

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)166

(Question Serial No. 2635)

Head: (91) Lands Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (1) Land Administration
Controlling Officer: Director of Lands (Thomas CHAN)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Regarding “short-term tenancies (STTs) issued by the Lands Department to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) for the lease of vacant sites”, would the Government please provide the following information:

1. The number of applications for leasing vacant government sites available for greening or Government/Institution/Community uses, the number of approved applications and the area of the sites involved in the past two years.
2. Further to (1) above, the number of approved applications, the area of the sites involved and the average lease term with a breakdown by District Council (DC) district; as well as the number of unsuccessful/rejected applications and their geographical distribution.
3. Are there any plans to review the existing conditions of STTs issued to NGOs? Will there be any increase in manpower and expenditure for handling these STT applications so as to cope with the greater number of applications for leasing vacant sites arising from the implementation of the “funding scheme to subsidise the use of vacant government sites and school premises” as mentioned in the Estimates, and what are the details?
4. Of the 1 626 vacant government sites in 2018-19, please set out their geographical distribution, specific locations and respective areas with a breakdown by DC district and land use; and the number and distribution of these vacant government sites available for greening/Institution/Community uses.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (LegCo internal reference no.: 48)

Reply:

1. In respect of the vacant government sites (VGSs) under the Lands Department (LandsD)'s management and available for application for short-term greening or Government/Institution/Community uses, a total of 25 short-term tenancy (STT) applications were received in the past two financial years (i.e. 2017-18 and 2018-19 up to the end of January 2019) and two STTs with a total area of 1 287 square meters were approved by LandsD in the same period.
2. Details of the two STTs cases approved by LandsD in the past two financial years (i.e. 2017-18 and 2018-19 up to the end of January 2019) are as follows -

District Council (DC)	No. of Approved Cases	Site Area (m²)	Tenancy Term
Sha Tin	1	976	3 years certain and thereafter quarterly
Sai Kung	1	311	1 year certain and thereafter quarterly

There were 12 withdrawn/rejected STT applications for use of VGSs in the same period. A breakdown by District Lands Office (DLO) is as follows:

DLO	No. of Withdrawn/Rejected Cases
Kowloon West	4
Tuen Mun	3
Hong Kong East	1
Hong Kong West & South	1
Kowloon East	1
Islands	1
North	1
Total	12

3. Conditions for STTs for VGSs are formulated and issued to NGOs having regard to the circumstances of each individual case. The conditions are kept under review on an ongoing basis. The handling of these STT applications forms part of the general land administration work of LandsD. LandsD will continue to monitor the manpower and expenditure for handling these STT applications and review the situation as appropriate in the light of the implementation of the newly launched funding scheme to support the use of vacant government sites by non-government organisations.
4. In the year of 2018, LandsD managed 1 626 vacant sites and was responsible for their general maintenance including grass cutting, pest control, as well as prevention of unauthorised occupation. The majority of these sites are sites earmarked for and

pending long-term or permanent development, sites fenced-off after land control action, sites under processing for short-term or temporary uses, works sites returned by various works departments after completion of projects, and sites that are in transition between being put to different uses. A breakdown on the number and area of these sites by DLO is provided below.

DLO	No. of Site	Area (m²) (About)
Hong Kong East	48	108 000
Hong Kong West & South	155	247 000
Kowloon East	83	556 000
Kowloon West	48	94 000
Islands	98	143 000
North	325	492 000
Sai Kung	142	278 000
Sha Tin	123	123 000
Tuen Mun	86	297 000
Tai Po	85	94 000
Tsuen Wan & Kwai Tsing	112	95 000
Yuen Long	321	443 000
Total	1 626	2 970 000

As of March 2019, around 850 of such vacant sites are available for application for short-term use, with a total area of 125 hectares. The information of these sites is uploaded onto the LandsD's "GeoInfo Map" website (https://www.map.gov.hk/gm/map/search/faci/_VGS?!g=en), including location, site area and long-term use (where available) with breakdown by DC district.

- End -