

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)040

Question Serial No.

0135

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 Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2006-07, proposed amendments to the Buildings Ordinance will be introduced to provide for the statutory control of minor works in existing buildings. Please provide the details of this area of work as well as its estimated expenses and manpower arrangements.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

A proposed minor works control system was previously included in the Buildings (Amendment) Bill 2003 introduced into LegCo in April 2003. During the deliberation of the Bills Committee, some members of the Committee, some minor works operator associations and the contractors' associations raised various views and concerns on the proposal. In order to allow for more thorough consultation with the industry, the minor works proposal was withdrawn from the Bill with the agreement of the Bills Committee.

Since then we have formed a working group comprising representatives of professional institutions, associations and unions of the building industry, in particular the minor works sector to work out the revised proposal. The proposed framework of the control system has been refined and details of the proposed minor works items as well as the proposed registration requirements of minor works contractors are being worked out. Preparation work on the legislative amendments is proceeding in parallel. As the legislative amendment exercise involves rather complex proposals, we need to allow sufficient time for the legislative drafting. We intend to take forward the revised minor works control proposal by introducing a Buildings (Amendment) Bill into the LegCo in late 2006.

The Legislation Unit of the Legal Section in the Buildings Department handles all legislative reviews and proposals under the Buildings Ordinance and relevant regulations. The legislative amendment work relating to the minor works control system is one of the tasks handled by this Unit. This Unit is staffed by four Building Surveyors and a Senior Building Surveyor with an annual cost of around \$ 2.77 million. It is not possible to provide a breakdown on the manpower and expenses dedicated to the legislative amendment work relating to the minor works control system.

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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