

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(PL)128****(Question Serial No. 0924)**

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:

The Lands Department (Lands D) is responsible for processing applications for building small houses in the New Territories (NT) and issuing Certificates of Compliance (CCs). In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) There will be a net increase of 38 posts under this Programme in 2017-18. What is the respective purview of these posts?
- (2) How many applications for building small houses in the NT is Lands D currently processing? What is the respective processing time (i.e. from the submission of applications till the issuance of CCs)? Please provide the information in table form.

Processing time (Months)	Number of cases
3	
6	
9	
:	
:	
:	
Total	Cases

- (3) How many months at most are spent on processing the cases? What are the difficulties that have been stalling the cases?

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (Member Question No. 39)

Reply:

- (1) The posts to be created under Programme (1): Land Administration will mainly be deployed to support the policy objective of increasing land supply for housing and other developments as well as the performance of enforcement duties.
- (2) and (3) As at the end of December 2016, the number of small house applications being processed was 9 145 and the number of applications pending processing was 2 988. For straightforward applications, the processing may be completed within 24 weeks from the date of interview with the applicant. For non-straightforward applications, depending on the nature and complexity of the issues encountered such as those associated with local objections, land title or boundary problems or requirements imposed by relevant regulatory authorities which will need to be satisfied first, the processing time may exceed this period. For Certificate of Compliance (CC) application, upon receipt of an application for a CC, the Lands Department (Lands D) will, within 10 weeks, either issue the CC or a letter indicating the reasons of non-compliance. Lands D does not have readily available statistics on the time required from the date of submission of small house application to the issuance of CC.

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