

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)042

Question Serial No.

1077

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 :

With regard to the Buildings Department's service target of "processing building plans of new buildings", would the Administration consider further upgrading the service standard in order to go with the aim of "improving our business environment" stated in the Budget? And what are the resources needed by advancing the time required for processing the building plans by every single week?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Sau-shing, Patrick

Reply :

In the last couple of years, we have introduced a number of measures to facilitate the business sector by way of streamlining the building approval process. These measures include introducing a curtailed checking system focusing on the fundamental issues, waiving the need to obtain prior approval and consent for minor amendments during the construction stage, and providing a pre-submission enquiry service. As an on-going exercise, we are in discussion with the industry on ways to further improve our service.

The process of checking plans involves consulting other relevant government departments and co-ordinating their requirements before we can decide whether the plans can be approved. The statutory time limit for the processing of new building proposals is 60 days, and for amendments or re-submissions, 30 days.

Apart from checking buildings plans for compliance with the Buildings Ordinance, we also undertake a coordinating role in the centralized processing system. Therefore, any proposal to advance the approval time would affect not only BD but other relevant government departments as well. As we have not carried out the necessary assessment on the feasibility and resource implications of further advancing the approval process with all relevant government departments, we are unable to provide an estimate on the additional resources required.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Marco WU

Director of Buildings

4 April 2005