of the Consultancy Study.	N.A.
Shankland Cox Asia Limited	Stage II Study on Review of Metroplan and the Related Kowloon Density Study Review (PD)	1,572,000	Completed	Recommendations being taken forward in plan making/revision, development control and infrastructure planning.	N.A.
Weber Shandwick Worldwide GHK (HK) Ltd. Parsons Brinckerhoff (Asia) Ltd. Hyder-Mott Connell Joint Venture	Hong Kong 2030: Planning Vision and Strategy (PD) Publicity and public relations (PD) Economic Land Forecasting Methodology (PD) Traffic Assessment and Transport Modelling (PD) Environmental Assessment (PD)	1,815,000	In progress	N.A.	N.A.
Townland Consultants Ltd.	Study on Planning for Pedestrians (PD)	861,000	In progress	N.A.	N.A.
Urbis Ltd.	Landscape Value Mapping of Hong Kong (PD)	357,000	In progress	N.A.	N.A.
2002-03					

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees (\$)	Progress on consultancy studies (planning/ In progress/ Completed)	The Administration's follow-up action on the study reports and the progress made	Reasons for no follow-up action on the study reports and whether other measures are available to deal with the subjects under study
Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Ltd.	Consultancy to review code of practice for fire safety in buildings and renovation works (BD)	3,990,000	In progress	N.A.	N.A.
Anthony Ng Architects Ltd.	Consultancy to review Building Regulations on lighting and ventilation of buildings (BD)	1,496,000	In progress	N.A.	N.A.
Hyder Consulting Ltd.	Consultancy to review Building Regulations on drainage of buildings (BD)	1,025,000	In progress	N.A.	N.A.
Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Ltd.	Consultancy on the seismic effects on buildings in Hong Kong (BD)	1,000,000	In progress	N.A.	N.A.
Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Ltd.	Consultancy on a comprehensive environmental performance assessment scheme for buildings (BD)	2,091,000	In progress	N.A.	N.A.
Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Ltd/ PolyU Technology & Consultancy Co. Ltd.	Consultancy to draft a limit-state code for structural use of steel in Hong Kong (BD)	\$160,000	In progress	N.A.	N.A.

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees (\$)	Progress on consultancy studies (planning/ In progress/ Completed)	The Administration's follow-up action on the study reports and the progress made	Reasons for no follow-up action on the study reports and whether other measures are available to deal with the subjects under study
LD Asia and Atkins China Ltd Joint Venture	The Focus Study on Aberdeen Harbour (PD)	1,047,000	Completed	Proposals for local upgrading and improvement being taken forward by relevant Government departments. Long-term proposals to be further considered pending the future development strategy of Ocean Park being formulated.	N.A.
RMJM (HK) Ltd.	Urban Design Guidelines for Hong Kong (PD)	244,000	Completed	The Administration is now examining possible mechanisms to implement the recommendations of the Consultancy Study.	N.A.
Shankland Cox Asia Limited	Stage II Study on Review of Metroplan and the Related Kowloon Density Study Review (PD)	750,000	Completed	Recommendations being taken forward in plan making/revision, development control and infrastructure planning.	N.A.
Weber Shandwick Worldwide GHK (HK) Ltd. Parsons Brinckerhoff (Asia) Ltd.	Hong Kong 2030: Planning Vision and Strategy (PD) Publicity and public relations (PD) Economic Land Forecasting Methodology (PD) Traffic Assessment and Transport Modelling (PD)	4,034,000	In progress	N.A.	N.A.

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees (\$)	Progress on consultancy studies (planning/ In progress/ Completed)	The Administration's follow-up action on the study reports and the progress made	Reasons for no follow-up action on the study reports and whether other measures are available to deal with the subjects under study
Hyder-Mott Connell Joint Venture GHK (HK) Ltd. Hong Kong Baptist University	Environmental Assessment (PD) Economic & Financial Assessment (PD) Broad Landuse Pattern of the Pearl River Delta Region (PD)				
Townland Consultants Ltd.	Study on Planning for Pedestrians (PD)	1,193,000	In progress	N.A.	N.A.
Urbis Ltd.	Landscape Value Mapping of Hong Kong (PD)	1,791,000	In progress	N.A.	N.A.
Guangdong Urban Social & Economic Survey Organization	Survey of HK Residents living and working in the PRD Region (PD)	830,000	In progress	N.A.	N.A.

(2) Consultancy studies for which financial provision has not been allocated respectively in 2001-02 and 2002-03, though consultancy studies have been made during the year.

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees (\$)	Progress on consultancy studies (Planning/ In progress/ Completed)	The Administration's follow-up action on the study reports and the progress made	Reasons for no follow-up action on the study reports and whether other measures are available to deal with the subjects under study
2001-02					
Babtie Asia Ltd.	Consultancy study on precast	\$865,000	Completed	A draft Code of Practice has been	N.A.

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees (\$)	Progress on consultancy studies (Planning/ In progress/ Completed)	The Administration's follow-up action on the study reports and the progress made	Reasons for no follow-up action on the study reports and whether other measures are available to deal with the subjects under study
	concrete construction (BD)			prepared for consultation with the building industry	
Prudential Surveyors International Ltd	Consultancy study on formulation of a building classification scheme for private buildings (BD)	\$474,208	In progress	N.A.	N.A.
2002-03					
Aedas LPT Limited	Consultancy study on site coverage and open space provision for private building (BD)	988,020	In progress	N.A.	N.A.
Prudential Surveyors International Ltd	Consultancy study on formulation of a building classification scheme for private buildings (BD)	172,592	In progress	N.A.	N.A.
CM Wong & Associates Ltd	Consultancy study on minimum design loads for buildings and streets (BD)	780,000	In progress	N.A.	N.A.

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees (\$)	Progress on consultancy studies (Planning/ In progress/ Completed)	The Administration's follow-up action on the study reports and the progress made	Reasons for no follow-up action on the study reports and whether other measures are available to deal with the subjects under study
CM Wong & Associates Ltd	Consultancy study to review the Building (Construction) Regulations and related practice notes and guidelines (BD)	680,000	In progress	N.A.	N.A.
Babtie Asia Ltd	Consultancy study on structural use of concrete using limit-state approach (BD)	980,000	In progress	N.A.	N.A.

(3) Financial provision allocated for commissioning consultancy studies in 2003-04

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees (\$)	Status of consultancy studies (Planning / In progress / Completed)
Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Ltd.	Consultancy to review the code of practice for fire safety in buildings and renovation works (BD)	3,990,000	In progress
Anthony Ng Architects Ltd.	Consultancy to review Building Regulations on lighting and ventilation of buildings (BD)	1,197,000	In progress
Hyder Consulting Ltd.	Consultancy to review Building Regulations on drainage of buildings (BD)	828,000	In progress
Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Ltd.	Consultancy on the seismic effects on buildings in Hong Kong (BD)	3,250,000	In progress
Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Ltd.	Consultancy on a comprehensive environmental performance assessment scheme for buildings (BD)	3,509,000	In progress
Samson Wong & Associates Property Consultancy Limited	Consultancy to draft a design manual on barrier free access and facilities for persons with a disability and the elderly (BD)	2,700,000	In progress
Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Ltd/ PolyU Technology & Consultancy Co. Ltd.	Consultancy to draft a limit-state code for structural use of steel in Hong Kong (BD)	2,080,000	In progress

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees (\$)	Status of consultancy studies (Planning / In progress / Completed)
Weber Shandwick Worldwide GHK (HK) Ltd. Parsons Brinckerhoff (Asia) Ltd. Hyder-Mott Connell Joint Venture GHK (HK) Ltd. Parsons Hong Kong Baptist University	Hong Kong 2030: Planning Vision and Strategy (PD) Publicity and public relations (PD) Economic Land Forecasting Methodology (PD) Traffic Assessment and Transport Modelling (PD) Environmental Assessment (PD) Economic & Financial Assessment (PD) Broad Landuse Pattern of the PRD Region (PD)	4,898,000	In progress
Townland Consultants Ltd.	Study on Planning for Pedestrians (PD)	1,024,000	In progress
Urbis Ltd.	Landscape Value Mapping of Hong Kong (PD)	2,274,000	In progress
Guangdong Urban Social & Economic Survey Organization Not yet available	Study on HK Residents Living in the Pearl River Delta Region (PD) Survey of HK Residents living and working in the PRD Region (PD) Second Thematic Household Survey – HK residents’ experience of and aspiration for taking up residence in the Mainland of China (PD)	1,465,000	In progress Under planning
Not yet available	Study on Rural Planning and Land Management in the New Territories (PD)	1,295,000	Under planning
Not yet available	Cross-boundary Travel Survey 2003 (PD)	2,580,000	Under planning
Not yet available	Review on Shopping Habits (PD)	1,750,000	Under planning

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Thomas TSO

Post Title _____

Acting Permanent Secretary for Housing,
Planning and Lands (Planning and Lands)

Date _____

21.3.2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)002

Question Serial No.

0310

Head : 138 Government Secretariat :
Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau
(Planning and Lands Branch)

Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Buildings, Lands and Planning

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

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

Concerning the operation of the Comprehensive Building Safety Improvement Loan Scheme under Programme (2): Buildings, Lands and Planning, which requires continuous monitoring, what is the total number of loan applications approved in 2002-2003 and what is the loan amount involved? What is the estimated amount of loan committed for 2003-04?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

For 2002, 2,830 loan applications were approved, involving a total amount of \$83.8 million. For 2003, we estimate the total amount of loans committed to be \$70 million and the corresponding number of loan applications approved to be 1,850.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Thomas Tso

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

Date _____ 21 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)003

Question Serial No.

0311

Head : 138 Government Secretariat :
Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau
(Planning and Lands Branch)

Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Buildings, Lands and Planning

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

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Under Programme (2) Buildings, Lands and Planning, the provision for 2003-04 is 18.3% higher than the revised estimate for 2002-03. What are the reasons and details regarding the increased expenditure of the Planning and Lands Branch under Programme 2 in the coming year?

Asked by : Hon. *CHAN Yuen-han*

Reply : The increase of \$12.2 million (18.3%) in the 2003-04 Estimates under Programme (2) is mainly due to funds transferred from the former Head 56 Government Secretariat : Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau (Planning and Lands) and Environment, Transport and Works Bureau (Transport and Works) and the former Head 150 – Government Secretariat: Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau (Housing) to Head 138, following the re-organisation of the Bureaux. Provision includes the following –

Nature of expenses	Amount (\$m)
(a) Operational expenses for the private office of the Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands (SHPL)	0.6
(b) Personal emoluments for nine non-directorate posts transferred from the former Housing Bureau to provide central administrative support	4.1
(c) Operational expenses for central support transferred from the former Housing Bureau	1.6
(d) Hire of professional services	3.0
(e) IT network communication equipment and related expenses	2.0

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Thomas Tso

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

Date _____ 20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)004

Question Serial No.

0312

Head : 138 Government Secretariat :
Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau
(Planning and Lands Branch)

Subhead (No. & title) :
000 Operational Expenses

Programme : (2) Buildings, Lands and Planning

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

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : In 2003-04, the Planning and Lands Branch has a provision of over \$14 million for employing temporary staff. In this connection, what is the job nature of these staff and their terms and period of employment?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : The provision of \$14.642 million for the employment of temporary staff is to continue the funding of two training schemes, viz the Graduate Training Scheme for graduate trainees and the Vacation Training Scheme for post-secondary students.

The Graduate Training Scheme appoints graduates from the surveying and town planning disciplines on month-to-month terms for two years in the Planning and Lands group of departments. Graduate trainees are holders of a recognised degree or equivalent qualifications and are engaged to undergo practical training under supervision towards corporate membership of relevant professional bodies. Provision of \$14.3 m has been included in 2003-04 for the operation of the scheme for the Planning and Lands Branch. The monthly honorarium for each graduate for the first year is currently \$16,095 (the benchmark for 'Degree and Related Grades') and that for the second year is \$17,220. The honoraria will be subject to the civil service pay reduction. During the period, on-the-job training in their respective fields will be provided to graduate trainees.

The Vacation Training Scheme appoints post-secondary students in the surveying and town planning disciplines for an eight-week training during summer vacation in one of the Planning and Lands group of departments. A monthly remuneration of \$6,800 (2002 level) is payable to each trainee.

During the training period, students will be assigned duties related to their fields of studies. For students in the surveying discipline for example, they will assist surveyors in the preparation of land documents and in carrying out site inspections and research.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Thomas Tso _____

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

Date _____ 20 March 2003 _____

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)005

Question Serial No.

0472

Head : 138 Government Secretariat :
Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau
(Planning and Lands Branch)

Subhead (No. & title) :
000 Operational Expenses

Programme : (2) Buildings, Lands and Planning

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

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Under *Subhead 000*, there is an expenditure of \$1.23 million on honoraria for members of committees in 2003-04. In this connection,

- (a) to which committee or committees will this amount of honoraria be allocated?
- (b) what is the rate of honoraria for members and chairmen of committees?

Asked by : *Hon. CHAN Kam-lam*

Reply :

- (a) The provision is for payment of honoraria to the Chairmen and Members of the Appeal Tribunal (Buildings) and the Town Planning Appeal Board.
- (b) Honoraria for the Chairman of the Appeal Tribunal (Buildings) is \$770 per hour of service and that for each Member is \$700 per hour of service. As regards the Town Planning Appeal Board, the Chairman and Deputy Chairmen of the Appeal Panel will receive \$86,520 and \$57,650 per annum as "annual retainer". The Chairman of each Appeal Panel, formed for each appeal case, will receive \$4,440 for each hearing session, and \$8,870 for writing a decision of each appeal case. Members of the Appeal Panel will receive \$715 for each hearing session.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Thomas Tso

Post Title _____

Acting Permanent Secretary for Housing,
Planning and Lands (Planning and Lands)

Date _____

20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)006

Question Serial No.

0695

Head : 138 Government Secretariat :
Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau
(Planning and Lands Branch)

Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Buildings, Lands and Planning

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

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : For the Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau (Planning and Lands Branch), the increase of \$12.2 million (18.3%) in the provision for 2003-04 over the previous year is partly due to expenses for hire of professional services. Please explain the nature of such services and the expenses involved.

Asked by : Hon. *James TIEN Pei-chun*

Reply : For 2003-04, we have reserved a sum of \$2m for the appointment of consultants to give independent financial advice on the financial viability of proposals received for the development of the West Kowloon Cultural District. We also need to spend up to \$1m for the hiring of professional services for the setting up of an IT network backbone and the relocation of network infrastructure for the Planning and Lands Branch upon its move from the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau's premises.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Thomas Tso

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

Date _____ March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)007

Question Serial No.

0879

Head : 138 Government Secretariat :
Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau
(Planning and Lands Branch)

Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Buildings, Lands and Planning

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

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question:

- (a) In both 2001-02 and 2002-03, the Bureau mentioned the advertisement signboard registration scheme under "Matters Requiring Special Attention". The Bureau stated last year (March 2002) that the relevant Bill would be submitted to the Legislative Council in 2002-03 for consideration. What is the progress of the relevant legislative work?
- (b) Under "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2003-04", the Bureau made no mention of the legislative work for the advertisement signboard registration scheme and instead referred to the registration system for contractors engaged in advertisement signboards. Does this mean that the Administration will first handle the legislative work in relation to the registration of contractors before embarking on the advertisement signboard registration scheme?
- (c) What will be done to the provision of \$15.5 million reserved in 2002-03 for launching the advertisement signboard registration scheme?

Asked by : Hon. TANG Siu-tong

Reply :

- (a) From the building control point of view, the main concern arising from advertisement signboards is their safety. Having regard to the detailed proposals now developed for amending the Buildings Ordinance, including the minor works system, we have concluded that they would effectively address this concern. It is not necessary to pursue the registration of signboards for the purpose.

