

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)333

(Question Serial No. 5642)

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 matters on squatter structures, please inform this Committee of: (a) the number of applications for the Emergency Relief Fund (the Fund) received in each of the past five years, with a tabulated breakdown by District Council district; (b) the number of applications for the Fund received in each of the past five years, with a tabulated breakdown by reason for application; (c) the respective numbers of applications for the Fund received and approved in each of the past five years.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 2059)

Reply:

(a)-(c) The Emergency Relief Fund (ERF) is established and administered under the ERF Ordinance. ERF aims to provide prompt assistance for persons who are in need of urgent relief as a result of fire, flooding, tempest, landslide, typhoon, or other natural disasters. The Fund is vested in the Director of Social Welfare Incorporated as Trustee.

The Lands Department (LandsD) is responsible for grants under Section B of ERF to affected occupants of domestic structures. The scope of grants under Section B of ERF covers re-accommodation, re-equipment, site formation and repair grants and grant for severe damage to home appliances. The said grants are open for application by occupants of structures (e.g. squatter structures, licensed structures, cottages and village houses under squatter control) who are in need of urgent relief. Nevertheless, LandsD may, having regard to actual circumstances, also consider applications from occupants residing in other structures (such as rooftop or rear lane structures) affected by natural disasters and in need of relief. LandsD does not have breakdown of various reasons for the ERF applications.

In the past five years (from 2014 to 2018), the respective numbers of ERF applications received and applications approved by LandsD are set out in the tables below.

Year	Hong Kong		Kowloon		New Territories	
	Application received	Application approved	Application received	Application approved	Application received	Application approved
2014	0	0	1	1	19	17
2015	0	0	0	0	8	7
2016	0	0	0	0	0	0
2017	0	0	19	19	485	449
2018	3	2	0	0	240	225
Total	3	2	20	20	752	698

Note: LandsD does not have the breakdown by District Council boundary.

- End -