

**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. : 13**

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)001

Question Serial No.

1674

Head: 138 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau 000 Operational expenses
(Planning and Lands Branch)

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 Operational expenses, the provision for general departmental expenses for 2004-05 is \$4.2 million higher than the revised estimate for 2003-04. Please state the reason.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kam-lam

Reply : The increase in general departmental expenses in 2004-05 is mainly due to a contingency provision to meet the cost of administering our policy portfolio and its many ongoing and new commitments as well as unforeseen requirements. This includes policy research, conducting public consultation, publicity, promotional and community activities across the spectrum of the Buildings, Lands and Planning Policy Programme. We have, for example, to provide support to the planned Advisory Committee on Enhancement of the Harbour-front to be set up shortly. As one of the tasks of the Committee is to consider means to enlist greater community participation, we will redeploy some resources to support worthwhile community participation projects aiming at enhancing the harbour-front.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie LAM

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

Date _____ 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)002

Question Serial No.

0063

Head: 138 Government Secretariat: Subhead(No. & title):
Housing, Planning and Lands
Bureau (Planning and Lands
Branch)

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 2004-05, consultation will be conducted with stakeholders on proposed legislative proposals for resolving the problem of missing or illegible government leases. Please advise what the expenditure and manpower involved in the consultation exercise and the legislative process are. Has the Administration worked out any timetable for the legislative work?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

Preparation work relating to the proposed legislation, such as consultation and the drafting of legislation, mainly involves staff costs. The manpower costs are absorbed by relevant departments within their existing resources and as part of their normal work.

We are preparing the legislative proposals and will consult the major stakeholders before finalising the proposals for introduction into the Legislative Council. The Administration intends to conduct consultation within this year. Subject to the outcome of the consultation, we hope to introduce the bill into the Legislative Council in 2005.

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Carrie Lam

Post Title

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

Date

19 March 2004

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Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Question Serial No.

0064

Head: 138 Government Secretariat: Subhead(No. & title):
Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau
(Planning and Lands Branch)

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 2004-05, the Administration will continue to process the Town Planning (Amendment) Bill through the Legislative Council. Please advise what the associated manpower and expenditure are. Is the expenditure on pre-legislation public consultation covered?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

The Administration introduced the 2003 Town Planning (Amendment) Bill into the Legislative Council (LegCo) in May 2003. In 2004-05, the Administration will continue to work with the LegCo in processing the Amendment Bill, including consultation and discussion with the stakeholders and professional institutes on the proposed amendments before the enactment of the legislation. The work is taken up by the Planning Unit of the Bureau, using existing resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie LAM

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

Date _____ 22 March 2004

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Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Question Serial No.

0065

Head: 138 Government Secretariat: Subhead(No. & title):
Housing, Planning and Lands
Bureau (Planning and Lands
Branch)

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: What are the expenditure and details concerning the Administration's collaboration with the Guangdong authorities on planning matters in 2004-05?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : In 2004-05, we will continue to maintain close liaison with the Guangdong authorities on planning matters under the auspices of the Hong Kong-Guangdong Joint Conference. Major areas of work in this respect include exchange of information on the medium and long term planning and development strategies in Hong Kong and other cities in the Pearl River Delta Region, discussion on the planning of major infrastructure in the Region, and carrying out studies or surveys in collaboration with relevant institutes in Guangdong. The work mainly involves staff costs and they are absorbed by the Bureau within its existing resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie LAM

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

Date _____ 22 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)005

Question Serial No.

0066

Head: 138 Government Secretariat: Subhead(No. & title):
Housing, Planning and Lands
Bureau (Planning and Lands
Branch)

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 West Kowloon Cultural District, please list the Administration's supportive tasks and items of expenditure for 2004-05?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

The Administration issued the Invitation For Proposals for the development of the West Kowloon Cultural District on 5 September 2003. The deadline for submission of proposals is 19 June 2004. For the year 2004-2005, the Administration will be finalizing the procedures for receiving and processing the proposals. The Administration will also be preparing for public consultation of the proposals received, which should be completed by the end of the financial year. During this period, the support provided by the Administration is primarily in terms of staff resources, which will be drawn from the existing staff establishment.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie LAM

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

Date _____ 22 March 2004

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)006

Question Serial No.

0067

Head: 138 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Housing, Planning and Lands
Bureau (Planning and Lands
Branch)

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 list the Administration's tasks and expenditure associated with the review of the planning for Southeast Kowloon in 2004-05.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply: The Government has released the Outline Study Brief of the planning review part of the South East Kowloon Development ("SEKD") review. The main goal of the planning review is to formulate a new development concept for SEKD in the light of the Court of Final Appeal's 9 January 2004 judgment on the issue of Harbour reclamation and to formulate the planning framework to facilitate the re-development of the former Kai Tak Airport site. The work is taken up by the Planning Unit of the Bureau, using existing resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie LAM

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

Date _____ 22 March 2004

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Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)007

Question Serial No.

0068

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 138 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau
(Planning and Lands Branch)

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 list the duties and salaries of the eight posts that the Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau (Planning and Lands Branch) will delete in 2004-05.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

The 8 posts to be deleted in 2004-05 are -

<u>Post</u>	<u>Salary Range (\$)</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Nature of Work</u>
Clerical Officer	20,510 – 26,168	1	Clerical duties
Assistant Clerical Officer	8,928 – 19,533	4	-ditto-
Clerical Assistant	7,900 – 14,800	3	-ditto-

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie LAM

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

Date _____ 18 March 2004

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)008

Question Serial No.

1083

Head: 138 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau
(Planning and Lands Branch)

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 protection and the enhancement of the Victoria Harbour, please list the tasks and their expenditure for the 2003-04 financial year. Please compare them with the relevant expenditure for 2004-05.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply: Apart from overseeing the policy issues on Harbour protection and enhancement, the following public relations tasks relating to the Harbour issue were carried out by the Bureau in 2003-04 –

- (a) Production and distribution of the leaflet “Our Harbour – Past, Present and Future”: \$46,800.
- (b) Production and distribution of the booklet “All About Central Reclamation Phase III” and associated posters: \$714,300.
- (c) Design and production of the Central Reclamation Phase III Internet website: \$22,400.

For 2004-05, we will support the Advisory Committee on Enhancement of the Harbour-front. The relevant work is carried out by the existing staff of this Bureau. As one of the tasks of the Committee is to consider means to enlist greater community participation, we are prepared to redeploy some resources to fund worthwhile community participation projects aiming at enhancing the harbour-front for the enjoyment of the public. At this stage, taking account of known commitments, we expect to be able to set aside a provision of about \$5 million for the purpose.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie LAM

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

Date _____ 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)009

Question Serial No.

1086

Head: 138 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau
(Planning and Lands Branch) 000 Operational expenses

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 : The estimated expenditure of the Director of Bureau's Office for 2004-05 is about \$6 million. Please list the other tasks of the Office and the related expenditure after deducting the expenditure on staff salaries and allowances.

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply : The financial provision of \$6 million in 2004-05 for the Director of Bureau's Office is for 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 administrative support to SHPL in carrying out his duties. The work includes the planning, co-ordination and implementation of arrangements for the Secretary's public, media and community functions. Other operating expenses relating to his policy portfolio are provided under Programme (2) Buildings, Lands and Planning.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie LAM

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

Date _____ 25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)010

Question Serial No.

0086

Head: 138 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau
(Planning and Lands Branch)
22 Agriculture, Fisheries and
Conservation Department
42 Electrical and Mechanical Services
Department
43 Civil Engineering Department
82 Buildings 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 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: 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 in 2003-04

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees (cash flow in 2003-04) (\$)	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 reports completed are publicized; if yes, their channels and if not, the reasons.
Urbis Ltd.	Landscape Value Mapping of Hong Kong (PlanD)	\$1,461,000	In progress	N.A.	Completed Technical Reports (8 nos.) uploaded to PlanD website
Multiple consultants as listed below :	Hong Kong 2030: Planning Vision and Strategy (PlanD)	\$5,463,000			
Parsons Brinckerhoff (Asia) Ltd.	Traffic Assessment and Transport Modelling (PlanD)	Part of the Hong Kong 2030: Planning Vision and Strategy	Completed	Inputs to on-going HK2030 Study	The deliverable was enhancement of the computer model for assessment. No report was produced.
Weber Shandwick Worldwide	Publicity and public relations (PlanD)	- ditto -	In progress	- ditto -	Stage 3 Public Consultation Report and Publicity Materials disseminated to public

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees (cash flow in 2003-04) (\$)	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 reports completed are publicized; if yes, their channels and if not, the reasons.
GHK (HK) Ltd.	Land Forecasting Methodology (PlanD)	- ditto -	In progress	- ditto -	Technical Papers (3 nos.) uploaded to HK2030 website
Hyder-Mott Connell Joint Venture	Environmental Assessment (PlanD)	- ditto -	In progress	- ditto -	A Summary Paper on Assessment of Development Options and related Technical Reports (4 nos.) uploaded to HK2030 website
GHK (HK) Ltd.	Economic & Financial Assessment (PlanD)	-- ditto -	In progress	Inputs to on-going HK2030 Study	Technical Paper (1 no.) uploaded to HK2030 website
Hong Kong Baptist University	Broad Landuse Pattern of the Pearl River Delta (PRD) Region (PlanD)	- ditto -	Completed	- ditto -	Executive Summary uploaded to HK2030 website; Final Report made available for public inspection at PlanD enquiry counter
Multiple consultants as listed below :	Study on HK Residents Living in the Pearl River Delta Region (PlanD)	\$891,000			
Guangdong Urban Social & Economic Survey Organization	Survey of HK Residents living and working in the PRD Region (PlanD)	Part of the Study on HK Residents Living in the Pearl River Delta Region	In progress	N.A.	N.A.
ACNielsen (China) Limited	Second Thematic Household Survey – HK residents' experience of and aspiration for taking up residence in the Mainland of China (PlanD)	- ditto -	In progress	N.A.	N.A.
Townland Consultants Ltd.	Study on Planning for Pedestrians (PlanD)	\$817,000	In progress	N.A.	First Stage Public Consultation Digest and Report uploaded to PlanD website

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees (cash flow in 2003-04) (\$)	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 reports completed are publicized; if yes, their channels and if not, the reasons.
ACNielsen (China) Limited	Cross-boundary Travel Survey 2003/04 (PlanD)	\$2,280,000	In progress	N.A.	N.A.
Chinese University of Hong Kong	Feasibility Study for Establishment of Air Ventilation Assessment System (PlanD project funded by TDD)	\$150,000	In progress	N.A.	Working Paper (1 no.) and Workshop Report (1 no.) uploaded to PlanD website.
Not yet available	Study on Rural Planning and Land Management in the New Territories (Phase Two) (PlanD)	--	Under planning	N.A.	N.A.
Not yet available	Review on Shopping Habits (PlanD)	--	Under planning	N.A.	N.A.
Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Ltd.	Consultancy to review the code of practice for fire safety in buildings and renovation works (BD)	\$5,605,000	In progress	N.A.	N.A.
Anthony Ng Architects Ltd.	Consultancy to review Building Regulations on lighting and ventilation of buildings (BD)	\$1,197,000	In progress	N.A.	N.A.
Hyder Consulting Ltd.	Consultancy to review Building Regulations on drainage of buildings (BD)	\$1,431,000	in progress	N.A.	N.A.
Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Ltd.	Consultancy on the seismic effects on buildings in Hong Kong (BD)	\$4,392,000	In progress	N.A.	N.A.
Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Ltd.	Consultancy on a comprehensive environmental performance assessment scheme for buildings (BD)	\$3,135,000	In progress	N.A.	N.A.

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees (cash flow in 2003-04) (\$)	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 reports completed are publicized; if yes, their channels and if not, the reasons.
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	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)	\$1,760,000	In progress	N.A.	N.A.

(2) Consultancy studies for which financial provision has been allocated in 2004-05

Name of consultants (if available)	Description of	Consultancy fees (cash flow in 2004-05) (\$)	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.
Urbis Ltd.	Landscape Value Mapping of Hong Kong (PlanD)	\$1,105,000	To be completed in 2004-05	Yes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • uploading of Final Report to PlanD website • publication of consultation materials • briefings to statutory and advisory bodies • public forum • focus group meetings
Multiple consultants as listed below :	Hong Kong 2030: Planning Vision and Strategy (PlanD)	\$3,956,000		
Weber Shandwick Worldwide	Publicity and public relations (PlanD)	Part of the Hong Kong 2030: Planning Vision and Strategy	To be completed in 2004-05	Stage 4 (final stage) public consultation planned for end 2004/early 2005
GHK (HK) Ltd.	Land Forecasting Methodology (PlanD)	- ditto -	To be completed in 2004-05	Technical Paper to be uploaded to HK2030 website

Name of consultants (if available)	Description of	Consultancy fees (cash flow in 2004-05) (\$)	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.
Hyder-Mott Connell Joint Venture	Environmental Assessment (PlanD)	- ditto -	To be completed in 2004-05	Final Report to be uploaded to HK2030 website
GHK (HK) Ltd. Parsons	Economic & Financial Assessment (PlanD)	- ditto -	To be completed in 2004-05	Technical Paper to be uploaded to HK2030 website
Multiple consultants as listed below :	Study on HK Residents Living in the Pearl River Delta Region (PlanD)	\$4,277,000		
Guangdong Urban Social & Economic Survey Organization	Survey of HK Residents living and working in the PRD Region (PlanD)	Part of the Study on HK Residents Living in the Pearl River Delta Region	To be completed in 2004-05	Report to be uploaded to PlanD and HK2030 websites
ACNielsen (China) Limited	Second Thematic Household Survey – HK residents' experience of and aspiration for taking up residence in the Mainland of China (PlanD)	- ditto -	To be completed in 2004-05	Report to be uploaded to PlanD and HK2030 websites
Townland Consultants Ltd.	Study on Planning for Pedestrians (PlanD)	\$1,041,000	To be completed in 2004-05	Yes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● uploading of Final Report to PlanD website ● publication of consultation materials ● briefings to statutory and advisory bodies ● public forum ● focus group meetings
ACNielsen (China) Limited	Cross-boundary Travel Survey 2003/04 (PlanD)	\$1,310,000	To be completed in 2004-05	Final Report to be uploaded to PlanD website
Not yet available	Survey on Occupancy of Recently Completed Housing Units (PlanD)	\$1,066,000	To be completed in 2004-05	- ditto -

Name of consultants (if available)	Description of	Consultancy fees (cash flow in 2004-05) (\$)	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.
Not yet available	Commercial and Industrial Floor Space Utilization Survey (PlanD)	\$1,990,000	To be completed in 2004-05	- ditto -
Chinese University of Hong Kong	Feasibility Study for Establishment of Air Ventilation Assessment System (PlanD project funded by TDD)	\$850,000	To be completed in 2004-05	Working Papers and Final Report would be uploaded to PlanD website.
Not yet available	Study on Rural Planning and Land Management in the New Territories (Phase Two) (PlanD)	\$945,000	To depend on outcome of Phase One which is in progress	N.A.
Not yet available	Review on Shopping Habits (PlanD)	\$2,050,000	Under planning	N.A.
Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Ltd.	Consultancy to review the code of practice for fire safety in buildings and renovation works (BD)	\$475,000	In progress	Study to be continued in 05/06 The draft code of practice will be distributed to the building industry for consultation.
Anthony Ng Architects Ltd.	Consultancy to review Building Regulations on lighting and ventilation of buildings (BD)	\$307,000	In progress	The recommendation of the study report will be distributed to the building industry for consultation
Hyder Consulting Ltd.	Consultancy to review Building Regulations on drainage of buildings (BD)	\$489,000	In progress	The recommendation of the study report will be distributed to the building industry for consultation
Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Ltd.	Consultancy on the seismic effects on buildings in Hong Kong (BD)	\$120,000	In progress	The recommendation of the study report will be distributed to the building industry for consultation

Name of consultants (if available)	Description of	Consultancy fees (cash flow in 2004-05) (\$)	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.
Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Ltd.	Consultancy on a comprehensive environmental performance assessment scheme for buildings (BD)	\$2,047,000	In progress	The draft scheme will be distributed to the building industry for consultation
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)	\$1,800,000	In progress	The recommendation of the study report and the draft design manual will be distributed to the building industry for consultation
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)	\$1,440,000	In progress	The recommendation of the study report and the draft code will be distributed to the building industry for consultation

*PlanD : Planning Department
BD : Buildings Department

The projects are undertaken and funded by the respective departments unless otherwise stated.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie LAM

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

Date _____ 25 March 2004

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)011

Question Serial No.

1518

Head: 138 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau
(Planning and Lands Branch) 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 : There will be a deletion of 8 permanent posts from the establishment of the Planning and Lands Branch. However, the provision under Subhead 000 Operational expenses for salaries, allowances and other operating expenses does not decrease but rises to over \$84 million. Please state the reason.

Asked by : Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply : The increase in operational expenses in 2004-05 is mainly due to a contingency provision to meet the cost of administering our policy portfolio and its many ongoing and new commitments as well as unforeseen requirements. This includes policy research, conducting public consultation, publicity, promotional and community activities across the spectrum of the Buildings, Lands and Planning Policy Programme. We have, for example, to provide support to the planned Advisory Committee on Enhancement of the Harbour-front to be set up shortly. As one of the tasks of the Committee is to consider means to enlist greater community participation, we will redeploy some resources to support worthwhile community participation projects aiming at enhancing the harbour-front.

The full savings (\$1.5 million) arising from the deletion of the eight posts will not be reflected in 2004-05, as the majority of the posts will be deleted towards the end of the year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie LAM

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

Date _____ 25 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No.

0172

Head: 138 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau
(Planning and Lands Branch)

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 : The Government has announced that an Advisory Committee on Enhancement of the Harbour-front will be set up, under this Programme, to ensure that planning and land use are geared towards the mission of protecting the Victoria Harbour and enhancing it for the enjoyment of residents and tourists. In this connection, could the Government inform us of the resources and manpower establishment that are devoted to supporting the said Committee?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Ping-cheung

Reply : The Advisory Committee on Enhancement of the Harbour-front will be supported by internal redeployment of resources, which is mainly staff cost, within the Bureau. As one of the tasks of the Committee is to consider means to enlist greater community participation, we are prepared to redeploy some resources to support worthwhile community participation projects aiming at enhancing the harbour-front for the enjoyment of the public. At this stage, taking account of known commitments, we expect to be able to set aside a provision of about \$5 million for the purpose.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie LAM

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

Date _____ 24 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

HPLB(PL)013

Question Serial No.

0173

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 Subhead 000, the estimated Departmental Expenses for 2004-05 amount to a total of \$33,954,000, covering temporary staff, honoraria for members of committees and general departmental expenses. In this connection, could the Government inform this Committee of the relevant details?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Ping-cheung

Reply :

Details of the estimated Departmental Expenses for 2004-05 are appended below –

Item	(\$'000)
Temporary Staff	14,087
- Funding of the Graduate Training Scheme for graduate trainees and the Vacation Training Scheme for post-secondary students	
Honoraria for members of committees	1,527
- Payment of honoraria to the Chairmen and Members of the Appeal Tribunal (Buildings), the Town Planning Appeal Board and the Home Purchase Allowance Appeals Committee	

Item	(\$'000)
General departmental expenses	18,340
- Expenses for the day-to-day running of the Bureau, such as administration, stores and equipment, salary of SHPL, temporary staff, IT network communication equipment and related expenses, and hire of services, etc.	
Total :	33,954

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie LAM

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

Date _____ 18 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)014

Question Serial No.

0050

Head: 138 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Housing, Planning and Lands
Bureau (Planning and Lands
Branch)

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: The Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau will consult various stakeholders with a view to making preliminary proposals on small house policy for further in-depth discussion in the coming year. Will the consultation be completed within a year? Will the Administration set up a task force to deal with the work and what will be the establishment as well as the estimated expenditure for the coming year?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply:

The issues involved in the Small House Policy review are complex. They include, inter alia, optimal use of land resources, infrastructural and environmental matters associated with small house developments and sex equality. There is a need to review the Policy and the related issues in a comprehensive manner. We will ensure that sufficient time is given to the stakeholders to deliberate on the relevant issues. As such, we do not intend to set a rigid time frame for the consultation process. The relevant work will be carried out by the existing staff of this bureau and our departments. Hence, additional resources are not required.

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Carrie Lam

Post Title

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

Date

19 March 2004

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)015

Question Serial No.

