

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)065

Question Serial No.

1095

Head: 91 Lands Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Land Administration

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Will the Government please explain why the targeted figure of 2 300 cases of small house applications processed each year could not be met in both 2003 and 2004? Will the Government please also explain why, in having failed to meet the target for two consecutive years, no consideration is being given to the allocation of additional resources for enhancing the target so as to shorten the waiting time of applicants?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply:

Lands Department processed 2 132 and 2 178 small house applications in 2003 and 2004 respectively. Due to unforeseen competing priorities we have not been able to re-deploy resources to this area of work, but we have reviewed our processing procedures and have engaged Heung Yee Kuk (the Kuk) in discussions on a set of proposed revised procedures that would expedite the processing of small house applications. The discussions are ongoing and early agreement by the Kuk to our proposals would facilitate achievement of the planned 2005 target.

Signature _____

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 6 April 2005

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