

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**DEVB(PL)134**

**(Question Serial No. 0892)**

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, responsible for handling small house applications and applications for the removal of alienation restrictions (ARs), possesses information on the background of applicants for removal of ARs. In view of the case of selling rights to build small houses a year ago, the public is very concerned that the removal of ARs may be misused.

- (a) In each of the past five financial years, how many applications for removal of ARs were made within one year of issuance of Certificates of Compliance (CCs) in respect of small houses in the New Territories?
- (b) Of these cases, how many applications made within one year of issuance of CCs were approved?
- (c) If there is no information on the time elapsed between the issuance of CCs and the receipt/approval of applications for removal of ARs, does the Department plan to collect such information in order to address public concerns?

Asked by: Hon LAW Kwun-chung, Nathan (Member Question No. 47)

Reply:

- (a) and (b) The Lands Department has not categorised the applications for removal of restriction on alienation according to the time since issue of Certificates of Compliance. In respect of small houses, we set out below the number of cases for which we have given approval to remove restrictions on alienation in each of the past five years (2012 to 2016):

Year	Number of approved cases for removal of restriction on alienation
2012	404
2013	485
2014	577
2015	462
2016	409

- (c) We have no plan to keep statistics on this particular aspect, as the timing of removal of restriction on alienation is not relevant to the processing work. It also does not serve as a useful indicator of abuse, given that the restriction on alienation may be lifted upon application any time during the restriction period subject to premium payment.

- End -