

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

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(PL)070

Question Serial No.

0758

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

Programme: Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer: Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

It is noted that the Buildings Department will “in collaboration with the licensing authorities, make further improvement to the efficiency, transparency of the licensing regime for business premises” in 2008-09. In this regard, will additional manpower be provided? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the measures to be adopted to achieve the target?

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply:

To sustain our effort made in 2007, the Buildings Department (BD) will collaborate with the licensing authorities to continue to identify and make improvements to enhance the efficiency, transparency and customer-friendliness of the licensing regime for business premises. This area of work includes review of the licensing process, extension of good practices, participation in licensing automation whereby applicants can check on-line their application progress, enhancement of working targets and participation in Business Liaison Group meetings for various trades. The work will be undertaken by existing staff of the BD without additional manpower.

Signature _____

Name in block letters CHEUNG Hau-wai

Post Title Director of Buildings

Date 18 March 2008