

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

**Reply Serial No.**

**HPLB(PL)060**

**Question Serial No.**

1460

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 : As regards strengthening the service of inspecting unauthorised building works under construction within 48 hours by assigning additional outsource contractors to carry out the inspection, can the Administration provide the details on the assignment of outsource contractors and what will the expenditure be? As compared with making inspection by the Administration, what are the differences?

Asked by : Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply :

As regards the provision of non-emergency services to deal with reports on unauthorised building works (UBWs) under construction, we pledge to respond to such reports within 48 hours. To provide the service covering also Sundays and public holidays, we have assigned the investigation work to private consultants. In 2005, we have hired eight consultants (whereas only six consultants were hired in 2004) to strengthen the service. The total contract sum of the consultancies has increased from \$5.28M to \$7.92M. The contracts of the eight consultants will continue in 2006 to provide service for the investigation of UBWs under construction. Inspections of UBWs under construction within 48 hours are carried out by private consultants. Hence there is no comparison in terms of expenditure between the inspections carried out by private consultants and the Buildings Department for this area of work.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

CHEUNG Hau-wai

Director of Buildings

11 March 2006

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