

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(H)008

Question Serial No.

1184

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 : During 2004-05, the Housing Department will critically review the operations and the staffing establishment. Please advise this Council of the schedule of the review and how the surplus staff will be redeployed to other posts or departments?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : We just completed a comprehensive review of the staffing establishment for squatter clearance and squatter control, which resulted in a reduction of 550 posts. Through natural wastage and non-renewal of contracts, we were able to delete 92 of these surplus posts in 2003-04, and a further eight posts will be deleted in 2004-05. We have redeployed the remaining 450 surplus staff to other areas of Housing Department's work, mainly in support of Team Clean initiatives, including policing, inspection and repairs of drains and plumbing, minor maintenance, enforcement of "Marking Scheme" (covering offences like littering, spitting, throwing objects from height), enforcement of "Yellowline Scheme" for market stalls in public housing estates, and establishing the Task Force Against Abuses of Public Housing Resources.

During 2004-05, we will continue to monitor and review the staffing requirements for both squatter clearance and control, as well as the functions on which the surplus staff have been redeployed, having regard to actual demand. If additional surplus posts are identified, we will endeavour to redeploy the staff concerned gainfully to other areas of work either within or outside Housing Department.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C.M. LEUNG

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

Date _____ 26 March 2004