

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)020

Question Serial No.

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

0164

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

- (a) The establishment of the Buildings Department as at 31 March 2003 will be 935 permanent posts. It is expected that 36 permanent posts will be deleted in 2003/04. Regarding the "personal emoluments" under Subhead 000 Operational expenses, the 2002/03 revised estimate is \$471,837,000. It will be increased to \$475,517,000 in 2003/04. Can the Government tell this Council the reason why there is such an increase in personal emoluments?
- (b) Regarding the "allowances" under Subhead 000 Operational expenses, the 2002/03 original estimate is \$4,868,000. However, the revised estimate is \$7,915,000 and the 2003/04 estimate is \$7,895,000. Can the Government inform this Council in detail the reason why there is such an increase in allowances?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Ping-cheung

Reply :

- (a) The original 2002-03 estimate did not take into account the fact that 77 posts were only filled in the final quarter of 2002/03. The revised 2002-03 estimate now reflects only a three-month provision for these posts. The 2003-04 estimate, on the other hand, has taken into account the full year effect. Taking into account the effect of deletion of 36 permanent posts, there will still be an increase in personal emoluments in 2003/04.
- (b) The allowances under Personal Emoluments include, among others, acting allowances. The increase in the allowances in 2002/03 "Revised Estimate" and 2003/04 "Estimate" over the 2002/03 "Estimate" is mainly due to the need to pay acting allowances to 86 permanent staff occupying time-limited supervisory posts. These posts have been created on a temporary basis to supervise 490 contract staff and 27 consultants employed for improving the safety of existing buildings.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

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Marco WU

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director of Buildings

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21.3.2003