

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)048

Question Serial No.

1451

Head : 82 Buildings Department Subhead (No. & title) : 700 General
non-recurrent

Programme : Buildings and Building Works Item code: 021

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : As regards the "Consultancy study to draft a Design Manual on Barrier Free Access and Facilities for Persons with a Disability and the Elderly", (a) an amount of \$2,153,000 has been spent up to 31 March 2005, please provide the breakdown of the expenditure; (b) the revised estimated expenditure for 2005-06 was \$62,000, please provide the details on how this was spent; (c) how will the remaining \$2,285,000 be spent and the details? (d) what is the progress of drafting the manual? And when will the drafting be finished and how will the manual be used?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

- (a) The contract sum for the consultancy study to draft a Design Manual on Barrier Free Access and Facilities for Persons with a Disability and the Elderly is \$2,460,000 (All figures in this reply have been rounded off to the nearest thousand). Partial payments were made upon completion of the various stages of the study. The total actual expenditure up to 31 March 2005 was \$2,153,000. The payments at various stages are as follows:

<u>Stages of Payment for the Consultancy Study</u>	<u>Payment</u>
(i) Production of Review and Research Report	\$ 738,000
(ii) Production of Rationalised Requirements Report	\$ 615,000
(iii) Production of Final Report and draft revised Design Manual (Interim Payment)	<u>\$ 800,000</u>
	\$ 2,153,000

- (b) The \$62,000 was the final payment for the Final Report stage.

- (c) A public consultation exercise is being conducted on the draft revised Design Manual. Out of the remaining \$2,285,000, \$246,000 is earmarked for the payment at the Supplementary Report stage for finalising the Design Manual after the public consultation. The remaining balance may be utilised for any additional services that are required of the consultant or contingency work, as may be necessary depending on the views received in the consultation.

- (d) The public consultation exercise on the draft revised Design Manual will end in June 2006. 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 elderly. 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.

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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