We intend to submit the Buildings (Amendment) Bill on this and other matters to the Legislative Council within the 2002-03 legislative session.

- (b) Please see (a).

The proposed minor works system includes the registration of contractors qualified to undertake minor works. We envisage that most signboards will fall under the minor works category.

- (c) The provision of \$15.5 million has been redeployed to support other work for building safety and maintenance in 2002-03, including large-scale operations to deal with unauthorized building works.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Thomas Tso

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

Date _____ 21 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)008

Question Serial No.

0957

Head : 138 Government Secretariat :
Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau
(Planning and Lands Branch)

Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Buildings, Lands and Planning

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

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : There is duplicated area of work as described in Programme 2 (Building, Lands and Planning) and Programme 1 (Territorial and Sub-regional Planning) under Head 118 Planning Department. They both involve preparation of a report on Hong Kong's long-term development strategy and the relevant study. In this connection, could the Government inform this Committee:

- (a) whether the Administration will consider reorganizing the functions of the two in order to streamline procedures and cut public expenditure, and how much could be saved annually; and
- (b) if not, why?

Asked by : Hon. TSANG Yok-sing

Reply :

Through the "Hong Kong 2030 : Planning Vision and Strategy" Study (the Study), the Government will formulate a long-term development strategy for Hong Kong. There is no duplication of work between Programme 2 of Head 138 (Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau) and Programme 1 of Head 118 (Planning Department). For the Bureau, its involvement in the Study is mainly to provide input and steer from the policy angle, and oversee the progress of Study. As for the Planning Department, it is responsible for carrying out the Study, providing professional input during the process, and arranging for public consultation throughout the Study. Both the Bureau and the Department have to work hand in hand on this project. We have therefore no plan to reorganize the functions of the two programmes.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Thomas Tso

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

Date _____ 20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)009

Question Serial No.

0986

Head : 138 Government Secretariat :
Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau
(Planning and Lands Branch)

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Buildings, Lands and Planning

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

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

Regarding the review of the small house policy carried out under the above programme :

- (a) What is the amount of resources expected to be committed in 2003-04?
- (b) What is the amount of resources that have been utilized since the review began in 1998?
- (c) When will the result of the review be published and why does it take so many years?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

- (a) and (b) The Small House Policy review mainly involves deliberations among relevant government bureaux and departments, and consultations with stakeholders such as Heung Yee Kuk and Legislative Council. The work involved is absorbed by existing staff of the relevant bureaux and departments, and no additional resources are required.
- (c) During the course of the review, a number of inter-related and complex issues have been identified. These issues include optimal use of land resources, sewage and infrastructural matters associated with small house developments. We consider that there is a need to review the Policy and the related issues in a comprehensive manner. It will therefore take time to conduct the review. We will consult various stakeholders with a view to making preliminary proposals for more in-depth discussion. The Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands intends to pursue, within the tenure of his office, the review of the Policy and related issues in a comprehensive manner and hopes to resolve the associated problems within that time scale.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Thomas Tso

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

Date _____ March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)010

Question Serial No.

1036

Head : 138 Government Secretariat :
Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau
(Planning and Lands Branch)

Subhead (No. & title) :
000 Operational Expenses

Programme : (2) Buildings, Lands and Planning

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

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Concerning the Departmental Expenses of the Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau (Planning and Lands Branch), the expenses on temporary staff top \$14 million. Please give an account of the temporary staff's job nature, their number and the proportion represented by them in overall manpower.

Asked by : Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply : The provision of \$14.642 million for the employment of temporary staff is to continue the funding of two training schemes, viz the Graduate Training Scheme for graduate trainees and the Vacation Training Scheme for post-secondary students.

The Graduate Training Scheme appoints graduates from the surveying and town planning disciplines on month to month terms for two years in the Planning and Lands group of departments. Graduate trainees are holders of a recognised degree or equivalent qualifications and are engaged to undergo practical training under supervision towards corporate membership of relevant professional bodies. Provision of \$14.3m has been included in 2003-04 for the appointment of a maximum of 68 graduate trainees, including those in their second year of training. The monthly honorarium for each trainee for the first year is currently \$16,095 (the benchmark for 'Degree and Related Grades') and that for the second year is \$17,220.

The Vacation Training Scheme appoints post-secondary students in the surveying and town planning disciplines for an eight-week training during summer vacation in the Planning and Lands group of departments. A monthly remuneration of \$6,800 (2002 level) is payable to each trainee. In 2003-04, around 25 post-secondary students will be appointed.

Graduates/students appointed under the above schemes will work as trainees in one of the Planning and Lands group of departments. They do not supplement the manpower of the Branch and its departments.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Thomas Tso

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

Date _____ 20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)011

Question Serial No.

1059

Head : 138 Government Secretariat :
Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau
(Planning and Lands Branch)

Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Director of Bureau's Office

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

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : In 2003-04, the Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau's provision for the salaries and allowances of the staff of the Director of Bureau's Office stands at \$6.4 million. Please give a breakdown of such expenditure by items.

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply : The estimated expenditure for the office of the Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands (SHPL) in 2003-04 is as follows –

Expenditure item	Estimated expenditure (\$'000)
Salaries and MPF contribution for SHPL	3,232
Salaries and allowances for supporting staff	3,145

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Thomas Tso

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

Date _____ 20 March 2003

[HOME](#)

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Thomas Tso

Post Title _____

Acting Permanent Secretary for Housing,
Planning and Lands (Planning and Lands)

Date _____

21 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)013

Question Serial No.

1242

Head : 138 Government Secretariat :
Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau
(Planning and Lands Branch)

Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Buildings, Lands and Planning

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

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

According to the document, the Government will monitor market conditions and take them into account when drawing up the Application List to be used as from January 2004. In this connection, could the Government inform us:

- (a) whether the List would be regularly updated and reviewed and if so, how often does the Government intend to conduct a review?
- (b) The Application List system will be resumed following the expiry in November this year of the suspension of land sale and the Application List system for a year as announced by the Government on 13.11. 2002. Why is the List to be formally used as from January next year?

Asked by : Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply :

- (a) Prior to the Government's property market stabilization measures announced in last November, the Application List was prepared annually as part of the Land Sale Programme announced before each financial year. As a practice, the Application List is reviewed and revised before its announcement to the public. We will continue with this practice.
- (b) In his statement of 13 November 2002 on the property market stabilization measures, the Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands stated that all scheduled land auction would be stopped and that the Application List would be suspended until the end of 2003. Thereafter, the supply of new land would only be triggered from the Application List. In line with the above measures, a new Application List will be prepared for use as from January 2004.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Thomas Tso

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

Date _____ March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)014

Question Serial No.

1243

Head : 138 Government Secretariat :
Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau
(Planning and Lands Branch)

Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Buildings, Lands and Planning

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

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

According to the document, the Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau will formulate legislative proposals on measures to resolve the problem of missing or illegible government leases. In this connection, could the Government inform us as to :

- (a) whether there are direct links between the proposals and the Land Titles Bill soon to be considered by the Legislative Council, whether the timetable concerning the work on these proposals could be disclosed, when the public will be consulted and when the details will be announced?
- (b) the implications of such work for public expenditure as expected by the Bureau?

Asked by : Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply :

- (a) The purpose of the proposed legislation on missing and illegible Government leases is to provide a mechanism to reconstitute the missing and illegible government leases and related land documents. The Land Titles Bill, being examined by the Legislative Council, aims to provide for a system of registration of title to land. They serve two distinct purposes.

As regards the timetable for the proposed legislation on missing and illegible Government leases, we are in the process of identifying a workable reconstitution mechanism. We intend to consult the major stakeholders on the proposals before finalising them for introduction into the Legislative Council. The proposed legislation is highly technical and complex, and it will take time to complete the necessary consultation and law drafting procedures. We envisage that the relevant bill may only be ready in 2004/2005.

- (b) The preparation work relating to the proposed legislation mainly involves staff costs and they are absorbed by relevant departments within their existing resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Thomas Tso

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

Date _____ March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)015

Question Serial No.

1264

Head : 138 Government Secretariat :
Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau
(Planning and Lands Branch)

Subhead (No. & title) :
000 Operational Expenses

Programme : (2) Buildings, Lands and Planning

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

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Please provide the number of non-civil service contract staff employed and the level of expenditure involved in 2002-03. Are there any plans to employ more or less non-civil service contract staff in 2003-04? If so, what are the reasons? And what will be the number of staff and the level of expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply : In 2002-03, one non-civil service contract staff was employed at an annual cost of around \$200,000. The number of non-civil service contract staff will remain the same in 2003-04.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Thomas Tso

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

Date _____ 20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)016

Question Serial No.

1541

Head : 138 Government Secretariat :
Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau
(Planning and Lands Branch)

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Director of Bureau's Office

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

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Following the implementation of the Accountability System, a new Programme (1) Director of Bureau's Office with relevant estimated expenses is introduced for all policy bureaux in their budgets for the year 2003-04, with a view to ensuring the smooth operation of the offices of the Bureau Directors.

- (1) With regard to the estimated expenses of the offices of the Directors of bureau, please provide a detailed breakdown by (a) purpose (including the planning, co-ordination and implementation of all arrangements for the Secretary's public, media and community functions); (b) items (salaries and establishment, allowances, job-related allowances and departmental expenses);
- (2) Please provide a comparison between the expenditure breakdown listed in (1) and the actual expenditure required for the smooth operation of the offices of the Directors of bureau before the implementation of the Accountability System. If the amount of expenses for specific items shows an increase, please give the reasons.
- (3) Has the Administration assessed whether the estimated expenditure of the offices of the Directors of bureau is appropriate? What principles have been adopted in assessing its appropriateness?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply :

- (1) The financial provision of the Director of Bureau's Office includes the salaries and allowances of the Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands (SHPL) and staff in his office. The staff in SHPL's office provides him with support covering different facets of duties. It would not be possible to analyze the provision by purpose/functions. The breakdown of the financial provision in 2003-04 by expenditure items and establishment is as follows-

Salaries for SHPL	\$ 3,232,000
Salaries and allowances for supporting staff (comprising Administrative Assistant, Personal Assistant, Personal Secretary I, Clerical Assistant and Chauffeur)	3,145,000
Total :	6,377,000

- (2) Prior to the implementation of the Accountability System, there was no Director of Bureau's Office. Moreover, the duties of SHPL are also different from those of the former Secretary for Planning and Lands and the former Secretary for Housing. It is, therefore, difficult to provide a comparison of the expenditure of the respective posts.
- (3) Based on the principle of operating the Director of Bureau's Office with minimum resources, the estimated provision for the Office of SHPL for 2003-04 is considered appropriate.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Thomas Tso

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

Date _____ March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)017

Question Serial No.

088

Head : 82 Buildings Department Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

During 2003-04, the Buildings Department will upgrade the fire safety standards of old composite buildings in collaboration with the Fire Services Department. Please give a detailed account of this project and the necessary expenditures.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply :

Under the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance enacted in July 2002, fire safety improvement is required for composite (domestic and non-domestic) buildings and domestic buildings constructed before March 1987 that do not meet the current fire safety standards. The improvement will provide better protection from the risk of fire for occupants and users of these buildings. Under a phased programme, Buildings Department and Fire Services Department will require improvement works to be carried out to about 9,000 composite buildings within the next 10 years and thereafter to about 3,000 domestic buildings in three years. According to the programme, Buildings Department will conduct building inspections and issue letters to advise the owners of 900 old composite buildings on the improvement of fire safety provisions in 2003. The operation involves the employment of 47 professional and supporting staff, and costs \$15.35 million.

Signature

Name in block letters Marco WU

Post Title Director of Buildings

Date 15 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)018

Question Serial No.

0158

Head : 82 Buildings Department Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

The Government indicated that, in 2003-04, the Buildings Department (BD) will target 1 000 buildings for carrying out special clearance operations, and 700 single-staircase buildings for clearance of illegal rooftop structures; BD will further improve the Comprehensive Building Safety Improvement Loan Scheme to provide assistance to building owners in maintaining their buildings. However, the estimated number of loan approved under the Comprehensive Building Safety Improvement Loan Scheme in 2003 is 1 850, which is fewer than the actual number of loan approved, i.e. 2,830 in 2002. Can the Government advise this Council the reason for making this estimation?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Ping-cheung

Reply :

The number of applications for the loan scheme is affected by, inter alia, the number of removal orders issued on unauthorized building works. Since 2002, we have adopted an annual target of 25,000 removal orders issued on unauthorized buildings works. This target is considerably higher than those in previous years. In 2002, the Buildings Department (BD) over-achieved this annual target and issued 54,010 removal orders to building owners. The number of applications for the loan scheme in that year saw a corresponding increase. As the number of removal orders issued in 2003 is estimated to be 25,000, the number of loan applications approved in 2003 is accordingly estimated to be lower than that in 2002.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Marco WU

Director of Buildings

21.3.2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)019

Question Serial No.

0159

Head : 82 Buildings Department Subhead(No. & title) : 700

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Please provide the following information concerning sub-head 700:

- (a) Regarding the approved commitment of \$4.5 million for a consultancy study to draft a design manual on barrier free access and facilities for persons with a disability and the elderly under item 021, can the Government tell this Council why there is no estimated expenditure for this item in the coming year? What is the progress of the drafting of the manual?
- (b) Regarding the approved commitment of \$3.3 million for a consultancy to compile a full list of existing private buildings in Hong Kong under item 011, can the Government tell this Council why there is no estimated expenditure for this item in the coming year? What is the progress of the plan to compile the said list?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Ping-cheung

Reply :

- (a) In October 2002, the Buildings Department commissioned a consultancy study to draft a design manual on barrier free access and facilities for persons with a disability and the elderly.

The consultancy fee will be paid in stages. The estimated expenditure in 2003-04 is \$2.7 million. As part of the work in the first phase, the consultant submitted a review and research report in February 2003 on the design requirements of barrier free access and facilities. The consultancy study is expected to be completed by March 2004.

- (b) The scope originally proposed for the "Consultancy to compile a full list of existing private buildings in Hong Kong" includes the production of a computer database of existing private buildings. Such database comprises the address, lot number, building name, date of occupation permit, building type, number of storeys, etc. of all existing private buildings.

Since mid-2002, the Buildings Department (BD) has developed and put into use a "Building Condition Information System" to facilitate control of existing private buildings. This system has enabled the building up of the database mentioned above.

To avoid duplication, BD is now revising the coverage of the proposed consultancy study which is scheduled to commence in 2003/04. At this stage, we do not have an estimated expenditure drawdown for 2003/04.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	_____ Marco WU
Post Title	_____ Director of Buildings
Date	_____ 21.3.2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)020

Question Serial No.

Head : 82 Buildings Department Subhead(No. & title) : 000 Operational expenses

0164

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

- (a) The establishment of the Buildings Department as at 31 March 2003 will be 935 permanent posts. It is expected that 36 permanent posts will be deleted in 2003/04. Regarding the "personal emoluments" under Subhead 000 Operational expenses, the 2002/03 revised estimate is \$471,837,000. It will be increased to \$475,517,000 in 2003/04. Can the Government tell this Council the reason why there is such an increase in personal emoluments?
- (b) Regarding the "allowances" under Subhead 000 Operational expenses, the 2002/03 original estimate is \$4,868,000. However, the revised estimate is \$7,915,000 and the 2003/04 estimate is \$7,895,000. Can the Government inform this Council in detail the reason why there is such an increase in allowances?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Ping-cheung

Reply :

- (a) The original 2002-03 estimate did not take into account the fact that 77 posts were only filled in the final quarter of 2002/03. The revised 2002-03 estimate now reflects only a three-month provision for these posts. The 2003-04 estimate, on the other hand, has taken into account the full year effect. Taking into account the effect of deletion of 36 permanent posts, there will still be an increase in personal emoluments in 2003/04.
- (b) The allowances under Personal Emoluments include, among others, acting allowances. The increase in the allowances in 2002/03 "Revised Estimate" and 2003/04 "Estimate" over the 2002/03 "Estimate" is mainly due to the need to pay acting allowances to 86 permanent staff occupying time-limited supervisory posts. These posts have been created on a temporary basis to supervise 490 contract staff and 27 consultants employed for improving the safety of existing buildings.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Marco WU

Director of Buildings

21.3.2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)021

Question Serial No.

