

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

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

**Reply Serial No.**

**HPLB(PL)072**

**Question Serial No.**

**0671**

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: At present, prior approval must be sought from Lands Department for felling or transplantation of trees in government or private land. In this regard, how much did the Government spend in this area of work in 2004, 2005 and 2006 respectively? How many applications for tree-felling or transplantation were received and how many trees were so involved in each of the above three years? How many of the applications received involved government land and private land respectively? How many of these applications were approved and rejected respectively? How many trees were involved in the approved and rejected cases respectively? What is the estimated expenditure in this respect, as well as the estimated number of applications for tree-felling or transplantation, in 2007-08?

Asked by: Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply:

Prior approval from Lands Department (Lands D) for tree-felling or transplanting on private land is only required for those leases which contain a 'tree preservation' clause. As for government projects, Lands D is one of the approving authorities.

The expenditure incurred by Lands D in processing applications for tree-felling/transplanting comprises mainly staff expenditure and overheads, and the amount per application is about \$5,000. The total number of applications received in 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 were 146, 159 and 227 respectively and hence the respective expenditure was calculated to be about \$730,000, \$795,000 and \$1,135,000.

The requested information is set out in the table below. A total of 273 applications were received up to end-February 2007 and on this basis the estimated expenditure for 2006-07 is \$1,365,000.

For the financial year 2007-08, the number of applications involving private projects is likely to increase in view of the increasing public awareness of tree preservation. It is estimated that 350 applications will be received covering both the private and public projects, and the estimated expenditure is \$1,750,000.

Statistics of tree-felling/transplanting applications

(A) Applications (private projects)

Description		Private projects			
		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07*
No. of applications received	Approved	59	54	81	139
	Rejected	6	1	5	11
	Total	65	55	86	150
No. of trees involved	Approved	3 311	1 717	2 581	3 545
	Rejected	246	13	173	1,376
	Total	3 557	1 730	2 754	4 921

(B) Applications (public projects)

Description		Public projects			
		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07*
No. of applications received	Approved	81	95	133	120
	Rejected	0	9	8	3
	Total	81	104	141	123
No. of trees involved	Approved	18 428	3 928	3 359	3 131
	Rejected	0	58	8	115
	Total	18 428	3 986	3 367	3 246

\* Based on the latest available information up to end-February 2007.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 15 March 2007

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