

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)030

Question Serial No.

0363

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 this Programme, the Buildings Department has set the performance target for “advising on restaurant licence applications under the Application Vetting Panel system within 12 working days” at 100%. However, the target could not be achieved in 2005 and 2006. It is noted that the Department has lowered the planned target for 2007 to 96%. What were the main reasons for not achieving the targets in 2005 and 2006?

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply :

Concerning the target for “advising on restaurant licence applications under the Application Vetting Panel system within 12 working days”, whilst we will endeavour to achieve the 100% target, we have set our planned performance target for 2005 and 2006 at 95% in the light of past experience. In 2005 and 2006, the Buildings Department achieved actual performance rates of 96% and 98% respectively, which are slightly higher than the planned target. In view of the actual performance and experience in the past years, the planned performance target set for 2007 was adjusted from 95% to 96%.

In the past two years, the handling time for some cases was longer than the pledged target. This was mainly because we were unable to access the premises concerned for inspection or because further research into the building records was required for some complex cases. However, for all the cases, we were able to provide the licensing requirements to the applicants before the Application Vetting Panel meetings arranged by the Licensing Authority. The longer handling period has not caused delay to the Application Vetting Panel in processing the applications.

[Note : The pledged target for “advising on restaurant licence applications under the Application Vetting Panel system” has been revised from within 14 to within 12 working days with effect from 1 July 2006 upon the implementation of the five-day week programme.]

Signature _____
Name in block letters CHEUNG Hau-wai
Post Title Director of Buildings
Date 15 March 2007

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