

**Replies to supplementary questions raised by Finance Committee Members in
examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09**

**Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development
Session No. : 19**

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**Replies to supplementary questions raised by Finance Committee Members in
examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09**

**Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development
Session No. : 19**

Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-DEVB(PL)01

Question Serial No.

S096

Head : 138 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Development Bureau (Planning and Lands Branch) 000 Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Buildings, Lands and Planning

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development
(Planning and Lands)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Regarding the continued review on the New Territories Small House Policy and the estimated financial provision for 2008-09 under Buildings, Lands and Planning which is 6.7% higher than the original estimate for 2007-08, please state the amount of resources earmarked for the review; the tasks to be undertaken and the bodies, departments and individuals to be involved in the review.

Asked by: Hon. LAM Wai-keung, Daniel

Reply:

The work relating to the Small House Policy review is being done within the existing manpower resources in the Development Bureau and the Lands Department. Input from other relevant departments, including the Department of Justice, the Planning Department and the Home Affairs Department, will also be sought when necessary.

The review of the Small House Policy is on-going. We are looking into the various policy issues involved, and will consult the Heung Yee Kuk and the community when ready.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Raymond Young

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Development
(Planning and Lands)

Date _____

11 April 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-DEVB(PL)02

Question Serial No.

S097

Head : 138 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
 Development Bureau (Planning and Lands Branch) 000 Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Buildings, Lands and Planning

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development
 (Planning and Lands)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Regarding the preparation work on the proposals to resolve the problem of missing or illegible government leases under Buildings, Land and Planning, please state the work to be undertaken, the estimated amount of resources required and the departments or bodies to be involved in such work.

Asked by: Hon. LAM Wai-keung, Daniel

Reply:

We have earlier conducted a round of consultation with the Heung Yee Kuk, the Law Society of Hong Kong and the then Panel on Planning, Lands and Works of the Legislative Council. In the light of the feedback received, we are in the process of formulating the legislative proposals. The bureaux/departments involved in the exercise include the Development Bureau, the Lands Department, the Department of Justice and the Land Registry. At the Development Bureau level, the work is handled by existing manpower resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Raymond Young

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Development
 (Planning and Lands)

Date _____

11 April 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-DEVB(PL)03

Question Serial No.

S098

Head : 138 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Development Bureau (Planning and Lands Branch) 000 Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Buildings, Lands and Planning

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development
(Planning and Lands)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

What tasks will be undertaken in this year to maintain close liaison with the Guangdong authorities on planning matters under the auspices of the Hong Kong-Guangdong Co-operation Joint Conference?

Asked by: Hon. LAM Wai-keung, Daniel

Reply:

One of the major tasks on planning matters under the auspices of the Hong Kong-Guangdong Co-operation Joint Conference is to carry out the Planning Study on the Co-ordinated Development of the Greater Pearl River Delta (PRD) Townships which aims to formulate a regional development strategy for the Greater PRD region under the "One Country Two Systems" framework.

Another major task is the Planning Study on the New Boundary Control Point at Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai. The follow-up work will be taken up by the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Joint Task Force on Boundary District Development.

As an on-going task, the Planning Department will continue to exchange planning information with our Guangdong counterparts through meetings with relevant bureaux of the concerned cities. So far, we have exchanged views with Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Dongguan, Zhuhai and Zhongshan on the planning of transport infrastructure in their 11th Five-year Plan. We plan to visit Foshan and Huizhou in the coming months.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Raymond Young _____

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Development
(Planning and Lands) _____

Date _____ 10 April 2008 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-DEVB(PL)04

Question Serial No.

S099

Head : 138 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Development Bureau (Planning and Lands Branch) 000 Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Buildings, Lands and Planning

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development
(Planning and Lands)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

To provide policy steer on the planning study on “Land Use Planning for the Closed Area”, will the Administration earmark funding for an extensive consultation exercise? If yes, how will the consultation be conducted and which organisations, bodies and individuals will be consulted?

