

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

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)213

Question Serial No.

5081

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

Programme: (2) District and Maintenance Works

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Regarding ‘the average duration of road excavation works per excavation permit (day)’, will the Administration inform the Committee of the following:

- a. the reasons for extension in average duration of road excavation works per excavation permit from 73 days in 2011 to 88 days in 2012, and
- b. will there be additional expenses incurred due to the extension? If so, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon. TANG Ka-piu

Reply:

The Highways Department assesses the appropriate duration for each excavation permit application based on the scope and extent of the proposed road excavation works involved before issuance of the permit. Our responses to the questions are as follows:

- a. In 2012, there was an increase in the amount of utility works which involved long trenches and deep excavation. Thus, the respective excavation permits were granted longer permit durations. As a result, the average duration of road excavation works per excavation permit was increased.
- b. The government will charge a fee to recover the administrative cost for issuing excavation permits and carrying out audit inspections in streets, according to the “user pays” principle. At present, the permit fee to be charged to the permittee is a lump sum fee of \$1,860 plus a daily fee of \$32 per day for the permit duration.

Name in block letters:

K K LAU

Post Title:

Director of Highways

ate:

8.4.2013