

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

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(Question Serial No. 2537)

Head: (91) Lands Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (1) Land Administration
Controlling Officer: Director of Lands (Ms. Bernadette LINN)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 47):

How many pieces of government land in total were returned to the Lands Department by various government departments (such as the Education Bureau, the Housing Department, etc.) from 2011 to 2013? Please provide a breakdown of these sites by location, area and present use (e.g. vacant, sold, leased on short term basis, allocated to other government departments for temporary uses, being rezoned or having been included in the Land Sale Programme) on a yearly basis from 2011 to 2013.

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Che-cheung

Reply:

In general, government land allocated or provided to other government bureaux or departments (B/Ds) for their use may be returned to the Lands Department (Lands D) for various reasons such as upon expiry of the allocation period or completion of project, when the site is surplus to the need of the B/Ds, or when the site is required to be returned for other purposes, e.g. land sale.

In general, Lands D would arrange for the disposal of unallocated government land which may be put to gainful use according to the planned long-term use. Where the long-term use is yet to be determined or is not yet due for implementation, the Department would try to put the site to appropriate temporary use(s), including temporary uses by other government B/Ds or by parties outside the Government through short term tenancies. For individual government sites which are not suitable for substantive development and for which no designated long-term or temporary uses have been identified, Lands D will consider making the sites available for use, upon application, on short term basis for greening and community purposes. The list is available for public inspection at the offices of the 12 District Lands Offices, District Offices and District Social Welfare Offices. Relevant information is also circulated to the concerned District Councils on a regular basis.

Sites returned to Lands D by other B/Ds would be handled in the manner indicated above. We have not been keeping statistics based on whether individual sites of unallocated government land so handled by Lands D are those returned by other B/Ds.

