

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)090

Question Serial No.

0966

Head : 118 - Planning Department Subhead (No. & title) : --

Programme : (5) – Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Planning

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : In this financial year, the Planning Department is going to examine further opportunities for electronic delivery of planning services. Could the Government inform this council in detail what services will be included in this regard; and whether the Government has any estimate as to the amount of expenditure to be saved after the implementation of electronic delivery of services?

Asked by : Hon. TSANG Yok-sing, Jasper

Reply :

Answering public enquiries (written and by phone) on planning applications, objections and requests for amendment to statutory plans considered by the Town Planning Board is one of the existing services of the Planning Department. The Planning Department is developing the "E-Planninginfo" Archives Service which will enhance the delivery of planning information service by allowing the public to get access to the planning information via Internet. The Planning Department plans to launch the "E-Planninginfo" Archives Service in mid-2003. However, as the service of answering public enquiries (written and by phone) would continue after launching the new internet service, the staff savings are expected to be marginal, especially in the early stage of implementation. Nevertheless, the staff savings potential will be reviewed regularly.

In addition, the Department is exploring the opportunity of making use of information technology to facilitate electronic submission and processing of planning applications, objections and requests for zoning amendment. This would reduce administrative work in the processing of submissions. The potential of cost savings will be looked into in examining the ways of providing such service to the public.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

B C K FUNG

Post Title _____

Director of Planning

Date _____

21 March 2003