

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

**Reply Serial No.**

**HPLB(PL)008**

Question Serial No.

1907

Head : 138 Government Secretariat:  
Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau  
(Planning and Lands Branch)

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Buildings, Lands and Planning

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands  
(Planning and Lands)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question: Regarding the review of the enforcement policy against unauthorised building works, what are the departments required to give co-operation and what are the projected manpower arrangement, timetable and target types of unauthorised works?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply:

The Ombudsman has recommended the Administration to review the enforcement policy against unauthorised building works (UBWs) in New Territories Exempted Houses (NTEHs) in her report on "Enforcement Action on Unauthorised Building Works in New Territories Exempted Houses" published in August 2004. The Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau is convening a Steering Committee (SC), with the participation of the Buildings Department, Lands Department and Planning Department, to follow up on the Ombudsman's various recommendations, including exploring the feasibility of rationalising existing UBWs in NTEHs that are safe and not serious, subject to payment of a penalty. The review is being conducted using in-house resources. In the process of the review, we will consult the stakeholders, including the Heung Yee Kuk, the Legislative Council, District Councils and professional bodies. A Working Group has recently been formed with the Heung Yee Kuk to examine the feasibility of a rationalisation scheme. Since UBWs in NTEHs is a long standing and complex problem, we must allow time to address and resolve issues raised during the consultation. It is therefore not possible to set a definite timetable for completion of the review. The target types of UBWs which can be rationalised and the manpower requirements for implementing the relevant proposals would be worked out as part of the review.

Signature

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Name in block letters

Mrs Rita Lau

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Post Title

Permanent Secretary for Housing,  
Planning and Lands (Planning and Lands)

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Date

11 March 2006

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