

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(PL)079

Question Serial No.

0965

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 "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2009-10", will the Government inform this Committee the details, including the target and implementation timetable, of the set of building design guidelines for "compliance with current building standards in the conservation and adaptive re-use of heritage buildings"? How will the Government facilitate the approval process so as to ensure that there will be no delays?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

The Buildings Department (BD) has commissioned a consultancy study earlier this year to develop a set of building design guidelines for the conservation and adaptive re-use of, as well as the carrying out of alteration and addition works to, heritage buildings for compliance with current building standards under the Buildings Ordinance (Cap. 123). The BD aims to complete the study by the end of 2009. Prior to the completion of the study, the BD will prepare a set of interim guidelines for consultation with the building industry within the first half of 2009.

To facilitate the approval process, the BD has set up a dedicated team to offer technical advice on compliance with building safety and health requirements under the Buildings Ordinance and to process building plan submissions involving adaptive re-use of and alteration and addition works to heritage buildings. The BD also provides pre-submission enquiry service and may hold pre-submission conferences with the building professionals. Representatives of concerned Government departments will be invited to discuss together with the building professionals the issues and principles involved in the projects so as to facilitate early agreement of the basic design principles.

Signature

Name in block letters

AU Choi-kai

Post Title

Director of Buildings

Date

17 March 2009