0051

Head: 138 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau
(Planning and Lands Branch)

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 the coming year, the Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau will oversee the implementation of measures to rectify building defects which have caused environmental hygiene problems in private buildings. What is the rank of the most senior official dealing with the task? How many members are there in the team? What is the expected number of cases to be handled and what is the estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply : The Buildings Unit in Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau headed by a Principal Assistant Secretary is responsible for the policy on building safety, including the overall monitoring of the rectification measures implemented by the Buildings Department (BD) to improve environmental hygiene. The actual implementation work is carried out by the Buildings Department and resources for this purpose are accordingly reflected under Head 82 Buildings Department.

Within BD, an Assistant Director in the Existing Buildings Division who looks after, inter alia, the implementation of hygiene improvement measures recommended by Team Clean is responsible for coordinating implementation work to rectify building defects which have caused environmental hygiene problems in private buildings. In 2004-05, BD will continue its enforcement action on drainage defects in private buildings and unauthorized building works in rear lanes and blackspots. There will be 293 existing BD staff working together with 72 contract staff recruited last year (i.e. a total of 365 staff) to implement the rectification measures as part of their enforcement duties under the Buildings Ordinance. In addition, through an outsourcing arrangement, 38 staff of the Housing Authority are also engaged in carrying out these measures.

In 2004-05, BD will take follow up enforcement action on some 3,100 buildings with drainage problems and 1,700 repair orders issued, arising mainly from the territory-wide inspection of private buildings since May 2003 to detect defective drainage pipes in the wake of the SARS outbreak. Moreover, BD will take follow up action on some 300 outstanding orders arising from the joint effort with other government departments to clear environmental blackspots since May 2003.

The expenditure incurred in implementing the rectification measures is mainly related to staff costs. As the professional and technical staff in BD are engaged in such work as part of their enforcement duties under the BO, it is not possible to provide a breakdown of the estimated expenditure in terms of existing BD staff costs involved. However, BD estimates that the expenditure in 2004-05 for the 72 contract staff will be \$19 million whilst the cost for outsourcing part of the work to the Housing Authority will be \$24.4 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie LAM

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

Date _____ 23 March 2004

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)016

Question Serial No.

0912

Head: 138 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Housing, Planning and Lands
Bureau (Planning and Lands
Branch)

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 policy research projects and the expenditure involved, please provide detailed information on the policy research projects commenced or being conducted by the Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau itself or with the funding of the Bureau in 2003-04, including

- 1) project title, objective and subject matter;
- 2) expenses;
- 3) latest progress;
- 4) whether the Administration has followed up on the research results.

Also, is there any provision earmarked for policy research in 2004-05? If yes, what is the amount? What are the objectives and subject matters of the respective projects?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply : Our major task is to formulate and co-ordinate policies in respect of areas under our purview. To achieve this we carry out extensive and intensive research into these areas using as far as possible information available and with in-house resources. In view of the wide range and the large amount of such research work it is impossible to list each and every task. If consultants are used, we have prepared a breakdown in response to a separate question on that particular subject.

Details of the more important items for ongoing work and new initiatives are listed in the Policy Agenda accompanying the CE's policy addresses and highlighted in the Controlling Officer's report. It is impossible to give a breakdown on expenditure for each of these items as we have not conducted detailed costing work for each of them. However, we have provided an indication of the expenditure involved in each of our programmes in the Controlling Officer's report. If after research, consultation and deliberation, a new policy should be introduced, we shall consult the relevant panel of the Legislative Council.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie LAM

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

Date _____ 22 March 2004

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)017

Question Serial No.

0997

Head: 138 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau
(Planning and Lands Branch)

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 this Programme, one of the tasks for 2004-05 is to “maintain close liaison with the Guangdong authorities on planning matters”. Please list the planning projects that will be conducted and expected to be conducted in 2004-05, as well as the expenditure incurred and the implementation programme. If details are not available, please state the reason.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, Sophie

Reply: In 2004-05, we will continue to maintain close liaison with the Guangdong authorities on planning matters under the auspices of the Hong Kong/Guangdong Cooperation Joint Conference. In particular, we will continue to exchange information with the Guangdong authorities on matters concerning medium- and long-term planning of the Pearl River Delta (PRD) region at large and various individual cities therein.

We are conducting a survey on “HK residents living and working in the PRD region”, in cooperation with the Guangdong Provincial Department of Construction, with an approved commitment of \$5.56 million. This is expected to complete within this year. The expenditure of the survey is charged to the Planning Department under Subhead 700. We have no other planning projects in hand or in the pipeline for the time being.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie LAM

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

Date _____ 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)018

Question Serial No.

0847

Head: 138 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau
(Planning and Lands Branch)

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 a breakdown of the provision for entertainment expenses to be incurred by the Secretary for Housing Planning and Lands and the Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands, such as hosting and attending receptions, in the revised estimate for 2003-04 and the estimate for 2004-05. Has the Government set an upper limit for such expenses? Are there any objective criteria for approving such expenses?

Asked by : Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply : The revised estimate for 2003-04 for official entertainment for the Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau is \$120,000. There is no specific allocation for the Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands and the Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands (Planning and Lands). More important occasions are hosted by the Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands.

For 2004-05, a provision of \$200,000 has been reserved for the above purpose.

The prevailing general guideline is that bureaux/departments should aim to spend not more than \$250 per person for lunch and not more than \$400 per person for dinner, inclusive of tips.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie LAM

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

Date _____ 26 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)019

Question Serial No.

0848

Head: 138 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau
(Planning and Lands Branch)

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 : Regarding the estimated expenditure of Director of Bureau's Office for 2004-05, please provide a detailed breakdown of the expenditure by (1) purposes (including the planning, co-ordination and implementation of all arrangements for the Secretary's public, media and community functions, etc.), and (2) expenditure items (salaries and establishment, allowances, job-related allowances and departmental expenses).

Asked by : Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply : 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 administrative support to SHPL covering different facets of work. It would not be possible to analyze the provision by purpose/functions. The breakdown of the provision in 2004-05 by expenditure items and establishment is as follows-

	\$
Salaries for SHPL	3,232,000
Salaries and allowances for supporting staff (comprising 1 Administrative Assistant, 1 Personal Assistant, 1 Personal Secretary I, 1 Clerical Assistant and 1 Chauffeur)	<u>2,733,000</u>
Total :	<u>\$5,965,000</u>

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie LAM

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

Date _____ 25 March 2004

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)020

Question Serial No.

0849

Head: 138 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau
(Planning and Lands Branch)

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 list the revised estimate for duty visits outside Hong Kong in 2003-04 for the Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands and the Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands, with particulars of : (1) the purposes and details of the visits; (2) the main means of public transport and related expenses for the visits; (3) board and lodging expenses for the visits. What is the corresponding estimated expenditure for 2004-05? Has the Administration laid down a ceiling on the amount of allowances that can be granted and a set of criteria for approving such allowances?

Asked by : Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply : During 2003-04, the Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands has not undertaken any duty visit outside Hong Kong. One visit to Guangzhou was made by the Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands (Planning and Lands). Details are appended below –

- (1) Purpose : As a guest of honour to officiate the opening ceremony of the 'Conference on Town Planning and Management in the Pearl River Delta' on 21 February 2004.
- (2) Major modes of transport used
for the visit and associated expenses : By train. The cost is \$380.
- (3) Expenses on food and accommodation : Nil

As regards the estimate for 2004-05, a provision of \$100,000 has been reserved for expenses incurred by officers within the bureau for duty visits outside Hong Kong. This is only an estimate at this stage.

There is no across-the-board limit on the provision for duty visits outside Hong Kong. The reimbursement of subsistence and travelling expenses are governed by relevant Civil Service Regulations and conditions of appointments.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie LAM

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

Date _____ 24 March 2004

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)021

Question Serial No.

0850

Head: 138 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau
(Planning and Lands Branch) 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 a breakdown of entertainment expenses actually incurred by the Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands and the Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands, such as hosting and attending receptions, for 2003-04 and the estimate for 2004-05. Has the Government set an upper limit for such expenses? Are there any objective criteria for approving such expenses?

Asked by : Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply : The actual expenditure in 2003-04 (as at 26 March 2004) for official entertainment in respect of the Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands is \$63,200.40 and for the Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands (Planning and Lands) is \$26,840.20.

The estimate for 2004-05 for official entertainment for the Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau is \$200,000. There is no specific allocation for the Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands and the Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands (Planning and Lands). More important occasions are hosted by the Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands.

The prevailing general guideline is that bureaux/departments should aim to spend not more than \$250 per person for lunch and not more than \$400 per person for dinner, inclusive of tips.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie LAM

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

Date _____ 26 March 2004

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

Head: 138 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau
(Planning and Lands Branch)

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 : The 2004 Policy Address has mentioned about the need to raise the standard of policy research undertaken by the Government:

“To improve our governance, we must raise the level of sophistication with which both the Government and the community handle policy issues. We need to do more public policy research, particularly from a macro and long-term perspective. Objective and concrete public policy research will help us better realise the objectives of effective governance. It will help us avoid sweeping, politicised and emotional policy debates, thus making it easier for the Government and various sectors of the community to reach a consensus on public issues. This will ensure that our policies are implemented more effectively and better able to serve the long-term development needs of Hong Kong.”

Please advise whether provision has been made or resources deployed in the 2004-05 Estimates to take forward a stated commitment of the Policy Address that public policy matters will be pursued with a higher standard. If yes, please give a detailed account of the projects funded. If not, what are the reasons for that?

Asked by : Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply : Since the publication of the 2004 Policy Address, the Administration has been exploring ways to promote research on public policy issues and develop the human resources required. We are formulating an agenda for policy research so as to take forward research on priority issues. To meet this objective, the Administration will carry out relevant research work using in-house resource as far as possible. It is hard to estimate the full resource implications at this juncture.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie LAM

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

Date _____ 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)023

Question Serial No.

0814

Head: 138 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau
(Planning and Lands Branch)

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 Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2004-05, the Bureau states that consultation will be carried out on "the problem of missing or illegible government leases". Would the Bureau please state the intended parties to be consulted and the timetable for introduction of the bill into the Legislative Council?

Asked by : Hon. Dr TANG Siu-tong

Reply : The major stakeholders we intend to consult on the relevant legislative proposals include Heung Yee Kuk, the Law Society of Hong Kong and the concerned Legislative Council Panel. They will be consulted within this year. Subject to the outcome of the consultation, the Administration intends to introduce the bill into the Legislative Council in 2005.

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Carrie Lam

Post Title

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

Date

24 March 2004

[HOME](#)

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)024

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Question Serial No.

1469

Head: 138 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Housing, Planning and Lands
Bureau (Planning and Lands
Branch)

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: The Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau is responsible for monitoring the property market conditions and arrange the sale of land through the Application List system. What will be done to monitor the property market conditions effectively? Has consultancy or external services been commissioned for assistance on a regular basis? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply: The Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau has devised a comprehensive monitoring system and a database relating to the private housing market. The database, updated regularly, is built up from information and analyses provided by the relevant government departments on aspects falling within their purview. For this reason, the Administration does not require to commission external consultancies or services to obtain the relevant information.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie LAM

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

Date _____ 25 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

HPLB(PL)025

Question Serial No.

1675

Head : 82 Buildings Department

Subhead (No. & title) : 700

General non-recurrent

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

The Administration has commissioned a consultancy study on a "Design Manual on Barrier Free Access and Facilities for Persons with a Disability and the Elderly". Please provide the particulars, progress and expected completion time of this study.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kam-lam

Reply :

The objectives of the consultancy study are to review the design requirements for the provision of access and facilities in buildings for persons with disability and to study the design requirements for the provision of facilities for the elderly. The consultant appointed for the consultancy study has already carried out a review study and is in the process of rationalizing the design requirements. We expect that the consultant will submit the final report in late 2004.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Marco WU

Director of Buildings

26.3.2004

[HOME](#)

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)026

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

Question Serial No.

1061

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

As stated in the Programme: Buildings and Building Works, the financial provision for Buildings and Building Works in 2004-05 will increase by 9.3%. What items of work will such increase be reflected on? Since the provision has been increased, can the target of increasing the number of unauthorised building works being removed be achieved as well?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

The increased financial provision of \$68.2 million (9.3% higher than the revised estimate for 2003-04) will be used for the following work:-

- (a) \$11.5 million for accelerating enforcement actions against unauthorised building works (UBW) and building repair;
- (b) \$31.3 million for clearing outstanding removal orders;
- (c) \$25.4 million for stepping up actions against drainage defects in private buildings and UBW in rear lanes and blackspots.

The above increased allocation together with the existing allocation should enable the Buildings Department to achieve the expected target on UBW removal set in the Estimates.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Marco WU

Director of Buildings

25.3.2004

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

HPLB(PL)027

Question Serial No.

1250

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 :

- (a) Regarding the hiring of services and professional fees in the Buildings Department, please list out in details the reasons why the amount increased from over \$30 million in 2003-04 to over \$80 million in 2004-05, and what are the respective costs?
- (b) Regarding the follow-up work on repair orders and enforcement actions, would the Buildings Department consider outsourcing such work in 2004-05? What are the position regarding outsourcing contracts and short term contract staff in the Buildings Department respectively?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

- (a) Compared with the revised estimates in 2003-04, there will be an increase of \$49.8 million in 2004-05 for the hire of services and professional fees. The main reasons for the increase are:
 - (i) increased outsourcing in the investigation and removal of unauthorized building works (UBW) in progress, large scale clearance of UBW and investigation and monitoring of building repairs, amounting to \$24.2 million;
 - (ii) outsourcing part of the enforcement actions to the Housing Authority in respect of backlog removal orders, drainage defects in private buildings and UBW in rear lanes and blackspots, amounting to \$16.3 million; and

- (iii) carrying out consultancy studies on standards of building design and conditions of existing buildings, amounting to \$9.3 million.
- (b) The duties imposed on and the powers granted to the Building Authority under the Buildings Ordinance have to be carried out by officers of Government departments as set out in the Buildings Ordinance and cannot be outsourced. The tasks outsourced to private consultants are non-statutory services required before and after the issue of statutory orders, mainly comprising building inspections, preparation of inspection reports, drafting of statutory orders and preparation of compliance reports.

The financial amount of outsourcing contracts to accelerate enforcement work on UBW in 2003-04 and 2004-05 are \$23.5 million and \$47.7 million respectively. The number of Buildings Department staff employed on temporary contract terms at the beginning and the end of 2003-04 was 441 and 631 respectively. In 2004-05 the total number of contract staff is expected to increase to 685.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Marco WU
Post Title	Director of Buildings
Date	25.3.2004

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)028

Head : 82 Buildings Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

1017

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

Regarding the time for processing building plans of new buildings, is the 60-day target applicable to both “approved applications” and “disapproved applications”? Can the Administration state the ratio between these two kinds of applications, and advise this Council the average time required for processing building plans of new buildings as well as the longest and shortest time required for processing them?

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

Reply :

The 60-day target for processing building plans is applicable to new plan submissions. For plans which are disapproved and resubmitted for approval, such plans will be processed within a period of 30 days. An analysis of the new building plans approved in 2003 shows that the number of new building plans approved and disapproved expressed in terms of percentage of the total number of new building plans submitted are 62.6% and 37.4% respectively.

The average time for processing new building plan submissions in 2003 was 52.4 days, the longest being 60 days and shortest being 22 days.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Marco WU

Director of Buildings

25.3.2004

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)029

Question Serial No.

1018

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 target time for considering and approving alteration and addition works?

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

Reply :

The target processing time for “alterations and additions” submissions is 60 days for new submission plans and 30 days for resubmission plans. For simple alteration and addition works complying with stipulated criteria, new submission plans are processed within 30 days.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Marco WU

Director of Buildings

25.3.2004

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

HPLB(PL)030

Head : 82 Buildings DepartmentSubhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.Programme : Buildings and Building Works

1019

Controlling Officer : Director of BuildingsDirector of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and LandsQuestion :

Does the Administration have a target time for providing advice on the suitability of premises for the issue of licences for specified commercial uses? What is the actual time required for processing an application? Has the Administration improved or expedited such process during the past two years?

Asked by : Hon. CHOW LIANG Shuk-yee, SelinaReply :

Buildings Department's (BD) current performance pledge for providing advice to the licensing authorities on new applications for both restaurants and places of public entertainment is 14 working days. In 2003, we processed 1145 applications with 1071 (94%) meeting the pledge, compared with 1046 applications with 995 (95%) meeting the pledge in 2002. The average processing time in 2003 and 2002 for a new application is 12.8 and 12.1 working days respectively.

We do not have performance pledges for other types of licence applications. The average processing time for licence applications other than those for restaurants and places of public entertainment is 21.6 and 21.3 working days in 2003 and 2002 respectively. We are considering measures to improve the relevant services, including the feasibility of self-certification of the BD's requirements by building professionals in the private sector.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Marco WU

Director of Buildings

26.3.2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)031

Head : 82 Buildings Department

Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

1020

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

How much time is required for a property agent to verify the building structural particulars with the Buildings Department? Has the Administration improved or expedited such process during the past three years?

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

Reply :

The Buildings Department provides service to the public for viewing and copying of building records, including building plans, structural plans, structural calculations and other related documents. We have pledged to make the records available for viewing and copying within 10 working days from the date of application. The performance we have achieved in processing applications within the pledged time over the past three years expressed in terms of the percentage of the total applications has improved from 90% in 2001 to 95% in 2003.

In early 2001, we started a pilot project to digitise building records and to set up a computerized Building Records Management System (BRMS) covering Tsim Sha Tsui, Yau Ma Tei, Mongkok and Wanchai districts. The pilot BRMS has been accessible by the public since June 2001 offering instant viewing of building records in these districts. We have recently obtained funding to extend the BRMS to cover all existing private buildings in Hong Kong. Upon completion of the project by the end of 2005, instant viewing and copying of building records will be available for all existing buildings.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Marco WU
Post Title	Director of Buildings
Date	26.3.2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)032

Question Serial No.

0900

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 2004-05, it is stated that the Administration will carry out blitz operations to clear the unauthorized building works (UBW) on the external walls of 1 000 target buildings, and select 700 single-staircase buildings for clearance of illegal rooftop structures. What is the cost likely to be involved in the above building safety improvement actions? According to the Administration's estimation, what proportion of cost can be recovered from the owners? Furthermore, how much manpower is expected for completing these tasks and urging owners or occupiers of buildings with UBW to carry out removal works at their own expense?

Asked by : Hon. CHU Yu-lin, David

Reply :

In 2004-2005, the Buildings Department (BD) will select 1,000 buildings for clearance of external unauthorized building works (UBW) under blitz operations. Some of the work in the operations will be outsourced to private consultant firms, and the estimated outsourcing cost amounts to \$18 million. In addition, a total of 365 professional and technical officers in the department are responsible for these operations, along with their duties to take other enforcement actions under the Buildings Ordinance. As the carrying out of blitz operations forms only part of the duties of these BD staff, it is not possible to provide a breakdown of the estimated expenditure in BD staff costs devoted to these operations.

BD has also set a target to clear illegal rooftop structures on 700 single-staircase buildings in 2004. A total of 91 professional and technical officers in the department are responsible for carrying out these clearance operations. The staff cost involved is \$25.3 million.

There is no provision under the Buildings Ordinance for recovering the cost of the enforcement work incurred in the above operations where the owners carry out removal works at their own expense. In the event that orders served for the removal of UBW are not complied with, the department will take prosecution actions to urge the owners to carry out the removal works themselves. There are 23 officers responsible for taking prosecution actions, and the staff cost involved is \$10 million. Alternatively, BD may remove the UBW on behalf of the owners in default. In the latter circumstances, the department may recover the cost of removal from them.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Marco WU
Post Title	Director of Buildings
Date	26.3.2004

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)033

Question Serial No.

0901

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 :

Under "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2004-05", it is stated that the Administration will complete a study on a green labelling system with a view to further encouraging the construction of environmentally-friendly buildings. In this regard, what is the timetable of implementing such a system? What is the amount of provision to be earmarked as well as the number of staff to be deployed for promoting the green labelling system and enhancing public recognition of the same?

