

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)075

Question Serial No.

0099

Head: 91 Lands Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (3) Legal Advice

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Lands Department has mentioned that it will “continue to contract out to private firms the processing of applications for approval of DMCs, title checking and related legal work for payment of compensation for land resumption”. What are the details in this aspect and how many applications were contracted out to private firms over the past 3 years?

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

To cope with its increasing workload, the Legal Advisory and Conveyancing Office (LACO) of the Lands Department contracts out certain legal work to private legal firms to enable its staff to deal with the more complex land disposal or lease modification cases and to expedite the release of land compensation to land owners affected by land resumption.

From 2002 to 2004, LACO contracted out the checking of 20 Deeds of Mutual Covenant and the checking of land title to 592 lots affected by five resumption packages.

Signature _____

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 1 April 2005

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