

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

**Reply Serial No.**

**HPLB(PL)008**

Question Serial No.

0253

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 :

What are the reasons for the increase in honoraria for members of committees from \$1,527,000 in 2004-05 (revised estimate) to \$2,175,000 in 2005-06? For those committees with increases in honoraria, please provide a list and the amounts. Are increases in such expenditure expected to continue and what are the rates of increase?

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply :

The provision concerned is for payment of honoraria to chairmen and members of appeal boards/committees under the purview of HPLB. The increase in provision in 2005-06 is not due to an upward adjustment to the rates of remuneration, but rather to the anticipated increase in workload of the Appeal Tribunal (Buildings) and the Town Planning Appeal Board, and the planned establishment of a new Appeal Board under the Urban Renewal Authority Ordinance to consider objections to development projects. As the work of these boards/committees is demand-led and the actual expenditure is affected by the rate of remuneration and the caseload, it would not be realistic to project future expenditure beyond 2005-06 at this juncture.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs Rita Lau

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 6 April 2005