0239

Head : 82 Buildings Department Subhead(No. & title) : 000

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

The establishment of the Buildings Department as at 31 March 2003 will be 935 permanent posts. It is expected that 36 permanent posts will be deleted in 2003-04. Can the Government inform this Council in detail the proposed deletion of posts in 2003-04?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Ping-cheung

Reply :

A total of 36 permanent posts will be deleted from the establishment of the Buildings Department in 2003-04. These posts include 1 Senior Building Surveyor, 1 Senior Structural Engineer, 3 Building Surveyors, 3 Structural Engineers, 2 Survey Officers, 1 Technical Officer, 2 Assistant Clerical Officers, 2 Clerical Assistants, 1 Motor Driver, 4 Calligraphists, 12 Artisans, 2 Work Supervisor II and 2 Workman I posts.

These time-limited posts mainly fall into two categories –

- (a) processing plans for port and airport development and rail-related projects, which may be scaled down; and
- (b) providing backup support for large scale operations to remove unauthorized building works.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Marco WU

Director of Buildings

19.3.2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)022

Question Serial No.

0267

Head : 82 Buildings Department Subhead(No. & title) : 000 Operational expenses

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : What is the reason for the sharp decrease in the expenditure on job-related allowances from \$15,000 in 2002-03 to \$2,000 in 2003-04?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

Job-related allowances are payable to eligible staff for undertaking supplementary duties such as additional responsibilities or on call duties.

In 2002-03, the Buildings Department needed additional manpower resources at supervisory rank to carry out a number of time-limited building safety and development initiatives. Given the urgency and short-term nature of some of the initiatives and the requirement of experienced and qualified professionals, some existing staff in the department were tasked to take up additional responsibilities of a higher level to lead teams of temporary staff. These supervisory staff were granted a job-related allowance in accordance with the Civil Service Regulations.

In 2003-04, the requirement for job-related allowances is adjusted downward because similar deployment of existing staff for this purpose is no longer required.

Signature

Name in block letters

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Marco WU

Director of Buildings

21.03.2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)023

Question Serial No.

0268

Head : 82 Buildings Department Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Please provide a breakdown of the 36 posts to be deleted in 2003/04 by titles, rank and job duties and the reason(s) for the reduction: a result of outsourcing or changes in structure or services that render the relevant posts redundant?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

The 36 posts include : 1 Senior Building Surveyor, 1 Senior Structural Engineer, 3 Building Surveyors, 3 Structural Engineers, 2 Survey Officers, 1 Technical Officer, 2 Assistant Clerical Officers, 2 Clerical Assistants, 1 Motor Driver, 4 Calligraphists, 12 Artisans, 2 Work Supervisor II and 2 Workman I posts.

These time-limited posts mainly fall into two categories –

- (a) processing plans for port and airport development and rail-related projects, which may be scaled down; and
- (b) providing backup support for large scale operations to remove unauthorized building works.

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Name in block letters

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Marco WU

Director of Buildings

19.03.2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)024

Question Serial No.

0302

Head : 82 Buildings Department Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

In 2003-04, what consultancy studies will the Administration commission? Please list out in detail the work and service the Administration has planned for contracting out in 2003-04, and the details of the expenses involved respectively.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

The Buildings Department has no plan at present to commission any new consultancy studies in 2003-04.

We have been outsourcing inspection work for large-scale blitz operations to clear unauthorised building works on the external walls of private buildings. We will continue to contract out this work in 2003-04. The estimated expenditure is about \$23M.

Signature

Name in block letters

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Marco WU

Director of Buildings

18.3.2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)025

Question Serial No.

0303

Head : 82 Buildings Department Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : The Buildings Department will delete 36 permanent posts in 2003-04. What are the titles of the posts to be deleted and how will the resources that have been saved be used?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

The 36 posts include : 1 Senior Building Surveyor, 1 Senior Structural Engineer, 3 Building Surveyors, 3 Structural Engineers, 2 Survey Officers, 1 Technical Officer, 2 Assistant Clerical Officers, 2 Clerical Assistants, 1 Motor Driver, 4 Calligraphists, 12 Artisans, 2 Work Supervisor II and 2 Workman I posts.

These posts were created in the Buildings Department for time-limited projects. The savings arising from deletion of these posts will be returned to the Central Government.

Signature

Name in block letters

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Date

Marco WU

Director of Buildings

19.3.2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)026

Question Serial No.

0314

Head : 82 Buildings Department Subhead(No. & title) : 700

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Please list out the details of the consultancy study to draft a Design Manual on Barrier Free Access and Facilities for Persons with a Disability and the Elderly. When will the consultancy study commence? When will it be completed?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The Buildings Department commissioned the consultancy study to draft a Design Manual on Barrier Free Access and Facilities for persons with a disability and the elderly in October 2002. The consultancy study is expected to be completed in March 2004.

The study aims to –

- (a) review the current legislation and Design Manual;
- (b) research into overseas practices;
- (c) recommend rationalized design requirements; and
- (d) develop a draft design manual.

Signature

Name in block letters

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Marco WU

Director of Buildings

19.03.2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)027

Question Serial No.

0315

Head : 82 Buildings Department Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : How much resources will the authorities set aside in 2003-04 for clearance of unauthorized building works, promotion of building safety and removal of rooftop structures?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The Buildings Department will set aside the following resources in 2003-04 for the different activities in question: -

- (a) \$156.6m for clearing 25 000 UBW on the external walls of 1 000 target buildings;
- (b) \$2.5m for promoting building safety; and
- (c) \$25.3m for removing illegal structures on the rooftop of 700 single staircase buildings.

Signature

Name in block letters

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Marco WU

Director of Buildings

19.03.2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)028

Question Serial No.

0455

Head : 82 Buildings Department Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

- (a) The Buildings Department will provide assistance to building owners by further improving the Comprehensive Building Safety Improvement Loan Scheme this year. What is the estimated expenditure for this initiative? What types of building owners can be assisted?
- (b) What is the amount of provision earmarked by the Buildings Department for reviewing the statutory requirements for periodic maintenance of buildings? What are the details of the statutory requirements and what is the implementation schedule?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

- (a) The total approved commitment for the loan scheme is \$700 million. For 2003, we estimate that the amount of loan approved will be about \$70 million.. Owners of private buildings including domestic, composite, commercial and industrial buildings, who wish to obtain financial assistance in carrying out specified works for improving the safety of their buildings may apply for loans under the scheme.
- (b) The Buildings Department has not set aside a specific provision for statutory periodic maintenance of buildings for 2003. We do not envisage introducing such a scheme in the near future. Therefore, we have not drawn up the details nor the implementation schedule.

Signature

Name in block letters

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Marco WU

Director of Buildings

21.3.2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)029

Question Serial No.

0456

Head : 82 Buildings Department Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

What is the Buildings Department's estimated expenditure on encouraging the construction of environmentally friendly and innovative buildings this year? What are the initiatives?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

To encourage the design and construction of green and innovative buildings in Hong Kong, the Buildings Department is studying the introduction of a green labelling system to assess the environmental performance of buildings. To this end, the Buildings Department has commissioned a consultancy study to devise the appropriate assessment method. The estimated expenditure in 2003/04 for the consultancy study is \$3.51 million.

Signature

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Marco WU

Director of Buildings

19.3.2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)030

Question Serial No.

0470

Head : 82 Buildings Department Subhead(No. & title) : 000

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

What is the reason for the drastic decrease (to less than half of the figure of the previous) in the estimated number of removal orders to be issued on unauthorized building works in this year?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kam-lam

Reply :

Since 2002, we have adopted an annual target of 25, 000 removal orders on unauthorized buildings works. This is considerably higher than previous targets. In 2002, the Buildings Department (BD) over-achieved the target by issuing 54, 010 orders. As a result, in 2003, BD has to follow up on a much larger number of orders that have been brought forward than in previous years, including taking prosecution action if necessary, to ensure their compliance. We consider that the normal target of 25, 000 new orders is appropriate for 2003.

Signature

Name in block letters

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Marco WU

Director of Buildings

20.3.2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)031

Question Serial No.

0471

Head : 82 Buildings Department Subhead(No. & title) : 000

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Regarding the improvement in building safety, what is the progress on the clearance of unauthorized building works at the buildings targeted last year and the related expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kam-lam

Reply :

In 2002, the Buildings Department (BD) issued a total of 54,010 removal orders on unauthorized building works (UBW) including 15,930 orders served on 1,759 buildings selected for large-scale operations. About 38 000 UBW were removed during the year. BD's total expenditure for the clearance of all unauthorized building works in 2002/03 is \$171.3 million.

Signature

Name in block letters

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Marco WU

Director of Buildings

21.03.2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)032

Question Serial No.

0478

Head : 82 Buildings Department Subhead(No. & title) : 700/011 –
General other
non-recurrent/Consultancy to
compile a full list of existing
private buildings in Hong Kong

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

Under “General other non-recurrent” expenditure, so far the approved provision of \$3.3million for the “Consultancy to compile a full list of existing private buildings in Hong Kong” has not been used. What is the reason for this? Can the Government tell this Council the progress of the consultancy?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kam-lam

Reply :

The scope originally proposed for the “ Consultancy to compile a full list of existing private buildings in Hong Kong” includes the production of a computer database of existing private buildings. Such database comprises the address, lot number, building name, date of occupation permit, building type, number of storeys, etc. of all existing private buildings.

Since mid-2002, the Buildings Department (BD) has developed and put into use the “Building Condition Information System” to facilitate control of existing private buildings. This system has enabled the building up of the database mentioned above.

To avoid duplication, BD is now revising the coverage of the proposed consultancy study which is scheduled to commence in 2003/04. At this stage, we do not have an estimated expenditure drawdown for 2003/04.

Signature

Name in block letters

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Marco WU

Director of Buildings

21.3.2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)033

Question Serial No.

0487

Head : 82 Buildings Department Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

The Select Committee on Building Problems of Public Housing Units recommended that public housing units constructed by the Housing Authority should also be put under the control of the Buildings Department at the same time. In this regard, has the authorities set aside resources in 2003-04 for implementing this recommendation? What is the additional expenditure required?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kam-lam

Reply :

The Government is now examining in detail the legal, administrative, staffing and resource implications involved in taking forward the recommendation to put Housing Authority projects under the control of the Buildings Ordinance. A steering committee comprising representatives of Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau, Buildings Department (BD) and Housing Department has been set up to study the issues involved. The committee's work is still on-going. As such, no resources have been specifically set aside in 2003-04 for implementing the recommendation.

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Name in block letters

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Marco WU

Director of Buildings

21.03.2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)034

Question Serial No.

0567

Head : 82 Buildings Department Subhead(No. & title) : 000 Operational expenses

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

As for “the number of buildings targeted for clearance of unauthorized building works”, the actual number in 2001 and 2002 is 3.9 times and 1.8 times higher than the respective targets. Why is the target in 2003 set at 1 000 only? Will the number of staff responsible for this task increase? If yes, what are the number of increase and the relevant provision?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

We have adopted an annual target of 900 buildings in 2001 and 1,000 buildings in 2002 for clearance of unauthorized building works (UBW). These targets are considerably higher than those in previous years. In 2001 and 2002, the Buildings Department (BD) over-achieved its targets and dealt with 1,571 and 1,759 buildings respectively. As a result, in 2003, BD has to follow up on a much larger number of orders that have been brought forward than in previous years, including taking prosecution action if necessary, to ensure their compliance. We consider that the target of 1,000 buildings for clearance of UBW is appropriate for 2003.

There is no planned increase in the number of staff deployed for the clearance operations.

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Name in block letters

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Marco WU

Director of Buildings

21.3.2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)035

Question Serial No.

0775

Head : 82 Buildings Department Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

The department estimated that the total amount of loans committed for Comprehensive Building Safety Improvement Loan Scheme for 2002-03 is \$70 million. What is the financial provision for the loan scheme for 2003-04?

Asked by : Hon. Abraham, Shek Lai-him

Reply :

The total approved commitment for the loan scheme is \$700 million. The \$70 million is the estimated amount of loan approved for 2003.

Signature

Name in block letters

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Marco WU

Director of Buildings

20.3.2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)036

Question Serial No.

0791

Head : 82 Buildings Department Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

The numbers of buildings targeted by the Buildings Department for clearance of unauthorised building works are 1 571 in 2001 and 1 759 in 2002. In this respect, can the Government state the reason why the number of buildings targeted by the Buildings Department for clearance of unauthorized building works has been substantially reduced to 1 000 in 2003-04?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

We have adopted an annual target of 900 buildings in 2001 and 1,000 buildings in 2002 for clearance of unauthorized building works (UBW). These targets are considerably higher than those in previous years. In 2001 and 2002, the Buildings Department (BD) over-achieved its targets and dealt with 1,571 and 1,759 buildings respectively. As a result, in 2003, BD has to follow up on a much larger number of orders that have been brought forward than in previous years, including taking prosecution action if necessary, to ensure their compliance. We consider that the target of 1,000 buildings for clearance of UBW is appropriate for 2003.

Signature

Name in block letters

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Marco WU

Director of Buildings

21.3.2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)037

Question Serial No.

0844

Head : 82 Buildings Department Subhead (No. & title) : 000 Operational expenses

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

To cope with all its work in 2003-04, the Buildings Department will increase its estimated expenditure by only 2.7% and even delete 36 permanent posts in its establishment. Are the allocated resources sufficient to meet the work requirements? Will the results of the work and the staff's performance be affected?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

The modest increase in financial provision and the deletion of 36 permanent posts in 2003-04 will not affect the Buildings Department's ability to meet its operational commitments. The 36 permanent posts to be deleted were created on a time-limited basis. The Buildings Department has been allocated sufficient resources for its core functions.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Marco WU

Director of Buildings

19.3.2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)038

Question Serial No.

1235

Head : 82 Buildings Department Subhead (No. & title) : 000 Operational expenses

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

Under the "Personal Emoluments-Allowances" (Subhead 000 Operational expenses), the "Revised Estimate" for 2002-03 has increased 62.6% to \$7,915,000 from \$4,868,000 (the "Original Estimate" for 2002-03). And the 2003-04 Estimate also reaches the level of the "Revised Estimate" for 2002-03. In this respect, will the Government advise this Council:

- (a) the nature or purpose of the expenses under the item "Allowances";
- (b) the breakdown of the expenses for 2002-03 and 2003-04 in terms of their nature or purpose;
- (c) the reasons for the increase in the "Revised Estimate" over the "Original Estimate" for 2002-03.

Asked by : Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply :

The allowances under Personal Emoluments include overtime allowance, typhoon allowance and acting allowance. They are payable to eligible officers who have performed overtime work, have been on duty during tropical cyclone warning signal no.8 or above, or have undertaken acting appointments in accordance with the provisions of the Civil Service Regulations.

The breakdown of the allowances in 2002-03 and 2003-04 is as follows:-

	2002-03 Original Estimate	2002-03 Revised Estimate	2003-04 Estimate
Overtime work	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
Typhoon duty	\$18,000	\$18,000	\$18,000
Acting appointment	\$4,350,000	\$7,397,000	\$7,377,000
Total	\$4,868,000	\$7,915,000	\$7,895,000

The increase in the "Revised Estimate" over the "Original Estimate" for allowances in 2002-03 is mainly due to the need to pay acting allowance to 86 staff occupying time-limited supervisory posts, which were created to supervise 490 contract staff and 27 consultants employed to improve the safety of existing buildings.

