

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

Head : 82 Buildings Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

As regards the target under "Existing buildings", the Buildings Department (BD) was not entirely able to make existing building records available for public viewing within 10 days over the past two years. What were the reasons? Was it affected by shortage of manpower?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

The Buildings Department pledged to make building records available for viewing within ten working days. In both 2003 and 2004, we set the performance target at 93%. Out of the 30,902 applications in 2003 and 43,976 applications in 2004, we met the ten-day pledge in 95% and 94% of the cases respectively, representing a performance higher than the set target.

Regarding cases where the ten-day pledge could not be met, the main reasons were:

- (a) the required paper-based building records being kept for viewing by another applicant or government user and therefore were not available in time for the applicant concerned; and
- (b) the manual handling of paper-based records occasionally caused misplacement of records, thus resulting in delays in retrieval.

To improve our viewing and copying service, we are developing a computerized Building Records Management System for storage and retrieval of building records in an electronic format. This system can provide instant retrieval and allow concurrent access to the same building record by more than one user. The system will be completed in early 2006.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Marco WU

Director of Buildings

4 April 2005