

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)105

Question Serial No.

1016

Head : 118 - Planning Department Subhead (No. & title) : --

Programme : (2) – District Planning

Controlling Officer : Director of Planning

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : As the Brief Description indicates that in 2003 the Planning Department made efforts “to streamline statutory planning control through the incorporation of a revised set of Master Schedule of Notes to statutory plans”, please advise on the actual benefits brought by the incorporation, especially in terms of resource saving. Has the Government in collaboration with the private sector and experts further examined streamlining the statutory planning control procedures? If yes, what are the results?

Asked by : Hon. CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, Selina

Reply : The revised Master Schedule of Notes to Statutory Plans (MSN) could only take effect when it has been incorporated into the Notes of individual statutory plans. Amendments to the statutory plans to incorporate the revised MSN would take time as the plans are at various stages of the plan-making process and certain plans might require more time to review. Since Town Planning Board's endorsement of the revised MSN on 28.2.2003, we have so far amended 49 (out of 107) statutory plans currently in force. Given that the bulk of the amended plans were only gazetted in the last quarter of 2003 and amendments to the remaining statutory plans are still in progress, the savings arising from the revised MSN are not yet fully apparent at this stage.

The Town Planning (Amendment) Bill 2003 currently being scrutinized by the Bills Committee of the Legislative Council has introduced further proposals to streamline the planning and development process. The Planning Department has held numerous discussions and consultations with stakeholders and relevant professional bodies before the formulation of the various proposals and will continue to maintain such dialogue in the future.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

B C K FUNG

Director of Planning

25 March 2004