

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)114

Question Serial No.

2106

Head: 91 Lands Department

Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : In 2006-07, Lands Department plans to create 400 non-directorate posts and two directorate posts. In this regard, please advise this Council:

- (a) whether these 400 newly created non-directorate posts are all permanent posts, whether they are all transferred from Housing Department, together with a breakdown showing the numbers of the posts and their ranks, their respective duties, and the percentage of the relevant salary expenses in the total amount of additional funding; and
- (b) of the salary expenses of the two newly created directorate posts, their respective duties, and the reasons for appointing directorate officers to take up these posts.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

- (a) The 400 non-directorate posts are all permanent posts. They represent the net change in establishment in 2006-07, taking into account all the proposed post creations and deletions. The net establishment change is given below:

<u>Grades involved</u>	<u>Net Changes</u>
Departmental grades (including Estate Surveyor, Land Surveyor, Land Executive, Land Inspector, Survey Officer, Technical Officer and Land Conveyancing Officer)	+ 88
Housing Manager grade	+ 151
General and common grades (including Solicitor, Executive Officer, Clerical and Secretarial grades, Motor Driver, Foreman, Artisan, Workman and Tracer)	+ 161
Total :	<u>+ 400</u>

The exact numbers by grades and ranks involved are being finalised. Other than seven posts provided for supporting development of railway projects, the remaining posts are to be transferred from Housing Department (HD) to carry out squatter control and clearance duties. Lands Department will also make use of the new resources transferred from HD to strengthen the territory-wide land control work. Out of the financial provision of \$165 million to be transferred from HD, about 80% is earmarked for staff costs.

- (b) The two additional directorate posts are supernumerary in nature, originally planned to be created for a time-limited period for the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) project. Following the Government's announcement on 21 February 2006 to discontinue the "Invitation for Proposals" process and to set up a Consultative Committee to re-examine with a view to re-confirming the need for the Core Arts and Cultural Facilities in the WKCD, the Department will support the coming consultation exercise for the WKCD. The original estimated provision in 2006-07 Estimates for the work of the WKCD will be adjusted accordingly. Details have yet to be worked out at this stage.

Signature _____

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 11 March 2006

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