

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)042

Head :
60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

1560

Programme : (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question :

It is stated under "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2007-08" that the Highways Department will develop a new computer system to replace the Utility Management System to improve efficiency in excavation permit processing. Please provide information on:

- (a) the estimated expenditure entailed by the new computer system;
- (b) the way in which the new system helps to improve the efficiency in processing the applications for excavation permit;
- (c) when the new system is expected to come into operation.

Asked by : Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply :

- (a) The cost of employing a consultant to develop the new computer system to replace the Utility Management System (UMS) is estimated to be \$9.5 million;
- (b) The existing UMS was rolled out in October 1997. With the changes in requirements and procedures over the years, the basic computer system architecture and processes built into the system have become major limiting factors in further improving the efficiency of the business processes. The new computer system will enable the Highways Department to process the applications faster; allow applicants to view the status of their application in real time; enhance electronic authentication to promote electronic submissions; and enable spatial data conversion between different computer systems;
- (c) We plan to roll out the new computer system in mid 2008.

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Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 16 March 2007