Asked by : Hon. CHU Yu-lin, David

Reply :

The study on a green labelling system (the Comprehensive Environmental Performance Assessment System), including the details of the assessment method and the implementation measures to be adopted, is being carried out by Buildings Department's consultant. The consultant will submit the study report by the end of this year. We will then determine the implementation timetable and details after consultation with the building and related industries and the public. The initial idea is to have a market-driven scheme to be run by a non-government body.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Marco WU

Director of Buildings

25.3.2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)034

Head : 82 Buildings Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

0643

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

As stated in this Programme, the Buildings Department will step up drainage inspections and enforcement actions to rectify defective drainage in buildings in 2004-05. In this respect, can the Government advise this Council:

- (1) the details of this area of work; and
- (2) the number of staff engaged and the cost involved in this area of work?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

- (1) The Buildings Department (BD) previously identified some 3,100 buildings with drainage problems during the territory-wide inspections of private buildings carried out to detect defective drainage pipes in the wake of SARS outbreak. In 2004/05, BD will follow up with enforcement actions in these buildings, where 1,700 repair orders have been issued. In addition, the department will continue to assist in the clearance of environmental hygiene blackspots.
- (2) \$12 million for employing 48 staff on agreement terms have been provided in 2004/05 to step up enforcement actions against drainage defects in private buildings. Together with the existing staff in BD, a total of 365 professional and technical staff in BD are responsible for implementing these measures, along with their duties to take other enforcement actions under the Buildings Ordinance.

As the implementation of drainage rectification measures forms only part of the duties of BD staff, save for the \$12 million for employing the 48 additional staff, it is not possible to provide a breakdown of the estimated expenditure in BD staff costs devoted to these rectification measures.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Marco WU
Post Title	Director of Buildings
Date	26.3.2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)035

Head : 82 Buildings Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

1215

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

As stated under this Programme, the Buildings Department continued to promote public education and publicity campaign on building safety and maintenance in 2003. In this respect, can the Administration advise this Council:

- (1) the details of this project; and
- (2) the respective number of establishment and the costs involved in this project?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

Last year, the Buildings Department implemented a series of public education activities and publicity events to promote public awareness of building safety and maintenance. To increase public awareness of the importance of drainage maintenance, two types of posters publicising the messages "An Attack Out of the Blue Can Kill" and "Illegal Drainage Connections Pose Health Hazard" were produced and displayed at bus stops and on the body of buses for 13 weeks, at MTRC stations for 26 weeks and KCRC stations for 13 weeks. The posters were also distributed to building management companies. The total advertising cost amounted to \$850,000.

Leaflets entitled "What You Need To Know About Drainage Pipe Maintenance" and "Guidelines on Maintenance and Repair of Drainage System and Sanitary Fitments" were printed and distributed to the public, including building owners. The total printing cost amounted to \$520,000. The pamphlets entitled "What You Need to Know About Drainage Pipe Maintenance" were distributed by post to 1.2 million households in private buildings throughout the territory. The postage cost amounted to \$857,000. Buildings Department staff also distributed the guidelines to building management companies while conducting preliminary drainage pipe inspections.

A publicity campaign promoting the "Proper Maintenance Makes Hygienic Homes" message was launched in November 2003 and a series of roving exhibitions was held at 21 locations throughout the territory from November last year to early January this year. These events involved an amount of \$600,000.

The Buildings Department and the Education and Manpower Bureau jointly organized an Inter-School Stage Performance Competition in late 2003 to promote a better building care culture. Secondary school students were invited to express their understanding of building maintenance through drama, dancing and singing. The competition attracted 22 school entries and six school teams were selected for performance at the competition held on 10 March 2004 at the Kwai Tsing Theatre. The competition involved a cost of \$77,000.

Building management seminars for building owners were also held from time to time.

A Principal Information Officer, underpinned by two Information Assistants, was mainly responsible for the public education campaign and promotion activities. Professionals and general grade staff of the department also provided professional and logistic support from time to time.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Marco WU
Post Title	Director of Buildings
Date	26.3.2004

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)036

Head : 82 Buildings Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

1216

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

As stated under this Programme, the Buildings Department will extend the electronic Building Records Management System to cover all districts in the territory during 2004-05. In this respect, can the Administration advise this Council:

- (1) the details of this project; and
- (2) the respective number of establishment and the costs involved in this project?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

- (1) In 2004-05, we will commission a project to extend the electronic Building Records Management System (BRMS) to cover all districts in the territory. The project will digitize all the building plans and related documents kept by the Buildings Department (BD), and store the electronic images in the BRMS. The BRMS can greatly improve the efficiency of record retrieval and enquiry processes by enabling instant access to building records by members of the public via workstations in BD's Building Information Centre.
- (2) The funding for the project approved by the Finance Committee in July 2003 is \$50.3 million which comprises \$37.8 million for data conversion and \$12.5 million for the purchase of computer hardware and software, implementation services, site preparation and project administration. The digitization of the building records will be outsourced to a service provider. The estimated recurrent expenditure for maintaining and operating the system is \$3.2 million per annum. This expenditure will be absorbed by BD within the existing resources.

The manpower involved in overseeing and administering the project will be one professional staff, supported by seven clerical staff and six to seven IT staff.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Marco WU
Post Title	Director of Buildings
Date	26.3.2004

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)037

Head : 82 Buildings Department

Subhead (No. & title) : 000

Operational
expenses

Question Serial No.

1217

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

Under this Subhead, the estimates in 2004-05 for Departmental Expenses on Hiring of services and professional fees will increase substantially. Can you tell us:

(1) the reasons for the substantial increase in the estimates of this item.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : Compared with the revised estimates 2003-04, there will be an increase of \$49.8 million in 2004-05 for the hire of services and professional fees. The main reasons for the increase are:

- (i) increased outsourcing in the investigation and removal of unauthorized building works (UBW) in progress, large scale clearance of UBW and investigation and monitoring of building repairs, amounting to \$24.2 million;
- (ii) outsourcing part of the enforcement actions to the Housing Authority in respect of backlog removal orders, drainage defects in private buildings and UBW in rear lanes and blackspots, amounting to \$16.3 million; and
- (iii) carrying out consultancy studies on standards of building design and conditions of existing buildings, amounting to \$9.3 million.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Marco WU
Post Title	Director of Buildings
Date	25.3.2004

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)038

Head : 82 Buildings Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

0559

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

There are over 800,000 unauthorized building works in Hong Kong. However, the target set by the Buildings Department to remove unauthorized building works is only around 1,000 a year. Will the Administration set aside more resources in the 2004-05 Estimates to accelerate the removal of unauthorized building works?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

In 2001, it was estimated that there were 800,000 unauthorized building works (UBW) throughout the territory. To tackle the problem Government has implemented, since April 2001, a Comprehensive Strategy for Building Safety and Timely Maintenance (the Strategy). Under the Strategy promulgated in 2001, Buildings Department conducts blitz operations with a view to clearing 150,000 to 300,000 UBW in the next 5 to 7 years. The department has already cleared some 108,000 UBW since the implementation of the Strategy.

The number of buildings targetted for removal of UBW by the Buildings Department (BD) is 1,000 per year. The department will remove 38,000 UBW in 2004.

In 2004-05, an additional provision of \$68.2 million has been made for BD to accelerate the removal of UBW together with other enforcement duties.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Marco WU
Post Title	Director of Buildings
Date	26.3.2004

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)039

Question Serial No.

1087

Head : 82 Buildings Department

Subhead (No. & title) : 700 General non-recurrent

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

Currently, how many consultants have been employed by Buildings Department (including those items listed under "General non-recurrent")? Please list out the expenses involved in each consultancy study and the name of the Consultants employed. Does the Administration have plans to consider furthering the co-operation with tertiary institutes over consultancy studies on Buildings instead of employing private consultants?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

Information about the consultancy studies being carried out by Buildings Department's consultants is provided below:-

Name of Consultant	Description of Consultancy Study	Consultancy fee (\$)
Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Ltd.	Consultancy to review the code of practice for fire safety in buildings and renovation works	9,500,000
Anthony Ng Architects Ltd.	Consultancy to review Building Regulations on lighting and ventilation of buildings	5,983,800
Hyder Consulting Ltd.	Consultancy to review Building Regulations on drainage of buildings	1,488,000
Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Ltd.	Consultancy on the seismic effects on buildings in Hong Kong	4,879,708

Name of Consultant	Description of Consultancy Study	Consultancy fee (\$)
Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Ltd.	Consultancy on a comprehensive environmental performance assessment scheme for buildings	4,182,000
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	2,460,000
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	3,200,000
Samson Wong & Associates Property Consultancy Limited	Consultancy for water seepage and drain leakage investigation	2,417,015

We have been working with tertiary education institutions on some studies, for example, working with the Hong Kong Polytechnic University in preparing the code of practice for structural use of steel, and the Chinese University of Hong Kong (as a sub-consultant to Anthony Ng Architects Ltd.) on the lighting and ventilation study. We will continue to explore opportunities for co-operation with the tertiary education institutions where appropriate.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Marco WU
Post Title	Director of Buildings
Date	26.3.2004

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)040

Head : 82 Buildings Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

1088

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

Regarding the Hire of Services and Professional Fees, the Administration anticipates that the expenses in 2004-05 will be more than \$86 million, much higher than the revised estimates of the same in 2003-04. Why is there such an increase? As for the hire of professional services, what kind of professional services are included? Could these services be provided by the professional staff in the Buildings Department?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

Compared with the revised estimates in 2003-04, there will be an increase of \$49.8 million in 2004-05 for the hire of services and professional fees. The main reasons for the increase are:

- (i) increased outsourcing in the investigation and removal of unauthorized building works (UBW) in progress, large scale clearance of UBW and investigation and monitoring of building repairs, amounting to \$24.2 million;
- (ii) outsourcing part of the enforcement actions to the Housing Authority in respect of backlog removal orders, drainage defects in private buildings and UBW in rear lanes and blackspots, amounting to \$16.3 million; and
- (iii) carrying out consultancy studies on standards of building design and conditions of existing buildings, amounting to \$9.3 million.

The duties imposed on and the powers granted to the Building Authority under the Buildings Ordinance have to be carried out and exercised by officers of Government departments as set out in the Buildings Ordinance and cannot be outsourced.

Amongst the services required in respect of items (i) and (ii) above, the tasks outsourced to private consultants are non-statutory services required before and after the issue of statutory orders. They mainly comprise building inspections, preparation of inspection reports, drafting of statutory orders, preparation of compliance reports and answering enquiries from the owners concerned. For item (iii), specialized professional services are involved in specific areas of the consultancy studies in question.

The tasks under items (i) and (ii) above can be performed by Buildings Department staff. However, outsourcing of these tasks is in line with Government's policy to contain the growth of the civil service. In addition, the tasks involved are time-limited in nature and professionals providing such services are available in the private sector.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Marco WU
Post Title	Director of Buildings
Date	26.3.2004

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)041

Question Serial No.

0718

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 collaboration with the Buildings Department, the District Building Management Liaison Team of the Home Affairs Department has provided assistance in repair works for buildings targeted under the Coordinated Maintenance of Buildings Scheme. What is the current number of buildings requiring repair works under the above Scheme? What are the costs involved? While providing assistance to these building owners, what difficulties do they encounter, as identified by the Government, in carrying out repair works?

Asked by : Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply :

Since the implementation of the Coordinated Maintenance of Buildings Scheme (CMBS) in November 2000, a total of 550 buildings have been covered by the Scheme. The work involved in carrying out CMBS is absorbed by internal redeployment of resources within the Buildings Department. The total cost involved so far is estimated to be \$98 million.

While the scheme has demonstrated how government departments can work together to co-ordinate repair works in private buildings and how a more integrated service can be provided to the public, we have also identified the following difficulties that building owners encountered in carrying out repair works:

- (a) Many building owners have a poor understanding of the importance of proper building maintenance and management;

- (b) In some cases, the building owners have difficulties in reaching agreement and contributing financially to carry out the repair works amongst themselves. In case of financial difficulties, we help the owners apply for loans under the Building Safety Loan Scheme; and
- (c) In general, the building owners need to take some considerable time to organize and complete the works.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	_____ Marco WU
Post Title	_____ Director of Buildings
Date	_____ 26.3.2004

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)042

Question Serial No.

1652

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 :

It is expected that the number of reports from members of the public on unauthorized building works in 2004 will be 30,000. Among these, how many were outstanding cases that have not been attended to last year?

How long will it generally take to attend to these outstanding cases? What will be the longest time taken to attend to these cases?

Asked by : Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply :

In 2003, the Buildings Department (BD) attended to 25,816 reports from members of the public on unauthorized building works. According to our records, there were about 2,500 reports on which necessary follow up actions have not been taken as at end of 2003.

BD aims to attend to all these outstanding cases by end of June 2004.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Marco WU
Post Title	Director of Buildings
Date	26.3.2004

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)043

Question Serial No.

1653

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 :

It is expected that in 2004, the number of prosecutions against failures to comply with removal orders on unauthorized building works is 1,000, which is 46% higher than the actual numbers of last year. The Administration stated that this is a new target set for this year.

Please explain why the Administration sets this new target? Has the Administration conducted any evaluation on whether there is sufficient manpower to cope with the additional workload?

Asked by : Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply :

To ensure a safe and healthy living environment, we have to step up enforcement actions against unauthorized building works including instigating prosecutions against failures to comply with removal orders particularly the long outstanding ones. The performance indicator for such prosecutions has thus been raised to 1,000 cases in 2004 with due consideration given to our objective and the available resources. We will cope with the increased workload through internal re-deployment of resources.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Marco WU
Post Title	Director of Buildings
Date	26.3.2004

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)044

Head : 82 Buildings Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

1654

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

In this financial year, the Buildings Department plans to extend the electronic “Building Records Management System” to cover the whole territory. Could the Administration briefly tell us the content, manpower required and financial impact of the above project?

And, could the Administration tell the public how to use this plan?

Asked by : Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply :

In early 2001, the Buildings Department (BD) started a pilot project for the digitization of building records and setting up a computerized Building Records Management System (BRMS) covering Tsim Sha Tsui, Yau Ma Tei, Mongkok and Wanchai districts. The pilot BRMS has been open to public access in the Building Information Centre of BD since June 2001 offering instant viewing and copying service of building records. Staff in the Centre will provide assistance to the public in using the system where necessary.

With the success of the pilot BRMS, we will commission a project in 2004-05 to extend the BRMS to cover all districts in the territory. The project will digitize all the building plans and related documents kept by BD and store the electronic images in the BRMS for easy retrieval. Upon completion of the project by the end of 2005, the records of existing buildings in the entire territory will be available for instant viewing and copying by the public via workstations in BD's Building Information Centre.

The funding for the project approved by the Finance Committee in July 2003 is \$50.3 million which comprises \$37.8 million for data conversion and \$12.5 million for the purchase of computer hardware and software, implementation services, site preparation and project administration. The digitization of the building records will be outsourced to a service provider. The estimated recurrent expenditure for maintaining and operating the system is \$3.2 million per annum which will be absorbed by BD within the existing resources.

The manpower involved in overseeing and administering the project will be one professional staff, supported by seven clerical staff as well as six to seven IT staff.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Marco WU
Post Title	Director of Buildings
Date	26.3.2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)045

Head : 82 Buildings Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

0168

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

The number of reports received from members of the public on unauthorised building works has increased significantly after the outbreak of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in 2003. In this respect, can the Government advise this Council the number and the ranks of existing staff responsible for attending the reports. As it is expected that the number of reports in 2004 will rise to 30 000, will the Buildings Department increase its manpower to deal with the situation? If yes, what are the respective numbers and ranks? If not, the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Ping-cheung

Reply :

There are a staff of 365 in the Buildings Department who handle reports received from members of the public on unauthorised building works (UBW) as part and parcel of their duties in carrying out enforcement actions, such as removal of UBW, and maintenance and repair to existing buildings under the Buildings Ordinance. Out of this staff of 365, 115 are professional grade officers (building surveyors and structural engineers) and the remaining 250 are technical staff.

In order to enhance our capability in dealing with increased number of reports on UBW, additional resources in the form of 12 Building Safety Officers, 30 Building Safety Assistants and 9 Contract Clerks have been provided at an annual staff cost of \$8.765 million in 2004/05. Part of their duties is the handling of reports on UBW received from members of the public.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Marco WU
Post Title	Director of Buildings
Date	26.3.2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)046

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

Operational
expenses

Question Serial No.

0169

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : The estimate for 2004-2005 under Subhead 000 is \$749,539,000, representing an increase of 12.7% over the estimate for 2003-2004, under which the provision for general departmental expenses increased by \$44,107,000 (25.7%). Please give details regarding the above.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Ping-cheung

Reply :

The increased financial provision of \$44,107,000 in general departmental expenses over the revised estimate for 2003-04 will be used for the following purposes :-

- (a) \$9.1 million for stepping up action on drainage defects in private buildings and unauthorised building works (UBW) clearance in rear lanes and black spots, as part of government's initiative to improve environmental hygiene;
- (b) \$31.3 million for clearing outstanding removal orders;
- (c) \$3.0 million for publicising the proposed minor works control regime and promotion of building safety; and
- (d) \$0.7 million for enhancement of computer systems.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Marco WU
Post Title	Director of Buildings
Date	25.3.2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)047

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

Operational
expenses

Question Serial No.

0613

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : The estimated expenditure of the Buildings Department in 2004-05 is \$803,900,000, which represents a 9.3% increase over the revised estimate of \$735,700,000 for 2003-04. The operational expenses have increased by 12.7% from \$664,980,000 in 2003-04 to \$749,540,000 in 2004-05. The Buildings Department explains in the Estimates that the increase is mainly due to the additional provision for accelerating enforcement action against unauthorized building works, clearing outstanding removal orders and stepping up actions against drainage defects in private buildings and unauthorized building works in rear lanes and blackspots. However, only one non-directorate post will be created in the Buildings Department in 2004-05. Can the Administration advise this Council:

1. how can the Buildings Department step up the above actions, and what are the staffing requirement and expenditure involved;
2. of the respective numbers of staff responsible for taking enforcement actions on unauthorized building works, clearing outstanding removal orders and stepping up actions on drainage defects in private buildings and unauthorized building works in rear lanes and blackspots; and
3. whether the existing manpower is sufficient to cope with the above work. If yes, how does the Buildings Department ensure that the staff concerned will not be overstressed by the work. If no, why does the Buildings Department not provide additional manpower for this?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Fu-wah

Reply :

(1) & (2) The increased financial provision of \$68.2 million (9.3% higher than the revised estimate for 2003-04) will be used for carrying out the following work:-

- (a) \$11.5 million for accelerating enforcement actions on unauthorised building works (UBW);
- (b) \$31.3 million for clearing outstanding removal orders and associated work; and
- (c) \$25.4 million for stepping up actions against drainage defects in private buildings and unauthorised building works in rear lanes and blackspots.

The additional manpower involved in carrying out the three areas of work mentioned above are respectively in the form of:

- (a) outsourced consultants;
- (b) 135 contract staff; and
- (c) 79 contract staff and 38 staff from the Housing Authority.

(3) The additional staff and outsourcing arrangement together with the existing manpower of the Buildings Department are sufficient to cope with the above work.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Marco WU
Post Title	Director of Buildings
Date	25.3.2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)048

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

Operational
expenses

Question Serial No.

1014

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

The Buildings Department's estimate for the coming year is \$803.9 million, which is 9.3% significantly higher than the revised estimate for 2003-04. One of the major increases is under Subhead 000 "Hire of services and professional fees" which is estimated to be \$86.021 million in the coming year. It is about 25 times over the original estimate for 2003-04, and more than doubled the revised estimate for 2003/04.

Please provide details of the relevant services items and compare if this would affect the total estimates of expenditure when the works are undertaken by departmental staff, and how to ensure the standard of the hire services is in the best sense of cost-effectiveness.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, Sophie

Reply:

In the 2003-04 original estimate, \$191.9 million was included under "General departmental expenses" of Subhead 000. As outsourcing to private firms was adopted for the investigation and removal of unauthorized building works (UBW), \$33.9 million was re-grouped to "Hire of services and professional fees" in the 2003-04 revised estimate, amounting the revised estimate for "Hire of services and professional fees" to \$36.2 million. In the event, the 2004-05 estimate figure of \$86.0 million when compared to \$36.2 million would only represent an increase of about 2 times. The increase in expenditure is for:

- (i) increased outsourcing in the investigation and removal of UBW in progress, large scale clearance of UBW and investigation and monitoring of building repairs, amounting to \$24.2 million;
- (ii) outsourcing part of enforcement actions to the Housing Authority in respect of backlog removal orders, drainage defects in private buildings and UBW in rear lanes and blackspots, amounting to \$16.3 million; and
- (iii) carrying out consultancy studies on standards of building design and conditions of existing buildings, amounting to \$9.3 million.

