

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

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

Programme: (4) Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention that the Highways Department (HyD) will "continue to improve the technical standard of Engineer Inspection of slopes through internal audit". Please provide details about the task. Does it involve raising the inspection standard and safety factor etc.? Is there any collaboration between the HyD and the Civil Engineering and Development Department to carry out relevant tasks in order to achieve savings in expenditure and manpower ?

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

For slope maintained by Highways Department (HyD), the Engineer Inspections (EI) are carried out by geotechnical consultants. In order to improve the technical standard of EI, HyD regularly carries out internal audits using in-house staff on the EI conducted by consultants. The internal audit involves reviewing the adequacy of information in the EI reports and conducting site verification.

The internal audit of EI of slopes assures the inspection standard and it is not related to the safety factor of slopes. HyD has regular communication and discussion with Civil Engineering and Development Department on the relevant tasks to ensure that the work is carried out in a consistent, effective and efficient manner.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 26 March 2008