Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance Committee Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands Session No. : 12 File name : HPLB(H)-e1.doc

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		Frederick		Squatter Control
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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(H)001

Question Serial No.

0017

<u>Head</u>: 62 Housing Department <u>Subhead</u>: <u>Programme</u>: Squatter Clearance and Squatter Control

<u>Controlling Officer</u>: Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands (Housing)

<u>Director of Bureau</u>: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question: The adoption of new indicators under this programme from 2004 onwards has resulted in a considerable reduction in the number of structures cleared in programmed squatter clearance or emergency clearance operations and in the number of buildings with completion of clearance of unauthorized rooftop structures. In this regard, please advise this Council of the following:

- (1) the details of the new indicators; and
- (2) the reasons for adopting the new indicators.

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply: (1) The new indi

- (1) The new indicators adopted for 2004 seek to account for performance under the four major areas of work of the "squatter clearance and squatter control" programme, as follows:
 - (a) programmed squatter clearances or emergency clearances;
 - (b) unauthorised rooftop structure clearances;
 - (c) squatter control; and
 - (d) rehousing victims of emergency incidents.

The indicators for each area of work reflect the actual range of activities undertaken by Housing Department staff, e.g. squatter and rooftop structures dealt with, number of people relocated, number of cases handled during squatter control, and number of emergency incidents requiring Housing Department's assistance.

There is no relationship between adoption of the new indicators and reduction in workload. Reduction in the number of clearances in 2004 is mainly due to re-scheduling of some major development projects initiated by works departments. The target for clearance of unauthorised rooftop structures is in line with the pledge of 700 buildings every year as announced in 2001.

(2) The new indicators are aimed to reflect in a more systematic and comprehensive manner the various activities under the Squatter Clearance and Squatter Control programme. It should also be noted that the indicators used previously concerning Cottage Area and Temporary Housing Area, all of which had been cleared, are no longer applicable.

Signature	
Name in block letters	C.M. LEUNG
	Permanent Secretary for Housing
Post title	Planning and Lands (Housing)
Date	26 March 2004

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(H)002

Question Serial No.

0018

<u>Head</u>: 62 Housing Department <u>Subhead</u>:

<u>Programme</u>: Squatter Clearance and Squatter Control

<u>Controlling Officer</u>: Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands (Housing)

<u>Director of Bureau</u>: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question: It is stated in this programme that the Housing Department will support the Drainage Services Department in flood hazard studies in squatter areas in 2004-05. In this regard, please advise this Council of the following:

- (1) the details of the task; and
- (2) the staffing establishment and expenditures involved in the task and, the percentage of this establishment in the existing manpower setup.

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

- Reply: (1) The Drainage Services Department will conduct a flood hazard study for the purpose of investigating, assessing and mitigating flood hazards in the squatter areas in 2004-05. In support of the study, the Housing Department will conduct site inspections and surveys to ascertain the actual number of squatter structures and population involved and verify the accuracy of location maps and drawings. The Housing Department will also assist in setting up a database for updating information on squatter areas.
 - (2) The additional workload arising from compilation of squatter information will be absorbed within the existing staff establishment and budget provision of the Housing Department.

Signature	
Name in block letters	C.M. LEUNG
Post title	Permanent Secretary for Housing Planning and Lands (Housing)
Date	26 March 2004

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Subhead:

Reply Serial No.
HPLB(H)003

Question Serial No.

Head: 62 Housing Department

82 Buildings Department

<u>Programme</u>: Housing

<u>Controlling Officer</u>: Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands (Housing)

<u>Director of Bureau</u>: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question: Regarding consultancy studies for policy making and assessment (if any) commissioned by your bureau, 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 2003-04:

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 (if available)

Whether study reports completed are publicized; if yes, their channels and if not, the reasons.

(2) Has financial provision been allocated for commissioning consultancy studies in 2004-05? If yes, please provide the following details:

Name of consultants

(if available)

Description

Consultancy Fees (\$)

Progress on consultancy

studies (planning/

in progress/ completed)

Whether study reports scheduled for completion in 2004-05 will be publicized; if yes, their channels and if not, the reasons.

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply: My reply to the two-part question is as follows –

(1) For the Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau in respect of policy area 31: Housing, no consultancy study had been conducted in 2003-04.

