

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

HPLB(PL)049

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

1015

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

The actual number of plans received and processed in the whole year of 2003 was 10,824, while the number of new building proposals approved in the same year was only 198. This shows that there were many cases where “the plans had to be submitted” for several times before approval was obtained. In accordance with the information provided, it takes 30 days to process a “re-submission”, which means that, the more the number of times “the plans had to be submitted”, the longer will be the delay in the construction.

Please advise how are the 10,824 applications related to the number of properties, and give a numerical distribution analysis of each property in terms of the total number of times “the plans had to be submitted” (i.e. till approval is successfully obtained), and each time the average number of staff and expenses involved in processing “new submissions” and “re-submissions”. Would the Administration consider reducing the number of times of “re-submissions” and the expenses involved so as to enhance cost-effectiveness. If yes, what is the proposal; and if not, the reasons.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, Sophie

Reply :

The 10,824 plans received and processed in 2003 include first submissions and resubmissions of general building plans, demolition plans, site formation plans, foundation plans, structural plans and drainage plans of new building proposals; and plans for alterations and additions of existing buildings. These plans are related to 1,881 sites. The building plan proposals comprise various types of building works and we do not keep a breakdown of the number of properties related to these proposals.

The following table summarizes the number of submissions made for the 198 approved new building projects:

No. of submissions <u>made before first approval</u>	No. of cases
1	124
2	38
3	22
<u>4 or more</u>	<u>14</u>
Total	198

We do not have up-to-date statistical information on the manpower and expenditure for the processing of a single new submission plan or a single resubmission plan.

Buildings Department has introduced a number of improvement measures since August 2002 to expedite and streamline the plan processing process. Such measures include the provision of enquiry service, curtailing the checking of plans, verification of floor area calculations by computer and waiving the requirement of prior approval and consent for minor amendments made to approved plans. We have also introduced the Buildings (Amendment) Bill 2003 into LegCo in April 2003. The Bill seeks to, inter alia, allow certification of minor works by qualified persons, thus dispensing with the requirements for obtaining Buildings Department's approval and consent prior to commencement of such minor works. The department will keep the processing system under constant review and will introduce additional improvement measures as and when such measures are identified.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Marco WU</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Buildings</u>
Date	<u>26.3.2004</u>