

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(H)- 007

Question Serial

0699

Head : 62 Subhead 000 - Clearance and Squatter Control

Programme : 6201 - Squatter and Temporary Housing Clearance
and Squatter Control

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands
(Housing)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : In regard to the Housing Department's squatter and temporary
housing clearance and squatter control, will the
Administration advise this Council of the following :-

1. What is the existing staffing provision (with breakdown of ranks)?
2. What is the proportion of staff costs in the estimates for 2003-04?
3. Has a cost-effectiveness analysis been conducted to decide whether there is the need to retain the structure?

Asked by : HON. James TIEN Pei-chun

Reply : My reply to the three-part question is as follows:

1. As at 1 March 2003, there are a total of 889 posts carrying clearance and squatter control duties. Details are at [Annex](#).
2. Staff costs constitute 81% of the financial provision of \$378M under Subhead 000 of Head 62. The remainders are operating expenses.

3. The Housing Department is responsible for squatter clearance and control functions including regular patrol, demolition of new illegal structures and maintenance and improvement of basic facilities in the New Territories, as well as rehousing occupants of illegal rooftop structures upon enforcement action taken by the Buildings Department. For the time being it is necessary to retain the staffing establishment to carry out these functions.

Following the review of the Director of Audit in 1996, 285 posts involved in clearance and squatter control have been deleted through business process re-engineering, enhanced productivity programme and efficiency saving initiatives. We will continue to keep the establishment under review to ensure cost-effectiveness.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

C. M. LEUNG

Permanent Secretary for Housing
Planning and Lands (Housing)

21 March 2003

**Staff Establishment
for Clearance and Squatter Control in the Housing Department**

(As at 1 March 2003)

Rank	Establishment	Rank	Establishment
Assistant Director	1	Personal Secretary I	1
Chief Housing Manager	1	Personal Secretary II	3
Senior Housing Manager	4	Foreman	8
Housing Manager	16	Motor Driver	86
Assistant Housing Manager	57	Artisan (Welding)	8
Housing officer	245	Artisan (Team Leader)	66
Clerical Officer	1	Tracer	9
Assistant Clerical officer	16	Workman I	296
Clerical Assistant	41	Workman II	15
Office Assistant	15	Total	889