(2) No financial provision has been allocated for commissioning consultancy studies in 2004-05.

Signature	
Name in block letters	C.M. LEUNG
Post title	Permanent Secretary for Housing Planning and Lands (Housing)
Date	25 March 2004

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(H)004

Question Serial No.

0281

<u>Head</u>: 62 Housing Department <u>Subhead</u>:

<u>Programme</u>: Squatter Clearance and Squatter Control

<u>Controlling Officer</u>: Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands (Housing)

<u>Director of Bureau</u>: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question: Please list the details including grades and ranks, offices and expenditures

involved for the 92 posts deleted and 8 posts to be deleted in 2003-04 and

2004-05 respectively.

Asked by: Hon. NG Leung-sing

Reply: The deletion of 92 posts and 8 posts in Housing Department for the Squatter

Clearance and Squatter Control Programme in 2003-04 and 2004-05 will result in annual recurrent savings of \$17.4 million and \$3.2 million

respectively. Details of the posts are provided below:

Rank

Deletion of Posts

2003-04

Personal Secretary I

-1

Personal Secretary II

-1

Motor Driver

-46

Artisan

-4

Workman I

Workman II	-9	
	-92	Total
2004-05 Assistant Director of Housing	-1	
Artisan	-3	
Workman I	-4	
	-8	Total
	Signature	·
Name in b	lock letters	C.M. LEUNG
	Post title	Permanent Secretary for Housing Planning and Lands (Housing)
	Date	26 March 2004

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.
HPLB(H)005

Question Serial No.

0687

<u>Head</u>: 62 Housing Department <u>Subhead</u>: <u>Programme</u>: Squatter Clearance and Squatter Control

<u>Controlling Officer</u>: Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands (Housing)

<u>Director of Bureau</u>: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question: One of the policy initiatives that requires special attention in 2004-05 is to "critically review the operations and the staffing establishment". In addition, the Department plans to reduce 92 posts in 2003-04 and eight posts in 2004-05.

- (a) what are the title and duties of the respective posts?
- (b) Is the reduction of the 100 posts part of the staffing establishment review proposed by the Department? What are the scope and aim of the review?

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Abraham

Reply:

Title
Main Duties
2003-04

2004-05

Assistant Director of Housing

Formulation and review of policies on squatter control and clearance

-1

Personal Secretary I

Secretarial support to senior staff in the Headquarters Office

-1

Personal Secretary II

-1

Motor Driver

Operation of motor vehicles in squatter control and clearance operations

-46

Artisan (Welding)

Demolition of squatter structures

,	an m Leader) ol of squatter areas and demolition of squatter structures	o.
1 au C	of of squatter areas and demontion of squatter structure.	5
	-3	
Worl	kman I	
	-31	
	-4	
*** 1		
	kman II	
Pre-c	elearance survey, site investigation and clearance work	
	-9	
Tota	1	
	-92	
	-8	
(b)	Yes. The scope and aim of the review is to ensure deployment of staff under this programme of active operationally required under this programme, may duties.	vities, and that any staff not
	Signature	
	Name in block letters	C.M. LEUNG
	Post title	Permanent Secretary for Housing Planning and Lands (Housing)
	Date	25 March 2004
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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply	Serial	No.

HPLB(H)006

Question Serial No.

1084

<u>Head</u>: 62 Housing Department <u>Subhead</u>:

<u>Programme</u>: Squatter Clearance and Squatter Control

<u>Controlling Officer</u>: Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands (Housing)

<u>Director of Bureau</u>: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question: In view of the fact that the squatter control duties in urban and islands areas

have already been taken up by the Lands Department with effect from 1 April 2002, will the Government also transfer the relevant remaining duties to the Lands Department for process re-engineering so as to save resources? How

much resources will this involve?

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yan

Reply: The transfer of squatter control (SC) duties from Housing Department (HD) to

Lands Department (Lands D) was scheduled for implementation in phases. The first phase of the transfer, involving 198 staff in the Urban and Islands Squatter Control Offices, took place on 1 April 2002. The Phase II transfer, involving eight Squatter Control Offices in the New Territories, is subject to

further review and discussions among HPLB, Lands D and HD.

