

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)003

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1093

Head : 138 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau 000 Operational expenses
(Planning and Lands Branch)

Programme : (2) Buildings, Lands and Planning

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and
Lands (Planning and Lands)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

Among the matters requiring special attention in 2005-06 is the review of the enforcement policy against unauthorized buildings works. What is the amount of resources allocated to this matter in 2005-06? How is the review now? What is the future direction for the enforcement?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

To enhance the effectiveness of our enforcement policy against unauthorised building works (UBWs), we have embarked on a review on this policy using existing resources. This is partly in response to the Report of the Ombudsman on UBWs in New Territories Exempted Houses (NTEHs) published in August 2004. The review will focus on irregularities in the New Territories, including major UBWs on agricultural lots and UBWs in NTEHs. In devising measures to tackle the problems, particularly in regard to UBWs in NTEHs, we need to take into account a number of pertinent factors, including the substantial size and prevalent nature of the problem, the diversity of interests involved, public receptiveness of any proposal to deal with the problem, and the resource constraints faced by the Government.

The review is still at an initial stage. We are exploring a pragmatic approach to rationalise certain types of UBWs in the New Territories without changing their illegal status, provided that specified building safety requirements are met. This is in line with the suggestion in the August 2004 Ombudsman Report. We will consult stakeholders and the public before finalising our proposals.

In the meantime, the Government will continue to take rigorous enforcement actions against works-in-progress and UBWs posing immediate safety concerns and strengthen the coordination and cooperation among departments to enhance the effectiveness of our enforcement work.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Rita Lau

Post Title _____
Permanent Secretary for Housing,
Planning and Lands (Planning and Lands)

Date _____ 6 April 2005

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