

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(H)006

Question Serial No.

1084

Head : 62 Housing Department Subhead :

Programme : Squatter 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 view of the fact that the squatter control duties in urban and islands areas have already been taken up by the Lands Department with effect from 1 April 2002, will the Government also transfer the relevant remaining duties to the Lands Department for process re-engineering so as to save resources? How much resources will this involve?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan

Reply : The transfer of squatter control (SC) duties from Housing Department (HD) to Lands Department (Lands D) was scheduled for implementation in phases. The first phase of the transfer, involving 198 staff in the Urban and Islands Squatter Control Offices, took place on 1 April 2002. The Phase II transfer, involving eight Squatter Control Offices in the New Territories, is subject to further review and discussions among HPLB, Lands D and HD.

Since April 2003, HPLB has been working with HD and Lands D in examining the mode of operation of both the squatter control and clearance functions in devising a way forward.

In the process, we are also looking at ways for rationalizing and streamlining service delivery with a view to enhancing efficiency and more optimal staff deployment. While we anticipate savings from the resultant re-engineering process, the actual amount has not been quantified at this stage.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C.M. LEUNG

Post title _____ Permanent Secretary for Housing
Planning and Lands (Housing)

Date _____ 26 March 2004