Since April 2003, HPLB has been working with HD and Lands D in examining the mode of operation of both the squatter control and clearance functions in devising a way forward.

In the process, we are also looking at ways for rationalizing and streamlining service delivery with a view to enhancing efficiency and more optimal staff deployment. While we anticipate savings from the resultant re-engineering process, the actual amount has not been quantified at this stage.

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tters C.M. LEUNG	
Permanent Secretary for Houtitle Planning and Lands (Housi	_
Date 26 March 2004	

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.
HPLB(H)007

Question Serial No.

1085

<u>Head</u>: 62 Housing Department <u>Subhead</u>:

<u>Programme</u>: Squatter Clearance and Squatter Control

<u>Controlling Officer</u>: Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands (Housing)

<u>Director of Bureau</u>: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question: During 2004-05, the Housing Department will redeploy staff to duties in public housing estates in support of Team Clean initiatives. Would the Government inform this Council how many staff members the Housing Department will deploy to perform the duties and their emoluments involved? Moreover, will such duties overlap with the work of other government

departments that are responsible for district cleanliness and hygiene?

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yan

Reply: 450 surplus squatter control and clearance staff have been redeployed to other areas of Housing Department's work, mainly in support of Team Clean initiatives, including policing, inspection and repairs of drains and plumbing, minor maintenance, enforcement of "Marking Scheme" (covering offences like littering, spitting, throwing objects from height etc.), enforcement of "Yellowline Scheme" for market stalls in public housing estates, and establishing the Task Force Against Abuses of Public Housing Resources. The salary cost for the staff involved is \$108,800,000 per annum. There will be no overlap in duties with the work of other government departments responsible for district cleanliness and hygiene outside public housing estates.

Signature	
Name in block letters	C.M. LEUNG
Post title	Permanent Secretary for Housing Planning and Lands (Housing)
Date	26 March 2004

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.
HPLB(H)008

Question Serial No.

1184

Head: 62 Housing Department Subhead:

<u>Programme</u>: Squatter Clearance and Squatter Control

<u>Controlling Officer</u>: Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands (Housing)

<u>Director of Bureau</u>: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question: During 2004-05, the Housing Department will critically review the operations

and the staffing establishment. Please advise this Council of the schedule of the review and how the surplus staff will be redeployed to other posts or

departments?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

We just completed a comprehensive review of the staffing establishment for squatter clearance and squatter control, which resulted in a reduction of 550 posts. Through natural wastage and non-renewal of contracts, we were able to delete 92 of these surplus posts in 2003-04, and a further eight posts will be deleted in 2004-05. We have redeployed the remaining 450 surplus staff to other areas of Housing Department's work, mainly in support of Team Clean initiatives, including policing, inspection and repairs of drains and plumbing, minor maintenance, enforcement of "Marking Scheme" (covering offences like littering, spitting, throwing objects from height), enforcement of "Yellowline Scheme" for market stalls in public housing estates, and establishing the Task Force Against Abuses of Public Housing Resources.

During 2004-05, we will continue to monitor and review the staffing requirements for both squatter clearance and control, as well as the functions on which the surplus staff have been redeployed, having regard to actual demand. If additional surplus posts are identified, we will endeavour to redeploy the staff concerned gainfully to other areas of work either within or outside Housing Department.

	Signature
C.M. LEUNG	Name in block letters
Permanent Secretary for Housing Planning and Lands (Housing)	Post title
26 March 2004	Date

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.
HPLB(H)009

Question Serial No.

1214

<u>Head</u>: 62 Housing Department <u>Subhead</u>:

<u>Programme</u>: Squatter Clearance and Squatter Control

<u>Controlling Officer</u>: Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands (Housing)

<u>Director of Bureau</u>: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question: It is stated in the programme that during 2004-05, the Housing Department (HD) will continue the work on control and prevention of dengue fever in squatter areas in the New Territories (NT). On this, please provide:

- (1) details of the work; and
- (2) the staffing establishment and expenditure involved in the work and the percentage of this establishment in the existing manpower setup.

