

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)018

Question Serial No.

0283

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

Subhead (No. & title) :
000 Operational expenses

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 : The provision for 2006-07 under Programme (2) is \$4.1 million (5%) higher than the revised estimate for 2005-06. Please provide details of the staff establishment involved and a breakdown of the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply :

The higher provision for 2006-07 under this Programme is mainly due to increased staffing (6 new posts, \$2.68 m) and operating expenses (\$1.42 m).

The six additional posts include three supernumerary directorate posts for the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) project in 2006-07 to perform duties arising from the introduction of additional development parameters and conditions for the project under the Invitation for Proposals framework as proposed by the Government in October 2005. Following Government's announcement to discontinue the Invitation for Proposals process on 21 February 2006, we are reviewing the need for these 3 posts and are examining the resources required to support the coming consultation exercise for WKCD in conjunction with HAB.

The three non-directorate posts comprise two Senior Administrative Officers and one Senior Building Surveyor. The new posts will be assigned to policy units for the provision of administrative and other support services to meet increasing work demand.

The estimated expenditure for the three non-directorate posts is \$1.4 m.

Apart from the proposed strengthening of staffing support to the Bureau, we also need to cater to the need for increased honoraria payment to members of appeal boards/committees arising from anticipated growth in workload as well as maintaining sufficient funding for the Graduate Training Scheme.

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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