Signature

Name in block letters

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Marco WU

Director of Buildings

21.3.2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)039

Question Serial No.

1257

Head : 82 Buildings Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

Regarding the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2003-04:

- (a) Please list out in detail the street names, building numbers and names of the buildings in Kwun Tong and Wong Tai Sin districts to be included in the 1 000 buildings targeted for carrying out special operation on clearance of unauthorized building works on the external walls in the coming year.
- (b) Please list out in detail the street names, building numbers and names of the buildings in Kwun Tong and Wong Tai Sin districts to be included in the 700 single-staircase buildings for clearance of illegal rooftop structures in the coming year.
- (c) How many public education and publicity programmes on the need for periodical safety inspection and maintenance of buildings will be organized in the coming year? Please list out the date(s) and venue(s).

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

- (a) Buildings Department (BD) prepares the list of target buildings for clearance of unauthorized building works mainly to facilitate the programming of its work. The specific law enforcement action in respect of, for example, the necessary removal orders to be issued against individual owners, can only be determined after detailed inspections of the target buildings. Not all owners will necessarily be served with such orders eventually. The orders served will also vary in terms of the works required. BD will have to liaise with the owners and advise them on the relevant remedial measures. In order not to cause unnecessary concern and confusion among the owners of the target buildings, BD will not publish the list.
- (b) With regard to illegal rooftop structures on single-staircase buildings, an additional consideration is the need to safeguard against attempts to move into structures just before the clearance operation for possible re-housing. Again, BD will not publish the list.
- (c) In 2003, BD will hold a second round of "Secondary School Quiz Contest" to promote building maintenance. The contest aims to stimulate secondary school students' interest and to enhance their knowledge in building maintenance.

In the coming months, BD will also launch a new round of publicity campaign on building safety. Arrangements will be made to place advertisements on buses, at bus shelters,

KCR and MTR stations.

In addition, BD will arrange meetings for owners of ageing buildings at which they can make direct enquiries with relevant professional bodies about building maintenance.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	_____ Marco WU
Post Title	_____ Director of Buildings
Date	_____ 22.3.2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)040

Question Serial No.

1270

Head : 82 Buildings Department Subhead(No. & title) : 000
Operational
expenses

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

Please provide the number of non-civil service contract staff employed and the level of expenditure involved in 2002/03. Are there any plans to employ more or less non-civil service contract staff in 2003/04? If so, what are the reasons? And what will be the number of staff and the level of expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply :

The Buildings Department (BD) employed 490 non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff in 2002/03 at an expenditure of \$115.9 million.

BD has no plan to employ more NCSC staff in 2003/04. BD will review the employment of NCSC staff with due regard to its operational need in 2003/04.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Marco WU

Director of Buildings

21.3.2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)041

Question Serial No.

1379

Head : 82 Buildings Department Subhead(No. & title) : 000 Operational expenses

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : It is stated that the Buildings Department will monitor the building quality of the newly-completed buildings this year. In this connection, what is the estimated expenditure for this? Please specify the details of the manpower and the measures involved.

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

In 2003/04, the Buildings Department will deploy 157 professional staff and 75 technical staff for monitoring the quality of new buildings. The building control work for new developments includes vetting of building and structural plans, on-site audit checks to ensure building quality, and monitoring Authorised Persons, Registered Structural Engineers and Registered Contractors in the performance of their statutory duties and functions under the Buildings Ordinance.

The estimated expenditure in 2003/04 for monitoring the quality of the newly-completed buildings is \$140.2 million.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Marco WU

Director of Buildings

21.03.2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)042

Question Serial No.

1380

Head : 82 Buildings Department Subhead(No. & title) : 700/000 –

General other
non-recurrent/Operational
expenses

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : The Buildings Department plans to develop new construction and planning standards to suit the need of modern building design and construction. Please specify the details of this programme and the estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

The Buildings Department has initiated a programme to update the Building (Construction) Regulations, the Building (Planning) Regulations and other related regulations, taking into account community needs, and modern building design and construction technology. This programme includes studies on requirements relating to fire safety, lighting and ventilation, structural use of concrete and steel, precast concrete construction, barrier free access and drainage of buildings. The total estimated expenditure of the programme is \$37 million., of which about \$14 million is estimated to be spent in 2003/04.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

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Marco WU

Director of Buildings

21.03.2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)043

Question Serial No.

0795

Head: 43 - Civil Engineering Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Site Formation and Reclamation

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question: In Programme (3), the Controlling Officer Report mentioned that "The environmental impact assessment (EIA) study for Yung Shue Wan (Phase 2) ... is in progress": What is the scope of the project? What is the current progress of the EIA study? When will the EIA study be completed? Has there been any public consultation conducted and will there be any future consultation for the proposed project?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply: Yung Shue Wan Development (Phase 2) project was conceived to include possible construction of seawalls and reclamation of about 1 hectare of land, construction of an emergency vehicular access, a seafront promenade, storm water drainage and sewerage, and associated landscape works. The environmental impact assessment study for the project was completed in February 2003.

Back in March 2001, Civil Engineering Department (CED) together with Planning Department (PlanD) held two consultation meetings with Lamma (North) Area Committee, relevant environmental and local groups to discuss the draft engineering options for the proposed project.

PlanD together with CED held another two consultation meetings with Lamma (North) Area Committee, relevant environmental and local groups in early 2003 to discuss the development options for Yung Shue Wan.

In the light of the views received during the public consultation, the Government is reviewing the scale of the proposed reclamation and the associated land uses. Further public consultation will be conducted before the implementation of the proposed project.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ T K TSAO

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering

Date _____ 20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)044

Question Serial No.

0096

Head: 91 Lands Department Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Land Administration

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : It is estimated that the processing of applications from indigenous villagers for rent concession in 2003 will involve only 21 700 cases, which sees a reduction of 7 500 cases when compared with the figure of 29 200 in 2002. Why?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply: Lands Department has already processed approximately 180 000 rent exemption cases. Recent statistics indicate that applications are submitted at a rate of about 1 800 cases per month. This forms the basis of the estimate of 21 700 cases for 2003 and reflects the trend that such applications are decreasing.

Signature _____

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 18.3.2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)045

Question Serial No.

0100

Head: 91 Lands Department Subhead(No. & title):
Programme: (1) Land Administration

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : The Lands Department plans to allocate an amount of \$1,289 million in 2003 for land acquisition/clearance. How much of this allocation will be used for clearing the sites under its control so as to prevent the breeding of mosquitoes and the spread of dengue fever?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply:

To assist in the prevention of mosquito breeding and the spread of dengue fever, Lands Department plans to spend about \$10 million in 2003-04 on contracting out work involving grass-cutting, rubbish clearance and levelling of sites under its control. This amount is not paid out from the sum of \$1,289 million, which is the estimated expenditure in 2003 for the acquisition/clearance of private lots/government land relating to government projects.

Signature _____

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 20.3.2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)046

Question Serial No.

0160

Head: 91 Lands Department Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Land Administration

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : As a matter of land administration, the government rebuilt a total number of 72 temporary domestic structures in 2002 and plans to rebuild another 72 such structures in 2003. Please advise this Council of the objective and the purpose of rebuilding the temporary domestic structures, as well as the distribution of such structures and the construction costs concerned.

Asked by: Hon. LAU Ping-cheung

Reply: The 72 cases are the estimated number of applications in 2003 for the rebuilding of temporary domestic structures licensed under Government Land Licences/Permits. The rebuilding is undertaken by residents at their own expense and such structures are located throughout Hong Kong.

Signature _____

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 21.3.2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)047

Question Serial No.

0161

Head: 91 Lands Department Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Land Administration

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : In order to eliminate the breeding of mosquitoes and prevent the spread of dengue fever, the Lands Department cleaned up 607 sites under its management in 2002. Will the Government inform this Council whether the number of cleaning-up sites mentioned above has been included in the 2 430 government sites cleared and guarded in 2002? For the 2 430 government sites which the Government plans to clear and guard in 2003, do they include additional ones to be cleared due to the outbreak of contagious diseases?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Ping-cheung

Reply: The 2 430 government sites which Lands Department cleared and guarded in 2002 included the 607 sites cleaned up to help prevent mosquito breeding and the spread of dengue fever. The estimated 2 430 government sites which Lands Department plans to clear and guard in 2003 include any new sites to be cleared to prevent mosquito breeding.

Signature _____

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 21.3.2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)048

Question Serial No.

0162

Head: 91 Lands Department Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: Land Administration

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Under Subhead 003, the total provision for “recoverable salaries and allowances (general)” is \$30,764,000. What are the details? How many staff (professional and non-professional staff) are involved?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Ping-cheung

Reply:

The total provision of about \$31 million for “recoverable salaries and allowances (general)” is the estimated expenditure on salaries and allowances for 30 existing staff and 25 proposed new posts in the Lands Department’s Urban Renewal Section. The details are as follows:

	<u>No.</u>	<u>Cost (\$ Million)</u>
<u>Existing Posts</u>		
Professional	8	8
Non-professional	22	7
<u>Proposed Posts</u>		
Professional	11	10
Non-professional	<u>14</u>	<u>6</u>
Total	<u>55</u>	<u>31</u>

These costs are re-imbursable by the Urban Renewal Authority. The proposed posts will only be filled as and when the workload of the Urban Renewal Section increases to such an extent as to require the additional staff.

Signature _____

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 19.3.2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)049

Question Serial No.

0163

Head: 91 Lands Department Subhead(No. & title): 111 Hire of services and professional fees

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Under Subhead 111, the approved estimate for the hire of services and professional fees in 2002-03 is \$58,909,000 and the revised estimate is \$29,875,000. Please explain why an amount of \$29,034,000 in the approved estimate has not been spent and give the details of the professional services involved.

Asked by: Hon. LAU Ping-cheung

Reply: The amount of \$29,034,000 in the approved estimate for 2002-03 has not been spent mainly due to deferral of projects, lower tender prices for contracting-out services and reduced requirements for contracting-out work.

The professional services engaged through contracting-out are mainly related to resumption of private land, clearance of government land, land administration work and topographic / land boundary survey services.

Signature _____

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 21.3.2003

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
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Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)050

Question Serial No.

0301

Head: 91 Lands Department Subhead(No. & title): 221 Clearance of government land – ex-gratia allowances

Programme: (1) Land Administration

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : The provision for “clearance of government land – ex-gratia allowances” under Subhead 221 is HK\$13,000,000, representing an increase of 6,700,000 (106.3%) when compared with the revised estimate for 2002-03. Please give details of the number of clearance jobs increased and the costs concerned.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply: The amount of ex-gratia allowances to be paid will depend on the scale of the clearance to be carried out and the number and nature of the subjects involved i.e. structures, activities or crops affected by the clearances. Details of the clearances proposed to be undertaken in 2003-04 and the costs involved, compared with 2002-03, are as follows :

Projects	Clearances in 2003-04	Costs \$	Clearances in 2002-03	Costs \$
Non-development clearances	200	3,090,000	191	3,370,000
Clearances for development purposes	10	9,830,000	15	2,852,000
Clearance of temporary housing and cottage areas	8	80,000	4	78,000
	<u>218</u>	<u>13,000,000</u>	<u>210</u>	<u>6,300,000</u>

Signature _____

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 21.3.2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)051

Question Serial No.

0320

Head: 91 Lands Department

Subhead(No. &
title):

Programme: (1) Land Administration

Controlling
Officer: Director of Lands

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : How many environmental black spots on private and government land in the New Territories does the Lands Department plan to clear in 2003-04? Please list the locations of the black spots on private and government land, the manpower required and the expenditures involved respectively.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply:

In 2003-04, the Task Force (Black Spots)(TFB) of Lands Department plans to clear 140 environmental black spots on private land and 125 environmental black spots on government land. The details are shown below:

<u>Location</u>	<u>No. of sites on private land</u>	<u>No. of sites on government land</u>
Pat Heung/San Tin	35	47
Shap Pat Heung	33	6
Ngau Tam Mei	18	24
Wang Chau	17	6
Sai Kung	13	-
Ha Tsuen & Lau Fau Shan	10	3
North District/Tai Po	9	1
Tin Shui Wai	5	-
Yuen Long/Tuen Mun Corridor :		
• Yuen Long Section	-	3
• Tuen Mun Section	-	10
Other areas in the New Territories	-	25
Total	140	125

In addition, the TFB will continue to grant short term tenancies and short term waivers to the site owners/occupiers, coordinate with concerned Government departments to deal with illegal dumping, clear sites for prevention of dengue fever, and identify and dispose of suitable sites for port back-up and open storage uses.

The improvements on private land are to be undertaken by the owners at their own expense. The TFB has 121 staff involving an estimated recurrent expenditure of \$43 million and non-recurrent expenditure of \$11.5 million to undertake all of its responsibilities in 2003-04.

Signature _____

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 20.3.2003

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)052

Question Serial No.

0321

Head: 91 Lands Department Subhead(No. & title):
Programme: (1) Land Administration

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : How many small house grant applications are outstanding? Will the Administration allocate more resources to process these outstanding cases?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply: The number of outstanding small house applications has been reduced from about 15 000 in March 2002 to 13 054 as at 1st March 2003.

Lands Department is actively exploring ways to expedite processing of the outstanding cases with the available resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 18.3.2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)053

Question Serial No.

0475

Head: 91 Lands Department Subhead(No. & title):
Programme: (3) Legal Advice

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : It is mentioned in the Estimates that the Lands Department will continue to contract out to private firms the processing of applications for approval of Deeds of Mutual Covenant and for surrenders in land exchange cases. Also, there are 115 staff members under this programme. Please advise on whether the contracting out practice will continue and on the annual savings in terms of manpower and recurrent expenditure of the Lands Department. Moreover, what kinds of jobs are the existing 115 staff members currently responsible for?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Kam-lam

Reply: Generally, the Legal Advisory and Conveyancing Office (LACO) of Lands Department contracts out selected cases when there is an increased demand of services which it cannot process in acceptable time with existing resources. It is an on-going arrangement.

Under the Enhanced Productivity Programme (EPP), LACO has deleted 13 posts in the past three years. As a result of this deletion, there is a saving in recurrent expenditure of about \$5 million a year. The saving in manpower and recurrent expenditure arising from the contracting out of services has been reflected in the overall savings achieved under the EPP.

Not all the legal and conveyancing services provided by LACO can be contracted out. Unlike the legal and conveyancing services provided by the private sector, many of the services provided by LACO cater for government land transactions which have legal and policy implications and cannot be entrusted to the private sector. For this reason, LACO has to maintain adequate staffing to continue with the provision of the various essential legal and conveyancing services.

Signature _____

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 20.3.2003

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
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Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)054

Question Serial No.

0660

Head: 91 Lands Department Subhead(No. & title): 661 Minor plant, vehicles and
equipment (block vote)

Programme: (2) Survey and Mapping

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Due to reduced requirements for minor plant and equipment, provision under Subhead 661 will decrease by 80 per cent to \$630,000 in 2003-04. The respective investments in the previous two years amounted to \$7,567,000 and \$3,170,000. Why is there a sudden drop in demand for minor plant and equipment from the Survey and Mapping Programme?

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply: The Survey and Mapping Office of Lands Department has acquired, since 2000-01, a considerable number of survey instruments, computer aided mapping equipment, map printing equipment and air survey accessories under Subhead 661 for new infrastructural projects or replacement of the obsolete ones. The demand for minor plant and equipment in 2003-04 is thus significantly reduced.

Signature _____

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 18.3.2003

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
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Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)055

Question Serial No.