For item (i), the outsourced professional work includes building inspections, drafting of removal and repair orders and follow-up actions on the orders issued. For item (ii), the services include both the above professional work and enforcement duties which can only be performed by departments specified under the Buildings Ordinance. For item (iii), the consultancy studies in question call for professional services in specialized areas.

The total departmental expenditure would be higher if the above outsourced tasks are to be carried out by departmental staff. The cost of hiring private services is generally lower than that of using civil servants because of higher staff cost in the latter case. In addition, the tasks involved are time-limited in nature and professionals providing such services are available in the private sector.

All necessary requirements and standards relating to the delivery of services are laid down in the contract brief. The performance of consultants and contractors is closely monitored and appraised. The Environment, Transport and Works Bureau Technical Circulars entitled “Reporting and Management of Consultants' Performance”, “Preparation of Technical Proposals and Marking Scheme”, and “Contractor Performance Index System” set out details and procedures on selection, monitoring and appraisal of consultants and contractors. BD has also set up a performance management system to assess the performance of the consultants and contractors. Where performance is found to be continuously poor, we will suspend or terminate the contract under the General Conditions of Employment.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Marco WU
Post Title	Director of Buildings
Date	25.3.2004

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

HPLB(PL)049

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

1015

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

The actual number of plans received and processed in the whole year of 2003 was 10,824, while the number of new building proposals approved in the same year was only 198. This shows that there were many cases where “the plans had to be submitted” for several times before approval was obtained. In accordance with the information provided, it takes 30 days to process a “re-submission”, which means that, the more the number of times “the plans had to be submitted”, the longer will be the delay in the construction.

Please advise how are the 10,824 applications related to the number of properties, and give a numerical distribution analysis of each property in terms of the total number of times “the plans had to be submitted” (i.e. till approval is successfully obtained), and each time the average number of staff and expenses involved in processing “new submissions” and “re-submissions”. Would the Administration consider reducing the number of times of “re-submissions” and the expenses involved so as to enhance cost-effectiveness. If yes, what is the proposal; and if not, the reasons.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, Sophie

Reply :

The 10,824 plans received and processed in 2003 include first submissions and resubmissions of general building plans, demolition plans, site formation plans, foundation plans, structural plans and drainage plans of new building proposals; and plans for alterations and additions of existing buildings. These plans are related to 1,881 sites. The building plan proposals comprise various types of building works and we do not keep a breakdown of the number of properties related to these proposals.

The following table summarizes the number of submissions made for the 198 approved new building projects:

No. of submissions <u>made before first approval</u>	No. of cases
1	124
2	38
3	22
<u>4 or more</u>	<u>14</u>
Total	198

We do not have up-to-date statistical information on the manpower and expenditure for the processing of a single new submission plan or a single resubmission plan.

Buildings Department has introduced a number of improvement measures since August 2002 to expedite and streamline the plan processing process. Such measures include the provision of enquiry service, curtailing the checking of plans, verification of floor area calculations by computer and waiving the requirement of prior approval and consent for minor amendments made to approved plans. We have also introduced the Buildings (Amendment) Bill 2003 into LegCo in April 2003. The Bill seeks to, inter alia, allow certification of minor works by qualified persons, thus dispensing with the requirements for obtaining Buildings Department's approval and consent prior to commencement of such minor works. The department will keep the processing system under constant review and will introduce additional improvement measures as and when such measures are identified.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Marco WU
Post Title	Director of Buildings
Date	26.3.2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)050

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

Question Serial No.

1304

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

- (a) The estimate for the Hire of Services and Professional Fees under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* in 2004-05 is \$86.021 million, much higher than the revised estimate of \$36.174 million for last year. Please state the reasons why.
- (b) The estimate for the General Departmental Expenses under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* in 2004-05 is \$215.513 million, a 25% increase over the revised estimate of \$171.406 million for last year. Please state the reasons why.

Asked by : Hon. LI Ka-cheung, Eric

Reply :

- (a) Compared with the revised estimate in 2003-04, there will be an increase of \$49.8 million in 2004-05 on the hire of services and professional fees. The main reasons for the increase are:
 - (i) increased outsourcing in the investigation and removal of unauthorized building works (UBW) in progress, large scale clearance of UBW and investigation and monitoring of building repairs, amounting to \$24.2 million;
 - (ii) outsourcing part of the enforcement actions to the Housing Authority in respect of backlog removal orders, drainage defects in private buildings and UBW in rear lanes and blackspots, amounting to \$16.3 million; and
 - (iii) carrying out consultancy studies on standards of building design and conditions of existing buildings, amounting to \$9.3 million.

(b) The increase of \$44.1 million in the estimated financial provision in 2004-05 (i.e. \$215.5 million less \$171.4 million) for general departmental expenses over the revised estimate in 2003-04 will be used for the following purposes :-

- (i) \$9.1 million for stepping up action on drainage defects in private buildings and unauthorised building works (UBW) clearance in rear lanes and blackspots, as part of government's initiative to improve environmental hygiene;
- (ii) \$31.3 million for clearing outstanding removal orders;
- (iii) \$3.0 million for promotion of building safety and publicising the proposed minor works control regime; and
- (iv) \$0.7 million for enhancement of computer systems.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Marco WU
Post Title	Director of Buildings
Date	26.3.2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)051

Head : 82 Buildings Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

1451

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

Regarding the removal of unauthorised building works (UBW) of existing buildings, the number of structures removed was increased from 37 920 to 49 550 in 2003. However, as for “the buildings targeted for clearance of unauthorised building works”, the data are as follows:

<u>2002 (Actual)</u>	<u>2003 (Actual)</u>	<u>2004(Plan)</u>
1759	1007	1000

- (a) Why is there a drastic decrease in the number of target buildings in 2004 compared with that in 2002? Is it related to the reduction in the establishment (from 953 in 2002 to the 891 in 2004's Estimate)?
- (b) Why is there an increase in the number of the UBW removed even though the number of target buildings was reduced in 2002-03?
- (c) What is the target number of UBW in existing buildings to be removed in 2004? How will the Administration achieve the above target if the establishment is reduced?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

- (a) In 2004, we have to deploy our resources to follow up the removal orders issued to owners of buildings targetted for clearance of UBW in 2002 and 2003. Therefore we can only target 1,000 buildings for the operations in 2004.
- (b) The number of buildings targetted for clearance operations may not have a direct relationship with the number of UBW removed in the same year as there is normally a certain time gap between the date of issue of removal orders and the date of removal of the UBW concerned. The Buildings Department targetted a large number of buildings for clearance operations in 2002 (1,759 buildings). This has resulted in a large number of UBW removed in 2003 (49,556 UBW).

- (c) It is estimated that the number of UBW removed in 2004 will be about 38,000. Buildings Department will achieve the target through outsourcing and the employment of contract staff.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	_____ Marco WU
Post Title	_____ Director of Buildings
Date	_____ 26.3.2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HPBL(PL)052

Question Serial No.

0005

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 :

Provision for 2004-05 is 9.3% higher than the revised estimate for 2003-04. The Administration asserts that this is mainly due to the additional provision for accelerating enforcement action on unauthorised building works, clearing outstanding removal orders and stepping up action on drainage defects in private buildings and unauthorised building works in rear lanes and blackspots. What are the financial provisions on the above works respectively?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

The increased financial provision of \$68.2million (9.3% higher than the revised estimate for 2003-04) will be used for the following work :-

- (d) \$11.5million for accelerating enforcement action on unauthorised building works (UBW);
- (e) \$31.3million for clearing outstanding removal orders; and
- (f) \$25.4million for stepping up action on drainage defects in private buildings and unauthorised building works in rear lanes and blackspots.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Marco WU
Post Title	Director of Buildings
Date	25.3.2004

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HPBL(PL)053

Question Serial No.

0685

Head : 82 Buildings Department Subhead (No. & title) : 700 – General non-recurrent

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

There are 12 items under Subhead 700 (item code : 003, 007, 011, 012, 013, 014, 015, 016, 019, 020, 021 and 022).

Please provide information on their respective :

- (a) content;
- (b) estimated completion date;
- (c) current progress;
- (d) mission; and
- (e) whether the Department has planned to outsource the items to the private sector. If it did, what is the name of the respective companies?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

The information about the 12 items under subhead 700 is provided below:

Item
Description / Content
Mission
Estimated completion date
Current Progress (planning/ in progress/ nearing completion completed)
Outsourcing situation
(in-house / planned to outsource / outsourced)
Outsourced
Consultant /
Contractor
(where appropriate)
003
Contracting out microfilming of building records

Microfilming of approved plans, structural calculation sheets and related documents of buildings built in 1970-1990.

End 2005
In progress
Partially outsourced
Sing Tao Limited

007

Translation and production of codes of practice and design manuals in Chinese
Translation of all codes of practice and design manual published by the Buildings Department into Chinese

End 2005
In progress
Partially outsourced
Huazhong University of Science and Technology/
Greg Wong & Associates Ltd.

011

Consultancy to compile a full list of existing private buildings in Hong Kong
The scope originally proposed for the consultancy includes the production of a computer database of all existing private buildings comprising their addresses, lot numbers, building names, dates of occupation permit, building types, number of storeys etc. Since mid-2002, the Buildings Department has developed and put into use a computer system, the Buildings Condition Information System, to facilitate control of existing private buildings. To avoid duplication, Buildings Department is revising the coverage of the proposed study.

To be determined
Being
planned
To be outsourced
Not yet known

012

Consultancy to review the code of practice for fire safety in buildings and for renovation works
To carry out a detailed study on fire safety standards in buildings, and the use of fire engineering approach in the design of buildings. To produce the relevant codes of practice and handbooks for use by building professionals in Hong Kong .
Mid 2005
In progress
Outsourced
Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Ltd.

013

Consultancy to review Building Regulations on lighting and ventilation of buildings
To review the standards of lighting and ventilation for buildings, and to establish a new set of standards which would adequately protect the health of occupants and ensure satisfactory quality of the indoor environment for residential buildings in Hong Kong

Early 2005
In progress
Outsourced

014

In-situ tests on cantilevered slab canopies

To examine the structural integrity and to assess the structural stability of cantilevered slab canopies in buildings.

Early 2006

In progress

Outsourced

Quality Control Consultants Ltd.

015

Consultancy to review Building Regulations on drainage of buildings

To identify any deficiencies or areas for improvement in the existing legislation, and to establish a new set of standards on the design, construction and maintenance of sanitary fittings, plumbing and drainage provisions for buildings.

Early 2005

In progress

Outsourced

Hyder Consulting Ltd.

016

Consultancy for water seepage and drain leakage investigation

To carry out research on all technical matters relating to water seepage investigation in order to explore effective non-destructive tests for identifying the cause and source of water seepage in buildings.

Mid 2004

Nearing Completion

Outsourced

Samson Wong & Associates Property Consultancy Limited

019

Consultancy on the seismic effects on buildings in Hong Kong

To assess seismic effect on Hong Kong buildings and to consider the need for seismic design requirements for buildings in Hong Kong.

End 2004

In progress

Outsourced

Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Ltd.

020

Consultancy on a comprehensive environmental performance assessment scheme for buildings

To compile a user-friendly, comprehensive environmental performance assessment scheme (CEPAS) for buildings in Hong Kong.

End 2004

In progress
Outsourced
Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Ltd.

021

Consultancy to draft a design manual on barrier free access and facilities for persons with a disability and the elderly

To review the Buildings Ordinance and its subsidiary regulations and the design manual on the design requirements for provision of access and facilities for persons with a disability as well as for the elderly.

End 2004

In progress
Outsourced
Samson Wong & Associates Property Consultancy Limited

022

Consultancy to draft a limit-state code for structural use of steel in Hong Kong

To prepare a code of practice to cope with the advent in design, analysis and fabrication technologies of steel construction to achieve safe and cost-effective use of steel in structural design.

Mid 2004

In progress
Outsourced
Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Ltd/ PolyU Technology & Consultancy Co. Ltd.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Marco WU

Director of Buildings

26.3.2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)054

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

Question Serial No.

Programme (No. & title) : Buildings and Building Works

0686

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

- (a) The Department pledges to step up enforcement action against unauthorized building works. It is expected the number of prosecutions against failure to comply with removal orders will increase from 684 in 2003 to 1,000 in 2004, and further to 2,000 in 2005. How will the Department ensure that adequate fiscal and human resources will be deployed to enforce compliance of outstanding removal orders as well as to tackle the extra workload arising from more prosecutions?
- (b) 2,676 repair orders were issued on dilapidated buildings in 2003, and, according to the Department's estimation, 800 will be issued in 2004. What is the number of outstanding repair orders in 2003? How many are estimated in 2004? How will the Department ensure that adequate fiscal and human resources are deployed to enforce compliance of outstanding repair orders?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

- (a) In 2004-05, we have secured an additional provision of \$31.3 million for employing 135 additional staff on agreement terms in clearing backlog removal orders and associated works. Apart from this, we will engage additional staff through internal redeployment to assist in initiating 1,000 prosecutions in 2004 against owners who fail to comply with removal orders.

- (b) The majority of the repair orders issued in 2003 are drainage repair orders arising mainly from the territory-wide inspection of private buildings carried out to detect defective drainage pipes in the wake of the SARS outbreak. Of the 2,676 repair orders issued in 2003, 2,100 have not been complied with up to mid-March 2004. It is difficult to estimate the number of outstanding orders in 2004, but we will ensure owners' compliance and enforce outstanding orders through prosecution actions or employing the Buildings Department's term contractor to carry out the works and recover the cost from the owners afterwards.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Marco WU
Post Title	Director of Buildings
Date	25.3.2004

[HOME](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)055

Head : 82 Buildings Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

1643

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

During 2004-05, what is the estimated expenditure for the removal of unauthorised building works and rooftop structures as well as the removal or repair of advertisement signboards? As compared with the expenditure last year, what are the differences?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

Since 2001, the Buildings Department has been accelerating the removal of unauthorized building works (UBW), illegal rooftop structures (IRSs) and unauthorized signboards as part of the "Comprehensive Strategy for Building Safety and Timely Maintenance". The resources provided in 2003-04 and 2004-05 for the following items of work are:

Items of Work	2003-04	2004-05
1. Removal of UBW	\$129.0 million	\$158.0 million
2. Removal of IRSs	\$25.3 million	\$25.3 million
3. Removal of signboards	\$15.3 million	\$15.3 million

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Marco WU

Director of Buildings

26.3.2004

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)056

Head : 82 Buildings Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

1644

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

As the Buildings Department assists the Home Affairs Department in the clearance of additional environmental hygiene blackspots, what is the target of such work during 2004-05? What is the estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply:

In 2004-05, the Buildings Department (BD) will continue to collaborate with relevant departments, including the Home Affairs Department, to tackle the environmental hygiene problems in the six pilot projects and Phases I and II of the blackspots clearance operations targeting 75 and 90 hygiene blackspots respectively. Follow-up actions will be taken on some 350 outstanding statutory orders issued to remove unauthorized building works or rectify defective drainage in the pilot projects and clearance operations.

In 2004-05, BD will be provided with additional resource of about \$15.2 million to employ contract staff to assist the 365 existing staff in BD and the 38 staff from the Housing Authority (HA) in completing the above tasks. As the existing staff in BD and the staff from the HA are responsible for other enforcement actions in addition to the clearance of environmental hygiene blackspots, there is no breakdown on the departmental staff resources deployed for the clearance operations in these blackspots.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Marco WU
Post Title	Director of Buildings
Date	26.3.2004

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)057

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

Operational
expenses

Question Serial No.

1479

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

Buildings Department's provisions for 2004-05 is \$68.2 million (9.3%) higher than the revised estimate for 2003-04. Please list out the details. Would the Administration consider employing consultancies or outside organizations to assist? If yes, what is the amount of expenses involved?

Asked by : Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply :

The increased financial provision of \$68.2 million (9.3% higher than the revised estimate for 2003-04) will be used for the following work -

- (a) \$11.5 million for accelerating enforcement action on unauthorised building works and building repair;
- (b) \$31.3 million for clearing outstanding removal orders;
- (c) \$25.4 million for stepping up action on drainage defects in private buildings and unauthorised building works in rear lanes and blackspots.

Item (a) and part of the work in items (b) and (c) above will be outsourced. Out of the increased financial provision of \$68.2 million, the provisions for outsourcing amount to \$27.8 million, of which \$11.5 million will be outsourced to private firms and the remaining \$16.3 million outsourced to the Housing Authority.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Marco WU
Post Title	Director of Buildings
Date	26.3.2004

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)058

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

Operational
expenses

Question Serial No.

1523

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

How much resources will be allocated in 2004-05 for the removal of unauthorized building works, promotion of building safety and removal of rooftop structures?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

Since 2001, the Buildings Department has been accelerating the removal of unauthorized building works (UBW) and illegal rooftop structures (IRSs), and raising community awareness of owners' responsibility for building maintenance and management as part of the "Comprehensive Strategy for Building Safety and Timely Maintenance". The resources provided in 2004-05 for the following items of work are:

Items of Work	2004-05
1. Removal of UBW	\$158.0 million
2. Removal of IRSs	\$25.3 million
3. Promotion of building safety	\$15.1 million

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Marco WU
Post Title	Director of Buildings
Date	26.3.2004

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)059

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

Operational
expenses

Question Serial No.

1681

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

As regards the "Hire of Services and Professional Fees" of Departmental Expenses, the estimated expenditure during 2004-05 is about \$49 million higher than the revised estimate during 2003-04. Can the Administration state the reasons why? Where will such fees be spent on?

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : Compared with the revised estimates 2003-04, there will be an increase of \$49.8 million in 2004-05 for the hire of services and professional fees. The main reasons for the increase are:

- (i) increased outsourcing in the investigation and removal of unauthorized building works (UBW) in progress, large scale clearance of UBW and investigation and monitoring of building repairs, amounting to \$24.2 million;
- (ii) outsourcing part of the enforcement actions to the Housing Authority in respect of backlog removal orders, drainage defects in private buildings and UBW in rear lanes and blackspots, amounting to \$16.3 million; and
- (iii) carrying out consultancy studies on standards of building design and conditions of existing buildings, amounting to \$9.3 million.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Marco WU

Director of Buildings

25.3.2004

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)060

Question Serial No.

0820

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 the 2004-05 Estimates, there are obvious decreases in “area of land formed”, “value of land formation projects under planning and design” and “expenditure on construction for land production”. Will such decreases result in surplus staff? If yes, will the department redeploy the surplus staff resources to support the work of other offices, such as slope safety?

Asked by: Hon. TANG Siu-tong

Reply: The decreases in “area of land formed”, “value of land formation projects under planning and design” and “expenditure on construction for land production” in the 2004-05 Estimates are mainly due to the completion of some construction contracts. In addition, a number of projects under planning are under review. Though the reduction of workload is not proportional to these decreases, Civil Engineering Department will nevertheless implement staff rationalisation plans. We are now planning to merge with the Territory Development Department. Upon approval, appropriate human resources deployment will be implemented.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ T K TSAO

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering

Date _____ 22 March 2004

[HOME](#)

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)061

Question Serial No.

1527

Head: 43 Civil Engineering Department Subhead (No. & title):Programme: (3) Site Formation and ReclamationControlling Officer: Director of Civil EngineeringDirector of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and LandsQuestion: Please provide information about the locations, land uses and estimated expenditure for the 7.9 hectares of land to be formed in 2004-05.Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kanReply: The information requested is as follows :

Location (Nature of works)	Land use	Estimated Expenditure in 2004-05 ⁽¹⁾ (\$ m)	Area of land formed ⁽²⁾ (hectare)
Tseung Kwan O Area 137 (Reclamation)	Deep waterfront industries and potentially hazardous installations development	29	4.3
Ma Liu Shui (Reclamation)	Construction of Ma Liu Shui Interchange	19	2.0
Choi Wan Road and Jordan Valley (Site Formation)	Construction of freshwater and salt-water reservoirs for future housing development	277	1.6
		Total	7.9

Notes (1) Expenditure for the project in 2004-05

(2) Land formed in 2004-05

Signature _____

Name in block letters T K TSAO

Post Title Director of Civil Engineering

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)062

Question Serial No.

