

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

**Reply Serial No.**

**HPLB(PL)013**

**Question Serial No.**

**1517**

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 item “publish a consultation report on the public views received in the consultation on mandatory building inspection” in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2006-07 under this Programme, could the Government advise:

- (a) what are the preliminary consultation results, plan for legislation, and the expenditure as well as manpower involved?
- (b) what measures will be taken to help owners in need?
- (c) will consideration be given to helping owners in need to enhance their building management so as to improve the living environment?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee Frederick

Reply :

- (a) We have so far received more than 130 written submissions in response to our public consultation on mandatory building inspection and we are analysing the views received. The Government and some outside organisations (including a political party) have separately conducted telephone surveys. The views received from different channels have pointed to a general community consensus for mandating owners to inspect their buildings. There is also a majority view that owners should bear the necessary cost to ensure building safety. These results are in line with the community consensus reached in the first-stage public consultation. The public in general requests that owners in need should be provided with financial and technical assistance in the proper upkeep of their buildings. In the coming months, we will carefully consolidate and analyse the views received in formulating the basis to take forward the scheme. We will thereafter be in a position to draw up the legislative proposals and assess the resources required to implement the scheme.

- (b) The Government is committed to assisting owners in need in discharging their responsibility in proper building maintenance. Currently, the Buildings Department, the Home Affairs Department (HAD), the Hong Kong Housing Society (HKHS) and the Urban Renewal Authority (URA) are providing various forms of financial and technical assistance to such owners. To tie in with the implementation of the proposed mandatory building inspection scheme, we are actively considering with the HKHS and the URA on ways to further enhance the assistance to owners in this regard.
- (c) The HAD, under the policy guidance of the Home Affairs Bureau, has adopted various measures to provide facilitation and support to property owners in undertaking their responsibility to properly manage their buildings, including the provision of a sound statutory framework and other support services. Publicity and education programmes have also been put in place to promote owners' awareness of the importance of proper building management. The HAD will continue its work on this front and will work closely with the HKHS to assist owners in the formation of owners' corporations.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_

Mrs Rita Lau

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_

11 March 2006

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