

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 1315)**

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 Transport and Housing

Question:

The Lands Department will explore further ways to streamline the existing procedures in relation to its Consent Scheme and Programme (1):

- What was achieved through such work in 2015-16, including what administrative procedures were streamlined, what benefits did the streamlined procedures bring to the Department, and how can they actually help to alleviate the pressure on staff?
- Will there be any expected increase in resources and manpower in order to step up the work in 2016-17? If yes, what are the expenditure and number of staff involved in each grade?

Asked by: Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen (Member Question No. 35)

Reply:

- In 2015-16, the Legal Advisory and Conveyancing Office (LACO) of the Lands Department issued a set of consolidated instructions and guidance notes for Deeds of Mutual Covenant, a guide to monitor compliance of consent terms after issue of presale consent and guidelines for handling conflict of interest situations under the Lands Department Consent Scheme for reference by staff. For Programme (1), in 2015-16, LACO streamlined procedures on engrossment of land documents. It also built up a database on completed lease modifications. With the above measures, staff is able to complete the work more effectively and efficiently.
- We will continue to explore ways to streamline work procedures in 2016-17. No additional financial resources or manpower will be involved.

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