

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)001

Question Serial No.

1674

Head: 138 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau 000 Operational expenses
(Planning and Lands Branch)

Programme: (2) Buildings, Lands and Planning

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands
(Planning and Lands)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Under Subhead 000 Operational expenses, the provision for general departmental expenses for 2004-05 is \$4.2 million higher than the revised estimate for 2003-04. Please state the reason.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kam-lam

Reply : The increase in general departmental expenses in 2004-05 is mainly due to a contingency provision to meet the cost of administering our policy portfolio and its many ongoing and new commitments as well as unforeseen requirements. This includes policy research, conducting public consultation, publicity, promotional and community activities across the spectrum of the Buildings, Lands and Planning Policy Programme. We have, for example, to provide support to the planned Advisory Committee on Enhancement of the Harbour-front to be set up shortly. As one of the tasks of the Committee is to consider means to enlist greater community participation, we will redeploy some resources to support worthwhile community participation projects aiming at enhancing the harbour-front.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie LAM

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Housing,
Planning and Lands (Planning and Lands)

Date _____ 25 March 2004