

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-DEVB(PL)15

(Question Serial No. S0118)

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, are there any specific measures to improve and raise the efficiency of the existing contracting-out jobs?

Asked by: Hon. TSE Wai-chuen, Tony

Reply:

The Legal Advisory and Conveyancing Office (LACO) of the Lands Department will implement the following specific measures to improve the efficiency in contracting out the processing of Deeds of Mutual Covenant:

- (a) taking a more stringent approach in monitoring the response time of both the developer's solicitor and the contracting-out solicitor firm and, if necessary, issuing suitable warnings to the defaulting party;
- (b) requiring more meetings to be held between the developer's solicitor and the contracting-out solicitor firm to expedite the discussion process for early resolution of outstanding issues; and
- (c) raising at suitable forums to draw the attention of the industry to the slack response of developers' solicitors to requisitions raised by LACO or their contracting-out solicitor firms in the approval process.