

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**Reply Serial No.**

**HPLB(PL)033**

Question Serial No.

2213

Head : 82 Buildings Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : As regards the existing buildings, the Buildings Department is expected to process 8 000 licence/registration applications in respect of restaurants, places of public entertainment, tutorial schools, etc. in 2006. How does this function differ from the building control function of the Housing Department? What is the difference between these two departments in staffing arrangement? How does it affect the estimated expenditure of the Government?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kam-lam

Reply :

The Independent Checking Unit (ICU) of the Housing Department (HD) advises the licensing authorities on the suitability of premises for various licence/registration applications in respect of the divested retail and commercial properties of the Housing Authority, whereas the Licensing Unit (LU) of the Buildings Department (BD) advises the licensing authorities on the suitability of premises for various licence/registration applications in respect of all other private buildings.

The LU of BD is supervised by a Chief Building Surveyor on a part-time basis. The LU comprises two Senior Building Surveyors, ten Building Surveyors, ten Survey Officers, one Senior Structural Engineer, one Structural Engineer, one Technical Officer and ten clerical staff. The estimated expenditure of LU in 2006 is around \$12 million under Head 82. There is no dedicated set-up under the ICU of HD to process the applications in question. This task is part and parcel of the routine work of the ICU and hence HD has no breakdown of the staffing arrangement and estimated expenditure involved in this area of work in HD's Estimates.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

CHEUNG Hau-wai

Director of Buildings

11 March 2006