

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

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

**Reply Serial No.**

**HPLB(PL)066**

Question Serial No.

0668

Head: 91 Lands Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Land Administration

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question: Was there any change in the number of staff of Lands Department responsible for handling small house cases in 2005-06 and 2006-07? What is the average processing time for each case?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

Similar to 2004-05, a total of 104 Land Executive and Land Inspector grade officers were deployed to deal with the processing of small house applications in 2005-06. The number of staff for this area of work increased to 121 in 2006-07 through internal redeployment to cope with the increased workload.

Under the new procedures for processing small house applications adopted in mid 2006, the target is to complete a straightforward case within 24 weeks from the date of interview with the applicant. For non-straightforward cases which normally involve local objections or requirements imposed by other regulatory authorities, the processing time will differ between cases. It can take one year and in some complex cases four years.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 15 March 2007

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