

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)345

(Question Serial No. 4446)

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:

According to the Indicators of “temporary use of government land” under the performance measures in respect of land administration mentioned in paragraph 6 of Programme (1), it is planned that 29 hectares of land for short term tenancies (STTs) are to be let by tender in 2016-17. Please advise on the manpower for handling and approving the tender and their percentage share in the total manpower?

There are reports in the press from time to time on investigations into individual STTs and waivers issued by the Lands Department (Lands D), saying that the STTs and waivers confer the private rights for temporary use of government land or properties or change of land uses. For the sake of the public's right to information, will Lands D consider publicising on its website all the STTs not let by tender that are pending approval and approved, and the waivers executed after approval?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung (Member Question No. 121)

Reply:

As the staff handling and approving the tenders of short term tenancies (STTs) also carry out other land administration duties, there is no separate breakdown on the number of staff solely responsible for handling and approving the tenders of STTs.

In general, applications for STTs or waivers would only be considered if they are in compliance with the Outline Zoning Plan and other requirements of the Government. Moreover, applications for STTs by direct grant would only be considered if supported by the relevant policy bureau(x), unless the sites are of no general commercial interest or are incapable of separate alienation and where there is no foreseeable public use for the government land concerned. According to the existing practice, District Lands Offices of the Lands Department would normally arrange to conduct local consultation when processing applications for STTs or waiver such that any local views on the application

would be taken into account before approval is given. The existing arrangement in collecting local views functions well and will be reviewed if necessary. The waiver documents are registered at the Land Registry and the records in the land register are available for public inspection.

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