1059

Head : 42 Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Mechanical engineering installations safety

Controlling Officer : Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Under Programme (2), the financial provision for mechanical engineering installations safety in 2004-05 will be reduced by 6.1%. Will the reduction in provision affect the monitoring of the construction and safe operation of escalators?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply : Notwithstanding that the financial provision for mechanical engineering installations safety will be reduced, it is anticipated that with streamlined procedures and more application of technology, such as personal digital assistants and computer systems for inspection and administrative work, the lift and escalator regulatory work will not be significantly affected.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Roger S. H. LAI

Post Title _____ Director of Electrical and
Mechanical Services

Date _____ 24 March 2004

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)063

Question Serial No.

0811

Head : 42 Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Mechanical engineering installations safety

Controlling Officer : Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : EMSD will implement the recommendations of the study on practical measures to enhance the existing practice of the vehicle maintenance industry in 2004-05. What are the details ?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-yee, Miriam

Reply : EMSD has been studying the formulation and administration of a registration scheme for local vehicle maintenance trade, with a view to enhancing the service standards of the trade. The study recommended that a registration scheme for vehicle mechanics be introduced and a code of practice be developed for vehicle maintenance workshops. The initial framework of the registration scheme, such as registration classifications and criteria, was drawn up and the LegCo Panel for Transport and the Transport Advisory Committee were consulted in January and February 2004 respectively. In 2004-05, EMSD will consult the trade, with the aim of working out the details of the scheme.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Roger S. H. LAI
Director of Electrical and
Post Title Mechanical Services

Date 24 March 2004

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

HPLB(PL)064

1158

Head : 42 Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Mechanical engineering installations safety

Controlling Officer : Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Since 2002, there is a downward trend in the number of inspections of lifts and escalators conducted by EMSD each year. According to the plan of EMSD, the numbers of inspections of lifts and escalators (other than aged lifts) and aged lifts in 2004 will drop to 3,800 and 1,200 respectively.

- (a) What is the reason for the continual decrease in the number of inspections in recent years? Is it related to inadequate manpower of EMSD?
- (b) At present, how many staff in the department are responsible for the inspection of lifts and escalators? Is there any change in the number of these staff in the past three years?
- (c) On average, how many lifts and escalators are to be inspected every day or every week by each staff? What is the average working hours per day of each staff?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Fu-wah

- Reply :
- (a) The total number of lifts and escalators inspected in 2002 and 2003 are 5340 and 5291 respectively. The difference, which is less than 1%, is mainly due to the fluctuation of workload. For 2004, despite a decrease in inspections due to re-organisation of work to achieve better resource utilization, the total number of inspections is still maintained at 5000. With streamlined procedures and better utilization of resources, it is anticipated that the impact on the regulatory service of lifts and escalators would not be significant.
 - (b) The number of staff members in EMSD designated to inspect lifts and escalators was increased from 7 in 2001 to 9 in 2002 and remained the same up to the present.
 - (c) Based on the actual figures for 2003, the average number of lifts and escalators inspected was 11.3 per inspector per week. The normal working hours of an inspector is 44 hours per week.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Roger S. H. LAI

Post Title Director of Electrical and
Mechanical Services

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

HPLB(PL)065

0950

Head : 42 Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Mechanical engineering installations safety

Controlling Officer : Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : The indicator “no. of incident / 100 registered escalators” under the key performance measures of Programme (2) is expected to increase from 10.2 in 2003 to 10.5 in 2004, while the number of inspections of lifts and escalators will decrease from 4085 in 2003 to 3800 in 2004. What are the reasons for that?

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply : The slight increase of 0.3 in the incident indicator was estimated in a prudent manner based on the past year's incident record, which indicated more escalator incidents involving tourists and new immigrants due to carelessness, and the likely continuous trend of a large number of tourists visiting Hong Kong.

The inspections of lifts and escalators are conducted in order to monitor the performance of the registered lift/escalator engineers and contractors. Under this arrangement, the inspection of all new lifts and escalators and random inspection of existing lifts and escalators will continue in 2004-05. Whilst there is a small reduction in the number of random inspections of existing lifts and escalators in 2004-05 due to the re-organisation of work to achieve better resource utilization, it is not expected that this reduction will have any significant effect on the performance of the said engineers and contractors. Moreover, with continued publicity and public education on the safe use of lifts and escalators, the overall impact on the safety of lifts and escalators should not be significant.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Roger S. H. LAI

Post Title _____ Director of Electrical and
Mechanical Services

Date _____ 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.
HPLB(PL)066
Question Serial No.
1672

Head: 91 Lands Department

Subhead(No. & title): 700 General non-recurrent

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question: When compared with the revised estimated expenditure for 2003-04, the 2004-05 estimate marks a nearly fourfold increase in General non-recurrent expenses. Please explain why and give a breakdown for each item and the estimated expenses involved.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Kam-lam

Reply:

The increase of \$7.748 million in expenditure is mainly due to the hiring of contractors for grass cutting on more vacant government land and contracting-out of Systematic Identification of Maintenance Responsibility of Slopes in the Territory (SIMAR) studies to identify the parties responsible for maintenance of registered man-made slopes. A breakdown of the expenditure is as follows:

	(a) 2003-04 Revised Estimated <u>Expenditure</u> \$Million	(b) 2004-05 Estimated <u>Expenditure</u> \$Million	(b)-(a) <u>Difference</u> \$Million
Site investigation for the former Explosive Magazine site at Justice Drive	0.652	-	(0.652)
Hiring of contractors for grass cutting on vacant government land	2.000	5.500	3.500
Contracting-out of SIMAR studies to identify the parties responsible for maintenance of registered man-made slopes	-	4.900	4.900
Total	<u>2.652</u>	<u>10.400</u>	<u>7.748</u>

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

PATRICK L C LAU

Director of Lands

26 March 2004

[HOME](#)

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)067

Question Serial No.

0069

Head: 91 Lands DepartmentSubhead(No. & title): 000 Operational expensesProgramme: -Controlling Officer: Director of LandsDirector of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question: Regarding the 312 non-directorate posts to be deleted in 2004-05 by Lands Department, please provide detailed information on their categories and salaries, as well as how the staff of the deleted posts will be redeployed to other posts or departments.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-hanReply:

Details of the net deletion of 312 non-directorate posts in 2004-05 are as follow:

	No.	Salary Range \$	Remark
<i>(a) Deletion of 151 posts under the Second Voluntary Retirement Scheme by 24.1.2005</i>			Posts to be deleted by 24.1.2005 upon the retirement of the concerned officers.
Departmental Grades			
Estate Surveyor (2 ranks)	6	31,310 - 85,765	
Land Surveyor (2 ranks)	2	31,310 - 85,765	
Land Conveyancing Officer (2 ranks)	5	36,060 - 71,845	
Land Executive (3 ranks)	22	13,908 - 71,845	
Land Inspector (2 ranks)	14	9,515 - 27,408	
Survey Officer (Land) (3 ranks)	13	12,250 - 53,533	
Survey Officer (Estate) (2 ranks)	4	12,250 - 37,773	
Technical Officer (Carto) (1 rank)	17	28,700 - 37,773	
Technical Officer (Repro) (1 rank)	1	28,700 - 37,773	
Photoprinter (1 rank)	1	13,110 - 15,713	
General and Common Grades			
Clerical Officer (3 ranks)	35	8,928 - 34,445	
Clerical Assistant (1 rank)	5	7,900 - 14,800	
Personal Secretary (1 rank)	5	9,515 - 19,533	
Calligraphist (1 rank)	1	8,928 - 19,533	
Supplies Assistant (1 rank)	1	7,900 - 14,800	
Chainman (1 rank)	18	10,810 - 13,110	
Workman II (1 rank)	1	8,380 - 9,938	
(a) Sub-total	151		

	No.	Salary Range \$	Remark
<i>(b) Lapse of 137 project-specific time-limited posts in the Task Force (Black Spots) Team and the Railway Development Section on 1.4.2004</i>			
Departmental Grades			
Estate Surveyor (2 ranks)	7	31,310 - 85,765	6 officers internally redeployed to fill vacancies caused by natural wastage and 1 left upon expiry of agreement.
Land Executive (4 ranks)	44	13,908 - 85,765	27 officers internally redeployed to fill vacancies caused by natural wastage and 17 departures upon expiry of agreement.
Land Inspector (2 ranks)	39	9,515 - 27,408	17 officers internally redeployed to fill vacancies caused by natural wastage and 22 departures upon expiry of agreement.
Technical Officer (Carto) (2 ranks)	9	12,250 - 37,773	Redeployed internally to fill vacancies caused by natural wastage.
Seconded from other departments			
Solicitor (2 ranks)	2	34,320 - 85,765	Redeployed internally to fill vacancies caused by natural wastage.
Town Planner (2 ranks)	3	32,783 - 85,765	For redeployment by their Heads of Grade.
Landscape Architect (2 ranks)	3	31,310 - 85,765	
Engineer (1 rank)	1	34,320 - 71,845	
Inspector of Works (1 rank)	1	30,053 - 45,375	
Field Officer (2 ranks)	2	27,408 - 45,375	
Survey Officer (Planning) (1 rank)	2	12,250 - 27,408	
Technical Officer (Arch) (1 rank)	2	12,250 - 27,408	
Executive Officer (2 ranks)	2	16,633 - 45,375	Redeployed internally to fill other vacancies.
Clerical Officer (2 ranks)	7	8,928 - 26,168	
Clerical Assistant (1 rank)	5	7,900 - 14,800	
Office Assistant (1 rank)	1	7,900 - 11,543	
Personal Secretary (2 ranks)	3	9,515 - 26,168	
Motor Driver (1 rank)	4	10,810 - 13,110	
(b) Sub-total	137		
<i>(c) Deletion of 28 project-specific posts originally budgeted for the New Town Development Areas (NDA) Projects on 1.4.2004</i>			These posts, not filled previously, will be deleted on 1.4.2004 due to postponement of the NDA Projects.
Departmental Grades			
Estate Surveyor (2 ranks)	4	31,310 - 85,765	
Land Executive (4 ranks)	15	13,908 - 85,765	

	No.	Salary Range \$	Remark
Survey Officer (Estate) (2 ranks)	3	12,250 - 37,773	
Land Conveyancing Officer (2 ranks)	2	11,495 - 45,375	
Seconded from other department			
Solicitor (1 rank)	1	34,320 - 71,845	
General Grades			
Accounting Officer (1 rank)	1	36,060 - 45,375	
Executive Officer (1 rank)	1	16,633 - 34,445	
Supplies Assistant (1 rank)	1	7,900 - 14,800	
(c) Sub-total	28		
(d) Creation of 4 posts for setting up the Information Technology Management Unit on 1.4.2004			
HPLB(PL)/e2 Seconded from other department			
Analyst/Programmer (2 ranks)	4	36,060 - 71,845	
Net Deletion : (a) + (b)+ (c) - (d)	312		

Signature _____

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)068

Question Serial No.

0070

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: Lands Department's expenditure in respect of hire of services and professional fees in 2004-05 will be higher than that of last financial year, what are the reasons and details?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

The increase in expenditure on hire of services and professional fees in 2004-05 is mainly due to the professional consultancy services required for :

- (a) the land valuation work involved in the essential public infrastructure works for Ma On Shan to Tai Wai Rail Link, East Rail Extension to Tsim Sha Tsui and Sheung Shui to Lok Ma Chau Spur Line;
- (b) system architecture design for the consolidation of the different Geo-spatial Information Databases of the Survey and Mapping Office (SMO) into the Enterprise Geo-spatial Database for streamlining the processes of plan production, database updating and information dissemination; and
- (c) enhancement of SMO's Customer Profile and Sales Database System for improvement of customer services.

Signature _____

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 26 March 2004

[HOME](#)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.
HPLB(PL)069
Question Serial No.
0071

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: Please tabulate the number, posts and expenditure involved of non-civil service contract staff employed by Lands Department in 2003-04 and 2004-05 respectively, as well as the number and posts of non-civil service contract staff whose contracts will be renewed in 2004-05 by Lands Department.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

The information on the employment of Non-Civil Service Contract (NCSC) staff in Lands Department is as follows:-

NCSC staff	No. of employment in 2003-04	No. of contracts to be renewed in 2004-05	No. of employment approved for 2004-05 (Inclusive of Renewals)
Project Surveyor and Estate Manager	4	4	4
Project Officer and Estate Assistant	8	5	5
Rent Concession Assistant, Executive Assistant (Land) and Documentation Assistant	15	10	10
Contract Geotechnical Engineer	5	5	5
Slope Maintenance Supervisor and Work Supervisory Assistant	17	16	16
Landscape Assistant	1	0	0
Project Surveyor (Land) and Contract Land Surveyor	1	0	1
Contract Assist Land Surveyor and Contract Assistant Project Surveyor (Land)	4	2	4
Contract Survey Officer	2	1	6
Contract Technical Officer and Draftsman	21	21	22
Contract Assistant Cartographer	0	0	2

NCSC staff	No. of employment in 2003-04	No. of contracts to be renewed in 2004-05	No. of employment approved for 2004-05 (Inclusive of Renewals)
Administrative Assistant, Executive Assistant and Senior Executive Assistant	4	2	3
Contract Chinese Language Officer and Translator	2	0	0
Personal Services Assistant	1	1	1
General Clerk and General Assistant	56	18	47
Contract Solicitor	2	0	0
Total	143 [*]	85	126 [#]
Expenditure involved	\$ 22.88 million	\$19.27 million	\$22.29 million

* Among the 143 employments for 2003-04, 85 contracts will be renewed in 2004-05, 31 are under consideration and 27 will not be renewed on completion of the tasks concerned.

Among the 126 employments approved for 2004-05, 85 are renewed contracts, 31 are existing contracts which will expire in 2004-05 (and their renewal is under consideration) and 10 are new employments. The new employments arise from implementation of some new one-off projects which require different skills and hence new NCSC staff.

Signature _____

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 26 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)070

Question Serial No.

0074

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: Please list out the land resumption projects to be conducted in 2004-05 by Lands Department and the details of the expenditure and manpower to be involved.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

Based on the current programme, Lands Department will handle 50 new and 156 on-going resumption projects in 2004-05. The total estimated expenditure in 2004-05 is \$2,096 million. The major projects will include Penny's Bay Reclamation (\$1,061 million), Deep Bay Link (\$93 million), East Rail Extension – Essential public infrastructure works for Hung Hom to Tsim Sha Tsui extension (\$76 million), Rural Drainage Rehabilitation Scheme – drainage rehabilitation works at Ping Yuen River (\$45 million), Yuen Long south western extension (\$35 million), Main drainage channels for Yuen Long and Kam Tin – Tin Tsuen channel – Ancillary road works (\$32 million), Yuen Long bypass floodway (\$30 million), Construction of roads and drains to serve the housing development in Area 56, Tuen Mun (\$26 million), Sai Sha Road widening between Kam Ying Road and future Trunk Road T7 junction (\$26 million), Castle Peak Road improvement between Area 2 and Sham Tseng, Tsuen Wan (\$25 million), Remaining engineering infrastructure works for Pak Shek Kok development (\$10 million), etc.

As regards the manpower involved, these major projects are carried out throughout the territory and involve input of different offices at the Headquarters and district level. The staff involved come from a wide variety of grades and they provide relevant input as part of their normal duties. These staff include different grades such as the Land Executive, Land Inspector, Estate Surveyor, Survey Officer, Land Surveyor, Solicitor and other support staff. As their jobs portfolios encompass not only land resumption work, it is not feasible to provide details of the exact manpower involved.

Signature _____

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 26 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)071

Question Serial No.

0019

Head: 91 Lands Department

Subhead(No. & title): -

Programme: (2) Survey and Mapping

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question: Under this programme, the Lands Department will continue to develop and implement the Office Automation System to improve information dissemination and internal communication during 2004-05. Would the Administration please advise:

- (1) The details of this item; and
- (2) The expenditure involved in the implementation of this item?

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

(1) Details of the Office Automation System

The Office Automation System (OAS) is a computer network for connecting all offices and sections of the Survey and Mapping Office (SMO) situated in 16 locations in Hong Kong. The planning and design work of the OAS commenced in May 2003. It is anticipated that the project will be completed in June 2004. The OAS will also link up with similar systems in other offices of Lands Department. Through this system, the 600 end users of SMO will be able to communicate and exchange information efficiently amongst themselves and with other staff in the Department. Staff, at senior technician rank and above, can also gain access to the internet and communicate with parties outside the Department by email.

(2) The expenditure

The expenditure involved in the implementation of this item is \$8.044 million, details as follows:

	<u>\$ Million</u>
(a) System planning, design and implementation	1.000
(b) Site preparation	1.810
(c) Hardware, software, network equipment and installation services	<u>5.234</u>
Total :	<u>8.044</u>

Signature _____

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)072

Question Serial No.

1089

Head: 91 Lands Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Survey and Mapping

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question: Regarding the various maps sold by Lands Department, what were the average cost and selling price in 2003-04? Will there be any change in the cost in the 2004-05 estimates?

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply:

The full cost recovery principle is used in setting the selling prices of maps. Therefore, the selling prices of maps basically reflect their costs.

In 2003-04, there were 23 series of paper maps. The selling price for each series ranged from \$10 to \$100, with the average price being \$46. For digital maps, the selling price for each of the six series ranged from \$190 to \$535, with the average price being \$308.

The costs of maps change every year due to changes in staff salaries, material and production costs arising from new technology or streamlined procedures. Following the aforementioned costing principle, there will be changes in the costs of individual map series in 2004-05.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Lands

Date _____ 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)073

Question Serial No.

1090

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 Government suspended the implementation of the Application List and land auctions in 2003. As such, what was the work arrangement for the staff responsible for dealing with these two areas? How many staff were involved? How much was spent on their total salary expenses?

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply:

The Department does not have staff working full time on land auctions or the implementation of the Application List. The staff concerned are involved in all aspects of land disposal activities which include land sales by tender, lease modifications, exchanges, extensions, grants by private treaty, small house grants, short-term tenancies and related valuation work.

During the suspension of land auctions and the Application List, the needed preparatory work continued. This involved the drawing up and updating of the land sale conditions and resolution of disposal issues concerning the sale sites. Such work was necessary to enable the timely resumption of land sales through the Application List after December 2003. The staff concerned had also devoted more time to other aspects of land disposal work as mentioned above.

Signature _____

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 26 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)074

Question Serial No.

1091

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 total number of government sites cleared and guarded is 3 500. What was the amount of management expenses paid by the Government in 2003-04? What is the estimated amount of management expenses to be paid in 2004-05? Will the sites concerned be made available for auction or included in the Application List?

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply:

The amount of management expenses paid in 2003-04 was about \$18 million while the estimated amount for 2004-05 is \$20 million. Of the sites concerned, nine are included in the current Application List.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Lands

Date _____ 25 March 2004

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)075

Question Serial No.

1092

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 was the amount of expenses spent on the maintenance of government properties in 2003-04?

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply:

The expenditure on the maintenance of government properties managed by Lands Department in 2003-04 was about \$2 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 25 March 2004

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)076

Question Serial No.

1513

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 Government has set the targets that upon its receipt of lease modification applications (non small house cases), it will issue letter of reply to application within three weeks and issue letter of offer of provisional basic terms within 24 weeks. In 2003, only 97% of the targets was met.

However, 235 posts will be deleted in 2004-05. In the circumstances, what measures will the Government take to ensure that 100% of the targets will be met?

Asked by: Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply:

The Department's ability to fully meet the performance targets for the year was affected by the poor property market sentiment in 2003. This was reflected in the lengthier negotiations over the terms of the lease modification. Moreover, the processing of lease modification applications is often very complex, involving liaison with a number of government departments. Progress is often affected by factors beyond the control of Lands Department.

Of the number of posts (i.e. 235) to be deleted in 2004-05, more than half (i.e. 129) are project-specific time-limited posts in the Task Force (Black Spots) Team and the Railway Development Section of the Department. These posts are not related to the work of processing lease modification cases. The remaining posts are mainly related to the second Voluntary Retirement Scheme and most of them are not directly related to the processing of lease modification applications. Hence, we envisage that the processing of lease modifications in 2004-05 will not be adversely affected by the aforementioned deletion of posts. Barring any factors beyond Lands Department's control, we will strive to meet our performance targets in the coming year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 25 March 2004

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)077

Question Serial No.

1515

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: Regarding the processing of applications from indigenous villagers for rent concession, the actual number in 2003-04 shows a decrease of 75% as compared to that in 2002-03, but the Government estimates that the number in 2004-05 will show an increase of 60% as compared to that in last year. Will the Administration please explain the reason for such fluctuations?

