

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

FSTB(Tsy)023

Question Serial No.

1677

Head: 708 Capital Subventions and Major Systems and Equipment Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Inland Revenue

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury

Question:

It has been announced in the Budget that the Administration will study the relocation of three government office buildings at the Wan Chai waterfront. If the following projects have not commenced, will the Inland Revenue Department consider suspending them to save the following estimated expenditures for 2008-09?

Approved Items	Estimate 2008/09 (\$m)
Replacement of 23 sets of air-handling units in Inland Revenue Department computer hall	1.89
Replacement of five sets of air-cooled chiller units for Inland Revenue Department computer hall and other sections	2.18

If some of the above projects have already commenced, will the Administration inform this Committee of their progress?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply:

We understand that the relocation of the three government office buildings at the Wan Chai waterfront is still being studied. If implemented, it is estimated that it would take at least six to seven years to complete.

For the above two projects, works have started and are expected to be completed by end-March 2009. The air-handling units and the air-cooled chillers for the computer hall are essential for providing a stable and controlled environment for all computer systems in IRD, hence facilitating the round-the-clock operation of computer systems. Works on these two projects have to be continued to ensure IRD's normal operation for delivery of services to the public.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs LAU MAK YEE MING, ALICE

Post Title Commissioner of Inland Revenue

Date 25 March 2008