Asked by: Hon. LAM Wai-keung, Daniel

Reply:

Extensive community engagement will be undertaken in the course of the “Study on the Land Use Planning for the Closed Area”. The funding for undertaking the engagement exercise has already been included in the overall budget earmarked for the Study. We have adopted a two-stage community engagement programme to collect public views on draft Concept Plan and draft Development Plan respectively. We will engage the general public and relevant stakeholders, including the LegCo Development Panel, Town Planning Board, Advisory Council on Environment, Heung Yee Kuk, relevant District Councils and Rural Committees, professional institutes, green groups, etc. Public forums will also be held.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Raymond Young _____

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Development
(Planning and Lands) _____

Date _____ 10 April 2008 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-DEVB(PL)05

Question Serial No.

S100

Head : 138 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Development Bureau (Planning and Lands Branch) 000 Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Buildings, Lands and Planning

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development
(Planning and Lands)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

The Hong Kong Government has established a high-level co-ordinating mechanism with the Shenzhen authorities to jointly explore the feasibility of developing the Lok Ma Chau Loop and steer research and planning work on other cross-boundary development issues. Are there any non-official members in the co-ordinating mechanism? How to ensure that there is representative membership in the mechanism and the members have a good understanding of public views?

Asked by: Hon. LAM Wai-keung, Daniel

Reply:

The high-level co-ordinating mechanism, namely the "Hong Kong-Shenzhen Joint Task Force on Boundary District Development", has been set up to co-ordinate, liaise and steer work on the studies in relation to the planning and development of land in the boundary district. The Joint Task Force comprises government officials of relevant policy bureaux and departments on both sides. Currently, the planning and engineering feasibility studies for the development of Lok Ma Chau Loop (the Loop) and the proposed boundary control point (BCP) at Liangtang/Heung Yuen Wai (LT/HYW) are under the steer of the Joint Task Force.

We will consult the public and relevant stakeholders on the development of the Loop and the proposed BCP at LT/HYW. The Joint Task Force has decided to carry out a public engagement exercise in mid-2008 to collect views of the general public and experts in Hong Kong and Shenzhen on the possible future land uses of the Loop.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Raymond Young _____

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Development
(Planning and Lands) _____

Date _____ 10 April 2008 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-DEVB(PL)06

Question Serial No.

S101

Head : 138 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Development Bureau (Planning and Lands Branch) 000 Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Buildings, Lands and Planning

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development
(Planning and Lands)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

What is the estimated amount of resources to be earmarked for the review of the enforcement policy against unauthorised building works? How does the amount of resources compare with that in the past two years? Are there any representatives from the public such as the Heung Yee Kuk Members and the Legislative Councillors who will take part in the review?

Asked by : Hon LAM Wai-keung, Daniel

Reply :

We are reviewing the enforcement policy against unauthorised building works in New Territories Exempted Houses. A Working Group has been established with the Heung Yee Kuk to review and explore solutions for this long standing and complex subject. We will consult other relevant stakeholders, including the Legislative Council, on our proposals in due course. The task is performed with existing resources of the Development Bureau and there is no breakdown of expenditure incurred.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Raymond Young

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Development
(Planning and Lands)

Date _____

10 April 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-DEVB(PL)07

Question Serial No.

S108

Head : 82 Buildings Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

with reference to DEVB(PL) 046

Programme: Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer: Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Please note that a reply to the original question on the ratios of different testing methods employed, the reasons for employing those methods and their effectiveness, are still outstanding.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

The Joint Office does not maintain statistics on the testing methods used in individual investigations and hence does not have information on the ratios of the different tests employed.

A combination of testing methods is usually employed in the investigation of a water seepage case in accordance with the individual circumstances. There may be many possible sources of water seepage. The investigation of all suspected seepage sources involves a method of elimination through a series of systematic non-destructive testing and analysis of findings to detect the real single source or multiple sources in some cases. Water seeps downwards or along the shortest possible path through a barrier (e.g. floor slab) due to gravitational force. To detect any seepage from a drainage pipe within a floor slab, for example, the investigator will pour coloured water into the sanitary fitment outlet and afterwards observe any water seepage underneath. Similar to the coloured water test for sanitary fitments, the coloured water ponding test is applied for floor or roof slabs. For suspected leakage from water supply pipes, the water meter flow check or reversible pressure test is applied. The infra red thermographic scanner can detect the variations of temperature, and hence is used to detect the presence of water on a surface.

