

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**S-DEVB(PL)14**

**(Question Serial No. S0117)**

Head: (91) Lands Department  
Subhead(No. & title): (-) Not Specified  
Programme: (3) Legal Advice  
Controlling Officer: Director of Lands (Ms. Bernadette LINN)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

As a follow-up question on Reply Serial No. DEVB(PL)177, has the Lands Department included any clause in its existing outsourced contracts to set the time frame or target time for processing a case? If yes, what are the details and criteria for setting such a time frame or target? If no, what are the reasons and will such a clause be included in the future?

Asked by: Hon. TSE Wai-chuen, Tony

Reply:

When the Legal Advisory and Conveyancing Office of the Lands Department assigns a draft Deed of Mutual Covenant (DMC) to a contracting-out firm to process, it will set a target time of 6-month for the contracting-out firm to complete the checking of the DMC.

The target time frame of six months for job completion was set in 2001 by making reference to the average time taken by the contracting-out firms to complete checking a DMC at the time. This target time has been adopted since then.