

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)098

Question Serial No.

0899

Head : 118 Planning Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Town Planning Information Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Planning

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Concerning the number of written and oral enquiries to be handled, the estimated indicators for 2005 are both lower than the numbers of cases actually handled in 2004; what are the reasons for setting such indicators and will the Government consider elevating the estimated indicators for 2005 in order to reflect the actual capability of the Department?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply :

The number and nature of written and oral enquiries handled by the Planning Department depend on the demand from the public. They are no more than guestimates at this stage. Nevertheless, with the continual enhancement of the Planning Department web site through which the public can obtain various kinds of planning information directly, we anticipate a gradual reduction in the total numbers of both written and oral enquiries to be handled in the coming year.

On the other hand, we also envisage that upon the implementation of the Town Planning (Amendment) Ordinance (the Ordinance) in 2005, more public enquiries on the new planning procedures and practices under the Ordinance would be received. The nature of these enquiries may be very different from the type we have handled previously. As the resource implications for handling such enquiries during the transitional period are yet to be assessed, we have set a more modest target performance for 2005.

Having said the above, setting a more modest target does not mean that we would not try to better perform, as illustrated by our efforts and achievements in the past two years.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

B C K FUNG

Director of Planning

2 April 2005