

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)021

Question Serial No.

0850

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

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 provide a breakdown of entertainment expenses actually incurred by the Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands and the Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands, such as hosting and attending receptions, for 2003-04 and the estimate for 2004-05. Has the Government set an upper limit for such expenses? Are there any objective criteria for approving such expenses?

Asked by : Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply : The actual expenditure in 2003-04 (as at 26 March 2004) for official entertainment in respect of the Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands is \$63,200.40 and for the Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands (Planning and Lands) is \$26,840.20.

The estimate for 2004-05 for official entertainment for the Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau is \$200,000. There is no specific allocation for the Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands and the Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands (Planning and Lands). More important occasions are hosted by the Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands.

The prevailing general guideline is that bureaux/departments should aim to spend not more than \$250 per person for lunch and not more than \$400 per person for dinner, inclusive of tips.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie LAM

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

Date _____ 26 March 2004