0880

Head: 91 Lands Department Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Land Administration

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

- Question : (a) The number of small house grants in 2000, 2001 and 2002 are 1047, 1000 and 842 respectively, reflecting a continuous downward trend in the number of small house grants. In this connection, will the Administration please inform this Council the expenses of the respective years? Are there any measures to expedite the grant approval procedures?
- (b) Last year, the authority introduced a "Village Layout Plan Scheme" to facilitate the processing of small house applications. What is the latest development of the said scheme? What is the outcome of the consultation conducted with the Heung Yee Kuk and the parties concerned about the said scheme?

Asked by: Hon. TANG Siu-tong

- Reply: (a) The expenditure for processing small house applications was about \$18.4 million, \$19.2 million and \$19.1 million for 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 respectively. The main reason for the declining number of small house grants is that an increasing number of applications being processed are non-straightforward and involve local objections and site constraints. Also, some applicants fail to proceed with execution of the land grant documents after approval of their applications. Lands Department is actively exploring ways to expedite processing of the outstanding cases.
- (b) Under the "Village Layout Plan Scheme", a number of draft village layout plans had been drawn up by Lands Department for consultation with Heung Yee Kuk and 16 Rural Committees. They raised a number of issues and the discussions are continuing.

Signature _____

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 21.3.2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)056

Question Serial No.

0994

Head: 91 Lands Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Land Administration (2) Survey and Mapping (3) Legal Advice

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Please provide:

- (a) the establishment and strength (as at 31 March 2003) for implementing the above programme areas by the following categories:
- I: Ranks with starting pay at MPS 45 & above (including Directorate)
II: Ranks with starting pay at MPS 34 to 44
III: Ranks with starting pay at MPS 12 to 33
IV: Ranks with starting pay at MPS 11 & below
(please provide breakdown by programme areas)
- (b) the number of posts (by ranks) already deleted or redeployed in 2002-03 to enhance productivity and optimize resources; and
- (c) the number of posts (by ranks) to be deleted or redeployed in 2003-04 to accomplish the Government's "3R1M" objective.

Asked by: Hon. CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, Selina

Reply:

- (a) The establishment (E) and strength (S) as at 31 March 2003 for implementing the above programme areas are as follows :

		Programme (1)		Programme (2)		Programme (3)	
		(E)	(S)	(E)	(S)	(E)	(S)
I	Ranks with starting pay at MPS 45 & above (including Directorate)	125	108	31	30	17	15
II	Ranks with starting pay at MPS 34 to 44	156	133	4	4	6	6
III	Ranks with starting pay at MPS 12 to 33	742	698	280	271	35	33
IV	Ranks with starting pay at MPS 11 & below	1340	1393	737	743	55	57

- (b) In 2002-03, a total of 5 directorate posts and 152 non-directorate posts were deleted to enhance productivity and optimise resources.
- (c) At this stage, the Department has identified six posts for deletion in 2003-04. They are all non-directorate posts. The Department will continue to identify further opportunities in 2003-04 for “3Rs and 1M” to enhance its operational efficiency and productivity.

Signature _____

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 21.3.2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)057

Question Serial No.

1027

Head: 91 Lands
Department

Subhead(No. & title): 003 Recoverable salaries and allowances
(General)

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : The provision under *Subhead 003 Recoverable salaries and allowances (General)* includes salaries and allowances for the urban renewal team to process land resumption to make land available for redevelopment by the Urban Renewal Authority (URA). Lands Department states that the cost will be fully recovered from the URA. In this regard, please inform this Council of the amount of the cost involved and when will this amount be recovered?

Asked by: Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply: The provision of about \$31 million under Subhead 003 is the estimated expenditure on salaries and allowances for 30 existing staff and 25 proposed new posts in the Lands Department's Urban Renewal Section. The estimated sum of salaries and allowances required for the 30 existing staff amounts to \$15 million while that for the 25 proposed new posts is \$16 million.

The 25 proposed new posts will only be filled as and when the workload of the Urban Renewal Section increases to such an extent as to require the additional staff. The salaries and allowances for both the 30 existing staff and any of the 25 proposed new posts, if filled, will be recovered in 2003-04.

Signature _____

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 19.3.2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)058

Question Serial No.

1028

Head: 91 Lands Department Subhead(No. & title): 003 Recoverable salaries and allowances (General)

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Are there any other recoverable salaries and allowances under *Subhead 003*? If yes, please elaborate.

Asked by: Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply: Apart from the estimated expenditure on salaries and allowances for 30 existing staff and 25 proposed new posts in the Lands Department's Urban Renewal Section, there is no other expenditure provided under *Subhead 003*.

Signature _____

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 19.3.2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)059

Question Serial No.

1029

Head: 91 Lands Department Subhead(No. & title): 000 Operating expenses
Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Please give a breakdown of the hire of services and professional fees in the estimates for 2003-04. Please also give details of the fees of the items concerned.

Asked by: Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply: The breakdown of the hire of services and professional fees in the estimates for 2003-04 is as follows :

	<u>\$ Million</u>
(a) Security services for government sites	12.0
(b) Professional services for Lands Tribunal cases	4.9
(c) Legal services in respect of landed properties	2.6
(d) Professional services for development of quality management/ information systems and rental services of specialized equipment/computer system	2.5
(e) Others (e.g. professional services relating to assessment of business loss claims arising from land resumption / road works)	1.9
	<hr/> <u>23.9</u>

Signature _____

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 20.3.2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)060

Question Serial No.

1182

Head: 91 Lands Department Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (3) Legal Advice

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : What are the estimated expenditures of the Lands Department for building safety and preventive maintenance measures this year?

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply: The Legal Advisory and Conveyancing Office (LACO) of Lands Department is only responsible for drafting of guidelines in respect of provisions to be included in Deeds of Mutual Covenants (DMCs) relating to building safety and preventive maintenance. There is no specific provision in the 2003-04 estimates for work on this subject which forms part of LACO's ongoing work on approval of DMCs.

Signature _____

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 20.3.2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)061

Question Serial No.

1183

Head: 91 Lands Department Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Land Administration

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : What are the expenditures of the Lands Department for the clearance of environmental black spots on private and government land in the territory this year? Please list the locations of these black spots and the details of the action plans concerned.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply: The Task Force (Black Spots) (TFB) of Lands Department is responsible for the clearance of environmental black spots on private and government land in the territory. It has 121 staff involving an estimated recurrent expenditure of \$43 million and non-recurrent expenditure of \$11.5 million in 2003-04.

The TFB plans to clear 140 environmental black spots on private land and 125 environmental black spots on government land in 2003-04. The details are shown below:

<u>Location</u>	<u>No. of sites on private land</u>	<u>No. of sites on government land</u>
Pat Heung/San Tin	35	47
Shap Pat Heung	33	6
Ngau Tam Mei	18	24
Wang Chau	17	6
Sai Kung	13	-
Ha Tsuen & Lau Fau Shan	10	3
North District/Tai Po	9	1
Tin Shui Wai	5	-
Yuen Long/Tuen Mun Corridor :		
• Yuen Long Section	-	3
• Tuen Mun Section	-	10
Other areas in the New Territories	-	25
Total	140	125

The action plans mainly involve requiring existing occupiers to undertake environmental improvement works at their own expense. In addition, landscaping works will be carried out on government land.

Signature _____

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 21.3.2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)062

Question Serial No.

1184

Head: 91 Lands Department Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Land Administration

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : What is the estimated expenditure of the Lands Department for the land resumption of the Deep Bay Link Project this year?

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply: Compensation payable by Lands Department in 2003-04 for the resumption of land for the Deep Bay Link Project is estimated at \$273 million to be funded under Capital Works Reserve Fund.

Signature _____

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 21.3.2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)063

Question Serial No.

1185

Head: 91 Lands Department Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Land Administration

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : What is the estimated expenditure of the Lands Department for the land resumption to make land available for redevelopment by the Urban Renewal Authority this year? How many hectares of land will be allocated to the Urban Renewal Authority by the Administration and what is the sum of money involved?

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply: The Urban Renewal Section (URS) of Lands Department is responsible for resuming land for the projects of the Urban Renewal Authority (URA). The estimated expenditure of the URS under Head 91 Lands Department in 2003-04 is about \$31 million, which is provided under Subhead 003 Recoverable salaries and allowances (General). The sum is re-imbursable by the URA.

It is anticipated that about 1.5 hectares will be granted to the URA in 2003-04. Grants of sites for the implementation of urban renewal projects would in general be at nominal premium.

Signature _____

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 21.3.2003

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)064

Question Serial No.

1201

Head: 91 Lands Department Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Land Administration

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : As a matter of urban renewal,

- a) please advise on the details and expenditure pertinent to the land resumption work for the provision of land to the Urban Renewal Authority in 2003-04; and
- b) regarding the indicator of 195 set for the urban renewal projects (no. of property interests), what are the details?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

- Reply:
- a) The Urban Renewal Section (URS) of Lands Department is responsible for resuming land for the projects of the Urban Renewal Authority (URA). The work involved includes the collection of property and ownership data, District Council consultation, preparing submissions to the Executive Council for the land resumption, handling objections and representations, assessing, negotiating and paying compensation and implementing the final clearance. The estimated expenditure of the URS under Head 91 Lands Department in 2003-04 is about \$31 million, which is provided under Subhead 003 Recoverable salaries and allowances (General). The sum is re-imbursable by the URA.
 - b) The figure of 195 refers to the number of property interests in URA projects (i.e. individual flats or shops or lots in single ownership) estimated to require resumption. The need for resumption can be due to various reasons, including title problems, untraceable owners and the URA not being able to acquire the interests through negotiation.

Signature _____

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 21.3.2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)065

Question Serial No.

1241

Head: 91 Lands Department

Subhead(No. & title): 600 Works

Programme: (1) Land Administration

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

The programme mentioned in the document relating to "Land Administration" involves land resumption for infrastructure construction, e.g. the clearance of three cottage areas under Head 91 Sub-head 600 including land clearance and rehousing occupants. The duty is similar to that of the Housing Department under Head 62 "Squatter and Temporary Housing Clearance and Squatter Control" and that of the Buildings Department under Head 82 "Building & Construction". Will the Government inform this Committee :

- (a) whether the Bureau will consider restructuring the duty of land resumption and rehousing with a view to saving work procedure and public expenditure? How much expenditure can be saved each year?
- (b) if not, why?

Asked by: Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply:

Under Head 91 Subhead 600, provisions have been made in 2003-04 for the demolition of three cottage areas. In this respect, Lands Department (Lands D)'s role is confined to the provision of funds to Housing Department (HD) for the demolition of the three cottage areas which sit on land held by the Lands D. Over the years, demolition of cottage areas has been undertaken by HD which is also responsible for the rehousing arrangements as in all other clearances.

Squatter and temporary housing clearance and squatter control constitute a Programme under Head 62. Under this Programme, HD acts on behalf of the Government and clears land for development and other purposes.

As regards Head 82, Buildings Department (BD) is responsible for the identification and removal of unauthorized building works which pose a danger or potential danger to the public or found to be newly erected. The aim is to promote building safety through enforcement of the Buildings Ordinance.

The aforementioned work involves the discharge of different duties by the relevant departments under their areas of responsibilities. As an on-going process, government departments will explore measures (e.g. re-engineering, re-organization and re-prioritisation) to enhance efficiency and achieve cost savings.

Signature _____

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 21.3.2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)066

Question Serial No.

1305

Head: 91 Lands Department Subhead(No. & title): 000 Operational expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : What are the number of non-civil service contract staff and the expenditures involved in 2002-03? Is there any plan to increase or reduce the number of non-civil service contract staff in 2003-04? If yes, please advise on the reasons for the increase or reduction, the number of staff and the expenditures involved.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply: 149 non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff were employed for various durations in 2002-03 at an expenditure of about \$25 million.

About 125 NCSC staff are required in 2003-04 involving an estimated expenditure of \$21 million.

The number of NCSC staff employed varies from year to year because they are employed to meet short-term and urgent service needs which may arise from time to time.

Signature _____

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 21.3.2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)067

Question Serial No.

0097

Head : 118 - Planning Department Subhead (No. & title) : --

Programme : (4) - Town Planning Information Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Planning

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : In 2003, the Planning Department intends to give 390 briefings on planning matters, which represents an increase of more than 60% over the figure of 2002. Please give the reasons for the significant increase in the number of briefings to be given and provide the information on the additional expenditures involved.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply :

As compared to 2002, it is estimated that there will be an increase of about 150 briefings on planning matters in 2003. This mainly arises from the increasing number of briefings to be given to visiting groups to the Hong Kong Planning and Infrastructure Exhibition Gallery. The remaining increase is due to the anticipated number of briefings and consultation meetings on various town plans and development proposals to be conducted in 2003.

Apart from staff time, the additional expenditure for the increase in the number of briefings, involving mainly the production of additional information pamphlets and briefing documents will be about HK\$20,000, which is not substantial.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

B C K FUNG

Post Title _____

Director of Planning

Date _____

21 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)068

Question Serial No.

0098

Head : 118 - Planning Department Subhead (No. & title) : 700 – General other non-recurrent

Programme : (1) – Territorial and Sub-regional Planning

Controlling Officer : Director of Planning

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Regarding the financial commitment of \$7 million for 2003-04 as spelled out in Item 560 – Study on Rural Planning and Land Management in the New Territories under Subhead 700 of the Capital Account of the Planning Department, please list the expense details.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply :

The Study on Rural Planning and Land Management in the New Territories is to be undertaken in phases. Phase One, aiming at identifying problems and possible redress measures to better manage the rural environment, is being carried out in-house by Planning Department. Phase Two will formulate an implementation framework and work out action plans for pilot projects. A provision of \$7 million has been allocated for engaging consultants to provide specialist inputs in Phase Two of the Study. The detailed breakdown is as follows:

Consultants' Staff Cost (a) :	\$5.91 million
Engineering	\$1.07 million
Transport Engineer	\$1.07 million
Environmentalist	\$1.07 million
Economist	\$0.97 million
Land Valuer	\$1.73 million
Out-of-Pocket Expenses (b)	\$0.40 million
Contingency Fund (c)	\$0.63 million
Total Cost (a+b+c)	\$6.94 million
	<i>(say \$7.00 million)</i>

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

B C K FUNG

Director of Planning

19 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)069

Question Serial No.

0234

Head : 118 - Planning Department Subhead (No. & title) : 838 – Minor consultancy studies
(block vote)

Programme : (1) – Territorial and Sub-regional Planning

Controlling Officer : Director of Planning

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Under this Programme, the Planning Department will manage various planning studies during 2003-04, which include the Review on Shopping Habits. On this regard, would the Government inform the Council of the contents of the study and the staff establishment required in managing it?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Ping-cheung

Reply :

The last “Study of Shopping Habits” was conducted in 1996 and information on shopping habits obtained from that study has been used as one of the references in the planning of retail facilities. Since then, there have been significant changes in shopping patterns due to increasing cross-boundary shopping (both ways), the emergence of chain superstores and the increasingly popular practice of e-trade and internet/tele-shopping, etc. The Review on Shopping Habits is a new round of survey on shopping habits/shoppers’ expenditure patterns to provide new information for the future planning and provision of retail facilities. The information should be useful to both the public and private sectors.

Two existing staff members will be tasked, in addition to other duties, to manage the study which will be undertaken by consultants.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ B C K FUNG

Post Title _____ Director of Planning

Date _____ 19 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)070

Question Serial No.

