

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FSTB(Tsy)178****(Question Serial No. 6151)**

Head: (162) Rating and Valuation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (3) Provision of Valuation and Property Information Services

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Rating and Valuation (Mrs. Mimi BROWN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury

This question originates from: Estimates of Expenditure Volume 1 Page 827 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 76):

As regards certain indicators under this Programme of the Rating and Valuation Department including “valuations on stamp duty and estate duty cases per post”, “other valuations and rental advice cases provided”, “other valuations and rental advice cases per post”, etc., the estimated figures for 2014-15 are much less than the corresponding figures for 2012-13. Would the Administration explain the reason for this, including analysis on whether this is related to the demand-side management measures introduced by the Administration and on the implications to the Department's expenses?

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply:

There are a number of indicators under the Programme of “Provision of Valuation and Property Information Services” of the Rating and Valuation Department (RVD). For various reasons, the estimated figures of the relevant indicators for 2014-15 are lower than those for 2012-13.

Regarding the stamp duty cases scrutinized where stated consideration is considered adequate, the relevant figures decreased because the demand-side management measures introduced by the Government have cooled down the overheated property market. As for the valuations provided for estate duty purposes, the drop in the number of cases is mainly due to RVD's completion of a large number of requests relating to a portfolio of properties in 2012-13. It is anticipated that the number of cases in 2013-14 and 2014-15 will decline. Hence, the number of valuations on stamp duty and estate duty cases per post will correspondingly drop. Regarding other valuations and rental advice cases provided and other valuations and rental advice cases per post, RVD expects that the figures will drop because of the extension of rental freeze for public markets managed by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department for two years up to end December 2015, rendering it no longer necessary for RVD to provide rental advice for over 10 000 cases in 2014-15.

RVD will redeploy its manpower as appropriate in the light of the adjusted indicators with a view to providing quality services to the public. There will be no implication to the Department's expenses.