

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

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(PL)060

Question Serial No.

1885

Head : 82 Buildings Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer: Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question :

Regarding the Comprehensive Building Safety Improvement Loan Scheme, what is the amount of loan now available for application and how much loan has been granted? Why is the number of loan applications approved in 2007 reduced by about 40% compared with that in 2006?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Wing-tat

Reply :

The Comprehensive Building Safety Improvement Loan Scheme (CBSILS) is a revolving loan fund with a commitment of \$700 million. As at the end of February 2008, after offsetting the amount of loans repaid from the total amount of loans approved, the amount of loan fund currently available for application is about \$500 million.

The number of loan applications in 2007 was lower than that in 2006. The improved economic climate in Hong Kong and the availability of loan/grant schemes operated by other agencies in recent years are some of the possible factors which affect the number of applications under the CBSILS.

Signature _____

Name in block letters CHEUNG Hau-wai _____

Post Title Director of Buildings _____

Date 20 March 2008 _____