0237

Head : 118 - Planning Department Subhead (No. & title) : --

Programme : (2) – District Planning

Controlling Officer : Director of Planning

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Under this Programme, the Planning Department worked closely with the Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau and the Urban Renewal Authority (URA) in 2002 in the implementation of the “Early Launch” urban renewal projects, and in the processing of the URA’s corporate plan and business plan for approval by the Financial Secretary. In this connection, would the Government inform this Council of the staff establishment required?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Ping-cheung

Reply :

During 2002, a total of 9 professional staff (including one Assistant Director who rendered overall supervision) were involved in supporting the implementation of the urban renewal programme, which includes assisting the Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau and the Urban Renewal Authority (URA) in the implementation of the “Early Launch” urban renewal projects and the processing of the URA’s Corporate Plan and Business Plan. Technical support was rendered by 4 survey and technical officers. These professional and technical officers were also engaged in other on-going projects of the URA and other urban renewal matters.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

B C K FUNG

Post Title _____

Director of Planning

Date _____

20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)071

Question Serial No.

0238

Head : 118 - Planning Department Subhead (No. & title) : --

Programme : (3) – Ordinance Review

Controlling Officer : Director of Planning

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Concerning the Government's intention of introducing the Town Planning (Amendment) Bill to the Legislative Council in 2003, the Government revealed that it had given 13 public briefings in the first two quarters of 2002 and was prepared to give 15 briefings in 2003. Could the Government inform this Council of the details of these public briefings, including the dates, venues and numbers of participants, as well as the resources required by the department for giving these briefings?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Ping-cheung

Reply :

From August to December 2002, the Administration had 13 consultation meetings with the following parties on the outline proposals to be included in the Town Planning (Amendment) Bill :

- LegCo Members
- Town Planning Board
- Trade Association and Professional Bodies (Hong Kong Institute of Architects, Hong Kong Institute of Planners, Hong Kong Institute of Engineers, Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors and Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects)
- Land and Building Advisory Committee

About 100 participants from the above parties took part in the meetings.

The expenses incurred in conducting the above consultation meetings were mainly staff cost. As the meetings were conducted by an existing team of officers charged with the task of ordinance review, no additional expenses were involved.

After introducing the Town Planning (Amendment) Bill into LegCo by mid-2003, we would conduct another round of consultation on the detailed provisions in the Bill. It is anticipated that about 15 briefings would be carried out for a range of stakeholders, including the concerned public bodies and interest groups such as Town Planning Board, Heung Yee Kuk, developers association, practitioners in the trade, professional institutes, green groups, District Council members etc. The exact dates and venues of these briefings have not been fixed. Again, as the consultation would be conducted by an existing team of officers charged with the task of ordinance review, no additional

expenses would be involved.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u> B C K FUNG </u>
Post Title	<u> Director of Planning </u>
Date	<u> 20 March 2003 </u>

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)072

Question Serial No.

0304

Head : 118 - Planning Department Subhead (No. & title) : --

Programme : (2) – District Planning

Controlling Officer : Director of Planning

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : What are the expenses, staffing and details in respect of the Further Urban Design Study for Planning and Development of South East Kowloon to be managed by the Planning Department in 2003-04?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

The Study is to fine-tune the urban design and landscape concept plans for the South East Kowloon area and includes the preparation of detailed urban design guidelines for the various public spaces and also the formulation of planning briefs to guide the development of major sites, in particular those near the waterfront.

The estimated provision for the Study is \$4.23 million for 2003-04. The Study is funded under Subhead 7100CX (block allocation) of Head 707 – New Towns and Urban Area Development of the Capital Works Reserve Fund. Three staff members are involved part-time in managing the Study.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

B C K FUNG

Director of Planning

19 March 2003

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)073

Question Serial No.

0305

Head : 118 - Planning Department Subhead (No. & title) : 700 – General other non-recurrent
838 – Minor consultancy studies
(block vote)

Programme : (1) – Territorial and Sub-regional Planning
(5) – Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Planning

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Please list the consultancy studies having been or proposed to be commissioned by the Planning Department, and the expenses so involved, during the financial years 2002-03 and 2003-04.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : For major consultancy studies (funded under Subhead 700), the expenses for 2002-03 was \$16 million and the provision for 2003-04 is \$11.6 million. For minor studies (funded under Subhead 838 and each costing between \$50,000 and \$3 million), the expenses in 2002-03 was \$2.3 million and a provision of \$6 million is allocated for 2003-04. The titles, expenses and estimated expenditure of the consultancy studies under these Subheads are at Annexes 1 and 2 respectively.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

B C K FUNG

Director of Planning

19 March 2003

**Annex 1 to
Question No. 0305**

**Major Consultancy Studies
under Subhead 700 - General other non-recurrent**

<u>Study</u>	Expenses in 2002-03 \$'000	Estimated Expenditure in 2003-04 \$'000
<u>Commissioned</u>		
Setting up of a 3-D Digital Model for the Main Urban Area of Hong Kong	331	-
Stage II Study on Review of Metroplan and the related Kowloon Density Study Review	750	688
Consultancy Study on Phase II of the Electronic Application Submission System and the Planning Information Management Centre	4,670	-
Study of Landscape Value Mapping of Hong Kong	1,791	2,274
Hong Kong 2030 : Planning Vision and Strategy	4,034	4,898
Study on Planning for Pedestrians	1,193	1,024
Survey on Housing Aspirations of Households 2001	2,350	-
Study on HK Residents Living in the Pearl River Delta Region	830	1,465
<u>To be commissioned</u>		
Study on Rural Planning and Land Management in the New Territories	-	1,295
Total	15,949	11,644

**Annex 2 to
Question No. 0305**

**Minor Consultancy Studies
under Subhead 838 - Minor consultancy studies (block vote)**

<u>Study</u>	<u>Expenses in 2002-03 \$'000</u>	<u>Estimated Expenditure in 2003-04 \$'000</u>
<u>Commissioned</u>		
Preparation of Urban Design Guidelines for Hong Kong	244	-
Focus Study on Aberdeen Harbour	1,047	-
Intrepretative Planning Study - Exhibits and Facilities Conceptual Design Brief for Planning and Infrastructure Exhibition	1,000	-
<u>To be commissioned</u>		
Cross-boundary Travel Survey 2003	-	2,580
Provision of Consultancy Services to Enhance and Re- structure PlanD's In-house Transport Model (T160 and CBM)	-	580
Review of Shopping Habits	-	1,750
Formulation of an Area Improvement Plan for Tsim Sha Tsui	-	1,090
Total	2,291	6,000

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)074

Question Serial No.

0306

Head : 118 - Planning Department Subhead (No. & title) : --

Programme : (1) – Territorial and Sub-regional Planning

Controlling Officer : Director of Planning

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : What are the progress, future programmes and expenses in respect of the continued review of the planning framework for industrial land provision?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

In response to the restructuring economy, Planning Department (PlanD) has been monitoring and reviewing the use of our stock of industrial land/buildings so that they can be better utilised to meet changing economic and community needs. As part of this monitoring and review process, we have undertaken or initiated the following tasks :

- (a) rezone surplus industrial land identified in the 1999 industrial buildings survey to other uses, including residential and business uses;
- (b) explore the feasibility of converting existing industrial premises to “loft” apartment and residential institution uses;
- (c) review the permitted and permissible uses within the “Industrial” and “Business” zones to allow greater flexibility in change of use;
- (d) conduct another round of survey of industrial buildings to update the situation on their usage, and gather stakeholders’ views on the future of industrial buildings; and
- (e) review the overall demand and supply of industrial land.

The above tasks are all undertaken by PlanD’s in-house resources. Tasks (a), (b) and (c) have basically been completed whilst tasks (d) and (e) are still on-going and are expected to be completed by end 2003.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>B C K FUNG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Planning</u>
Date	<u>19 March 2003</u>

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)075

Question Serial No.

0307

Head : 118 - Planning Department Subhead (No. & title) : --

Programme : (2) – District Planning

Controlling Officer : Director of Planning

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : As regards the key performance measures in respect of district planning, why :

- (a) is there a plummet in the estimated number of “objections to statutory plans processed” as compared with the financial year 2002-03?
- (b) is there a nil estimate for the number of “Town Planning Appeal Board cases handled” for 2003-04?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

- (a) It is difficult to predict accurately the number of objections to statutory plans processed by the Town Planning Board (TPB) as it is directly related to the contents of particular plans and the reactions received from the public. In 2001, the TPB received and gave preliminary consideration to over 3,000 objections in respect of the amendments to one single outline zoning plan. During the year 2002, the TPB also considered approximately 3,400 objections in respect of just two draft outline zoning plans. However, these are special cases which are not very common. If these special cases were set aside, there were only about 470 and 800 objections to statutory plans processed in 2001 and 2002, respectively. Assuming no highly controversial plans to be published in the year, we have estimated the number of objections to be processed in 2003 to be in the order of 1,500.
- (b) It is also difficult to predict accurately the number of Town Planning Appeal Board cases handled. Based on the latest information, the estimated number of Town Planning Appeal Board cases handled in 2003 is revised to 8.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

B C K FUNG

Post Title _____

Director of Planning

Date _____

21 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)076

Question Serial No.

0308

Head : 118 - Planning Department Subhead (No. & title) : 838 – Minor consultancy studies (block vote)

Programme : (1) – Territorial and Sub-regional Planning
(5) – Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Planning

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : In relation to the increase in funding to \$6 million under Subhead 838 – *Minor consultancy studies (block vote)* as compared with 2002-03, please set out the items and the expenses of minor consultancy studies for 2003-04.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

Four new minor consultancy studies will be commissioned in 2003-04. The titles and estimated expenditure are appended below :

	<u>Estimated Expenditure</u> \$'000
Cross-boundary Travel Survey 2003	2,580
Provision of Consultancy Services to Enhance and Re-structure PlanD's In-house Transport Model (T160 and CBM)	580
Review of Shopping Habits	1,750
Formulation of an Area Improvement Plan for Tsim Sha Tsui	1,090
Total	<u><u>6,000</u></u>

Signature _____

Name in block letters

B C K FUNG

Post Title

Director of Planning

Date

19 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)077

Question Serial No.

0316

Head : 118 - Planning Department Subhead (No. & title) : 700 – General other non-recurrent

Programme : (1) – Territorial and Sub-regional Planning

Controlling Officer : Director of Planning

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Please give an account of the Study on Rural Planning and Land Management in the New Territories. When will the study be launched and completed?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

There are large tracts of agricultural land in the New Territories outside the Country Parks, which have not been identified for urban development. Under a general decline of agriculture, such areas have been subject to various forms of development pressure. Many of these areas are used for such purposes as container storage, container vehicle parking, open storage and vehicle wrecking yards; and some are simply left idle anticipating some form of developments.

The prevalence of existing and unauthorized container-related and open storage uses has caused a general decline of environmental quality in many of our rural areas. Although container back-up and open storage zones have been designated on statutory outline zoning plans, these zoned areas often lack provision of the necessary infrastructure such as proper access and drainage, and there is no proactive management of the land.

The purpose of the “Study on Rural Planning and Land Management in the New Territories” is to facilitate community discussion of the issues related to land use in the rural areas, identify practicable implementation and management measures and devise a strategy to improve the rural environment. The Study is being carried out in two phases. Phase One, aiming at identifying problems and possible redress to better manage the rural environment, is being carried out in-house by the Planning Department and would be completed in late 2003. Subject to the results of the Phase One study, Phase Two is intended to formulate an implementation framework and to work out action plans for pilot projects, with some specialist inputs from consultants. Phase Two would take about 18 months to complete.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

B C K FUNG

Post Title _____

Director of Planning

Date _____

21 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)078

Question Serial No.

0317

Head : 118 - Planning Department Subhead (No. & title) : 700 – General other non-recurrent

Programme : (1) – Territorial and Sub-regional Planning

Controlling Officer : Director of Planning

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Please set out the progress and the scheduled time of completion in respect of the Study on Hong Kong Residents Living in the Pearl River Delta Region.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The Study is intended to obtain information on the social-economic characteristics of Hong Kong residents living in the Pearl River Delta (PRD). Preparation work for a survey of the residents living and working in the PRD region started in July 2002. The survey team is currently compiling base data and working out operational programme for the questionnaire survey. The whole survey will be completed in late 2003.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

B C K FUNG

Director of Planning

21 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)079

Question Serial No.

0318

Head : 118 - Planning Department Subhead (No. & title) : --

Programme : (2) – District Planning

Controlling Officer : Director of Planning

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : In 2003-04, how much resources will the Administration reserve to tackle unauthorized developments and other non-conforming land uses in the rural New Territories?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

Planning enforcement action against unauthorized developments in the rural New Territories is undertaken by the Central Enforcement and Prosecution Section of the Planning Department. At present some 19 800 ha of land in the rural New Territories covered by 44 statutory town plans are subject to planning enforcement. In 2003-04, a total of 66 officers (including professional, technical and general grades staff) will be deployed on enforcement and prosecution work in the Section. A provision of \$35.23 million will be allocated for sustaining the efforts in enforcement against unauthorized developments.

Signature

Name in block letters

B C K FUNG

Post Title

Director of Planning

Date

19 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)080

Question Serial No.

0473

Head : 118 - Planning Department Subhead (No. & title) : --

Programme : (2) – District Planning

Controlling Officer : Director of Planning

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : According to the information, Planning Department in 2002 had issued 600 enforcement notices against unauthorized developments and 13 cases were successfully convicted. How much expenses was spent on the prosecution? For other enforcement cases without prosecution, how many of them had been complied with the statutory requirements of the notice? On average, how long would a notice recipient take relevant action after receipt of the notice?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kam-lam

Reply :

In 2002, the Planning Authority issued 600 enforcement notices involving 108 cases of unauthorized developments. In the same year, a total of 13 enforcement cases involved prosecution and 41 defendants were convicted. The amount of expenses on prosecution, mainly in terms of staff cost, in the past year was about \$2.3 million.

In the same year, a total of 642 compliance notices involving 105 enforcement cases had been issued, as a result of the earlier unauthorized developments having been either discontinued or regularized by obtaining planning permission. Some of the enforcement cases were carried forward from 2001.

In addition to statutory action, a proactive approach had been adopted in dealing with potential enforcement cases. This included strengthening the Department's patrol programme and giving verbal and written warnings to the owners/occupiers prior to statutory enforcement action. As a result, a total of 206 unauthorized developments had been either discontinued or regularized by obtaining planning permission without the need for issuing the statutory enforcement notice.

The time taken for compliance varies from case to case, depending on factors such as nature of the unauthorized development, size of the site, recipient's financial situation and availability of relocation site. For all the compliance cases in 2002 involving no prosecution action, the average time taken for compliance was 5.5 months.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

B C K FUNG

Post Title _____

Director of Planning

Date _____

20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)081

Question Serial No.

0474

Head : 118 - Planning Department Subhead (No. & title) : 838 – Minor consultancy studies (block vote)

Programme : (1) – Territorial and Sub-regional Planning
(5) – Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Planning

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : The provision in 2003-04 under Subhead 838 – *Minor consultancy studies (block vote)* has tripled in amount from last year. Please set out the items and the expenses of each study.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kam-lam

Reply :

The expenses on minor consultancy studies for 2002-03 was \$2.3 million. The expenditure for 2003-04 is estimated to be \$6 million for four new studies, including the cross-boundary travel survey which is undertaken every two years. The titles and estimated expenditure of the four studies are appended below :

	<u>Estimated Expenditure</u> \$'000
Cross-boundary Travel Survey 2003	2,580
Provision of Consultancy Services to Enhance and Re-structure PlanD's In-house Transport Model (T160 and CBM)	580
Review of Shopping Habits	1,750
Formulation of an Area Improvement Plan for Tsim Sha Tsui	1,090
Total	<u>6,000</u>

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

B C K FUNG

Director of Planning

19 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)082

Question Serial No.

0544

Head : 118 - Planning Department Subhead (No. & title) : --

Programme : (2) – District Planning

Controlling Officer : Director of Planning

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : What are the reasons for the estimated number of “objections to statutory plans processed” in 2003 to drop to 1 500 from 3 469 and 6 368 objections processed by the Planning Department in 2001 and 2002, respectively?