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

- Reply: (1) The Housing Department will implement the following measures to assist in control and prevention of denque fever in squatter areas in the New Territories:
 - (a) eradicating potential mosquito breeding spots, such as containers with stagnant water, during squatter control patrols;
 - (b) reporting mosquito "black spots" to the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department;
 - (c) disseminating information and publicity materials on mosquito control and prevention of dengue fever;
 - (d) proper disposal of building debris, refuse and abandoned articles in clearance operations and demolition of illegal squatter structures.
 - (2) The workload will be absorbed within the existing staff establishment and budget provision of the Housing Department.

Signature	
Name in block letters	C.M. LEUNG
Post title	Permanent Secretary for Housing Planning and Lands (Housing)
Date	26 March 2004

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(H)010

Question Serial No.

<u>Head</u>: 62 Housing Department <u>Subhead</u>: <u>Programme</u>: Squatter Clearance and Squatter Control

<u>Controlling Officer</u>: Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands (Housing)

<u>Director of Bureau</u>: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question: (1) After the deletion of posts, the operational expenses under the programme of squatter clearance and squatter control still amount to more than \$330,000,000. Please give a breakdown of the expenditure items.

(2) Regarding the offices responsible for squatter clearance and squatter control, please list the grades in service in these offices and their respective numbers of staff and the payroll cost for each of these grades.

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply: (1) The estimate is \$333,000,000. It comprises –

- (i) \$98,700,000 in salary cost, \$38,300,000 in on-cost and \$45,000,000 in other expenses and share of Head Office expenses for 335 staff deployed under the programme of squatter clearance and squatter control; and
- (ii) \$108,800,000 in salary cost and \$42,200,000 in on-cost for 450 surplus staff who are redeployed to other areas of Housing Department's work, mainly in support of Team Clean initiatives, including policing, inspection and repairs of drains and plumbing, minor maintenance, enforcement of "Marking Scheme" (covering offences like littering, spitting, throwing objects from height), enforcement of "Yellowline Scheme" for market stalls in public housing estates, and establishing the Task Force Against Abuses of Public Housing Resources.
- (2) A list showing the grades of the staff responsible for squatter clearance and squatter control and the related salary payment is as follows –

Grade Headcount Salary Cost

Housing Manager Grade

165 \$68.4 M

General Grades

33 \$ 7.6 M

Other Supporting Staff

\$22.7 M

Total 335 \$98.7 M

Signature	
Name in block letters	C.M. LEUNG
	Permanent Secretary for Housing
Post title	Planning and Lands (Housing)
Date	26 March 2004

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.
HPLB(H)011
Question Serial No.
1673

<u>Head</u>: 62 Housing Department <u>Subhead</u>:

<u>Programme</u>: Squatter Clearance and Squatter Control

<u>Controlling Officer</u>: Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands (Housing)

<u>Director of Bureau</u>: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question: The Government adopts new indicators in 2004 for "structures cleared under programmed squatter clearances or emergency clearances" and "buildings with rooftop clearance completed". The estimated figures of these indicators have dropped by 70% and 20% respectively as compared with the figures in 2003. Please explain the difference between the new indicators and the original indicators, and the reasons for adopting the new indicators.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Kam-lam

Reply: In comparison with the indicators used previously, the new indicators adopted for 2004 seek to reflect in a more systematic and comprehensive manner the various activities undertaken by Housing Department staff under the four major areas of work of the "squatter clearance and squatter control" programme, as follows:

- (a) programmed squatter clearances or emergency clearances;
- (b) unauthorised rooftop structure clearances;
- (c) squatter control; and
- (d) rehousing victims of emergency incidents.

It should also be noted that the indicators used previously concerning Cottage Area and Temporary Housing Area, all of which had been cleared, are no longer applicable.

There is no relationship between adoption of the new indicators and reduction in workload. Reduction in the number of clearances in 2004 is mainly due to re-scheduling of some major development projects initiated by works departments. The target for clearance of unauthorised rooftop structures is in line with the pledge of 700 buildings every year as announced in 2001.

Signature	
Name in block letters	C.M. LEUNG
	Permanent Secretary for Housing
Post title	Planning and Lands (Housing)
Date	26 March 2004

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.
HPLB(H)012

Question Serial No.

