

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(PL)131****(Question Serial No. 0725)**

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:

- (a) How many applications for small houses were approved in the past five years? Among these applications, how many involved government land? What were the respective areas of private land and government land involved?
- (b) Of the above, how many applications in a single submission involved more than five small houses in an adjoining location (within 20 metres)?

Asked by: Hon LAW Kwun-chung, Nathan (Member Question No. 37)

Reply:

- (a) Based on cases approved and executed, the number of small houses granted by way of free building licence for private land, granting of government land under private treaty and land exchange in the past five years (2012 to 2016) are set out below:

	Number of small houses granted by way of free building licence	Number of small houses granted by way of private treaty	Number of small houses granted by way of land exchange
2012	1 020	84	16
2013	840	100	22
2014	839	128	20
2015	775	146	23
2016	562	78	16

Whilst each small house should have a roofed-over area of not exceeding 65.03 square metres, the area of government land granted for individual small houses may be smaller due to site constraints, while that of private land on which approved small houses are built varies from case to case. In this connection, Lands D has no readily available information on the total area of land involved for small houses.

- (b) Under the Small House Policy, in general, a male indigenous villager aged 18 years old or above who is descended through the male line from a resident in 1898 of a recognized village in the New Territories may apply to the authority once during his lifetime for permission to build for himself a small house on suitable Government or private land within his own village. As each individual indigenous villager has to submit his own small house application to Lands D for consideration, there is no case in a single submission involving more than one small house.

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