

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)073

Question Serial No.

1090

Head: 91 Lands Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Land Administration

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question: The Government suspended the implementation of the Application List and land auctions in 2003. As such, what was the work arrangement for the staff responsible for dealing with these two areas? How many staff were involved? How much was spent on their total salary expenses?

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply:

The Department does not have staff working full time on land auctions or the implementation of the Application List. The staff concerned are involved in all aspects of land disposal activities which include land sales by tender, lease modifications, exchanges, extensions, grants by private treaty, small house grants, short-term tenancies and related valuation work.

During the suspension of land auctions and the Application List, the needed preparatory work continued. This involved the drawing up and updating of the land sale conditions and resolution of disposal issues concerning the sale sites. Such work was necessary to enable the timely resumption of land sales through the Application List after December 2003. The staff concerned had also devoted more time to other aspects of land disposal work as mentioned above.

Signature _____

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 26 March 2004