Coloured water test and water ponding test are used in most cases. They are simple and effective tests for application in many situations and may attain a high success rate in identifying the source of seepage. However, no testing method or equipment would be able to detect the source if the seepage is very mild or intermittent. The effectiveness of any testing method will depend on the circumstances of the particular water seepage case.

Signature _____

Name in block letters CHEUNG Hau-wai

Post Title Director of Buildings

Date 11 April 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-DEVB(PL)08

Question Serial No.

S060

Head : 91 Lands Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: Land Administration

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Under "Rural Planning and Improvement Strategy/Village Improvement", no land was actually acquired in 2007. Why? Does it mean that no improvement works were carried out in that year or no land acquisition was involved in the improvement works carried out in the year?

Asked by : Hon. LAM Wai-keung, Daniel

Reply :

According to the Home Affairs Department, some rural improvement works which did not involve land acquisition were carried out in 2007.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Miss Annie TAM

Post Title _____ Director of Lands

Date _____ 10 April 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-DEVB(PL)09

Question Serial No.

S061

Head : 91 Lands Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: Land Administration

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question

The estimate of 0.66 hectares (ha) of land to be acquired in 2008 for Rural Planning and Improvement Strategy/Village Improvement is far less than the 1.56 ha figure in 2006. Why? Does it mean that the Government has slowed down the pace of the rural improvement works?

Asked by : Hon. LAM Wai-keung, Daniel

Reply :

In 2006, two rural improvement projects were implemented involving 56 private lots occupying 1.56 ha of land. It is estimated that three rural improvement projects will be implemented in 2008 involving 41 private lots occupying 0.66 ha of land. The decrease in the estimated area of land to be acquired in 2008 is a reflection of the smaller number of private lots involved. The Government has not slowed down the pace of the rural improvement works.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Miss Annie TAM

Post Title _____

Director of Lands

Date _____

10 April 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-DEVB(PL)10

Question Serial No.

S062

Head : 91 Lands Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: Land Administration

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question

The number of lease enforcement cases under Land Management increased from 883 cases in 2006 to 934 cases in 2007 and then to an estimate of 950 cases in 2008. Does it imply a corresponding increase in the expenditure? If yes, what will be the rate of increase? How will the Administration evaluate the urgency of enhancing the work on lease enforcement?

Asked by : Hon. LAM Wai-keung, Daniel

Reply :

Upon entering into a lease with the Government, the lessee is bound by the lease terms and conditions. The Lands Department (Lands D), acting in the capacity of the Government's land agent, takes lease enforcement actions against the lessee if and when a lease breach is detected by Lands D staff during spot checks, reported in a complaint or referred to it by other departments.

The number of lease enforcement cases increased from 883 in 2006 to 934 in 2007 and is expected to slightly increase to 950 in 2008. The lease enforcement work will continue to be absorbed within the existing resources of Lands D.

While Lands D will continue to conduct spot checks and act on complaints and referrals, it will also consider writing letters to the lessees at suitable intervals to remind them to comply with the lease terms and conditions.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Miss Annie TAM

Post Title _____

Director of Lands

Date _____

10 April 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-DEVB(PL)11

Question Serial No.

S063

Head : 91 Lands Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: Land Administration

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question

The number of applications from indigenous villagers for rent concession (no. of lots/tenements) processed under Lease Variations dropped sharply from 6 128 cases in 2006 to 3 144 cases in 2007. Why?

Asked by : Hon. LAM Wai-keung, Daniel

Reply :

The Lands Department's (Lands D's) target has been to process not less than 3 000 applications for rent concession under Lease Variations each year. The 6 128 applications processed by Lands D in 2006 included 2 828 individual applications and 3 300 Tso/Tong applications which were dealt with somewhat en bloc. Lands D processed 3 144 applications in 2007.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Miss Annie TAM

Post Title _____

Director of Lands

Date _____

11 April 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-DEVB(PL)12

Question Serial No.

S064

Head : 91 Lands Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: Land Administration

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question

The estimated number of applications from indigenous villagers for rent concession (no. of lots/tenements) processed under Lease Variations is 3 000 cases for 2008. How does the allocation of resources (including manpower) required for carrying out the relevant work compare with that of the previous two years?

