

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)134

Question Serial No.

0569

Head : 118 Planning Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Territorial Planning

Controlling Officer : Director of Planning

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : It has been nearly nine years since the return of Hong Kong to China. A broad Frontier Closed Area is deemed unnecessary under "One Country, Two Systems". Will the Government discuss the development issues of the Frontier Closed Area with the Central Government and launch corresponding research and consultation as soon as possible?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, Sophie

Reply :

The Frontier Closed Area (FCA) has been an effective security measure for safeguarding the integrity of the Hong Kong-Mainland boundary and combating illegal immigration and other cross-boundary crimes. Since the Reunification, the Hong Kong and Shenzhen law enforcement agencies have been cooperating closely and effectively in fighting against cross-boundary crimes. From the security point of view, there is scope for a substantial reduction of the coverage of the FCA. The Security Bureau is now preparing for the establishment of the new FCA boundary and will announce the details of the new FCA boundary as soon as possible.

Upon the availability of the new FCA boundary, the Planning Department will conduct a planning study for the area to be released from the existing FCA. The Study would examine the development potential and constraints of the area, taking account of its environmental, ecological and socio-economic characteristics. The Study process will also include technical assessments of traffic and infrastructure as well as a strategic environmental assessment. Statutory plans will be prepared to control unauthorised developments and guide future land uses in the area. The Study will commence in the first half of 2006 with wide public consultation, including local communities, statutory/advisory bodies and environmental concern groups.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	_____ B C K FUNG _____
Post Title	_____ Director of Planning _____
Date	_____ 10 March 2006 _____

[TOP](#)