Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No. HPLB(PL)028

Question Serial No.

<u>Head</u>: 82 Buildings Department <u>Subhead</u> (No. & title):

Programme: Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer: Director of Buildings

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

Question:

Regarding the work to tackle unauthorised building works in existing buildings, the estimated indicators for "warning notices issued", "removal orders issued" and "unauthorised structures removed and irregularities rectified" in 2007 are significantly lower than the actual figures in 2006. What are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply:

The actual performance for 2006 and the estimates for 2006 and 2007 for the three areas of work in question, as indicated in the Controlling Officer's Report, are as follows:

	Indicators	2006 (Actual)	2006 and 2007 (Estimate)
(1)	Warning notices issued	8 498	8 000
(2)	Removal orders issued	32 711	25 000
(3)	Unauthorised structures removed and irregularities rectified	48 479	40 000

The estimates for the three indicators in question are the same for 2006 and 2007. When considering the estimates for 2007, we have taken into account the actual performance and experience in both 2005 and 2006. The actual performance depends on a number of factors that may vary, including the number of unauthorised structures existing in the buildings targeted for enforcement action, as well as the willingness of and time taken by building owners to comply with the statutory orders. While the Buildings Department will deliver our best performance without being bound by the estimates, we consider that the current levels of estimates are appropriate.

CHEUNG Hau-wai	
Director of Buildings	
15 March 2007	