

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(PL)142****(Question Serial No. 1015)**

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. In the past five years (2012 to 2016), for small houses with removal of alienation restrictions ("ARs") approved, what was the average time elapsed between the dates of issuance of Certificates of Compliance and removal of ARs approved?
- b. Please provide the numbers of staff members in various District Lands Offices directly or indirectly handling small house applications and the relevant staff expenditure in 2017-18(Estimates), 2016-17(Revised) and 2015-16(Actual).

Asked by: Hon LAW Kwun-chung, Nathan (Member Question No. 49)

Reply:

- (a) The Lands Department has not categorised the applications for removal of restriction on alienation according to the time lapsed since the 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

- (b) The number of staff, on full-time equivalent basis, involved in handling small house applications and the relevant staff expenditure in the past three financial years (2015-16 to 2017-18) are set out below:

	Number of staff (on full-time equivalent basis)	Staff expenditure
2015-16	98	\$41.3 million
2016-17	99	\$43.4 million
2017-18 (estimate)	99	\$45.4 million

Note: Some of the staff involved in handling small house applications are also responsible for other land administration duties.

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