Asked by : Hon. LAM Wai-keung, Daniel

Reply :

The Lands Department estimates that it will process 3 000 applications in 2008, which is not too different from the actual number of applications (3 144) processed in 2007. The resources required for processing the applications will be about 2 000 man-days in 2008, more or less the same as in previous years.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Miss Annie TAM

Post Title _____

Director of Lands

Date _____

10 April 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-DEVB(PL)13

Question Serial No.

S065

Head : 91 Lands Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: Land Administration

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question

Under "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2008-09", the Government will continue to undertake preparatory work on resumption and clearance of land required for the North Lantau Highway Connection connecting Hong Kong – Zhuhai – Macao Bridge to the local transport network. Please advise when the Government will commence the land resumption exercise? How many hectares of private land are expected to be resumed? Will the Government seek assistance from the Heung Yee Kuk?

Asked by : Hon. LAM Wai-keung, Daniel

Reply :

The Highways Department (Hy D) has commenced an investigation and preliminary design study for the connecting roads for the Hong Kong – Zhuhai – Macao Bridge, and will examine among other things the preferred alignment of the connecting roads and its various impacts. The Lands Department will examine the land requirements to be identified by Hy D. The land resumption and clearance work will be initiated after authorisation of the project in accordance with the relevant ordinance. Assistance from the Heung Yee Kuk will always be welcome.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Miss Annie TAM

Post Title _____

Director of Lands

Date _____

10 April 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-DEVB(PL)14

Question Serial No.

S066

Head : 91 Lands Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: Land Administration

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question

Under "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2008-09", the Lands Department will continue to undertake preparatory work on resumption and clearance of land required for the North Lantau Highway Connection connecting Hong Kong - Zhuhai - Macao Bridge to the local transport network. Please advise whether the preparatory work will include a study of how the resumption of land for carrying out the works will impact on the generic culture, environmental conservation and community development in villages in the New Territories. What remedial measures or compensations will be made by the Administration? Will consultation be conducted on the work and when will it be conducted? What organisations, agencies or individuals does the Administration plan to consult?

Asked by : Hon. LAM Wai-keung, Daniel

Reply :

The Highways Department (Hy D) has commenced an investigation and preliminary design study for the connecting roads for the Hong Kong – Zhuhai – Macao Bridge, and will examine among other things the preferred alignment of the connecting roads and its various impacts. The Lands Department (Lands D) will examine the land requirements to be identified by Hy D. After authorisation of the project under the relevant ordinance, Lands D will carry out the land resumption and clearance work to make available the land for project implementation. The consultation strategy will be mapped out in due course.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Miss Annie TAM

Post Title _____

Director of Lands

Date _____

10 April 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-DEVB(PL)15

Question Serial No.

S067

Head : 91 Lands Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: Land Administration

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question

Would consideration be given to increase the number of small house cases planned to be processed in view of the increase in the financial provision for 2008-09?

Asked by : Hon. LAM Wai-keung, Daniel

Reply :

Since 2005, the Lands Department (Lands D) has pledged to process not less than 2 300 small house applications each year. Lands D will meet this performance pledge of processing 2 300 applications in 2008.

Provision for 2008-09 for Programme (1) Land Administration under Head 91 is \$83 million (7.2%) higher than the revised estimate for 2007-08. This is mainly due to a net increase of 42 posts for strengthening support for maintenance of man-made slopes on unallocated and unleased government land as well as development of railway projects, and setting up a pilot Dedicated Team in District Lands Office/Hong Kong West & South to explore how to expedite the processing of lease modification and land exchange cases.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Miss Annie TAM

Post Title _____

Director of Lands

Date _____

10 April 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-DEVB(PL)16

Question Serial No.

S068

Head : 91 Lands Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: Land Administration

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question

Having regard to the number of small houses (cases processed) under the Targets of Land Administration in paragraph 6 of the Controlling Officer's Report, please provide the number of cases previously planned for 2006 and 2007.

