

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-DEVB(PL)06

(Question Serial No. SV005)

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 follow-up question on Reply Serial Nos. DEVB(PL)131, 135, 153 and 165:

In reply to the question on small houses in the New Territories raised by the Hon LEE Wing-tat, the then Legislative Council (LegCo) Member, at the LegCo meeting on 11 January 2012, the Government provided figures on planning permission applications for building small houses by land use zoning (including “Village Type Development” zone, “Agriculture” zone, and “Green Belt” zone). However, the Government now advises that, without a clear definition of “brownfield sites”, it is unable to provide the relevant figures and those on short term tenancies by land use zoning.

With reference to the response to that LegCo question, please provide further response as a follow-up on the replies quoted above.

(Time question raised: 4:24 pm on 31 March 2017)

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

The reply to a question raised at the Legislative Council sitting on 11 January 2012 as cited by the Hon KWOK Ka-ki at the Special Finance Committee on 31 March 2017 was in respect of planning permission applications involving small houses. That reply had not touched on “brownfield sites”.

The Development Bureau/the Planning Department (PlanD) in the Special Meeting of Finance Committee on 31 March 2017 advised the Committee that PlanD would commission the Study on Existing Profile and Operations of Brownfield Sites in the New Territories in 2017 (the Study) to survey the distribution and uses of brownfield sites in the New Territories and thereafter to arrive at a definition of brownfield sites. Pending the completion of the Study, and in consequence the possible emergence of a consensus on

a more precise working definition of “brownfield sites” which enables the Lands Department (Lands D) to compile statistics in respect of specific sites on the basis of whether they constitute “brownfield sites”, Lands Department (Lands D) would not be in a position to provide the number of the “brownfield sites” on government land granted with short term tenancy (STT). Even if Lands D were to disregard what is meant by “brownfield sites” and proceed to take stock of the zoning of all STT sites, given the sheer number of STTs involved (the total number of STTs granted in the past 5 years alone is more than 1 000), Lands D is not able to check the zoning use of all these STTs and to compile a list of those sites within the "Village Type Development", "Agriculture" and "Green Belt" zones within the limited time.

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