

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)041

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

0136

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : In 2005, the Buildings Department “commenced consultation on the revised requirements on the provision of facilities in new buildings for persons with a disability and the elderly persons”. Can you tell us:

- (a) the details of this consultation and its findings;
- (b) the work plan to be implemented in accordance with the findings and the expenditure involved; and
- (c) whether the Administration would consider extending the revised requirements to cover the existing buildings as well?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

- (a) The Elderly Commission and LegCo Panel on Welfare Services were consulted in November 2005 and January 2006 respectively on the draft revised Design Manual: Barrier Free Access. In addition, two public consultation forums were held in February, 2006. The building industry and other stakeholders are also being consulted. Moreover, views from members of the public are being invited. Upon completion of the consultation exercise in June this year, the findings will be analysed and the outcome of the consultation will be reported to the LegCo Panel on Welfare Services.
- (b) The views received in the consultation will be taken into account in finalising the revised Design Manual. Legislative amendments to the relevant building regulations are planned to be introduced in the next legislative session to require newly constructed and substantially altered private buildings to adopt the revised standards in the provision of facilities for the disabled and the elderly. In drawing up the revised Design Manual, a consultancy study has been conducted at the cost of about \$2.5 million. The revised standards will be implemented as part of the requirements relating to the design, planning and construction of new buildings and substantially altered buildings enforced by the Buildings Department. No additional resources will be incurred for the implementation.

- (c) The revised Design Manual will apply to newly constructed and substantially altered private buildings.

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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