

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)041

Question Serial No.

0718

Head : 82 Buildings Department                      Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

In collaboration with the Buildings Department, the District Building Management Liaison Team of the Home Affairs Department has provided assistance in repair works for buildings targeted under the Coordinated Maintenance of Buildings Scheme. What is the current number of buildings requiring repair works under the above Scheme? What are the costs involved? While providing assistance to these building owners, what difficulties do they encounter, as identified by the Government, in carrying out repair works?

Asked by : Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply :

Since the implementation of the Coordinated Maintenance of Buildings Scheme (CMBS) in November 2000, a total of 550 buildings have been covered by the Scheme. The work involved in carrying out CMBS is absorbed by internal redeployment of resources within the Buildings Department. The total cost involved so far is estimated to be \$98 million.

While the scheme has demonstrated how government departments can work together to co-ordinate repair works in private buildings and how a more integrated service can be provided to the public, we have also identified the following difficulties that building owners encountered in carrying out repair works:

- (a) Many building owners have a poor understanding of the importance of proper building maintenance and management;

- (b) In some cases, the building owners have difficulties in reaching agreement and contributing financially to carry out the repair works amongst themselves. In case of financial difficulties, we help the owners apply for loans under the Building Safety Loan Scheme; and
- (c) In general, the building owners need to take some considerable time to organize and complete the works.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Marco WU
Post Title	Director of Buildings
Date	26.3.2004