

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)019

Question Serial No.

0159

Head : 82 Buildings Department    Subhead (No. & title) : 700

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Please provide the following information concerning sub-head 700:

- (a) Regarding the approved commitment of \$4.5 million for a consultancy study to draft a design manual on barrier free access and facilities for persons with a disability and the elderly under item 021, can the Government tell this Council why there is no estimated expenditure for this item in the coming year? What is the progress of the drafting of the manual?
- (b) Regarding the approved commitment of \$3.3 million for a consultancy to compile a full list of existing private buildings in Hong Kong under item 011, can the Government tell this Council why there is no estimated expenditure for this item in the coming year? What is the progress of the plan to compile the said list?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Ping-cheung

Reply :

- (a) In October 2002, the Buildings Department commissioned a consultancy study to draft a design manual on barrier free access and facilities for persons with a disability and the elderly.

The consultancy fee will be paid in stages. The estimated expenditure in 2003-04 is \$2.7 million. As part of the work in the first phase, the consultant submitted a review and research report in February 2003 on the design requirements of barrier free access and facilities. The consultancy study is expected to be completed by March 2004.

- (b) The scope originally proposed for the "Consultancy to compile a full list of existing private buildings in Hong Kong" includes the production of a computer database of existing private buildings. Such database comprises the address, lot number, building name, date of occupation permit, building type, number of storeys, etc. of all existing private buildings.

Since mid-2002, the Buildings Department (BD) has developed and put into use a "Building Condition Information System" to facilitate control of existing private buildings. This system has enabled the building up of the database mentioned above.

To avoid duplication, BD is now revising the coverage of the proposed consultancy study which is scheduled to commence in 2003/04. At this stage, we do not have an estimated expenditure drawdown for 2003/04.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

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Marco WU

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Director of Buildings

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21.3.2003

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