

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)020

Question Serial No.

0849

Head: 138 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):  
Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau  
(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 : Please list the revised estimate for duty visits outside Hong Kong in 2003-04 for the Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands and the Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands, with particulars of : (1) the purposes and details of the visits; (2) the main means of public transport and related expenses for the visits; (3) board and lodging expenses for the visits. What is the corresponding estimated expenditure for 2004-05? Has the Administration laid down a ceiling on the amount of allowances that can be granted and a set of criteria for approving such allowances?

Asked by : Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply : During 2003-04, the Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands has not undertaken any duty visit outside Hong Kong. One visit to Guangzhou was made by the Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands (Planning and Lands). Details are appended below –

- (1) Purpose : As a guest of honour to officiate the opening ceremony of the 'Conference on Town Planning and Management in the Pearl River Delta' on 21 February 2004.
- (2) Major modes of transport used  
for the visit and associated expenses : By train. The cost is \$380.
- (3) Expenses on food and accommodation : Nil

As regards the estimate for 2004-05, a provision of \$100,000 has been reserved for expenses incurred by officers within the bureau for duty visits outside Hong Kong. This is only an estimate at this stage.

There is no across-the-board limit on the provision for duty visits outside Hong Kong. The reimbursement of subsistence and travelling expenses are governed by relevant Civil Service Regulations and conditions of appointments.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs Carrie LAM

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 24 March 2004