

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)006

Question Serial No.

0695

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

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Buildings, Lands and Planning

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

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

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

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

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

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Thomas Tso

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

Date _____ March 2003