

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)044

Head : Subhead (No. & title) :
60 - Highways Department

Question Serial No.

2270

Programme : (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question :

In 2007-08, the Administration will develop a new computer system to replace the Utility Management System to improve efficiency in excavation permit processing. Please provide this Committee with:

1. details about the new system, including the new functions of the system and the anticipated level of improvement in efficiency;
2. information about the expenditures involved and a breakdown of these expenditures.

Asked by : Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply :

1. The Utility Management System (UMS) was rolled out in October 1997. In 2002, an internet interface for UMS was provided to enable applicants to apply excavation permits through internet. With the changes in business requirements and procedures over the years, the basic computer system architecture and processes built into the UMS have become major limiting factors in further improving the efficiency of the business processes. The new computer system will: (a) enable the Highways Department to process the applications faster; (b) enable the applicants to view the status of their applications in real time; (c) enhance electronic authentication to promote electronic submissions; and (d) reduce the Highways Department's staff resources in carrying out spatial data conversion exercises between different computer systems. The overall time to process excavation permit application is expected to be reduced by 10 to 20%.
2. The development cost of the new computer system is estimated to be \$9.5 million. The breakdowns is as follows:

	Item	Cost (\$ million)
i.	Hardware and software cost	0.3
ii.	Development cost	8.5
iii	Contingency	0.7
	Total	9.5

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Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 16 March 2007