1435

<u>Head</u>: 711 – Housing <u>Subhead</u>:

Programme:

<u>Controlling Officer</u>: Director of Civil Engineering

<u>Director of Bureau</u>: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question: What is the progress of the following projects? How are the funds to be spent for 2004-05?

(a) B564CL: Development near Choi Wan Road and Jordan Valley;

(b) B568CL: Development at Anderson Road – consultants' fees

and site investigation;

(c) B569CL: Development near Choi Wan Road and Jordan

Valley – consultants' fees and site investigation;

(d) B572CL: Site formation for public housing development at Tung

Tau Cottage Area; and

(e) B575CL: Site formation works for Lei Yue Mun phase 2

housing site.

Asked by: Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply: (a) B564CL: Development near Choi Wan Road and Jordan Valley

The construction works are in progress. The 2004-05 provision of \$277 m for the project is to meet the cost of construction works and related consultants' fees for contract administration and site supervision.

(b) B568CL : Development at Anderson Road – consultants' fees and site investigation

The detailed design has been completed. There is no firm implementation programme for the subsequent construction to proceed upon completion of detailed design. The 2004-05 provision of \$2 m for the project is to meet the cost of outstanding consultants' fees.

(c) B569CL: Development near Choi Wan Road and Jordan Valley – consultants' fees and site investigation

The site investigation and the detailed design have been completed. Tender documentation for the remaining contract is being finalized. The 2004-05 provision of \$1.8 m for the project is to meet the cost of outstanding consultants' fees.

(d) B572CL : Site formation for public housing development at Tung Tau Cottage Area

The construction works were substantially completed in 2003. The 2004-05 provision of \$3.42 m for the project is to meet the cost of the outstanding works.

(e) B575CL: Site formation works for Lei Yue Mun Phase 2 housing site

The construction works were substantially completed in 2003. The 2004-05 provision of \$3.69 m for the project is to meet the cost of the outstanding works.

Signature _	
Name in block letters	T K TSAO
Post Title	Director of Civil Engineering
Date	24 March 2004

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(H)013

Question Serial No.

1436

<u>Head</u>: Capital Works <u>Subhead</u>: B127WC-Mainlaying within Development

Reserve Fund (No. & near Choi Wan Road and Jordan Valley

Head 711 - title):

Housing

Programme: -

<u>Controlling Officer</u>: Director of Water Supplies

<u>Director of Bureau</u>: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

<u>Question</u>: What is the progress of the following project? For what purpose will the provision in the next year be used?

(a) Mainlaying within development near Choi Wan Road and Jordan Valley.

Asked by: Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

<u>Reply</u>: The water mainlaying works within development near Choi Wan Road and Jordan Valley fall within the project boundary of another project, **B564CL** "Development near Choi Wan Road and Jordan Valley". To avoid interface problems, the water mainlaying works are incorporated into the site formation and associated infrastructure contract of **B564CL**. The mainlaying works will be carried out from 2004 to 2005 after the majority of the site formation works is completed.

The provision of the next financial year is for payment of the completed water mainlaying works.

Signature:	
Name in block letters:	William C G KO
Post Title:	Director of Water Supplies
Date:	24.3.2004

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(H)014

Question Serial No.

1437

Head: 711 Housing Subhead: B100HX

(Minor housing development related works, studies and investigations for items in Category D of the Public Works

Programme)

Programme:

<u>Controlling Officer</u>: Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands (Housing)

<u>Director of Bureau</u>: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question: For block allocation items under Subhead B100HX "Minor housing

development related works, studies and investigations for items in Category D of the Public Works Programme", please list out in details the projects that are

located within the Kwun Tong and Wong Tai Sin districts.

Asked by: Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply: The following three projects under Subhead B100HX are carried out in Kwun Tong and Wong Tai Sin districts -

- (a) a detailed design of water supply (comprising mainly service reservoirs and associated pumping facilities) to the proposed housing developments near Choi Wan Road and Jordan Valley;
- (b) site investigation and detailed design for the mainlaying works within the developments near Choi Wan Road and Jordan Valley; and
- (c) a land contamination study and site investigation for the proposed site formation and infrastructure works at Diamond Hill Comprehensive Development Area.

Signature	
Name in block letters	C.M. LEUNG
Post title	Permanent Secretary for Housing Planning and Lands (Housing)
Date	26 March 2004