

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)100

Question Serial No.

1108

Head: 110 Territory Development Department Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational Expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Territory Development

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question: The department's ratio of directorate posts to non-directorate posts is 1:13. In comparisons, the ratio of other departments under the buildings, lands and planning policy area (Policy area 22) is much higher. Lands Department is 1:77, Civil Engineering Department 1:42, Planning Department 1:30, Electrical & Mechanical Services Department 1:29 and Buildings Department 1:24.

- (1) What is the reason for a higher percentage of directorate post among staff establishment in TDD?
- (2) Please provide details (e.g. title, salary, justification, etc.) of the new post to be created in 2003-04.

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

- Reply: 1. The core business of Territory Development Department (TDD) is the management of development projects for new towns and new development areas. As most projects undertaken by TDD are outsourced to consultant firms and many of these projects are of large scale and involve substantial capital expenditure, it is necessary to have Directorate officers to manage the consultants engaged, to oversee the process of delivery of various projects, and to provide input to development proposals. Moreover, TDD is not responsible for maintaining the completed works under the projects. Unlike other works departments, therefore, TDD does not have a large team of support staff on the establishment. These have led to an apparently higher percentage of directorate posts in TDD as compared with other Departments.
2. One new post of Systems Manager (MPS Point 34-44 i.e. \$48,140 - \$74,075) will be created in TDD in 2003-04 for better communication and co-operation between IT professionals and departmental staff in developing information technology in the department. In practice, it will involve a cost-neutral transfer of a Systems Manager post from the Information Technology Services Department to TDD. It will not cause a net increase in the number of posts in the government as a whole.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ H. K. WONG

Post Title Director of Territory Development

Date _____ 21 March, 2003