



教育署
Education Department

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19 December 2002

Ms. Miranda HON,
Clerk to Public Accounts Committee,
Legislative Council,
Legislative Council Building,
8 Jackson Road,
Central,
Hong Kong.

Dear Ms. HON,

**The Director of Audit's Report on the
results of value for money audits (Report No. 39)**

**Chapter 9: Primary education –
Planning and provision of primary school places**

Thank you for your letter of 11 December 2002. I append at Attachments 1 to 3 the information as requested for items (b) (c) and (e) respectively in both Chinese and English. If you have any enquiries, or require further information, please contact me again, or my colleague, Mr K S Lee, on 2892 6621.

Yours sincerely

(H F LEE)

Director of Education

服務市民
SERVING THE COMMUNITY

c.c. Secretary for Education and Manpower
Permanent Secretary for Education and Manpower
Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury
Director of Audit

Information on item (b)			
	School I	School J	School K
item (b) (i) (copies of Public Works Subcommittee Papers are at Annex)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When we sought funding approval from the Legislative Council for works under the School Improvement Programme (SIP) in May 1996, six of the 11 vacant classrooms were retained with a view to alleviating the school place demand as projected on the basis of the population projection at that time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When we sought funding approval from the Legislative Council for the SIP works of these two schools in May 1997, 11 vacant classrooms in each of these two schools were retained in anticipation of the implementation of whole-day primary schooling which, as considered on the basis of the population projection at that time, might otherwise need to be provided through the building of new schools. 	
item (b) (ii)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The only change of circumstances is that the school has been experiencing a decline in P1 intakes since the school is located in an "aging" district. In the 2000/01 and 2001/02 school years, more New Arrival Children (NAC) have been admitted, particularly at P2 level. However, the demand of school places arising from NAC is expected to drop significantly in the 2002/03 school year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There has been a decline in the number of operating classes of this school in recent years. This is mainly due to the drop in demand for primary school places. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The existence of a large number of vacant classrooms is due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the decline in the school-age population in the District in the past few years; the school is situated in an aloof site and is not easily accessible.

**Note by Clerk, PAC: The Annex referred to in Attachment 1 not attached.*

	School I	School J	School K
Item (b) (iii)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is a 30-year old premises. In the 2002/03 school year, this 23-classroom school operates 13 classes. With 7 classrooms having been converted for other educational uses, the actual number of vacant classrooms is 3. The changes in the uses of the 7 classrooms in question are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-media learning Computer server and conference Teaching resources IT assisted teaching (<i>involving 3 classrooms</i>) Creative learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the 2002/03 school year, this 24-classroom school operates 12 normal classes. The school converted the remaining classrooms into special rooms. Details are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Television room English corner Teaching-aids room Staff common room Multi-media audio-visual room Integrated education resource centre Intensive remedial teaching room (<i>involving 2 classrooms</i>) Chinese orchestra room (<i>involving 2 classrooms</i>) Resource centre Room for boy scout / brownie 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school had changed most of its surplus classrooms for other uses, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remedial teaching (<i>involving 2 classrooms</i>) Parent resources center Exhibition/display room Audio-visual room (<i>involving 2 classrooms</i>)

Information on item (c)

- We would like to clarify that at the meeting of the PAC on 9 December, the schools referred to by the Administration as having been provided with “core items” or “essential items” of SIP only were Schools I, J and K and the 24-classroom school in Lower Ngau Tau Kok Estate. The “essential items” of SIP works under Phases II and III in which works for Schools I, J and K were carried out include staff rooms, a staff common room, interview rooms, a student activity centre, a library and disabled access only.
- As for the scope of SIP works for the school in Lower Ngau Tau Kok Estate, the scope was reduced in the light of the scheduled demolition of the school in 2008/2009 under the Housing Authority’s Comprehensive Redevelopment Programme. Other than a preparation room for computer-assisted learning and a light weight canopy, the reduced scope covers solely conversion works to provide for core/ essential items including a computer-assisted learning room, a language room, a multi-purpose room, a student activity centre and two supportive rooms. The facilities to be provided would be used by the students for at least five school years.
- The costs of SIP works for Schools I, J, K, the school in Lower Ngau Tau Kok Estate and the school in Wah Fu Estate as compared to the average cost/ budget ceiling for full scope of SIP works conducted in the respective phases are –

School	SIP Phase	Estimated Cost	Average cost/ budget ceiling * for full scope of works in respective SIP phases
I	II	\$13.15 m	\$18.66 m
J	III	\$14.84 m	\$21.81 m
K		\$14.17 m	

School in Lower Ngau Tau Kok Estate	V (Final Phase)	\$6.08 m	\$32.96 m
School in Wah Fu Estate		\$19.9 m	

* We do not have any budget ceiling for projects in Phases II and III. A review of SIP was conducted in 2000 and it was decided that a budget ceiling should apply to SIP projects under Phases IV and V. Thus, instead of budget ceiling, we have only provided that average cost for Phases II and III.

Information on item (e)

The number of complaints on false address and the number of substantiated cases in the past 5 years are tabulated below:

School Year	No. of complaints received	No. of substantiated cases
2002/2003 (as at 12.2002)	1	0
2001/2002	4	0
2000/2001	4	1
1999/2000	1	0
1998/1999	4	2
1997/1998	2	0