

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)069

Question Serial No.

1469

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", the Buildings Department will assist the licensing authority in the implementation of improvement measures to streamline the processing of cinema licence. Please provide the details of the improvement measures.

Asked by : Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply :

The Home Affairs Bureau is working on the details of the provisional licensing regime for cinemas and theatres and aims to consult the Legislative Council on the proposed regime later this year. To assist in the process, the Buildings Department (BD) will work out the building safety requirements for the issue of a provisional licence, and develop a private certification system whereby the licence applicant can appoint an Authorised Person to certify compliance with the licensing requirements.

Meanwhile, to streamline the existing cinema licensing process, BD is rationalising the need for approval of alteration works by exempting alteration works items of a minor nature, and setting performance pledges for the processing of revised plans and alteration plans for cinema licence applications. In addition, BD will participate in regular discussion forums with the cinema operators and their consultants to exchange views on issues of common concerns, and will also regularly update the licensing standards and requirements.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

CHEUNG Hau-wai

Director of Buildings

11 March 2006