Asked by : Hon. LI Ka-cheung, Eric

Reply :

It is difficult to predict accurately the number of objections to statutory plans processed by the Town Planning Board (TPB) as it is directly related to the contents of particular plans and the reactions received from the public. In 2001, the TPB received and gave preliminary consideration to over 3,000 objections in respect of the amendments to one single outline zoning plan. During the year 2002, the TPB also considered approximately 3,400 objections in respect of just two draft outline zoning plans. However, these are special cases which are not very common. If these special cases were set aside, there were only about 470 and 800 objections to statutory plans processed in 2001 and 2002, respectively. Assuming no highly controversial plans to be published in the year, we have estimated the number of objections to be processed in 2003 to be in the order of 1,500.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

B C K FUNG

Post Title _____

Director of Planning

Date _____

21 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)083

Question Serial No.

0547

Head : 118 - Planning Department Subhead (No. & title) : 838 – Minor consultancy studies
700 – General other non-recurrent
(block vote)

Programme : (1) – Territorial and Sub-regional Planning
(5) – Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Planning

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Please list the consultancy studies the Planning Department will engage consultants to undertake in the financial year 2003-04 and the expenses so involved.

Asked by : Hon. LI Ka-cheung, Eric

Reply :

The titles and estimated expenditure of the consultancy studies for 2003-04 are appended below :

(i) Studies continued from previous year

<u>Study</u>	<u>Estimated Expenditure in 2003-04 \$'000</u>
1. Stage II Study on Review of Metroplan and the related Kowloon Density Study Review	688
2. Study of Landscape Value Mapping of Hong Kong	2,274
3. Hong Kong 2030 : Planning Vision and Strategy	4,898
4. Study on Planning for Pedestrians	1,024
5. Study on HK Residents Living in the Pearl River Delta Region	1,465
Sub-total	<u>10,349</u>

(ii) Studies proposed to be commissioned in 2003-04

6. Cross-boundary Travel Survey 2003	2,580
7. Provision of Consultancy Services to Enhance and Re-structure PlanD's In-house Transport Model (T160 and CBM)	580

8.	Review of Shopping Habits	1,750
9.	Formulation of an Area Improvement Plan for Tsim Sha Tsui	1,090
10.	Study on Rural Planning and Land Management in the New Territories	1,295
	Sub-total	<u>7,295</u>
	Total	<u><u>17,644</u></u>

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>B C K FUNG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Planning</u>
Date	<u>19 March 2003</u>

[HOME](#)

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)084

Question Serial No.

0700

Head : 118 - Planning Department Subhead (No. & title) : --

Programme : (5) – Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Planning

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Under Programme (5), one of the matters requiring special attention in 2003-04 is that the Planning Department intends to develop a competency-based performance management system. Please provide the specific details and the figure of the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply :

Competencies are the knowledge, skills, abilities and attitude required by an officer to perform effectively in a job. Based on the job requirements, different competencies are identified for different grades in government departments. The competencies identified can be used for various human resources functions, including performance appraisal, training and development, recruitment, promotion, as well as manpower and succession planning. The competency-based performance management system has been widely used by many government departments and different grades in the civil service.

With the technical support from the Civil Service Training & Development Institute, the Planning Department will conduct a study to identify the competencies for the Survey Officer(Planning) grade. Upon completion of the study later this year, a competency-based performance management system will be developed for this grade. Such a system has already been developed and applied for the Town Planner grade in the department.

As the development and application of the system will be undertaken by existing staff, there will be no additional cost involved.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

B C K FUNG

Post Title _____

Director of Planning

Date _____

20 March 2003

[HOME](#)

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)085

Question Serial No.

0701

Head : 118 - Planning Department Subhead (No. & title) : 000 – Operational expenses

Programme : (4) – Town Planning Information Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Planning

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : The provision for Programme (4) (Town Planning Information Services) of the Planning Department will increase by 10.9% in 2003-04, mainly due to the need to enhance public awareness of planning matters and to facilitate dissemination of planning information to the public. Please give an account of the differences between the work to be carried out in this regard and the work currently undertaken by the Planning Department, and provide the figure of the expenditure for each type of work involved.

Asked by : Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply :

Maintaining a public enquiry unit, undertaking outreach programmes and briefing interested parties to enhance public awareness of town planning in Hong Kong have been regular services of the Planning Department for many years. More recently, our efforts have been extended to providing planning information to the public via the website in addition to published information pamphlets and booklets, and the running of a Planning and Infrastructure Exhibition Gallery.

In 2003/04, an addition of \$2.4M (i.e. 10.9% increase) would be allocated to enhance the planning information services. Part of the increase (about \$1.26M) arises from the additional cost of providing new internet services on the dissemination of information on planning applications, planning objections and requests for amendments to statutory plans, following an earlier successful launch of the e-statutory plan system. The remaining part of the increase (about \$1.12M) will cover the costs of operating the existing temporary Hong Kong Planning and Infrastructure Exhibition Gallery at Edinburgh Place and undertaking preparatory work for the proposed permanent "Planning and Infrastructure Exhibition Gallery" at Tamar.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

B C K FUNG

Post Title _____

Director of Planning

Date _____

20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)086

Question Serial No.

0766

Head : 118 - Planning Department Subhead (No. & title) : --

Programme : (1) – Territorial and sub-regional Planning

Controlling Officer : Director of Planning

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Regarding Programme (1) Territorial and Sub-regional Planning, will the Planning Department put in resources for more public consultation exercises in 2003-04, apart from those for “Hong Kong 2030 : Planning Vision and Strategy”, to enable public participation in the town planning of the territory?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

It has been the objective of the Planning Department to consult the public as widely as possible on all planning studies and major development proposals through such means as public forums, focus discussion groups, briefing sessions and the internet, etc. As public involvement is part of the planning process, resources for consultation have been built into the department's operating expenses. All planning studies include a budget for public consultation. In 2003-04, apart from the Hong Kong 2030 Study, consultation will be undertaken for the various studies under Programme 1 including :-

- (a) Study on Landscape Value Mapping
- (b) Study on Planning for Pedestrians
- (c) Review on Shopping Habits
- (d) South Lantau and Mui Wo Development – Feasibility Study

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

B C K FUNG

Post Title _____

Director of Planning

Date _____

21 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)087

Question Serial No.

0767

Head : 118 - Planning Department Subhead (No. & title) : --

Programme : (5) – Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Planning

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : As stated in Programme (5), the Planning Department is going to develop a competency-based performance management system. Please provide the details and the figure of the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

Competencies are the knowledge, skills, abilities and attitude required by an officer to perform effectively in a job. Based on the job requirements, different competencies are identified for different grades in government departments. The competencies identified can be used for various human resources functions, including performance appraisal, training and development, recruitment, promotion, as well as manpower and succession planning. The competency-based performance management system has been widely used by many government departments and different grades in the civil service.

With the technical support from the Civil Service Training & Development Institute, the Planning Department will conduct a study to identify the competencies for the Survey Officer(Planning) grade. Upon completion of the study later this year, a competency-based performance management system will be developed for this grade. Such a system has already been developed and applied for the Town Planner grade in the department.

As the development and application of the system will be undertaken by existing staff, there will be no additional cost involved.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

B C K FUNG

Director of Planning

20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)088

Question Serial No.

0955

Head : 118 - Planning Department Subhead (No. & title) : 000 – Operational expenses

Programme : (4) – Town Planning Information Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Planning

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : In this financial year, the Government will spend an additional \$2.4 m (+10.9%) to enhance public awareness of planning matters and to facilitate dissemination of planning information to the public. In this connection, could the Government inform this Council :

- (a) whether the Government's work in organizing activities and producing publications to enhance public awareness of town planning will only commence after amendment has been made to the Town Planning Ordinance or whether it is already an on-going exercise; and
- (b) what the breakdown items under this expenditure component are?

Asked by : Hon. TSANG Yok-sing, Jasper

Reply :

- (a) Maintaining a public enquiry unit, undertaking outreach programmes and briefing interested parties to enhance public awareness of town planning in Hong Kong have been regular services of the Planning Department for many years. More recently, our efforts have been extended to providing planning information to the public via the website in addition to published information pamphlets and booklets, and the running of a Planning and Infrastructure Exhibition Gallery.
- (b) In 2003/04, an addition of \$2.4M (i.e. 10.9% increase) would be allocated to enhance the planning information services. Part of the increase (about \$1.26M) arises from the additional cost of providing new internet services on the dissemination of information on planning applications, planning objections and requests for amendments to statutory plans, following an earlier successful launch of the e-statutory plan system. The remaining part of the increase (about \$1.12M) will cover the costs of operating the existing temporary Hong Kong Planning and Infrastructure Exhibition Gallery at Edinburgh Place and undertaking preparatory work for the proposed permanent "Planning and Infrastructure Exhibition Gallery" at Tamar.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

B C K FUNG

Post Title _____

Director of Planning

Date _____

20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)089

Question Serial No.

0956

Head : 118 - Planning Department Subhead (No. & title) : --

Programme : (3) – Ordinance Review

Controlling Officer : Director of Planning

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : According to the information provided, only 6 staff members of the Planning Department are deployed to review the Town Planning Ordinance. Will the Government consider deploying additional staff to speed up the work on amending the Ordinance?

Asked by : Hon. TSANG Yok-sing, Jasper

Reply :

We intend to propose amendments to the Town Planning Ordinance in stages giving priority to amendments with general consensus and clear immediate benefits to the community. Stage One amendments would be introduced to the LegCo in mid-2003. Other more complicated proposals requiring further consultation with stakeholders will be reviewed and incorporated in the later stage amendments after completion of the Stage One amendment exercise. In view of the phased approach, it is expected that the existing number of officers in the Ordinance Review Team would be adequate to carry out the tasks. Other sections dealing with statutory planning matters would also contribute to the review of the Ordinance as and when required. Unexpected upsurge in workload will be met by internal re-deployment of staff.

Signature _____

Name in block letters

B C K FUNG

Post Title

Director of Planning

Date

20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)090

Question Serial No.

0966

Head : 118 - Planning Department Subhead (No. & title) : --

Programme : (5) – Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Planning

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : In this financial year, the Planning Department is going to examine further opportunities for electronic delivery of planning services. Could the Government inform this council in detail what services will be included in this regard; and whether the Government has any estimate as to the amount of expenditure to be saved after the implementation of electronic delivery of services?

Asked by : Hon. TSANG Yok-sing, Jasper

Reply :

Answering public enquiries (written and by phone) on planning applications, objections and requests for amendment to statutory plans considered by the Town Planning Board is one of the existing services of the Planning Department. The Planning Department is developing the "E-Planninginfo" Archives Service which will enhance the delivery of planning information service by allowing the public to get access to the planning information via Internet. The Planning Department plans to launch the "E-Planninginfo" Archives Service in mid-2003. However, as the service of answering public enquiries (written and by phone) would continue after launching the new internet service, the staff savings are expected to be marginal, especially in the early stage of implementation. Nevertheless, the staff savings potential will be reviewed regularly.

In addition, the Department is exploring the opportunity of making use of information technology to facilitate electronic submission and processing of planning applications, objections and requests for zoning amendment. This would reduce administrative work in the processing of submissions. The potential of cost savings will be looked into in examining the ways of providing such service to the public.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

B C K FUNG

Post Title _____

Director of Planning

Date _____

21 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)091

Question Serial No.

1003

Head : 118 - Planning Department

Subhead (No. & title) : --

Programme : (1) – Territorial and Sub-regional Planning

Controlling Officer : Director of Planning

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

Please provide :

- (a) the establishment and strength (as at 31 March 2003) for implementing the above programme area by the following categories :
 - I. Ranks with starting pay at MPS 45 & above (including Directorate)
 - II. Ranks with starting pay at MPS 34 to 44
 - III. Ranks with starting pay at MPS 12 to 33
 - IV. Ranks with starting pay at MPS 11 & below
- (b) the number of posts (by ranks) already deleted or redeployed in 2002-03 to enhance productivity and optimize resources; and
- (c) the number of posts (by ranks) to be deleted or redeployed in 2003-04 to accomplish the Government's "3R1M" objective.

Asked by : Hon. CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, Selina

Reply :

- (a) A total of 109 staff are involved full time for implementing Programme 1 activities. A detailed breakdown is at Annex. 4 directorate officers and another 96 non-directorate staff from different divisions also contribute to this Programme by providing management inputs, administrative services and technical support in addition to their other duties.
- (b) In 2002-03, 2 directorate posts i.e. 1 Government Town Planner and 1 Chief Town Planner, were deleted and 3 non-directorate posts, i.e. 1 Senior Statistician, 1 Statistician and 1 Statistical Officer, formerly involved in housing-related statistical assessment were temporarily redeployed to the Housing Department.

Another 24 posts related to Programme 1 were redeployed to meet new services requirements such as overseeing the management of the temporary exhibition gallery at Edinburgh Place, undertaking system development of electronic delivery of planning information, monitoring the demand and supply of major land uses and providing planning input to major cultural and tourism projects. Apart from new services, these posts also undertake housing related projects.

These posts comprise the posts of 1 Chief Town Planner, 6 Senior Town Planner, 4 Town Planner/Assistant Town Planner, 1 Senior Technical Officer (Cartographic), 2 Technical Officer (Cartographic), 1 Senior Survey Officer (Planning), 4 Survey Officer (Planning), 1 Personal Secretary I, 2 Personal Secretary II, 1 Assistant Clerical Officer and 1 Office Assistant.

- (c) In 2003–04, the Department will delete 3 posts related to this Programme area. They comprise the posts of 1 Senior Statistician, 1 Statistician and 1 Statistical Officer, which have been temporarily deployed to the Housing Department. The Department will continue to identify further opportunities for “3Rs and 1M” to enhance its operational efficiency and productivity.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u> B C K FUNG </u>
Post Title	<u> Director of Planning </u>
Date	<u> 20 March 2003 </u>

I. Ranks with starting pay at MPS 45 & above (including Directorate)

Rank	Establishment	Strength
Government Town Planner	1	1
Chief Town Planner	2	2
Chief Town Planner (multi/disciplinary)	1	1
Senior Town Planner	13	13
Senior Engineer	1	1
Total :	18	18

II. Ranks with starting pay at MPS 34 to 44

Rank	Establishment	Strength
--	0	0
Total :	0	0

III. Ranks with starting pay at MPS 12 to 33

Rank	Establishment	Strength
Town Planner/Assistant Town Planner	24	22/1
Engineer	1	1
Landscape Architect	1	1
Principal Survey Officer (Planning)	1	1
Principal Technical Officer (Cartographic)	1	1
Senior Survey Officer (Planning)	6	6
Senior Technical Officer (Cartographic)	4	5
Clerical Officer	1	1
Personal Secretary I	2	2
Total :	41	41

IV. Ranks with starting pay at MPS 11 & below

Rank	Establishment	Strength
Survey Officer (Planning)	21	20
Technical Officer (Cartographic)	13	13
Tracer	1	1
Personal Secretary II	3	3
Assistant Clerical Officer	4	4
Clerical Assistant	6	5
Office Assistant	2	2
Total :	50	48

Grand Total :	109	107
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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)092

Question Serial No.

1103

Head : 118 - Planning Department Subhead (No. & title) : 700 – General other non-recurrent

Programme : (1) – Territorial and Sub-regional Planning

Controlling Officer : Director of Planning

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Please provide breakdown, by items, under Subhead 700 in 2003-04.

