

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FSTB(Tsy)020**

**(Question Serial No. 0279)**

Head: (76) Inland Revenue Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Assessing Functions

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Inland Revenue (TAM Tai Pang)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury

Question:

The Government announced the cancellation of all demand-side management measures for residential properties. No Special Stamp Duty, Buyer's Stamp Duty or New Residential Stamp Duty needs to be paid for any residential property transactions. In this connection, how much expenditure and manpower can the Inland Revenue Department save each year?

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

To handle demand-side management measures (DSMMs) for residential properties, the Inland Revenue Department (IRD) has retained 9 time-limited posts in 2021 for a period of 5 years. Although the Government announced the abolition of all DSMMs for residential properties on 28 February 2024, the IRD currently still needs to continue to handle cases affected by the measures and to enhance the existing computer system to cope with the policy changes. It is expected that due to the abolition of all DSMMs for residential properties, the relevant time-limited posts can be deleted upon expiry, achieving savings of about \$4 million each year in terms of notional annual mid-point salary cost.

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