

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

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(Question Serial No. 6845)

Head: (91) Lands Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (1) Land Administration , (3) Legal Advice
Controlling Officer: Director of Lands (Ms Bernadette LINN)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

In paragraph 230 of the 2017 Policy Address, the Chief Executive announced that the Government has decided to provide the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) Authority with an enhanced financial arrangement by granting it the government-owned development rights of the hotel/office/residential portion of the WKCD. The Authority may develop the hotel/office/residential facilities jointly with the private sector through open tender and a Build-Operate-Transfer arrangement, and share rental revenue from such facilities to sustain the operation of the WKCD. Did the Lands Department provide any services on land administration and legal advice in relation to the above measure, including drafting a contract to grant the above site, ensuring that the above measure complies with the statutory procedures and offering relevant legal advice. If yes, what were the expenditure and manpower involved in the past five years and what will be the expenditure and manpower involved in 2017-18?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. 80)

Reply:

It is one of the core functions of the Lands Department (Lands D) to process land grant applications including drafting of land grant conditions. The land grant application submitted by the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) Authority is one such land grant application being processed by Lands D in accordance with the established procedures. As with other cases, Lands D has consulted relevant bureaux and departments, and sought in-house legal advice, when processing the application. As staff handling the land grant application submitted by the WKCD Authority also carry out other land administration duties, there is no separate breakdown on the number of staff and staff cost solely for processing the land grant application.

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