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

The titles and estimated expenditure of the items funded under Subhead 700 in 2003-04 are appended below :

<u>Study</u>	<u>Estimated Expenditure in 2003-04 \$'000</u>
1. Stage II Study on Review of Metroplan and the related Kowloon Density Study Review	688
2. Study of Landscape Value Mapping of Hong Kong	2,274
3. Hong Kong 2030 : Planning Vision and Strategy	4,898
4. Study on Planning for Pedestrians	1,024
5. Publicity and Community Education Programme to promote the long term strategic planning of Hong Kong	1,000
6. Study on HK Residents Living in the Pearl River Delta Region	1,465
7. Study on Rural Planning and Land Management in the New Territories	1,295
Total	<u>12,644</u>

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	B C K FUNG
Post Title	Director of Planning
Date	21 March 2003

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)093

Question Serial No.

1104

Head : 118 - Planning Department

Subhead (No. & title) : 838 – Minor consultancy studies
(block vote)

Programme : (1) – Territorial and Sub-regional Planning
(5) – Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Planning

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Please provide a list, and their respective estimated cost, of the minor consultancy studies under Subhead 838 in 2003-04.

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

Four new minor consultancy studies will be commissioned in 2003-04. The titles and estimated expenditure are appended below :

	<u>Estimated Expenditure</u> \$'000
Cross-boundary Travel Survey 2003	2,580
Provision of Consultancy Services to Enhance and Re-structure PlanD's In-house Transport Model	580
Review of Shopping Habits	1,750
Formulation of an Area Improvement Plan for Tsim Sha Tsui	1,090
Total	<u>6,000</u>

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

B C K FUNG

Director of Planning

21 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)094

Question Serial No.

1105

Head : 118 - Planning Department

Subhead (No. & title) : --

Programme : (1) – Territorial and Sub-regional Planning

Controlling Officer : Director of Planning

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : What accounts for the steady decrease in the number of projects on territorial and sub-regional planning? The number of surveys and study projects for territorial and sub-regional planning strategies decreased from 516 in 2001 to 376 in 2002, and is estimated to drop by 21.5 per cent to 295 in 2003. The number of forecasts and reports related to the matter will drop by 11.2 per cent 350 in 2003. What do you plan to do with the resources released from the reduced workload?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

The reduction in the number of surveys, reports, papers and study projects between 2001 and 2003 is due to :-

- (a) In 2001, a number of studies were at the “peak” of their study process with the production of a substantial number of surveys, reports and papers (516). In 2002, the number dropped as some studies such as the Metroplan Review were in the final stage. Papers in the final stage of studies e.g. final reports, though less in number, are usually far more complex and they require more time and efforts for preparation. During this period, there were also a number of new/on-going studies e.g. Study on Landscape Value Mapping of Hong Kong, Study on Planning for Pedestrians, HK2030: Planning and Vision Strategy, etc.
- (b) Such pattern of studies output is expected to be repeated in 2003. Fewer but more complex reports would be produced. As mentioned above, the output statistics do not reflect the complexity and degree of intricacies in compilation of the reports and papers. In addition, new studies such as the Review on Shopping Habits will be started this year. The workload of territorial and sub-regional planning has maintained a broadly comparable level between 2001 to 2003.
- (c) The reduction in report output figures relating to matters on population distribution and supply and demand of land for major uses also reflects reduced housing-related planning activities in line with the latest government policy on housing. In this connection, 2 directorate posts have been deleted and 3 non-directorate posts would be deleted in 2003-04. Staff have also been redeployed to take up other work, such as monitoring the demand and supply of major land uses, undertaking system development of electronic delivery of planning information, and providing planning input to major cultural and tourism projects. In particular, workload would be substantially increased in our current efforts to enhance

our geographical information system to monitor the overall demand and supply of major land uses, including office, industrial and residential uses.

Signature _____

Name in block letters

B C K FUNG

Post Title

Director of Planning

Date

20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)095

Question Serial No.

1240

Head : 118 - Planning Department

Subhead (No. & title) : --

Programme : (2) – District Planning

Controlling Officer : Director of Planning

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : It is said in the Report that the provision for "Programme (2) District Planning" was \$7.6 million (2.9%) higher than that for the previous year. The report also showed that among the 14 indicators, the number of jobs done for 10 of the indicators had dropped while that for the other indicators reflected no obvious increase. The report explained that the increase in provision was due to "increase in resources redeployed from Programme (1) for the enhancement of the district planning functions". In this regard, will the Government inform this Council:

- (a) of the details of the "increase in resources redeployed from Programme (1) for the enhancement of the district planning functions". What resources are redeployed, and what functions are enhanced?
- (b) as the estimated number of jobs is less than that for the previous year while provision increased, whether the Department will work out ways to streamline work procedures and reduce expenditure so as to raise efficiency? If not, the reasons for that.

Asked by : Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply :

The increase in the estimated expenditure on district planning work mainly involves redeployment of staff resources from Programme (1) to Programme (2) as a result of redistribution of responsibilities of various Divisions in the Planning Department necessitated by the deletion in February 2003 of 1 Assistant Director and 1 Chief Town Planner posts previously heading the Housing Land Supply Division under Programme (1). The redeployed resources are mainly for handling remaining housing-related planning matters as well as strengthening some major planning tasks such as the work relating to the implementation of the Cultural District in West Kowloon and the planning of tourism projects.

The complexity of, and hence the resources required for, handling district planning work cannot be fully reflected by the indicators in numeric terms. Moreover, most of the indicators actually involve non-programmable work and the numbers given are estimates based on past trends and current predictions. Reduction in the estimates of some of our work indicators is the result of our on-going work in other areas some of which may not be reflected by the indicators. To illustrate, the reduction in the estimated number of planning applications processed is due to our work in revising the Master Schedule of Notes to Statutory Plans, which has recently been endorsed by the

Town Planning Board. The revised Schedule would help reduce the number of planning applications, as certain change of use within land use zones would in future no longer require planning permission. To effect the new Schedule of Notes, however, all existing statutory plans would have to be reviewed and amended progressively and this would be equally, if not more, resource demanding.

Streamlining work procedures and reducing expenditure are certainly the Department's objectives. The amendments to the Town Planning Ordinance to be introduced would further streamline statutory planning procedures, in particular the objection and planning application processes.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u> B C K FUNG </u>
Post Title	<u> Director of Planning </u>
Date	<u> 20 March 2003 </u>

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)096

Question Serial No.

1310

Head : 118 - Planning Department Subhead (No. & title) : 000 – Operational expenses

Programme : --

Controlling Officer : Director of Planning

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Please provide the number of Non-Civil Service Contract staff employed and the level of expenditure involved in 2002-03. Are there any plans to employ more or less Non-Civil Service Contract staff in 2003-04? If so, what are the reasons? And what will be the number of staff and the level of expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply :

In 2002-03, a total of 30 staff were employed under Non-Civil Service Contract (NCSC) for different periods, involving an expenditure of \$6.2 million. The recruitment of NCSC staff and renewal/non-renewal of existing contracts would be considered strictly on an operational need basis. At present, there are 16 such employees providing support services in information management, computer application, architectural design etc. In 2003-04, we plan to broadly maintain the current level of contract staff services, though minor adjustment may be made if necessary.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

B C K FUNG

Post Title _____

Director of Planning

Date _____

20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)097

Question Serial No.

1384

Head : 118 - Planning Department

Subhead (No. & title) : --

Programme : (2) – District Planning

Controlling Officer : Director of Planning

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Actually how long does it take the Planning Department to process an application for the amendment of a statutory plan? Please indicate the shortest and longest time required. Have you ever worked with the industry and the specialists to find measures to shorten the approving process?

Asked by : Hon. CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, Selina

Reply :

Under the existing Town Planning Ordinance (the Ordinance), there is no express provision for application for amendment to statutory plan (i.e. rezoning request). It is however the practice of the Town Planning Board (TPB) to consider such rezoning requests administratively as part of the plan making process. The Department has pledged to process rezoning requests for submission to the TPB for consideration within 3 months. So far this pledge has been successfully met in all cases.

In the Town Planning (Amendment) Bill currently being drafted, we intend to formalise the provision for processing of rezoning requests for submission to the TPB within 3 months. In formulating proposals for the Bill, the industry, professional institutes and relevant stakeholders have been consulted.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

B C K FUNG

Post Title _____

Director of Planning

Date _____

20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)098

Question Serial No.

0319

Head: 110 Territory Development Department Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Provision of Land and Infrastructure

Controlling Officer: Director of Territory Development

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Please list the locations and land uses of the 95 hectares of land planned to be formed in 2003.

Asked by: Hon.WONG Yung-kan

Reply:

The 95 hectares of land to be formed by Territory Development Department in 2003 is primarily located in Tsing Yi, Shatin, Northeast New Territories, Tuen Mun, and Tseung Kwan O. This will provide land mainly for special industrial uses, roads, housing, open spaces and Government, Institution or Community facilities. The locations of the sites and their respective areas are listed below :

<u>Location</u>	<u>Approximate Area (hectares)</u>
Tsing Yi (Container Terminal 9 Back-up Area)	34
Shatin (Areas 34, 52 & 56A)	31
Northeast New Territories (Upper River Indus)	12
Tuen Mun (Area 38)	9
Tseung Kwan O (Area 137)	9
	<hr/>
	95
TOTAL	<hr/> <hr/>

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ H K Wong

Post Title Director of Territory Development

Date _____ 20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)101

Question Serial No.

1318

Head: 110 Territory Development Department

Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational Expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Territory Development

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question: Please provide the number of non-civil service contract staff employed and the level of expenditure involved in 2002-03. Are there any plans to employ more or less non-civil service contract staff in 2003-04? If so, what are the reasons? And what will be the number of staff and the level of expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. LI Cheuk-yan

Reply: In 2002-03, the department has employed 6 non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff and the total expenditure in respect of these officers in 2002-03 amounted to \$1,612,440. Out of the 6 NCSC staff, the contract of 2 temporary clerks will not be renewed upon expiry by the end of March 2003. On the other hand, the department plans to recruit 1 NCSC Geotechnical Engineer to provide professional support for the mega Central Reclamation Phase III project as there is currently no such post on the establishment of the department. Hence, in 2003-04, the department will have a total of 5 NCSC staff and the estimated cost involved will be about \$2,901,000.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ H. K. WONG

Post Title _____ Director of Territory Development

Date _____ 21 March, 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)104

Question Serial No.

1383

Head: 110 Territory Development Department Subhead (No. & title):
Programme: (1) Provision of Land and Infrastructure

Controlling Officer: Director of Territory Development

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question: What is the estimated amount used in the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) development in 2003-04 by TDD? What is the detailed development and progress of the WKCD?

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply:

We expect to spend \$0.14 million in connection with assessing the impact of the WKCD development on traffic and transport in adjacent areas of Kowloon.

As regards the progress of the WKCD project, the Government announced on 2 October 2002 that the Steering Committee for the project had adopted the winning entry to the concept plan competition as the basis for the masterplan for the new district and would commission a study of the Government's options for financial involvement in the project. On 20 March 2003, the Government announced that the Steering Committee had accepted recommendations by the Home Affairs Bureau on the core arts and cultural facilities to be stipulated as requirements in the development brief for the project. The present position is that the Steering Committee is in the process of finalising the overall development parameters in the light of the potential implications of different options. The aim is to invite proposals from the private sector around the middle of 2003.

Signature _____

Name in block letters H. K. WONG

Post Title Director of Territory Development

Date 21 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)105

Question Serial No.

0792

Head: 701 Land Acquisition

Subhead(No. & title): 1100CA Compensation and ex-gratia allowances in respect of projects in the Public Works Programme

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : The estimated expenditure for 2003-04 has doubled by \$1,000 million over the revised estimated expenditure for 2002-03. Why?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply: The original provision for Subhead 1100CA for 2002-03 was \$2,685 million. This was to cover estimated payments for new projects to start in 2002-03 plus commitments left over from previous years. Due to the deferment of some new projects and the failure to agree on the compensation of some on-going projects, including a sum of \$1,061 million for Penny's Bay Reclamation, the estimate for 2002-03 was later revised to \$1,000 million. The estimate of \$2,000 million for 2003-04 is for estimated payments for projects to commence in 2003-04 plus commitments carried forward from previous years, including the \$1,061 million for Penny's Bay Reclamation.

Signature _____

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 21.3.2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)106

Question Serial No.

1252

Head: 707 New Towns and Urban Area
Development
Programme:

Subhead(No. & title):

Controlling Director of Territory Development
Officer:

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question: When will the following project be submitted to the Public Works Subcommittee (PWSC) for consideration and the Finance Committee (FC) for approval of funding application? Please give a brief account of the processes (e.g. consultancy, design, tender, commencement of works, etc.) involved, the programme and the completion date.

7469CL: South East Kowloon development - infrastructure at north apron area of Kai Tak Airport

Asked by: Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply: The design consultancy for the project 7469CL commenced in January 2002. Site investigation and detailed design works are in progress and actions under Roads (Works, Use & Compensation) Ordinance and Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance are in hand. We plan to implement this project under a series of construction contracts and to seek funding approval from PWSC/FC for the first works package near the end of 2003. The first contract will start in early 2004 for completion in end 2006.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ H. K. Wong

Post Title _____ Director of Territory Development

Date _____ 20 March 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)107

Question Serial No.

1253

Head: 707 New Towns and Urban Area Development Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Territory Development

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question: What is the progress of the following projects? On what aspects will the funding be used in the coming year?

- (a) 7494CL: South East Kowloon development at Kai Tai Airport - decontamination and site preparation;
- (b) 7693CL: South East Kowloon development - consultants' fees and site investigation for Kai Tak Approach Channel reclamation;
- (c) 7694CL: South East Kowloon development at Kai Tak Airport - consultants' fees and site investigation; and
- (d) 7699CL: South East Kowloon development - consultant's fees and site investigation for Kowloon Bay reclamation and engineering works.

Asked by: Hon.LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply:

(a) Project 7494CL (APE=\$316.9M)

The decontamination works have been completed. Post remediation monitoring works are now underway until end 2003. Expenditure will be incurred in 2003-04 for post remediation monitoring works.

(b) Project 7693CL (APE=\$63.8M)

Detailed design of the project is underway. Actions under Roads (Works, Use and Compensation) Ordinance and Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance are in hand. We have completed the site investigation works and laboratory tests on both in-situ and ex-situ treatment methods for the contaminated sediment in the approach channel. Further laboratory tests are being carried out to measure methane emission from the sediment before deciding on the sediment treatment methods. Results are expected to be available in mid 2003. Expenditure will be incurred in 2003-04 for the detailed design work and pilot test for the sediment treatment method.

(c) Project 7694CL (APE=\$115.9M)

Detailed design for the first works package of infrastructure works is in hand for works to start in early 2004. Detailed design for other works packages is now in progress. Expenditure will be incurred in 2003-04 for the detailed design and site investigation works.

(d) Project 7699CL (APE=\$105.7M)

Detailed design of the project commenced in December 2002. The review of the findings and recommendations of previous feasibility studies is underway. Expenditure will be incurred in 2003-04 for the detailed design and site investigation works.

Signature _____

Name in block letters H. K. Wong

Post Title Director of Territory Development

Date 20 March, 2003

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)108

Question Serial No.

1254b

Head: 707 New Towns and Urban Area Development Subhead (No. & title): 7100CX
Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Territory Development

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question: Regarding Subhead 7100CX "New towns and urban area works, studies and investigations for items in Category D for the Public Works Programme" under the Block Allocations, please give a list of the projects to be carried out in Kwun Tong and Wong Tai Sin.

Asked by: Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply: There is no project to be carried out in Kwun Tong and Wong Tai Sin under Subhead 7100CX.

Signature _____

Name in block letters H. K. WONG

Post Title Director of Territory Development

Date 20 March, 2003

* Please refer to the following for a full reply to this question – HAB099 and HPLB(PL)108

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