

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)162

(Question Serial No. 1546)

Head: (91) Lands Department
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
Programme: (-) Not Specified
Controlling Officer: Director of Lands (Ms. Bernadette LINN)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 34):

Given the increase of only 3.7% in the estimated overall provision for the three Programmes in 2014-15, why is there an increase of over 15% in the general departmental expenses under Departmental Expenses from the revised estimate of \$151,405,000 in 2013-14 to \$174,199,000 in 2014-15?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Che-cheung

Reply:

The general departmental expenses will increase from \$151.4 million in 2013-14 Revised Estimates to \$174.2 million in 2014-15 Estimates. The increase of 15% or \$22.8 million is largely due to increased expenditure on salary costs for additional non-civil service contract staff to meet short-term staffing needs. Other additional expenditure items include rental payment and other expenses of new leased offices required for accommodating additional staff.