Asked by : Hon. LAM Wai-keung, Daniel

Reply :

Since 2005, the Lands Department has pledged to process not less than 2 300 small house applications each year. The Department actually processed 2 614 applications (which exceeded the target by 314) in 2006 and 2 475 applications (which exceeded the target by 175) in 2007.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Miss Annie TAM

Post Title _____

Director of Lands

Date _____

10 April 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-DEVB(PL)17

Question Serial No.

S069

Head : 91 Lands Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: Land Administration

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question

Please provide the reasons for the under-utilisation of the original financial provision in 2007-08 which was revised to \$1,157.5 million. Has the Government ever considered using the unspent resources to speed up the processing and approval of small house applications? If not, why? If yes, why did the actual number of small house cases processed in 2007 represent a drop from that of 2006?

Asked by : Hon. LAM Wai-keung, Daniel

Reply :

The 2007-08 estimate was revised from \$1,197.5 million to \$1,157.5 million, representing a decrease of \$40 million (3.3%). This was mainly due to decrease in operating expenses on repair and maintenance works for the buildings held by the Administration.

Since 2005, the Lands Department has pledged to process not less than 2 300 small house applications each year. The Department actually processed 2 614 applications (which exceeded the target by 314) in 2006 and 2 475 applications (which exceeded the target by 175) in 2007.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Miss Annie TAM

Post Title _____

Director of Lands

Date _____

10 April 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-DEVB(PL)18

Question Serial No.

SV003

Head : 118 Planning Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: (1) Territorial Planning

Controlling Officer: Director of Planning

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question

Arising from the reply given by the Administration (Reply Serial No. FSTB(Tsy)031) that the Government Property Agency has started to study the relocation of the three government office buildings at the Wan Chai waterfront, Hon. Emily LAU has expressed concern about the use of the site after the relocation. In this connection, she has requested the Administration to provide further information, where practicable, on:

- (a) whether funds will be allocated to conduct a review of the use of the site; and
- (b) if the answer to item (a) is affirmative, the details of the review, including the estimated expenditure of and timetable for the review, etc.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

As the relocation of government office buildings to make way for other uses will depend on the outcome of the feasibility study being carried out by the Government Property Agency and the availability of relocation sites, it would be too early to indicate if funds will be allocated to conduct a review of the use of the site. However, the development parameters of all future uses will be carefully considered in due course to ensure that they would be compatible with the surrounding area and the development could be supported by the infrastructure planned.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Post Title _____

Date _____

Mrs Ava S. Y. NG

Director of Planning

11 April 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-DEVB(PL)19

Question Serial No.

S102

Head : 118 Planning Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: (1) Territorial Planning

Controlling Officer: Director of Planning

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question

Under "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2008-09", reference has been made to the Study on the Enhancement of the Lau Fau Shan Rural Township and Surrounding Areas as follow-up from the recommendations of Hong Kong 2030: Planning Vision and Strategy Study. Please inform this Committee of the estimated amount of funding and manpower to be involved in the above study, the areas to be covered, time of commencement and completion of the study as well as the objectives and improvements to be sought, etc.

Asked by : Hon. LAM Wai-keung, Daniel

Reply :

The objective of the Study on the Enhancement of the Lau Fau Shan Rural Township and Surrounding Areas is to enhance the physical environment of the Lau Fau Shan rural township and surrounding areas through the formulation of an integrated area improvement plan. The Study will cover Lau Fau Shan and the surrounding areas, and the exact boundary will be finalised when the study brief is prepared. Consultants will be commissioned to undertake the Study at an estimated cost of about \$4.5 million and the exact amount is subject to competitive bidding. The management of this Study will be conducted by existing staff. The Study is expected to commence in the latter half of 2008 for completion in early 2010.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Post Title _____

Date _____

Mrs Ava S. Y. NG

Director of Planning

11 April 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-DEVB(PL)20

Question Serial No.

S103

Head : 118 Planning Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: (1) Territorial Planning

Controlling Officer: Director of Planning

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question

Under "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2008-09", the Planning Department has made reference to the Study on the Enhancement of the Sha Tau Kok Rural Township and Surrounding Areas as follow-up from the recommendations of Hong Kong 2030: Planning Vision and Strategy Study. Please inform this Committee of the estimated amount of funding and manpower to be involved in the above study, the areas to be covered, time of commencement and completion of the study as well as the objectives and improvements to be sought, etc.

