

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)119

Question Serial No.

1420

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

Programme : (1) – Territorial and Sub-regional Planning

Controlling Officer : Director of Planning

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Please give reasons for the much reduced number in forecasts, reports and papers estimated to be produced in 2004 as against those produced in 2002 and 2003 for matters on population distribution and supply and demand of land for major uses. What is the estimated amount of savings over expenses in this connection?

Asked by : Hon. WONG sing-chi

Reply : The subject forecasts, reports and papers produced and commented by the department in 2002 and 2003 were mainly housing-related. Since the transfer of some housing-related duties to the Housing Department in late 2002 and the gradual completion of the planning studies related to housing land provision in 2002 and 2003, the department's involvement in such documents had been reducing. This has resulted in a significant decrease in the number of such documents handled in 2004 as compared to 2002 and 2003.

The overall reduction of housing-related duties in the department has resulted in the deletion of 2 directorate posts in 2002-03 and 4 non-directorate posts in 2003-04. The annual salary savings are \$4.99 million.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters

B C K FUNG

Post Title

Director of Planning

Date

25 March 2004