

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)097

Question Serial No.

1384

Head : 118 - Planning Department

Subhead (No. & title) : --

Programme : (2) – District Planning

Controlling Officer : Director of Planning

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Actually how long does it take the Planning Department to process an application for the amendment of a statutory plan? Please indicate the shortest and longest time required. Have you ever worked with the industry and the specialists to find measures to shorten the approving process?

Asked by : Hon. CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, Selina

Reply :

Under the existing Town Planning Ordinance (the Ordinance), there is no express provision for application for amendment to statutory plan (i.e. rezoning request). It is however the practice of the Town Planning Board (TPB) to consider such rezoning requests administratively as part of the plan making process. The Department has pledged to process rezoning requests for submission to the TPB for consideration within 3 months. So far this pledge has been successfully met in all cases.

In the Town Planning (Amendment) Bill currently being drafted, we intend to formalise the provision for processing of rezoning requests for submission to the TPB within 3 months. In formulating proposals for the Bill, the industry, professional institutes and relevant stakeholders have been consulted.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

B C K FUNG

Post Title _____

Director of Planning

Date _____

20 March 2003