

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)059

Question Serial No.

2090

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 : In 2006-07, the Buildings Department will set up joint offices with the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department to handle public complaints about water seepage problems. In this connection, i) how the Administration re-assigns the work of the staff? ii) under the circumstances where the establishment remains unchanged, can the efficiency of the Buildings Department in other areas of work be maintained ?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply :

The Buildings Department (BD) and Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) jointly set up a Joint Office (JO) as a pilot scheme in Shamshuipo on 31 December 2004 to provide a “one stop” service in dealing with water seepage complaints. Under this new mode of operation the total time required for completing the investigation of a complaint has been shortened to about 80 days and the success rate (assessed by the number of cases where the source of water seepage was identified over the total number of investigations completed) reached 69% as compared with the success rate of 14% before the establishment of the JO. Building on the success of the pilot scheme, the JO service would be extended to cover the whole territory with an additional provision of \$80 m to implement a three-year programme commencing in April 2006.

The annual operating cost of the expanded JO will be \$26 m covering a total number of 48 building professional/technical officers to be employed by BD and a budget of \$12M for outsourcing the investigation work to private consulting firms. FEHD will meet the manpower requirement of the JO through internal redeployment.

We will re-assign investigation work to be carried out partly by the dedicated staff and partly by outsourcing to private consulting firms. As the establishment remains unchanged, the efficiency of the Buildings Department in other areas of work will not be affected.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

CHEUNG Hau-wai

Director of Buildings

11 March 2006

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