

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)022

Question Serial No.

1291

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 : The 2004 Policy Address has mentioned about the need to raise the standard of policy research undertaken by the Government:

“To improve our governance, we must raise the level of sophistication with which both the Government and the community handle policy issues. We need to do more public policy research, particularly from a macro and long-term perspective. Objective and concrete public policy research will help us better realise the objectives of effective governance. It will help us avoid sweeping, politicised and emotional policy debates, thus making it easier for the Government and various sectors of the community to reach a consensus on public issues. This will ensure that our policies are implemented more effectively and better able to serve the long-term development needs of Hong Kong.”

Please advise whether provision has been made or resources deployed in the 2004-05 Estimates to take forward a stated commitment of the Policy Address that public policy matters will be pursued with a higher standard. If yes, please give a detailed account of the projects funded. If not, what are the reasons for that?

Asked by : Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply : Since the publication of the 2004 Policy Address, the Administration has been exploring ways to promote research on public policy issues and develop the human resources required. We are formulating an agenda for policy research so as to take forward research on priority issues. To meet this objective, the Administration will carry out relevant research work using in-house resource as far as possible. It is hard to estimate the full resource implications at this juncture.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Carrie LAM

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

Date _____ 24 March 2004