

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)057

Question Serial No.

1027

Head: 91 Lands
Department

Subhead(No. & title): 003 Recoverable salaries and allowances
(General)

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : The provision under *Subhead 003 Recoverable salaries and allowances (General)* includes salaries and allowances for the urban renewal team to process land resumption to make land available for redevelopment by the Urban Renewal Authority (URA). Lands Department states that the cost will be fully recovered from the URA. In this regard, please inform this Council of the amount of the cost involved and when will this amount be recovered?

Asked by: Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply: The provision of about \$31 million under Subhead 003 is the estimated expenditure on salaries and allowances for 30 existing staff and 25 proposed new posts in the Lands Department's Urban Renewal Section. The estimated sum of salaries and allowances required for the 30 existing staff amounts to \$15 million while that for the 25 proposed new posts is \$16 million.

The 25 proposed new posts will only be filled as and when the workload of the Urban Renewal Section increases to such an extent as to require the additional staff. The salaries and allowances for both the 30 existing staff and any of the 25 proposed new posts, if filled, will be recovered in 2003-04.

Signature _____

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 19.3.2003