Asked by : Hon. LAM Wai-keung, Daniel

Reply :

The objective of the Study on the Enhancement of the Sha Tau Kok Rural Township and Surrounding Areas is to enhance the physical environment of the Sha Tau Kok rural township and surrounding areas through the formulation of an integrated area improvement plan. The Study will cover the Sha Tau Kok Town and the surrounding areas, and the exact boundary will be finalised when the study brief is prepared. Consultants will be commissioned to undertake the Study at an estimated cost of about \$5 million and the exact amount is subject to competitive bidding. The management of this Study will be conducted by existing staff. The Study is expected to commence in the latter half of 2008 for completion in early 2010.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Post Title _____

Date _____

Mrs Ava S. Y. NG

Director of Planning

11 April 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-DEVB(PL)21

Question Serial No.

S104

Head : 118 Planning Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: (2) District Planning

Controlling Officer: Director of Planning

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question

In 2007, the Planning Department (PlanD) continued its work on enforcement and prosecution against unauthorised developments, with 2 150 enforcement notices issued, and 157 defendants in respect of 43 cases successfully convicted. Regarding this work, please inform this Committee of the legislation under which the PlanD is empowered to issue enforcement notices.

Asked by : Hon. LAM Wai-keung, Daniel

Reply :

The Planning Authority is empowered under section 23(1) of the Town Planning Ordinance to serve enforcement notices.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Ava S. Y. NG

Post Title _____ Director of Planning

Date _____ 11 April 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-DEVB(PL)22

Question Serial No.

S105

Head : 118 Planning Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: (2) District Planning

Controlling Officer: Director of Planning

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question

In 2007, the Planning Department continued its work on enforcement and prosecution against unauthorised developments, with 2 150 enforcement notices issued, and 157 defendants in respect of 43 cases successfully convicted. Regarding this work, please inform this Committee of the circumstances under which the Administration had instituted prosecution upon the issue of enforcement notices and the number of cases prosecuted accordingly.

Asked by : Hon. LAM Wai-keung, Daniel

Reply :

Non-compliance with the requirements of enforcement actions including issue of Enforcement Notices, Reinstatement Notices and Stop Notices, etc., could lead to prosecution proceedings. The Planning Authority has prosecuted 26 cases regarding the non-compliance of the requirements of Enforcement Notices issued in 2007.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Post Title _____

Date _____

Mrs Ava S. Y. NG

Director of Planning

11 April 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-DEVB(PL)23

Question Serial No.

S106

Head : 118 Planning Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: (2) District Planning

Controlling Officer: Director of Planning

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question

In 2007, the Planning Department continued its work on enforcement and prosecution against unauthorised developments, with 2 150 enforcement notices issued, and 157 defendants in respect of 43 cases successfully convicted. Regarding this work, please inform this Committee of the number of appeals lodged out of the 2 150 enforcement notices issued and the number of appeals allowed.

Asked by : Hon. LAM Wai-keung, Daniel

Reply :

There is no provision under the Town Planning Ordinance which allows the recipient of Enforcement Notice to appeal against the decision of the issue of Enforcement Notice.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Post Title _____

Date _____

Mrs Ava S. Y. NG

Director of Planning

11 April 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-DEVB(PL)24

Question Serial No.

S107

Head : 118 Planning Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: (2) District Planning

Controlling Officer: Director of Planning

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question

In 2007, the Planning Department continued its work on enforcement and prosecution against unauthorised developments, with 2 150 enforcement notices issued, and 157 defendants in respect of 43 cases successfully convicted. Regarding this work, please inform this Committee what main types of unauthorised developments were involved in the 2 150 enforcement notices issued.

Asked by : Hon. LAM Wai-keung, Daniel

Reply :

The main types of unauthorised developments involved in the 2 150 enforcement notices issued are as follows:

Type of Unauthorised Developments	Number of Enforcement Notices issued in 2007
Open Storage	1 014
Workshop	77
Container-related uses	339
Vehicle Park	138
Filling of pond/land	290
Others	292
Total	2 150

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Post Title _____

Date _____

Mrs Ava S. Y. NG

Director of Planning

11 April 2008