Asked by: Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply:

In 2002, which was the end of the first five year rent collection cycle since 1997, there was a large influx of 20 854 applications for rent concession. During that year, a total of 29 200 cases were processed. In 2003, the number of new applications dropped to 11 836 cases. However, there was a re-prioritization of work in 2003 and 7 212 cases were processed. The remaining cases (about 4 000) have been carried forward to 2004 which will have an estimated 8 000 new applications. Lands Department therefore plans to process about 12 000 cases in 2004, representing more than 60% increase over 2003.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Lands

Date _____ 27 March 2004

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.
HPLB(PL)078
Question Serial No.
1516

Head: 91 Lands Department

Subhead(No. & title): 842 Cleaning up of black spots in N.T. (block vote)

Programme: (1) Land Administration

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question: Owing to the disbandment of the Task Force (Black Spots) Team on 1 April 2004, the number of cases for clearance of environmental black spots on private and government land in the New Territories will drop sharply from 347 in last year to 44 in 2004.

After the disbandment of the Task Force (Black Spots) Team, will the work concerned be taken up by the District Lands Offices? Will the Administration set another indicator to evaluate the efficiency of the District Lands Offices in this aspect?

Asked by: Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply:

The Task Force (Black Spots) Team, with funding up to 31 March 2004, has accomplished its mission of cleaning up the major environmental black spots in the New Territories. The indicator in 2004 pertains to the number of cases that would be completed by the Team in the first three months of 2004 prior to its disbandment on 1 April 2004. The residual work will be subsumed under the land administration work of the concerned District Lands Offices and subject to the existing key performance measures in respect of land administration.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Lands

Date _____ 26 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)079

Question Serial No.

0164

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: Regarding Rural Planning and Improvement Strategy/Village Improvement, the land acquired in 2002 and 2003 were 2.7 hectares and 2.39 hectares respectively, but in 2004, it is estimated that 4.97 hectares of land will be acquired. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council of the details, the number of staff and the grades involved in the acquisition?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Ping-cheung

Reply:

The land to be acquired will cover 16 Rural Planning and Improvement Strategy (RPIS) projects under the auspices of the Home Affairs Department. The required land is for the construction of access roads and the implementation of drainage improvement works at some villages in the New Territories.

These minor projects, as shown in the attached list, are scattered throughout the New Territories. Staff from a variety of grades in the various District Lands Offices provide input of different extent to these projects as part of their duties. Hence, it is not feasible to specify the exact number of staff involved. Lands Department staff involved include grades such as the Land Executive, Land Inspector, Estate Surveyor, Land Surveyor, Solicitor and support staff.

Signature _____

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 26 March 2004

RPIS Projects for 2004

Project Title	Total private land acquired (Square Metre)
RPIS - Construction of Emergency Vehicular Access at Luk Tei Tong, Mui Wo, Lantau	6,368.80
Drainage Improvement at Yung Shue Long New Village, Lamma Island	735.10
Construction of Car Parks and Improvement to Footpath and Associated Amenities at Pui O, Lantau Island	2,370.20
Construction of Emergency Vehicular Access, Car Park and Vehicular Access at Pui O San Wai Tsuen, Lantau	1,131.80
Improvement of Access Road at Kwan Tei North, Fanling, N.T.	736.20
Construction of Drainage Channel at Shui Lau Hang	5,709.80
Road works ancillary to Tseng Lan Shue Drainage Improvement (Phase III), Sai Kung	1,083.90
Improvement of Hing Keng Shek Road, Sai Kung	784.50
Construction of Access Road and Car Parks at Sha Kok Mei Village, Sai Kung	2,643.70
Tseng Lan Shue Drainage Improvement (Phase III), Sai Kung, New Territories	504.60
Improvement of Access Road at Mok Tse Che, Sai Kung	1,887.30
Improvement of Nam Wai Road, Sai Kung	3,507.00
Improvement of Ho Chung Road, Sai Kung	651.00
Upgrading of Access Road leading to Lin Au Village, Tai Po	2,270.00
Construction of Access Road and Car Park at Chai Kek and Wo Liu, Tai Po	4,270.10
Construction of Access Roads, Maintenance Access and Car Parks at She Shan Tsuen to Ha Tin Liu Ha and Sheung Tin Liu Ha, Tai Po	15,014.00
Total:	<u>49,668.00</u>
Say 4.97 Hectares	

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)080

Question Serial No.

0165

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: With the disbandment of the Task Force (Black Spots) Team in April this year, the clearance of environmental black spots on private and government land in the New Territories will be taken over by the District Lands Offices. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council that this task will be specifically handed over to which staff grades in the District Lands Offices and what is the number of staff involved?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Ping-cheung

Reply:

The Task Force (Black Spots) Team, with funding up to 31 March 2004, has accomplished its mission of cleaning up the major environmental black spots in the New Territories. The residual work will be taken over by the concerned District Lands Offices and the grades involved are Estate Surveyor, Land Executive, Land Inspector and Clerical Assistants. The estimated number of staff involved is 17.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Lands

Date _____ 25 March 2004

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)081

Question Serial No.

0166

Head: 91 Lands Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Survey and Mapping

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question: Given the rapid development of the New Territories, the number of lots defined or set out in 2003 was 2 991 while that in 2004 is estimated to be 3 000. Can the indicator concerned be adjusted upward so as to expedite the re-establishment of lot boundaries in the New Territories? If not, why?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Ping-cheung

Reply:

The number of lots defined or set out refers to surveys for land disposal, land allocation, land exchange, land resumption and small house developments in the whole territory. To set a realistic performance indicator, the estimated figure for 2004 is projected from actual figures in past years. The performance indicator also reflects the amount of work that can be undertaken with the available resources.

The re-establishment of lot boundaries in the New Territories may involve over 210 000 private lots held under the Block Government Leases. Currently, we have no plan to undertake a comprehensive re-survey of all the old schedule lots as this will require considerable time and huge resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 26 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)082

Question Serial No.

0167

Head: 91 Lands Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Survey and Mapping

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question: Regarding the promotion of map products and services, how many sales outlets for paper maps and aerial photographs are there at present and how are they distributed over the territory? Does the Government have any plans to promote paper maps and aerial photographs to the public and will they involve additional resources?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Ping-cheung

Reply:

The Survey and Mapping Office (SMO) has 11 sales outlets for paper maps. These are the Map Publications Centres at North Point, Hong Kong (MPC/Hong Kong) and Yau Ma Tei, Kowloon (MPC/Kowloon), and nine other sales outlets at the District Survey Offices (DSO) in Wan Chai, Central, Tsuen Wan, Tuen Mun, Yuen Long, Fanling, Tai Po, Sha Tin and Sai Kung.

Aerial photographs are available for sale at MPC/Hong Kong and DSO/Kowloon.

Other than the SMO sales outlets, the more popular paper maps are also available at:

- (a) Online Government Bookstore (i.e. through Electronic Service Delivery); and
- (b) six Post Offices (i.e. General Post Office, Kowloon Central Post Office, Kwun Tong Post Office, Mong Kok Post Office, Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office and Tuen Mun Central Post Office).

In 2004-05, SMO will promote its map products and services by participating in the Hong Kong Book Fair, organizing road shows, placing advertisements in newspapers and issuing press releases. Provisions have already been made in the Department's estimates of expenditure for 2004-05 to undertake such activities.

Signature _____

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)083

Question Serial No.

1204

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 number of small house cases approved was only slightly above 2 100 in the past two years. Will the Administration please inform this Council whether there is any review mechanism to ensure that the processing of pending cases will not be delayed unreasonably, and whether there are plans to reduce the amount of backlog?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Ping-cheung

Reply :

The Lands Department has reviewed the situation and will implement new procedures for processing small house applications with effect from 1 April 2004. These will shorten the waiting time and speed up the processing of straightforward cases. Our pledge is to process 2 500 cases each year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 26 March 2004

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)084

Question Serial No.

0054

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: Lands Department has set the target of processing 2 500 small house applications in the coming financial year. How many staff will be deployed to meet this target and what is the estimated expenditure? As compared with the past two financial years, has there been any manpower cut in this aspect? If yes, what is the total number of staff that have been cut?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply:

To meet the target of processing 2 500 small house applications in 2004-05, 113 staff will be deployed for the relevant work. The annual expenditure involved is estimated to be \$38 million. There has been a reduction of two staff in the past two years due to the voluntary retirement scheme.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Lands

Date _____ 26 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)085

Question Serial No.

0055

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: Lands Department will acquire 4.97 hectares of land for Rural Planning and Improvement Strategy/Village Improvement in 2004, more than the area of land acquired for such purpose in the past two years in which less than 3 hectares were acquired each year. What kind of works will the acquired land be mainly used for, and what is the estimated sum to be paid by the Government in this aspect?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply:

The acquired land will be mainly used for the construction of access roads and the implementation of drainage improvement works in the New Territories. The estimated land acquisition and clearance costs of the projects are about \$84 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Lands

Date _____ 26 March 2004

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)086

Question Serial No.

0359

Head: 91 Lands Department

Subhead(No. & title): 700 General non-recurrent

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question: What is the reason for the substantial increase in the estimate of the General non-recurrent for 2004-05 as compared with the revised estimated expenditure for 2003-04? Please give a detailed breakdown for comparison.

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Fu-wah

Reply:

The increase of \$7.748 million in expenditure is mainly due to the hiring of contractors for grass cutting on more vacant government land and contracting-out of Systematic Identification of Maintenance Responsibility of Slopes in the Territory (SIMAR) studies to identify the parties responsible for maintenance of registered man-made slopes. A breakdown of the expenditure is as follows:

	(a) 2003-04 Revised Estimated <u>Expenditure</u> \$Million	(b) 2004-05 Estimated <u>Expenditure</u> \$Million	(b)-(a) <u>Difference</u> \$Million
Site investigation for the former Explosive Magazine site at Justice Drive	0.652	-	(0.652)
Hiring of contractors for grass cutting on vacant government land	2.000	5.500	3.500
Contracting-out of SIMAR studies to identify the parties responsible for maintenance of registered man-made slopes	-	4.900	4.900
Total	<u>2.652</u>	<u>10.400</u>	<u>7.748</u>

Signature _____

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 26 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)087

Question Serial No.

0360

Head: 91 Lands Department

Subhead(No. & title): 700 General non-recurrent

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question: What is the nature and number of the estimated contracting-out projects? How do they compare with such projects in 2003-04?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Fu-wah

Reply:

The nature and number of contracting-out projects in 2003-04 and 2004-05 are :

<u>Nature of Projects</u>	No. of Projects in <u>2003-04</u>	No. of Projects in <u>2004-05</u>
Site investigation for the former Explosive Magazine site at Justice Drive	1	-
Hiring of contractors for conducting grass cutting on vacant government land	1	1
Contracting-out of Systematic Identification of Maintenance Responsibility of Slopes in the Territory (SIMAR) studies to identify the parties responsible for maintenance of registered man-made slopes		1
Total	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

Signature _____

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)088

Question Serial No.

0471

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: Regarding the 235 posts to be deleted under this Programme, please provide their details including the ranks involved, the deletion schedule and the savings in expenditure.

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Fu-wah

Reply:

Details of the net deletion of 235 posts under this Programme are as follows:

Rank	No. of Post	Savings \$
<i>(a) Deletion of 85 posts under the Second Voluntary Retirement Scheme by 24.1.2005</i>		
Senior Estate Surveyor	3	4,250,140
Estate Surveyor	3	1,306,634
Chief Land Executive	1	459,022
Senior Land Executive	4	1,711,145
Land Executive	17	3,917,677
Land Inspector I	11	2,630,966
Land Inspector II	3	462,051
Senior Survey Officer (Estate)	1	301,604
Survey Officer (Estate)	3	1,002,540
Senior Clerical Officer	1	377,076
Clerical Officer	5	945,932
Assistant Clerical Officer	22	2,686,041
Clerical Assistant	5	264,847
Personal Secretary II	4	454,531
Calligraphist	1	198,197
Supplies Assistant	1	74,097
(a) Sub-total	85	21,042,500
<i>(b) Lapse of 129 project-specific time-limited posts in the Task Force (Black Spots) Team and the Railway Development Section on 1.4.2004</i>		
Government Land Agent	1	1,448,040
Senior Estate Surveyor	4	3,954,720
Estate Surveyor	3	1,897,380
Principal Land Executive	1	988,680

Rank	No. of Post	Savings \$
Chief Land Executive	2	1,645,200
Senior Land Executive	14	9,272,760
Land Executive	27	10,045,620
Land Inspector I	39	12,034,620
Technical Officer (Carto)	2	362,700
Senior Town Planner	1	988,680
Town Planner	2	912,480
Senior Landscape Architect	1	988,680
Landscape Architect	2	912,480
Engineer	1	471,180
Inspector of Works	1	467,640
Senior Field Officer	1	512,460
Field Officer I	1	388,980
Survey Officer (Planning)	2	362,700
Technical Officer (Architectural)	2	362,700
Executive Officer I	1	512,460
Executive Officer II	1	308,580
Clerical Officer	2	587,880
Assistant Clerical Officer	5	864,900
Clerical Assistant	5	714,900
Office Assistant	1	118,380
Personal Secretary I	1	293,940
Personal Secretary II	2	366,480
Motor Driver	4	609,360
(b) Sub-total	129	52,394,580
<i>(c) Deletion of 25 project-specific posts originally budgeted for the New Town Development Areas Projects on 1.4.2004</i>		
Senior Estate Surveyor	2	1,977,360
Estate Surveyor	2	1,264,920
Principal Land Executive	1	988,680
Chief Land Executive	2	1,645,200
Senior Land Executive	4	2,649,360
Land Executive	8	2,976,480
Senior Survey Officer (Estate)	1	407,280
Survey Officer (Estate)	2	362,700
Accounting Officer I	1	512,460
Executive Officer II	1	308,580
Supplies Assistant	1	142,980
(c) Sub-total	25	13,236,000
<i>(d) Creation of 4 posts for setting up the Information Technology Management Unit on 1.4.2004</i>		
Systems Manager	1	724,860
Analyst/Programmer I	3	1,537,380
(d) Sub-total	4	2,262,240
Net Deletion/Savings : (a) + (b) + (c) – (d)	235	84,410,840

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Lands

Date _____ 25 March 2004

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)089

Question Serial No.

0951

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: Regarding Programme (1), the provision for 2004-05 will be reduced by 5.2% when compared with the revised estimate for 2003-04, and this is mainly due to the deletion of 235 posts and the reduction of civil service pay in 2004 and 2005. Please list out the ranks of the above 235 posts and the reasons for deleting them.

Asked by: Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply:

Details of the net deletion of 235 posts in 2004-05 under Programme (1) and the reasons for deletion are as follows:

Rank	No. of Post
<i>(a) Deletion of 85 posts under the Second Voluntary Retirement Scheme</i>	
Senior Estate Surveyor	3
Estate Surveyor	3
Chief Land Executive	1
Senior Land Executive	4
Land Executive	17
Land Inspector I	11
Land Inspector II	3
Senior Survey Officer (Estate)	1
Survey Officer (Estate)	3
Senior Clerical Officer	1
Clerical Officer	5
Assistant Clerical Officer	22
Clerical Assistant	5
Personal Secretary II	4
Calligraphist	1
Supplies Assistant	1
(a) Sub-total	85
<i>(b) Lapse of 129 project-specific time-limited posts in the Task Force (Black Spots) Team and the Railway Development Section</i>	
Government Land Agent	1
Senior Estate Surveyor	4
Estate Surveyor	3
Principal Land Executive	1

Rank	No. of Post
Chief Land Executive	2
Senior Land Executive	14
Land Executive	27
Land Inspector I	39
Technical Officer (Carto)	2
Senior Town Planner	1
Town Planner	2
Senior Landscape Architect	1
Landscape Architect	2
Engineer	1
Inspector of Works	1
Senior Field Officer	1
Field Officer I	1
Survey Officer (Planning)	2
Technical Officer (Architectural)	2
Executive Officer I	1
Executive Officer II	1
Clerical Officer	2
Assistant Clerical Officer	5
Clerical Assistant	5
Office Assistant	1
Personal Secretary I	1
Personal Secretary II	2
Motor Driver	4
(b) Sub-total	129
<i>(c) Deletion of 25 project-specific posts originally budgeted for the New Town Development Areas (NDA) Projects as these posts have not been created and filled due to postponement of the NDA Projects</i>	
Senior Estate Surveyor	2
Estate Surveyor	2
Principal Land Executive	1
Chief Land Executive	2
Senior Land Executive	4
Land Executive	8
Senior Survey Officer (Estate)	1
Survey Officer (Estate)	2
Accounting Officer I	1
Executive Officer II	1
Supplies Assistant	1
(c) Sub-total	25
<i>(d) Creation of 4 posts for setting up the Information Technology Management Unit</i>	
Systems Manager	1
Analyst/Programmer I	3
(d) Sub-total	4
Net Deletion : (a) + (b) + (c) – (d)	235

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Lands

Date _____ 25 March 2004

[HOME](#)

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)090

Question Serial No.

1645

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: Why did the Government fail to achieve its target regarding the processing of small house applications in 2002 and 2003? How many small house applications are still awaiting processing? What is the number of posts designated for dealing with such work?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply:

We processed 2 161 and 2 132 small house applications, and executed 842 and 711 small house grants in 2002 and 2003 respectively. The main reason for not achieving the target (i.e. 1 200 executed cases) is that many of the applications were non-straightforward cases and involved a number of problems such as local objections and site constraints. Moreover, some applicants failed to proceed with the execution of the land grant documents after the approval of their applications. At present, 3 349 small house applications are on the waiting list for processing and 7 040 applications are under processing. 113 officers are designated for dealing with small house applications and related work.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Lands

Date _____ 26 March 2004

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)091

Question Serial No.

1646

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: Regarding the key performance measures in respect of land administration – Clearance of environmental black spots on private and government land in the New Territories, what section/unit will be responsible for the clearance of environmental black spots in the New Territories upon the disbandment of the Task Force (Black Spots) Team? What are the arrangements to be made by the Department for such work in 2004? What will be the amount of expenses involved?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply:

The Task Force (Black Spots) Team, whose funding is up to 31 March 2004, has accomplished its mission of cleaning up the major environmental black spots in the New Territories. The residual work will be taken over by the concerned District Lands Offices in 2004-05 and we will strengthen the manpower of these District Lands Offices for the purpose. The amount of expenses for 2004-05 is estimated to be \$6.2 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Lands

Date _____ 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)092

Question Serial No.

1452

Head: 91 Lands Department

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

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question: Under Subhead 221 “clearance of government land – ex-gratia allowances”, the revised estimated allocation for 2003-04 is \$8 million but the provision for 2004-05 is over \$12 million. Please give a breakdown of the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply:

A breakdown of the expenditure is as follows:

	2003-04 Revised <u>Estimate</u>	2004-05 Estimate
	\$ Million	\$ Million
Ex-gratia allowances for clearance of government land, e.g. landslip preventive measures, land sale, environmental clearance and non-development clearance	1.39	8.74
Ex-gratia allowances for clearance of squatter areas and cottage areas	6.61	3.48
Total	<u>8.00</u>	<u>12.22</u>

Signature _____

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 26 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.
HPLB(PL)093
Question Serial No.
1453

Head: 91 Lands Department

Subhead(No. & title): 700 General non-recurrent

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question: Under the subhead of General non-recurrent, the revised estimated allocation for 2003-04 is over \$2.6 million but the provision for 2004-05 is over \$10 million. Why is there such an increase?

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply:

The increase of \$7.748 million in expenditure is mainly due to the hiring of contractors for grass cutting on more vacant government land and contracting-out of Systematic Identification of Maintenance Responsibility of Slopes in the Territory (SIMAR) studies to identify the parties responsible for maintenance of registered man-made slopes. A breakdown of the expenditure is as follows:

	(a) 2003-04 Revised Estimated <u>Expenditure</u> \$Million	(b) 2004-05 Estimated <u>Expenditure</u> \$Million	(b)-(a) <u>Difference</u> \$Million
Site investigation for the former Explosive Magazine site at Justice Drive	0.652	-	(0.652)
Hiring of contractors for grass cutting on vacant government land	2.000	5.500	3.500
Contracting-out of SIMAR studies to identify the parties responsible for maintenance of registered man-made slopes	-	4.900	4.900
Total	<u>2.652</u>	<u>10.400</u>	<u>7.748</u>

Signature _____

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 26 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)094

Question Serial No.

