

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)035

Question Serial No.

1190

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 : Under "Hire of services and professional fees", the estimate for 2006-07 is \$12,000,000 more than the revised estimate for 2005-06. What are the reasons for the increase? Please provide details of the breakdown of this item and what are the implications on the estimates of expenditure and manpower?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

Compared with the revised estimate of 2005-06, there will be an increase of \$12,458,000 in the 2006-07 estimate under "Hire of services and professional fees". The itemized breakdown of this estimate is as follows:

Item	Hire of services and professional fees	2006-07 Estimate \$'000	2005-06 Revised Estimate \$'000	Increase/ (Decrease) in Estimate \$'000
(1)	Emergency and investigation works	500	500	-
(2)	Hire of temporary staff	3,721	3,991	(270)
(3)	Outsourcing and consultancies	74,458	61,730	12,728
	Total: (1)+(2)+(3)	78,679	66,221	12,458

The increase is mainly due to the increase in outsourcing work to consulting firms in 2006 for inspection of buildings targeted for large scale removal of UBW, surveillance patrols of new UBW, investigation of building defects, and investigation of water seepage under the expanded joint office with the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department for handling public complaints about water seepage in the whole territory. The increase in expenditure has been provided for in the 2006-07 estimate.

There will be no change in the number of staff in the Permanent Establishment but there may be a small increase in the number of contract staff to be employed.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>CHEUNG Hau-wai</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Buildings</u>
Date	<u>10 March 2006</u>

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