

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

Reply Serial
No.

HPLB(H)-008

Question Serial
No.

1244

Head : 62 - Housing Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

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 : Following the re-organisation of the Housing Branch of the Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau and the Housing Department, it is understood that some of the work undertaken by the Housing Branch will, with effect from 1 April 2003, be handed over to the Housing Authority. What kind of work is it? How much savings in resources this arrangement is anticipated to bring to the Housing Branch?

Asked by : Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply : The former Housing Bureau and the Housing Department was re-organised on 1 January 2003. The re-organisation has removed the overlap of functions between the two organisations, particularly in the areas of project management, research and planning, staff and office administration, and resource management. All the duties relating to the rental and sale of the private housing market and overseeing the Estate Agents Authority have also been handed over from the former Housing Bureau to the Housing Department after re-organisation. The re-organisation has resulted in the net deletion of four directorate and 20 non-directorate posts. The total savings in full annual average staff cost, including salaries and staff on-cost was \$25.98 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C M LEUNG

Post Title _____
Permanent Secretary for Housing,
Planning and Lands (Housing)

Date _____ 20 March 2003