

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)096

Question Serial No.

1668

Head : 118 - Planning Department Subhead (No. & title) : 000 – Operational expenses

Programme : --

Controlling Officer : Director of Planning

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Please explain why there is an increase of \$0.83 million in the 2004-05 financial year over the revised estimate for 2003-04 for “Allowances” under the subhead of Personal Emoluments.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kam-lam

Reply : Under the Planning Department's manpower saving plan for 2004-05, we have to delete posts and improve efficiency through restructuring, re-prioritizing work and re-engineering work processes. The above efficiency improvement measures will take time and not be fully completed until January 2005. However, as all the officers who have participated in the Second Voluntary Retirement Scheme will be leaving the department earlier than January 2005, acting appointments will be arranged during the transitional period to cover the work of the posts vacated by them. The anticipated increase of \$835,000 is to cover the subject acting allowances.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

B C K FUNG

Director of Planning

24 March 2004