1535

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 applications are still awaiting processing? Will the Government provide more resources to deal with the backlog?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply:

At present, 3 349 applications are on the waiting list, 7 040 cases are being processed and 1 710 cases have already been approved but the applicants failed to execute the relevant land documents. To expedite processing, we plan to introduce a new set of streamlined procedures with a view to shortening the waiting time and speeding up approval of straightforward cases.

Signature _____

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 26 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)095

Question Serial No.

1680

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 estimated cost for acquisition/clearance in 2004 is more than \$2,190 million, representing an increase of nearly 53% when compared with the actual cost of 2003. Please give reasons for the increase.

Asked by: Hon. YEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply:

The actual total acquisition/clearance costs in 2003 are \$1,434 million whilst an estimate of \$2,192 million has been planned for these costs in 2004. The increase is mainly due to the deferral of compensation claims arising from Penny's Bay Reclamation from 2003 to 2004 in respect of which the Lands Department has made an allowance of \$1,061 million. This amount is now carried forward to the 2004 estimate.

Signature _____

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 26 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)096

Question Serial No.

1668

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 explain why there is an increase of \$0.83 million in the 2004-05 financial year over the revised estimate for 2003-04 for “Allowances” under the subhead of Personal Emoluments.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kam-lam

Reply : Under the Planning Department's manpower saving plan for 2004-05, we have to delete posts and improve efficiency through restructuring, re-prioritizing work and re-engineering work processes. The above efficiency improvement measures will take time and not be fully completed until January 2005. However, as all the officers who have participated in the Second Voluntary Retirement Scheme will be leaving the department earlier than January 2005, acting appointments will be arranged during the transitional period to cover the work of the posts vacated by them. The anticipated increase of \$835,000 is to cover the subject acting allowances.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

B C K FUNG

Director of Planning

24 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)097

Question Serial No.

1229

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

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

Controlling Officer : Director of Planning

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

- Question : (a) The Planning Department manages seven planning and development studies in 2004-05. Would you advise on the expenditure, time schedule and study details of each of these studies?
- (b) What are the actual expenditure in 2003-04 and the estimated expenditure for 2004-05 with respect to the study on 'Hong Kong 2030: Planning Vision and Strategy'? In this regard, what is the estimated time required for providing the framework and what are the estimated staffing and expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

The requested information is provided as below :

- (a) Information regarding the seven consultancy studies managed by the Planning Department in 2004-05 :

Name	Consultancy Fees (Provision in 2004-05)	Study Programme	Objectives
Landscape Value Mapping of Hong Kong	\$4.46 million (\$1.11 million)	Commenced in October 2001; to complete in late 2004	To establish the baseline conditions of landscape resources of Hong Kong.
Study on Planning for Pedestrians	\$3.458 million (\$1.04 million)	Commenced in March 2001; to complete in June 2004	To formulate a planning framework covering the principles, concepts, guidelines and standards for pedestrian planning and to prepare Pedestrian Plans for Causeway Bay, Central, Kwun Tong and Tai Po Market to test the application of the planning framework.

Name	Consultancy Fees (Provision in 2004-05)	Study Programme	Objectives
Study on Rural Planning and Land Management in the New Territories	\$7 million (for Phase Two only) (\$0.95 million)	Commenced in March 2002; Phase One in-house study to complete in early 2004; commissioning of Phase Two depends on outcome of Phase One.	To devise a land planning and management strategy to better manage the rural environment. Phase One has examined the key land use and management problems and will propose improvement measures. Phase Two is to test possible pilot projects. The need and timing of Phase Two depend on outcome of Phase One.
Study on South Lantau and Mui Wo Development	\$8.54 million (\$1 million) (funded under CWRF)	Commenced in July 2002; to complete in mid 2004	To establish a land-use planning framework for Mui Wo and South Lantau.
Study on Hong Kong Port Master Plan 2020	\$9.27 million (\$1.9 million) (funded by EDLB under Head 145)	Commenced in July 2002; to complete in April 2004	To formulate a master plan for port development in the coming 20 years. PlanD is responsible for the landuse planning aspect.
Review on Shopping Habits	Not Yet Known (\$2.05 million)	Under planning; to commence in mid 2004 and complete in end 2005	To comprehensively review the shopping habits/ shoppers' expenditure patterns; assess their implications on the provision of retail facilities and review the current planning standards and guidelines on retail facilities.
Area Improvement Study for Tsim Sha Tsui	\$3.16 million (\$0.90 million)	Study commenced in January 2004; to complete in June 2005	To recommend a package of proposals to improve the general environment of Tsim Sha Tsui.

(b) The information regarding the Study of "Hong Kong 2030 : Planning Vision and Strategy" is as follows:

- Actual Expenditure in 2003-04 (as at 22 March 2004) : \$2.44 million
- Anticipated Expenditure in 2004-05 : \$3.96 million

- Study Timeframe : The 4-stage study involving extensive public consultation was launched in November 2000 and scheduled for completion by end 2004 / early 2005
- Manpower Involved : The Study is managed by a study team comprising one Deputy Director (part-time), one Assistant Director (part-time), two Chief Town Planners (part-time), two Senior Town Planners and three Town Planners.
- Total Expenditure : About \$15 million

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	B C K FUNG
Post Title	Director of Planning
Date	24 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)098

Question Serial No.

1230

Head : 118 - Planning Department Subhead (No. & title) : 700 – General 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 : (1) In relation to entrusting studies and reviews on planning issues to consultants,

(a) for those consultancy studies that were already allocated provision in 2003-04, please provide information about name of consultant, objectives, consultant's fee, progress of study and Planning Department's follow-up action; and

(b) for those consultancy studies that are covered by the 2004-05 estimated expenditure, please provide information about objectives of study and consultant's fee.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : The requested information is provided at Annexes A and B respectively.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	B C K FUNG
Post Title	Director of Planning
Date	24 March 2004

(a) Consultancy studies for which financial provision has been allocated in 2003-04

Name of Study	Name of consultants (if available)	Provision for Consultancy (\$)	Objective, Progress and Follow-up action	
Landscape Value Mapping of Hong Kong	Urbis Ltd.	HK\$1,641,000	To establish the baseline conditions of landscape resources of Hong Kong. Study in progress. So far, eight Technical Reports were completed and uploaded to PlanD's website; stage one public consultation was also undertaken.	
Hong Kong 2030: Planning Vision and Strategy		HK\$5,463,000	To formulate a landuse-transport-environmental planning framework to guide the physical development in Hong Kong in the next 30 years. Study in progress; stage 3 public consultation was launched in November 2003; Study to complete in end 2004/early 2005	
Traffic Assessment and Transport Modelling	Parsons Brinckerhoff (Asia) Ltd.		Inputs to on-going HK2030 Study	Working Paper on Initial Transport Assessment of Development Options uploaded to HK2030 website
Publicity and Public Relations	Weber Shandwick Worldwide		- ditto -	Stage 3 Public Consultation Report and Publicity Materials were disseminated to public
Land Forecasting Methodology	GHK (HK) Ltd.		- ditto -	Three Technical Papers were uploaded to HK2030 website
Environmental Assessment	Hyder-Mott Connell Joint Venture		- ditto -	A Summary Paper on Assessment of Development Options and four related Technical Reports were uploaded to HK2030 website
Economic & Financial Assessment	GHK (HK) Ltd. Parsons		- ditto -	One Technical Paper was uploaded to HK2030 website
Broad Landuse Pattern of the PRD Region	Hong Kong Baptist University		- ditto -	Executive Summary was uploaded to HK2030 website; Final Report was made available for public inspection at PlanD's Enquiry Counter

Name of Study	Name of consultants (if available)	Provision for Consultancy (\$)	Objective, Progress and Follow-up action
Study on Planning for Pedestrians	Townland Consultants Ltd.	HK\$817,000	To formulate a planning framework covering the principles, concepts, guidelines and standards for pedestrian planning and to prepare Pedestrian Plans for Causeway Bay, Central, Kwun Tong and Tai Po Market to test the application of the planning framework. Study in progress; to complete in late 2004. The first Stage Public Consultation Digest and Report uploaded to PlanD's website.
Study on HK Residents Living in the Pearl River Delta Region Survey of HK Residents living and working in the PRD Region Second Thematic Household Survey – HK residents' experience of and aspiration for taking up residence in the Mainland of China	Guangdong Urban Social & Economic Survey Organization ACNielsen (China) Limited	HK\$891,000	To better understand the characteristics and aspirations of HK residents both living in Hong Kong and living and working in the PRD to enable planning work with a cross-boundary dimension. Study in progress; findings to be uploaded to PlanD's website Study in progress; findings to be uploaded to PlanD's website
Cross-boundary Travel Survey 2003/04	ACNielsen (China) Limited	HK\$2,280,000	A biannual exercise to gauge cross-boundary movement characteristics. Survey work completed; analysis being conducted; to complete in June 2004. Results to be uploaded to PlanD's website
Study on Rural Planning and Land Management in the New Territories (Phase Two)	Not yet available	-	To confirm the feasibility and assess the effectiveness of the rural environmental improvement measures and implementation framework proposed in the Phase One Study. Launching of the Study to depend on acceptance of the proposed measures under the Phase One Study. Study under planning.
Review on Shopping Habits	Not yet available	-	To comprehensively review the shopping habits/shoppers' expenditure patterns; assess their implications on the provision of retail facilities and review the current planning standards and guidelines on retail facilities. Study under planning

(b) Consultancy studies for which financial provision has been allocated in 2004-05

Study Name and Objective	Name of consultants	Provision for Consultancy (\$)
Landscape Value Mapping of Hong Kong Study Objective – per Annex A	Urbis Ltd.	HK\$1,105,000
Hong Kong 2030: Planning Vision and Strategy Study Objective – per Annex A Publicity and Public Relations Land Forecasting Methodology Environmental Assessment Economic & Financial Assessment	Weber Shandwick Worldwide GHK (HK) Ltd. Hyder-Mott Connell Joint Venture GHK (HK) Ltd. Parsons	HK\$3,956,000
Study on Planning for Pedestrians Study Objective – per Annex A	Townland Consultants Ltd.	HK\$1,041,000
Study on HK Residents Living in the Pearl River Delta Region Study Objective – per Annex A Survey of HK Residents living and working in the PRD Region Second Thematic Household Survey – HK residents' experience of and aspiration for taking up residence in the Mainland of China	Guangdong Urban Social & Economic Survey Organization ACNielsen (China) Limited	HK\$4,277,000
Cross-boundary Travel Survey 2003/04 Study Objective – per Annex A	ACNielsen (China) Limited	HK\$1,310,000
Study on Rural Planning and Land Management in the New Territories (Phase Two) Study Objective – per Annex A	Not yet available	HK\$945,000
Review on Shopping Habits Study Objective – per Annex A	Not yet available	HK\$2,050,000

Study Name and Objective	Name of consultants	Provision for Consultancy (\$)
<p>Survey on Occupancy of Recently Completed Housing Units</p> <p>Objective - To collect data on the degree of occupancy and characteristics of occupants for use in population distribution estimates and other strategic planning activities.</p>	Not yet available	HK\$1,066,000
<p>Commercial and Industrial Floor Space Utilization Survey</p> <p>Objective - To survey the utilization of commercial and industrial floor space to update the parameters for estimating commercial and industrial floor space requirements and distribution of jobs.</p>	Not yet available	HK\$1,990,000

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)099

Question Serial No.

1231

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 : Please advise why the number of “objections to statutory plans processed” by the Planning Department has increased from the actual figure of 191 cases in 2003-04 to the estimated figure of 750 cases in 2004-05, and what is the additional expenditure to be incurred as a result of the increase in workload?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : Only 191 objections were processed in 2003 because less controversial issues were involved in the statutory plans gazetted in that year. Taking into account the number of statutory plans to be gazetted in 2004 and the nature of amendments, it is estimated that about 750 objections could be received but this is no more than a guestimate at this stage.

The additional work generated will be absorbed by existing resources of the Department.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

B C K FUNG

Director of Planning

24 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)100

Question Serial No.

1232

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 : Please advise why the number of “Town Planning Appeal Board cases handled” by the Planning Department has increased from the actual figure of 5 cases in 2003-04 to the estimated figure of 15 cases in 2004-05, and what additional expenditure is to be incurred as a result of the increase in workload?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : A total of 17 appeals (excluding those cases subsequently withdrawn on the appellants' accord) were received in 2003, the majority of which are related to applications for temporary open storage and port back-up uses and Small House developments in rural New Territories. Taking into account the outstanding cases yet to be heard by the Town Planning Appeal Board and the past trend, it is estimated that the number of appeals to be handled in 2004-05 could be about 15. The additional work will be absorbed by existing resources of the Department.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

B C K FUNG

Director of Planning

24 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)101

Question Serial No.

1233

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 : Regarding the review of the planning framework and infrastructural requirements for Wan Chai Development Phase II and Southeast Kowloon Development with a view to further minimising the extent of their respective reclamation works, please advise whether the Planning Department has completed the initial planning for these areas, and also of the estimated savings that is expected to result from a reduced reclamation?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : The Government is still in the process of reviewing the reclamation plans for Wan Chai Development Phase II and South East Kowloon Development to ensure that they fully comply with the requirements of the Protection of Harbour Ordinance as laid down by the Court of Final Appeal. No revised schemes have yet been produced. It is therefore not possible to make any estimate on possible savings in cost of public works arising from a reduced reclamation.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

B C K FUNG

Director of Planning

24 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)102

Question Serial No.

1234

Head : 118 - Planning Department

Subhead (No. & title) : 000 – Operational expenses

Programme : (2) – District Planning

Controlling Officer : Director of Planning

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Please advise what work, staffing arrangement and expenditure are involved in urban renewal on the part of the Planning Department?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : The responsibilities of the Planning Department in urban renewal matters include assisting the Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau (HPLB) in processing the Urban Renewal Authority (URA)'s draft Corporate Plans and Business Plans for approval by the Financial Secretary, processing development proposals including development schemes and projects of the URA, liaising with the URA and other redevelopment agencies on urban renewal matters, setting up a central database on the condition of buildings related to urban renewal, and undertaking preparatory work for the Urban Renewal Strategy Review.

The current Urban Renewal Team comprises 12 professional staff (including one Assistant Director who renders overall supervision) and 17 technical and other support staff. Total annual staff cost is about \$14.8 million.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

B C K FUNG

Director of Planning

24 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)103

Question Serial No.

1235

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 : Please provide a detailed account of the consultation work to be undertaken by the Planning Department in 2004-05 on the Stage-two amendments to the Town Planning Ordinance, and what will be the amounts of relevant expenditures involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : While the Town Planning (Amendment) Bill 2003 covering the Stage One amendments is being examined by the Bills Committee, the Administration has already started a review of the proposals to be included in the Stage Two amendments. To expedite the discussion on the issues to be addressed in the Stage Two amendments, a paper [CB(1)813/03-04(10)] was submitted to the LegCo Panel on Planning, Lands and Works on 27 January 2004 setting out the issues involved. Upon passage of the 2003 Amendment Bill, the Administration will work out the details of the proposed Stage Two amendments and conduct consultation with the various stakeholders and the public.

The expenses incurred in the consultation work would mainly be staff cost. 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

Post Title

Date

B C K FUNG

Director of Planning

25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)104

Question Serial No.

1236

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

Programme : (2) – District Planning
(5) – Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Planning

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Please list out the details and expenditure of each of the minor consultancy studies of the Planning Department in 2003-04 and of those planned for 2004-05.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

Details and expenses of the minor consultancy studies for 2003-04 and 2004-05 are appended below:

<u>Study</u>	Estimated Expenditure in 2003-04 \$'000	Estimated Expenditure in 2004-05 \$'000	Objectives
1. Enhancement of the Territorial and Cross Boundary Transport Models	348	522	To restructure the existing transport models and to incorporate latest parameters collected from recent studies.
2. Updating of “Development Intensity” Model	100	600	To update the parameters of the model for assessing the redevelopment potential of buildings in the Metro area.
3. Updating of the Financial Assessment Model under the Urban Renewal Strategy Review	--	730	To enhance the existing broad financial assessment model and update its parameters to provide input to the Urban Renewal Strategy Review.

<u>Study</u>	Estimated	Estimated	Objectives
	Expenditure <u>in 2003-04</u> \$'000	Expenditure <u>in 2004-05</u> \$'000	
4. Survey on Occupancy of Recently Completed Housing Units	--	1,066	To collect data on the level of occupancy and characteristics of occupants in newly completed housing units to provide input for population distribution estimates and other strategic planning activities.
5. Commercial and Industrial Floor Space Utilization Survey	--	1,990	To collect data on the utilization of commercial and industrial floor space for forecasting commercial and industrial floor space requirements and job distribution.
6. Development of Employment Projection Model for Strategic Land Use Planning	--	500	To develop a statistical/econometric model for producing long-term employment projections for strategic land reservation and other planning purposes.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	B C K FUNG
Post Title	Director of Planning
Date	25 March 2004

[HOME](#)

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)105

Question Serial No.

1016

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 the Brief Description indicates that in 2003 the Planning Department made efforts “to streamline statutory planning control through the incorporation of a revised set of Master Schedule of Notes to statutory plans”, please advise on the actual benefits brought by the incorporation, especially in terms of resource saving. Has the Government in collaboration with the private sector and experts further examined streamlining the statutory planning control procedures? If yes, what are the results?

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

Reply : The revised Master Schedule of Notes to Statutory Plans (MSN) could only take effect when it has been incorporated into the Notes of individual statutory plans. Amendments to the statutory plans to incorporate the revised MSN would take time as the plans are at various stages of the plan-making process and certain plans might require more time to review. Since Town Planning Board's endorsement of the revised MSN on 28.2.2003, we have so far amended 49 (out of 107) statutory plans currently in force. Given that the bulk of the amended plans were only gazetted in the last quarter of 2003 and amendments to the remaining statutory plans are still in progress, the savings arising from the revised MSN are not yet fully apparent at this stage.

The Town Planning (Amendment) Bill 2003 currently being scrutinized by the Bills Committee of the Legislative Council has introduced further proposals to streamline the planning and development process. The Planning Department has held numerous discussions and consultations with stakeholders and relevant professional bodies before the formulation of the various proposals and will continue to maintain such dialogue in the future.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

B C K FUNG

Director of Planning

25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)106

Question Serial No.

0179Head : 118 - Planning Department Subhead (No. & title) : 000 – Operational expensesProgramme : (2) – District PlanningControlling Officer : Director of PlanningDirector of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and LandsQuestion : The estimate for 2004-05 is \$4.7 million lower than the revised estimate for 2003-04, which is mainly due to the deletion of 38 posts in 2004-05. May I ask:

- (1) what the 38 posts are, and how much expenditure will the government save by estimate?
- (2) what posts will take up the work of the deleted posts?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chung-tai, RaymondReply : (1) The 38 posts to be deleted under Programme 2 are as follows :-

<u>Grade</u>	<u>No. of post</u>
Town Planner	11
Survey Officer (Planning)	7
Technical Officer (Cartographic)	7
Technical Officer (Reprographic)	1
Executive Officer	1
Personal Secretary	2
Clerical Officer	6
Office Assistant	1
Motor Driver	2
Total :	38

The savings in personal emoluments from the deletion of the 38 posts, together with the effect of the 2004 and 2005 civil service pay cut, are \$6.4 million for 2004-05. The net saving amounts to \$4.7 million after taking into account increases in departmental expenses and expenditure of consultancy studies.

- (2) Their work will be absorbed by various sections and offices of the department through re-structuring, re-prioritising work, and re-engineering the work processes.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

B C K FUNG**Director of Planning****23 March 2004**

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)107

Question Serial No.

1655

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

Programme : (2) – District Planning
(5) – Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Planning

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : The provision for conducting a number of minor consultancy studies is estimated at something over \$5,800,000 this year. Would the Government advise on the topic, expenditure and time schedule of the studies?

Asked by : Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply : The provision of \$5,813,000 under Subhead 838 for 2004-05 is for the following consultancy studies :

	<u>Estimated Expenditure</u> \$'000
1. Enhancement of the Territorial and Cross Boundary Transport Models	522
2. Updating of "Development Intensity" Model	600
3. Updating of the Financial Assessment Model under the Urban Renewal Strategy Review	730
4. Survey on Occupancy of Recently Completed Housing Units	1,066
5. Commercial and Industrial Floor Space Utilization Survey	1,990
6. Development of Employment Projection Model for Strategic Land Use Planning	500
Contingency	405
	<hr/> 5,813 <hr/>

All studies are scheduled for completion in 2004-05.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

B C K FUNG

Director of Planning

24 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)108

Question Serial No.

