

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)037

Head : 82 Buildings Department

Subhead (No. & title) : 000

Operational  
expenses

Question Serial No.

1217

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

Under this Subhead, the estimates in 2004-05 for Departmental Expenses on Hiring of services and professional fees will increase substantially. Can you tell us:

- (1) the reasons for the substantial increase in the estimates of this item.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : Compared with the revised estimates 2003-04, there will be an increase of \$49.8 million in 2004-05 for the hire of services and professional fees. The main reasons for the increase are:

- (i) increased outsourcing in the investigation and removal of unauthorized building works (UBW) in progress, large scale clearance of UBW and investigation and monitoring of building repairs, amounting to \$24.2 million;
- (ii) outsourcing part of the enforcement actions to the Housing Authority in respect of backlog removal orders, drainage defects in private buildings and UBW in rear lanes and blackspots, amounting to \$16.3 million; and
- (iii) carrying out consultancy studies on standards of building design and conditions of existing buildings, amounting to \$9.3 million.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Marco WU

Director of Buildings

25.3.2004