

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)109

Question Serial No.

0175

Head : 118 - Planning Department Subhead (No. & title) : 838 – Minor consultancy studies
(block vote)

Programme : (5) – Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Planning

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : In regard to the 'Minor consultancy studies (block vote)', the approved estimate for 2003-04 is \$6,000,000, and the revised estimate is \$448,000. Could the government tell this Council why the revised estimate is less than the approved estimate, is it due to the consultation fees being lower than estimated, or that the studies are not finished on schedule? Please provide detailed information.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Ping-cheung

Reply : The provision of \$6,000,000 under Subhead 838-Minor consultancy studies (block vote) for 2003-04 was intended for funding minor consultancy studies, each with a cost under \$3,000,000. During the year, the project costs of three of the studies (namely Review on Shopping Habits, Cross Boundary Travel Survey 2003/04 and Area Improvement Study for Tsim Sha Tsui) were revised to over \$3,000,000 each. Hence these three projects have to be funded under Subhead 700-General non-recurrent instead. The original cashflow budgeted for these three projects in 2003-04 amounts to \$5,420,000 and was therefore excluded from the revised estimate under Subhead 838.

The estimate under Subhead 838 was further revised downward by \$132,000 to \$448,000 for reduced cashflow requirement of other minor consultancy studies.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

B C K FUNG

Director of Planning

23 March 2004