1656

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

Programme : (5) – Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Planning

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Would the Government advise on the progress and expected completion date of the study on 'Cross-boundary Travel Survey 2003/04'?

Asked by : Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply : The survey work for the Cross-Boundary Travel Survey 2003/04 has been completed. We are currently analysing the survey results, which should be fully completed in June 2004.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

B C K FUNG

Director of Planning

24 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)109

Question Serial No.

0175

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

Programme : (5) – Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Planning

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : In regard to the 'Minor consultancy studies (block vote)', the approved estimate for 2003-04 is \$6,000,000, and the revised estimate is \$448,000. Could the government tell this Council why the revised estimate is less than the approved estimate, is it due to the consultation fees being lower than estimated, or that the studies are not finished on schedule? Please provide detailed information.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Ping-cheung

Reply : The provision of \$6,000,000 under Subhead 838-Minor consultancy studies (block vote) for 2003-04 was intended for funding minor consultancy studies, each with a cost under \$3,000,000. During the year, the project costs of three of the studies (namely Review on Shopping Habits, Cross Boundary Travel Survey 2003/04 and Area Improvement Study for Tsim Sha Tsui) were revised to over \$3,000,000 each. Hence these three projects have to be funded under Subhead 700-General non-recurrent instead. The original cashflow budgeted for these three projects in 2003-04 amounts to \$5,420,000 and was therefore excluded from the revised estimate under Subhead 838.

The estimate under Subhead 838 was further revised downward by \$132,000 to \$448,000 for reduced cashflow requirement of other minor consultancy studies.

Signature

Name in block letters

B C K FUNG

Post Title

Director of Planning

Date

23 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)110

Question Serial No.

0176

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

Programme : (2) – District Planning
(5) – Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Planning

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : The estimate for the ‘Minor consultancy studies (block vote)’ in 2004-05 is \$5,813,000. Please provide information about the studies.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Ping-cheung

Reply : The provision of \$5,813,000 under Subhead 838 for 2004-05 is for the following consultancy studies :

	<u>Estimated Expenditure</u> \$'000
1. Enhancement of the Territorial and Cross Boundary Transport Models	522
2. Updating of “Development Intensity” Model	600
3. Updating of the Financial Assessment Model under the Urban Renewal Strategy Review	730
4. Survey on Occupancy of Recently Completed Housing Units	1,066
5. Commercial and Industrial Floor Space Utilization Survey	1,990
6. Development of Employment Projection Model for Strategic Land Use Planning	500
Contingency	405
	<hr/> 5,813 <hr/>

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

B C K FUNG

Director of Planning

23 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)111

Question Serial No.

0177

Head : 118 - Planning Department

Subhead (No. & title) : 700 – General non-recurrent

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

Controlling Officer : Director of Planning

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Under this subhead, the approved commitment for Item 560 'Study on Rural Planning and Land Management in the New Territories' is \$7,000,000, but there is still no accumulated expenditure or estimated expenditure up to now. What is the reason?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Ping-cheung

Reply : The requested information is provided as below :

The Study on Rural Planning and Land Management in the New Territories is being conducted in two phases.

Phase One covers the identification of problems and possible redress measures to better manage the rural environment. It is being carried out with in-house resources and is now nearing completion.

Depending on the outcome of the Phase One Study, we may proceed to Phase Two, which will include the examination of possible pilot projects. The provision of \$7 million is intended for engaging consultants to provide specialist inputs in Phase Two.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

B C K FUNG

Director of Planning

25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)112

Question Serial No.

1754

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 : The Government proposed to cut 38 posts under this programme in 2004-05.
Please provide details.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Ping-cheung

Reply : The 38 posts to be deleted under Programme 2 are as follows :-

<u>Grade</u>	<u>No. of posts</u>
Town Planner	11
Survey Officer (Planning)	7
Technical Officer (Cartographic)	7
Technical Officer (Reprographic)	1
Executive Officer	1
Personal Secretary	2
Clerical Officer	6
Office Assistant	1
Motor Driver	2
Total :	38

Deletion of the 38 posts is part of the Planning Department's manpower saving plan for 2004-05. We shall improve our efficiency through re-structuring, re-prioritising work and re-engineering work processes to make up for the posts to be deleted.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

B C K FUNG

Director of Planning

24 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)113

Question Serial No.

1585

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

Programme : --

Controlling Officer : Director of Planning

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Concerning the deletion of 61 permanent posts in the Planning Department in 2004-05, will the Government inform this Council of the following:

- (a) What are the ranks and numbers of officers mainly involved, and in what way will the deletion be implemented;
- (b) is the deletion of the posts related to the contracting out of the relevant work; if yes, what are the ranks, numbers and categories of work of the officers involved; and
- (c) will the reduction in the establishment increase the workload of some of the officers in the Planning Department; if yes, how is the management going to keep up the staff morale?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Fu-wah

Reply : The requested information is as follows :

- (a) 65 posts to be deleted in 2004-05 are listed out at the Annex. Among these posts, 46 will be deleted through the Second Voluntary Retirement Scheme, three from natural wastage, six through non-creation of approved posts and ten through deletion of existing vacancies. In parallel, four IT grade posts are to be created in 2004-05. Hence, the net posts to be deleted amount to 61.
- (b) The deletion is not related to any out-sourcing exercise.
- (c) The workload will be absorbed by various sections and offices of the department through re-structuring, re-prioritising work, and re-engineering work processes. We have maintained regular dialogue with staff on the formulation and implementation of the various staff saving measures and will continue to closely monitor the work situation of the department.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

B C K FUNG

Director of Planning

24 March 2004

<u>Rank</u>	<u>No. of posts</u>		
	<u>Deletion</u>	<u>Creation</u>	<u>Net</u>
Chief Town Planner	2		
Senior Town Planner	7		
Town Planner	4		
Principal Survey Officer (Planning)	1		
Senior Survey Officer (Planning)	3		
Survey Officer (Planning)	9		
Principal Technical Officer (Cartographic)	1		
Senior Technical Officer (Cartographic)	4		
Technical Officer (Cartographic)	6		
Principal Technical Officer (Traffic)	1		
Senior Technical Officer (Traffic)	2		
Technical Officer (Traffic)	4		
Senior Technical Officer (Reprographic)	1		
Tracer	1		
Senior Landscape Architect	1		
Landscape Architect	2		
Statistician	1		
Statistical Officer I	1		
Executive Officer II	1		
Personal Secretary I	1		
Personal Secretary II	2		
Assistant Clerical Officer	6		
Clerical Assistant	1		
Office Assistant	1		
Motor Driver	2		
Senior Systems Manager		1	
Systems Manager		1	
Analyst/Programmer I		2	
Total	65	4	61

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)114

Question Serial No.

1616

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

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

Controlling Officer : Director of Planning

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : The aim of the programme is ‘to provide guidance and direction for long-term development and investment in Hong Kong’ and to ‘continue its work on “Hong Kong 2030: Planning Vision and Strategy” ’ in 2004-05.

Please provide information to illustrate the expenditure and staffing required for the job in 2004-05, the time schedule for the whole job, and how to evaluate effectively whether the related work can achieve the aim of this programme.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, Sophie

Reply :

The information regarding the Study of “Hong Kong 2030 : Planning Vision and Strategy” is as follows :

- Provision in 2004-05 : \$3,956,000
- Man-power Involved : The Study is managed by a study team comprising one Deputy Director (part-time), one Assistant Director (part-time), two Chief Town Planners (part-time), two Senior Town Planners and three Town Planners.
- Study Programme : 3rd stage public consultation to be completed by end of March; 4th and final stage of the Study : technical work to be completed in end 2004 / early 2005 for last round of public consultation.
- Assessment against Objectives : The Development Strategy to be formulated will be assessed against a range of planning objectives and criteria which are established after extensive public consultation. The results of the assessment, together with the recommended Development Strategy, will be presented for public consultation, for the public to comment on how far the recommended Development Strategy is able to meet the various planning objectives and whether they are satisfied with the recommended Strategy.
-

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

B C K FUNG

Director of Planning

24 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)115

Question Serial
No.

0771

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 : The Planning Department processed 6,368 cases of objection to statutory plans in 2002. Why were there only 191 cases in 2003, and the number of cases to be processed in 2004 estimated at 750 only?

Asked by : Hon. LI Ka-cheung, Eric

Reply :

Objections are processed under section 6(3), 6(6) and 6(8) of the Town Planning Ordinance. A total of 6,368 objections were processed in 2002 because large numbers of objections were received in respect of three Outline Zoning Plans (OZPs), namely the Wan Chai North OZP, Discovery Bay OZP and Ngau Chi Wan OZP, which involved issues of great local or community concern.

Only 191 objections were processed in 2003 because less controversial issues were involved in the plans gazetted in that year.

Taking into account the number of statutory plans to be gazetted in 2004 and the nature of amendments, it is estimated that about 750 objections could be received but this is no more than a guestimate at this stage.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

B C K FUNG

Director of Planning

24 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)116

Question Serial No.

0772

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

Programme : (1) – Territorial and Sub-regional Planning
(2) – District 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 2004-05 and the expenses so involved.

Asked by : Hon. LI Ka-cheung, Eric

Reply :

The titles and estimated expenditure of the consultancy studies for 2004-05 are appended below :

<u>Study</u>	<u>Estimated Expenditure in 2004-05 \$'000</u>
(i) <u>Studies continued from previous year</u>	
<u>Subhead 700</u>	
1. Study of Landscape Value Mapping of Hong Kong	1,105
2. Hong Kong 2030 : Planning Vision and Strategy	3,956
3. Study on Planning for Pedestrians	1,041
4. Study on Hong Kong Residents Living in the Pearl River Delta Region	4,277
5. Study on Rural Planning and Land Management in the New Territories (Phase Two)	945
6. Review on Shopping Habits	2,050
7. Cross-boundary Travel Survey 2003/04	1,310

<u>Study</u>		Estimated Expenditure in 2004-05 \$'000
8.	Area Improvement Study for Tsim Sha Tsui	898
<u>Subhead 838</u>		
9.	Enhancement of the Territorial and Cross Boundary Transport Models	522
10.	Updating of “Development Intensity” Model	600
Sub-total		16,704
(ii) <u>Studies proposed to be commissioned in 2004-05</u>		
<u>Subhead 838</u>		
11.	Updating of the Financial Assessment Model under the Urban Renewal Strategy Review	730
12.	Survey on Occupancy of Recently Completed Housing Units	1,066
13.	Commercial and Industrial Floor Space Utilization Survey	1,990
14.	Development of Employment Projection Model for Strategic Land Use Planning	500
Sub-total		4,286
Total		20,990

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	B C K FUNG
Post Title	Director of Planning
Date	23 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)117

Question Serial No.

0812

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, the Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works said, “The implementation of the Northern Link depends on the development programme of the Strategic Growth Areas along this rail line, which is under review”. Would the department advise on:

- (a) the current progress of the planning and development study on the areas along the Northern Link; and
- (b) the estimated time of completion?

Asked by : Hon. TANG Siu-tong

Reply :

The Northern Link provides rail connections between North West (NW) and North East (NE) New Territories, improves connections to boundary crossing stations, and opens up a new corridor for New Development Areas (NDAs).

In the light of rapid population growth estimated in the mid-nineties, consultancy studies were commissioned in 1999-2000 to identify NDAs in NW and NE New Territories to accommodate about 400,000 population by 2016. Several NDAs were identified. Of these, San Tin/Ngau Tam Mei and Kam Tin/Au Tau were proposed, among other considerations, to take advantage of the Northern Link.

However, the latest round of population projection reveals that our population may not grow as fast as the earlier forecast. As a result, the requirement for extra land to accommodate population growth is no longer that pressing. The timing for all NDAs is currently being reviewed in the HK2030 : Planning Vision and Strategy Study. According to the latest assessment, which is the subject of the on-going HK 2030 Study Stage 3 public consultation, the NDAs in San Tin/Ngau Tam Mei and Kam Tin/Au Tau are unlikely to be required before 2020. The HK2030 Study is expected to be completed in end 2004/early 2005.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

B C K FUNG

Director of Planning

24 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)118

Question Serial No.

1413

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 : Concerning the management of the Hong Kong Planning and Infrastructure Exhibition Gallery, what is the number of visitors to the Gallery and the amount of expenditure required for its management in 2003?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply : In 2003, about 48,000 people visited the Hong Kong Planning and Infrastructure Exhibition Gallery. The running cost of the Gallery in the same period was \$1.77 million.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

B C K FUNG

Director of Planning

24 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)119

Question Serial No.

1420

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 give reasons for the much reduced number in forecasts, reports and papers estimated to be produced in 2004 as against those produced in 2002 and 2003 for matters on population distribution and supply and demand of land for major uses. What is the estimated amount of savings over expenses in this connection?

Asked by : Hon. WONG sing-chi

Reply : The subject forecasts, reports and papers produced and commented by the department in 2002 and 2003 were mainly housing-related. Since the transfer of some housing-related duties to the Housing Department in late 2002 and the gradual completion of the planning studies related to housing land provision in 2002 and 2003, the department's involvement in such documents had been reducing. This has resulted in a significant decrease in the number of such documents handled in 2004 as compared to 2002 and 2003.

The overall reduction of housing-related duties in the department has resulted in the deletion of 2 directorate posts in 2002-03 and 4 non-directorate posts in 2003-04. The annual salary savings are \$4.99 million.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

B C K FUNG

Director of Planning

25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)120

Question Serial No.

1533

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 list out the details and progress of 'Study on Rural Planning and Land Management in the New Territories'. When will the study commence? When will it complete? Has there been a delay in conducting the study and, if so, what is the reason? Does it cause an increase in the estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply : The Study on Rural Planning and Land Management aims at devising a land planning and management strategy to better manage the rural environment. The Study is divided into two phases. Phase One covers an in-depth analysis of the key land use and land management problems and will propose improvement measures. Phase Two covers possible pilot schemes to confirm the feasibility and assess the effectiveness of the rural improvement measures and the implementation framework proposed in Phase One. Consultancy services will be required in Phase Two to provide specialist inputs in the civil and transport engineering, environmental, economic and land valuation aspects.

The Phase One Study commenced in March 2002 and is now nearing completion. Phase Two of the Study is dependent on the outcome of Phase One i.e. the acceptance of the proposed improvement measures by the Government and the general community. If it is decided that Phase Two should go ahead, it would possibly be launched towards end 2004. The financial provision for the Phase Two Study remains at \$7 million as originally estimated.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

B C K FUNG

Director of Planning

24 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)121

Question Serial No.

1536

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 : 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. In 2004-05, a total of 16 professional staff and 43 technical and other support staff will be deployed on enforcement and prosecution work in the Section. A provision of \$35.4 million will be allocated for sustaining the efforts in enforcement against unauthorized developments.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

B C K FUNG

Director of Planning

26 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)122

Question Serial No.

1517

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: For Personal Emoluments - Allowances under Subhead 000 Operational expenses, why is the revised estimate for this year 40% less than the actual expenditure of last year? However, at the same time, the administration estimated that the allowances would increase by 30% in this financial year. What is the reason for the fluctuation in the amount?

Asked by: Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply: The revised estimate for Allowances in 2003-04 is less than the actual expenditure because the Department has exercised very stringent control over expenditure on acting allowance and over-time allowance during the year. Allowances are only approved for situations where acting appointment or over-time work are strictly unavoidable. For officers who have undertaken overtime work, they are compensated with time-off in lieu of allowance as far as possible.

The 2004-05 draft estimate for Allowances is 30% higher than the 2003-04 revised estimate because it is anticipated that there would be an increase in short-term acting appointments incurring allowances, arising from vacancies which cannot be immediately filled upon departure of retiring officers. However, this is only a provision made and the Department will exercise the same stringent control over the payment of allowances in the course of the year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ John S. V. CHAI

Post Title _____ Director of Territory Development

Date _____ 24 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)123

Question Serial No.

1422

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 expenditure in providing technical input and support to the work of the Steering Committee for Development of the West Kowloon Cultural District in 2004-05?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply: Technical input and support provided to the work of the Steering Committee for Development of the West Kowloon Cultural District is carried out by staff drawn from existing resources. Apart from that, we will employ consultants for the provision of expert technical advice and support for the assessment of proposals in connection with the West Kowloon Cultural District development. The estimated expenditure in 2004-05 is \$ 3.5 million.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

John S. V. CHAI

Director of Territory Development

24 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)124

Question Serial No.

1423

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 expenditure in providing technical input to the review of the planning framework and infrastructure requirements for Wan Chai Development Phase II and South East Kowloon Development in 2004-05?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply: We will engage consultants to review the planning framework and infrastructure requirements for Wan Chai Development Phase II (WDII) and South East Kowloon Development (SEKD). We will manage the consultants using existing staff resources. The estimated expenditure for consultants' fees is \$5.5 million for the review of WDII and \$3.0 million for the review of SEKD in 2004-05.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ John S. V. CHAI

Post Title _____ Director of Territory Development

Date _____ 24 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)125

Question Serial No.

1534

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: Please list the locations and land uses of the 92 hectares of land planned to be formed in 2004-05. Also, what is the estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply: The 92 hectares of land to be formed by the Territory Development Department in 2004-05 are mainly located in Tsing Yi and Northwest New Territories for roads, housing, drainage channels, river training works and back-up area.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Approximate Area (hectares)</u>	<u>Estimated Expenditure in 2004-05 (\$M)</u>
Tsing Yi (Container Terminal 9 Back-up Area)	53	920
Northwest New Territories (Ngau Tam Mei, Man Kam To, San Wai, Hung Shui Kiu, Yuen Long & Kam Tin)	25	121
Shatin (Areas 34, 52 & 56A)	10	8
Pak Shek Kok	4	21
Total	92	1,070

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ John S. V. CHAI

Post Title _____ Director of Territory Development

Date _____ 24 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)126

Question Serial No.

1734

Head: 701 Lands 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 allocation for the payment of compensation and ex-gratia allowances in respect of the projects in the Public Works Programme for 2004-05 is more than 40% over the revised estimated allocation for 2003-04. Why? As far as the expenditure is concerned, please list the major projects in 2003-04 and 2004-05 and a breakdown of the amount of expenditure of such projects.

Asked by: Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply:

The increase in allocation for **Subhead 1100CA** from \$1,385 million (revised estimate) in 2003-04 to \$2,000 million (approved allocation) in 2004-05 is mainly due to the deferral of compensation claims relating to Penny's Bay Reclamation.

Works projects involving significant land resumption expenditure in 2003-04 included –

- (a) Deep Bay Link (\$410 million);
- (b) Yuen Long south eastern extension (\$61 million);
- (c) Main drainage channel for Yuen Long and Kam Tin – Tin Tsuen Channel – Ancillary road works (\$50 million);
- (d) Main drainage channel – Tin Tsuen Channel in Yuen Long (\$16 million);
- (e) Main drainage channels for Ngau Tam Mei, phase 2, Yuen Long (\$32 million); and
- (f) Drainage improvement works to Cheung Kong, Tai Kong Po, Tsat Sing Kong and Ha Che in Pat Heung, Yuen Long (\$31 million).

Works projects involving significant land resumption expenditure in 2004-05 will include –

- (a) Penny's Bay Reclamation (\$1,061 million);
- (b) Deep Bay Link (\$93 million);
- (c) East Railway Extension – Essential public infrastructure works for Hung Hom to Tsim Sha Tsui extension (\$76 million);
- (d) Rural Drainage Rehabilitation Scheme – drainage rehabilitation works at Ping Yuen River (\$45 million); and
- (e) Yuen Long south western extension (\$35 million).

Signature _____

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 26 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)127

Question Serial No.

1424

Head: 701 Land Acquisition

Subhead(No. & title):

1034CA Special
compensation payments for
former residents of the Tiu
Keng Leng Cottage Area

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question: As regards the special compensation payments for former residents of the Tiu Keng Leng Cottage Area under the Capital Works Reserve Fund (Payments), how many residents are expected to obtain the payments in 2004-05?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply:

Two claims for special compensation payments from former residents of Tiu Keng Leng Cottage Area are still being processed. It is expected that about five more former residents would lodge their claims in 2004-05. The special compensation payments will be released to the residents concerned subject to assessment and acceptance of the claims in due course.

Signature _____

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 26 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)128

Question Serial No.

1762

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 allocation, 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 _____ John S. V. CHAI

Post Title _____ Director of Territory Development

Date _____ 24 March 2004

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