

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)009

Question Serial No.

0254

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 :

In 2005-06, there will be a net creation of eight permanent non-directorate posts in the Planning and Lands Branch, while housekeeping departments under the purview of the Branch such as the Lands Department and the Planning Department will delete two and 16 permanent non-directorate posts respectively. Could the Government inform this Committee as to:

- (a) the reasons for the creation of these posts;
- (b) the duties of the posts;
- (c) of the posts proposed for creation, how many belong to the Administrative Officer grade;
- (d) whether the creation of such posts is intended to replace departmental staff in the technical and professional grades with Administrative Officers.

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply :

- (a) The posts proposed for creation in 2005-06 are required to cope with the increased workload of the Bureau and the demands arising from its many ongoing and new commitments. These include work arising from the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) development and the newly set up Harbour-front Enhancement Committee (HEC).
- (b) The new posts will be assigned to policy units for the provision of administrative, secretariat and other support services, e.g. servicing meetings, preparing minutes, drafting papers/submissions/briefs to the Legislative Council, Executive Council and other authorities; handling administration matters; and providing logistic support for various activities.

- (c) Among the eight posts planned for creation, three of them belong to the Administrative Officer grade.
- (d) Operational need is our major consideration in deciding on the number and different grade/rank of posts required. We have no plan to replace departmental staff in the technical and professional grades by Administrative Officers.

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| 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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